

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 957.....

Witness

Dr. Albert Thomas Dryer,
Polding St.,
Bossley Park,
N.S. Wales.

Identity.

Secretary of
League for an Undivided Ireland in Sydney,
1915 - .

Subject.

Irish National Association
in Australia, 1915-1919.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2250.....

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

W.S. 957

STATEMENT REGARDING CERTAIN EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA
RELATED TO THE MOVEMENT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF
IRELAND AND BASED UPON FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCES OF
THE WRITER, ALBERT THOMAS DRYER.

Prior to Easter-week, the popular attitude to Ireland's status as a nation was generally the same in Australia as it appears to have been in Ireland. The same factors operated in both countries to induce a similar pattern in the national mind. That is to say, the race was prepared to accept from Britain the devolution of limited powers of government which that State had hitherto arrogated to itself by virtue of its superior military power. In the circumstances, "Home Rule" appeared to the majority to be the only solution. Partial freedom only for Ireland was to be her fate.

The cause of "Home Rule" had been vigorously advocated and supported in Australia. As the minds of the majority were then conditioned, it was a worthy cause, and this led many to rationalise their attitude. Hence the separatist idea was held to be not only fatuous and impossible but was evidence of ingratitude to the State which was conferring a boon upon Ireland and which merited Irish devotion and loyalty and forcible support in the current war.

In common with most other people of Irish lineage, I regarded "Home Rule" as the only practical settlement of Ireland's status among the nations, until, in 1914, just after securing the Arts degree at Sydney University, Mrs. Alice S. Green's "Irish nationality" came into my hands. Ireland's real history, her glories and her sufferings, were revealed to me for the first time. This knowledge having been amplified it was duly realised that other generations had never, during the long centuries, abated their demands for the fulfilment of the national ideal, complete independence.

With youthful enthusiasm (I was but 27), I founded in Sydney, on 21st. July, 1915, the Irish National Association, the prime object of which was to proclaim Ireland's basic right to absolute freedom. In the temper of those times, to have directly advocated such a doctrine would have invited inevitable and immediate suppression. The relevant object was therefore modified to read: "To preserve the ideal of Ireland's sovereignty."

The Irish National Association thus became an historical organisation. In Australia it was the pioneer advocate of Irish independence as it was the first organisation to preach the doctrine of a Gaelic Ireland.

Its revolutionary objects, perhaps naturally, evoked hostility, not only from Ireland's enemies, but from those deeply imbued with the tenets of "Home Rule." The attitude adopted is reflected in statements made, individually and collectively, by various persons and organisations immediately after the Rising. In this regard the enclosed excerpts from local contemporary newspapers indicate this clearly enough. (In justice to many of those who thus commented it should be said that their views were later on profoundly modified when the true significance of the Rising was appreciated).

The Association accomplished much in the critical years. Branches were established in Brisbane and Melbourne. With a membership of about 2,000, Ireland's culture, traditions and ideals were fostered as were her language and history. The difficulty of obtaining news from Ireland (all Irish and Irish-American newspapers being prohibited imports) was surmounted by an efficient organisation of Irish seamen (prominent amongst whom were Andrew and Matthew Organ, of Cork) who kept open the lines of communication. The cause was served by many ardent, eloquent and able lecturers. Amongst these, Rev. Dr. (now Monsignor) P. Tuomey achieved eminence.

In February and March, 1918, the military authorities and civil detectives carried out a series of raids upon the homes of several members of the Association in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as my mother's home in Lithgow, New South Wales. They also raided the office of the Association upon two occasions. In every case they took possession of sundry books and documents. About May, 1918, I was ordered to appear before a magistrate who conducted, in camera, an investigation for the purpose of seeking information as to the workings of the Irish National Association and as to the position of Irish affairs in Australia. In the light of subsequent events this was seen as an inquiry preliminary to the arrest of seven of us, all being members of the Association. The arrests were made simultaneously upon the night of 17th. June, 1918, and involved the following:-

Edmund MacSweeney,)
William MacGuinness,) of Sydney,
Michael Moffing,)
Albert Thomas Dryer.)

Maurice Dalton,)
Frank MacKeown,) of Melbourne,

Thomas Fitzgerald, of Brisbane.

We were all lodged in Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney. All were natives of Ireland excepting myself, and to the best of my knowledge I enjoy the distinction of being the only Australian-born member of the Irish race to have been gaoled in Australia for the cause of Ireland.

On 7th. August, 1918, a public enquiry commenced under the direction of Mr. Justice John M. Harvey, who recommended our continued detention. There is clear evidence that the Government contemplated placing me on trial for treason. This, however was not done.

The war ended on 11th. November, 1918, and my companions were released on 19th. December. I was detained until 11th. February, 1919 (a few days after Eamon de Valera's escape from Lincoln Gaol). At this point I pay tribute to my colleagues: They were a group of as noble, single-minded, self-effacing patriots as ever lived.

A day or two before release I was informed that I had been dismissed from the service of the Department of Customs. In an unsympathetic community, with unemployment rife, a long period of penurious hardship ensued, which terminated only in January, 1938, when I graduated in Medicine at the age of 50.

A copy of the report by Judge Harvey upon his inquiry into the circumstances of our detention is enclosed. This report which is based largely upon documentary evidence is substantially correct. The case aroused very great public interest in Australia where we were known as "The Irish Seven."

During the visit of Mr. de Valera and Mr. Frank Aiken in 1948, I acted as chairman at the public meeting which was attended by about, 13,000 people in Sydney and at which Mr. de Valera presented the case against Partition. The formation of the Australian League for an Undivided Ireland followed and I became secretary in New South Wales.

Born Balmain, Sydney, 1st. March, 1888.

Mother a native of Poulmagoona, Clare.

Paternal grandmother, Catherine O'Farrell, a native of Laoighis.

(A.T. Dryer),

Polding Street,

Bossley Park, N.S.Wales.

18th. May, 1954.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRA MILITARA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 957

IRELAND'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1916.

What some of the Irish in Australia said of it.

ARCHBISHOP KELLY, SYDNEY:-

"We must regretfully consider the Sinn Feiners - in policy irreconcilable, in methods unwisely unpractical - as a standing antagonism to sound national policy.

"The Government, by following hesitating lines of action regarding the Home Rule Bill, furnished an occasion for the propagation of disaffection. The rebellion, if the Dublin disturbances deserves the name, is but an untimely ebullition of rankling, misconceived patriotism. Hired saboteurs will have procured this deplorable Anarchic disorder. I think that at such the arm of law and order should strike. xxxxx

"Personally I am confident that the Irish in Australia promptly discern every deed of disloyalty to the Government in the present war, and they stand behind the National Organisation headed by Mr. John Redmond and his colleagues. - "Evening News", Sydney, 28/4/16.

Speaking at the opening of a new wing to St. Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, on 30th. April, 1916, Archbishop Kelly alluded to the disturbances in Ireland. Dr Kelly said that, speaking of hospitals, one naturally thought of disease. There were diseases of the body and there were political diseases. The Sinn Fein was a political disease and he had to condemn it. Ever since he had first heard of it he had condemned it. X X X When they read of rebellion and the efforts of the irreconcilables to put in opposition north and south and west, they had condemned those who had taken an active part in a scandalous disturbance which had caused a scandal throughout the world. Taking the matter from the point of either religion or sentiment, there was no reason in it - it was only doing harm and causing bloodshed. Violence should never be resorted to against the powers that be. In resisting the Government, they were resisting God, and the fruit would do more harm than good. On the points of reason and of sentiment, he would condemn it as a scandal against decency, against good sense, and reason." "Sydney Morning Herald", 1/5/16.

ARCHBISHOP DUBIG, BRISBANE:-

Speaking at a recruiting meeting held in Albert-square, Archbishop Dubig said that the hearts of Irishmen were in the right place x x x x They were particularly gratified that the arch-conspirator, Sir Roger Casement, was now in the hands of justice. He (Casement) had become a traitor to the Empire. "Sydney Morning Herald", 1/5/16.

ARCHBISHOP GLINE, PERTH:-

"I think that I shall be speaking for the whole of the Irish by birth or sympathy when I say that we look upon these recent developments with deep regret - even with shame and abhorrence. I feel that the vast majority of those with nationalist sympathies and aspirations have no part to play in this insane work." "Sydney Morning Herald", 1/5/16.

ARCHBISHOP GARR, MELBOURNE:-

"Evidence of Irish loyalty is abundant. When the secret history of this movement comes to be written, it will be found to be the result of German intrigue, or support from some Irish-Americans, of hostility to the Irish Nationalist Parliamentary party and to the role assumed by a small knot of desperate irreconcilables. From every point of view I regard the disturbance as an outburst of madness, an anachronism and a crime." "Evening News", Sydney, 28/4/16.

ARCHBISHOP MANNIX, MELBOURNE (on 28/4/16):-

He said that the outbreak was truly deplorable, but they must not lose sight of the facts of the situation. People must expect to reap what they sowed, and, knowing as he did, what had been going on in Ireland before and since the outbreak of the way, he was not altogether surprised at the lamentable things that had occurred, sequence and response as it were, to the campaign of armed resistance and civil war which the Carsonites had been allowed to preach and prepare for within the past few years. Their leader, instead of being sent into prison, was taken into the British Cabinet. He was quite clear in his mind that the British Government, by its failure to deal with the treason of the Carsonites and by its shifty policy with regard to Home Rule, had - unwittingly, he supposed - led up to the result which they must all deplore. He hoped that the immediate trouble was already over or that it soon would be, and he hoped, too, that those who were already calling out for execution would first pause and try to fix the responsibility of the outbreak before condemning the misguided leaders of the movement to be shot. They should remember that the leaders of another movement were taken into the British Cabinet. (applause) - "Sydney Morning Herald", 1/5/1916.

MR. REV. M. J. O'REILLY, C.M. (SYDNEY):-

"That there should be a small irreconcilable minority in Ireland need excite no surprise. The amazing thing to me is that the great bulk of the people should have buried their old hates, even while Home Rule, like Mahomet's coffin, remains suspended between earth and heaven. In South Africa, where Home Rule was granted, the authorities had to

dealnot with a riot but with a rebellion. Nobody seems to have emphasised the fact that, out of 85 home rule constituencies, not a single seat was ever even seriously contested on the Sinn Fein ticket. And the Parliamentary representation must be held to reflect the opinion of the people.

"I left Ireland on my return journey to Australia only just ten months ago, and it is only seven months since I made the public statement that, after three months spent in Ireland, it was known plain to me that three-fourths of the people accepted Home Rule as a final settlement, and were heart and soul with the Allies in the world-war. I see no reason to modify that estimate now. I am not surprised to find that all our representative Irishmen in Australia, who have so far spoken, have been painfully shocked by the recent riots in Ireland. It is horrible to think of the numbers of wretched souls whom a misguided patriotism has led into the shambles. A dreadful responsibility lies on the shoulders of the leaders.

"It is something to know that Casement is an Ulsterman and a Protestant, if only to show that the rebels numbered amongst them the fools of all parties. But the stupidity of the attempt is not its worst feature. Nothing could well be more criminal." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 2/5/16.

AUSTRALASIAN HOLY CATHOLIC GUILD, and IRISH NATIONAL FORESTERS, Sydney:

(Cable). Executives Australasian Holy Catholic Guild and Irish National Foresters representing ten thousand members in conference assembled, deplore the uprising of the irresponsible minority and express entire confidence and support to the Irish Parliamentary Party and ultimate success of British arms. J.R. Burke, P.L. Avery, secretaries, Castlerough Street, Sydney." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 2/5/16.

CELTIC CLUB, PERTH:-

"The Committee of the Perth Celtic Club has despatched the following cablegram to Mr. John Redmond, M.P.: 'Irishmen of Western Australia regret the Dublin affair. They have confidence in you. Reply, enlightening us.' - "Sydney Morning Herald", 29/4/16.

CELTIC CLUB, WELLINGTON, N.Z.:-

(Cable to John Redmond):- "Deepest sympathy with you in your present trouble. The unfortunate occurrence in Dublin tends unjustifiably to cast disgrace on our country and to discredit us abroad. x x x"

(Cable to Mr. Asquith, Prime Minister of England):- "Irish here regret painful occurrence on the part of a misguided section of the people, and feel confident that firm and prudent administration by the British Government will secure an early re-establishment of order. They express appreciation of and gratitude for the unflinching services of the Government to Ireland, and feel assured that the administration of Irish affairs is in capable and tactful hands." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 2/5/16.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE, MELBOURNE:-

(Cable to John E. Redmond):- "The Irish in Victoria view with abhorrence the outbreak at Dublin of futile and meaningless rebellion, and sympathise with the Irish National Party in its cruel struggles against the criminal efforts of an insignificant minority to thwart the noble objects of peace and reconciliation which had almost been accomplished. Such fanatical betray gross ingratitude for the benefits Ireland received through long agitation and generosity of the Irish abroad, as well as for the valuable help rendered by the British and other democracies. Brave Irish soldiers are fighting at the front that their country may prosper. Their nobility of sacrifice should shame all weakness of Ireland's future. The guilt of this horrible bloodshed at Dublin be on the heads of the misguided leaders of the outbreak." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 28/4/16.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE, HOBART:-

(Cable to Mr. John Redmond): Stating that the Tasmanian Friends of Ireland deeply deplore the fanatical rebellion in Dublin, and assuring him of their entire confidence in Mr. Redmond and his National Party triumphing for Ireland and Empire." H.M. Ryan, President." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 1/5/16.

QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION:-

(Cable to Redmond and Asquith): "Queensland Irishmen condemn and deplore the disturbances in Ireland and re-affirm their confidence in the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party. Irish soldiers in the present war, by their valour and fighting, have demonstrated their loyalty to the Empire." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 2/5/16.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, MELBOURNE:-

"At the annual district meeting of the H.A.C.B.S. Society, Victoria, a motion was agreed to unanimously deploring the disturbing efforts of the misguided and fanatical portion of people in Dublin, and expressing its earnest desire that the Government will deal with its deserters, and the loyalty of Ireland's sons will remain unshaken." - "Morning News", Sydney, 26/4/16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, MELBOURNE:-

"The following motion was agreed to at a meeting of the National Directory of the Hibernian Society today and was ordered to be cabled to Mr. John Redmond, leader of the Irish National party: "The Hibernians of Australasia, representing 600 branches, in a state conference assembled at Melbourne, in union with His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Carr), in renewing unswerving loyalty to yourself and party, publicly condemn the late lamentable folly of extremists in the oldland, but deeply deplore the ruthless retaliatory measures of the Home Government." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 17/5/16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, BROKEN HILL:-

"The Sacred Heart branch of the Hibernian Society has carried the following resolution: "We Hibernians assembled at Broken Hill view with abhorrence and disgust the rebellious spirit prevailing in Ireland and convey to Mr. J.E. Redmond our deepest sympathy, and pledge moral support and unswerving loyalty to the Irish National party under his leadership." This has been cabled to Mr. Redmond." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 9/5/16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, SYDNEY:-

(From Annual Report): "Your Board regrets exceedingly that it should be necessary to close this report with a reference to the truly lamentable occurrences which have just been reported by cable. As members of the representative Irish society of the Commonwealth of Australia, we feel inexpressibly grieved at the outbreak of disturbances which from every point of view are deplorable in the extreme. The conference will doubtless take an early opportunity of voicing its abhorrence of such an utterly misguided course of action... We look forward with unshakable confidence to the complete triumph of Allied arms."

IRISH NATIONAL FORESTERS, BROKEN HILL:-

"At a meeting of the Wolfe Tone Branch of the Irish National Foresters, Broken Hill the following motion was carried: "That this branch of the Irish National Foresters learned with the deepest indignation and regret the lamentable occurrence in Ireland; that in view of the fact that the leader of the Irish party had succeeded in getting the British Government to acknowledge the right of the Irish people to govern themselves, any attempt on the part of the Sinn Fein or any other body to thwart the legal efforts of Parliament, and of the majority of the Irish people, in bringing the Home Rule measure into operation after the war, is disapproved of by every fair-minded loyal Irishman." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 17/5/16.

MR. P. MCGARRY, M.L.A., N.S.WALES:-

"Mr. P. McGarry, M.L.A., stated yesterday that, as an Irishman who had fought for the Nationalist cause for the past 35 years, he entirely condemned the Sinn Fein rebellion.... He felt that no true Irishman could have the slightest sympathy with the outbreak, fomented as it had been by German agents." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 17/5/16.

Dr. CHAS. W. MacGARTHY, SYDNEY:-

(Cable to Mr. John Redmond): "Sectional pro-German rioting disgusts Home Rulers here. Take heart. Our race with you add gallant countrymen at front." - "Sydney Morning Herald", 28/4/16.

Dr. N.M. O'DONNELL, MELBOURNE:-

"Dr. N.M. O'Donnell, president of the United Irish League, stated that he believed there was a nest of Sinn Fein men in that city, whose interests were in common with those of the Sinn Fein Society in Ireland. They dissociated themselves from any activities of the Irish bodies and refused to march in the St. Patrick's Day procession on the ground that the processionists stopped outside Parliament House and sang "God Save the King." Such men must not be associated with the Irish cause." - "Evening News", Sydney, 28/4/16.

IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES:-

(From the minutes, dated 24th. April, 1916): "The monthly Golligh set down for this night was abandoned in sympathy with the patriots who lost their lives (being murdered after the Irish insurrection) to satisfy the blood-lust of the champions of small nations."

The Irish National Association of Australasia



PADRAIG PEARSE BRANCH, SYDNEY.

The Irish National Association was founded on the 21st July, 1915, primarily to advance the cause of Ireland in Australia and to advocate the ideals of Irish national independence and republicanism.

In this field it is the pioneer organisation in Australia.

Its prestige is enhanced by the fact that, during the "dark and evil days" preceding and following "Easter Week," its voice alone, in this country, was raised in advocacy of a free and independent Ireland and in defense of the principles which were the inspiration of Fenianism and Sinn Fein and which animated the men of the Rising-Out in 1916. These principles, once derided, are now triumphant. And these principles were and are those of the Association.

The Association will endeavour to organise and unite people of Irish blood in Australasia in order to relume the light of Irish tradition and sentiment and to bring these to bear upon the moulding of Australian culture, to rebut the calumny and the ignorance which prevails regarding Ireland in this land and to co-ordinate the efforts of all who truly desire to raise the status of Ireland, to advance her interests and to augment her influence upon a world which sorely needs it.

Its objects, as defined in its constitution, are:

- (a) To assist Ireland to achieve her national destiny;
- (b) To preserve the ideal of Ireland's sovereignty;
- (c) To extend the influence of Irish ideals, traditions and culture upon civilisation;
- (d) To encourage the use of Irish as a written and as a spoken language;
- (e) To foster the study of Irish history, Irish literature, Irish music, Irish art, Irish dancing and Irish sports and pastimes;
- (f) To promote Irish industry and commerce;
- (g) To foster Irish racial consciousness amongst persons of Irish birth or descent.

Why you should join

The Irish National Association of Australasia

BECAUSE you are a member of the Irish Race.

BECAUSE Ireland is a primary Motherland of Australia.

BECAUSE the history of Ireland is, for YOU, a source of pride—great and legitimate.

BECAUSE Ireland was, for centuries, before her aggressors struck at her, the cultural centre of civilisation.

BECAUSE, during Europe's darkest ages, she brought the light of Christianity and civilisation to that continent.

BECAUSE she has played the major role in establishing and maintaining Christianity in Australia, as well as in other countries.

BECAUSE the glory of her fight for NATIONAL FREEDOM, during nearly EIGHT CENTURIES, is not approached by that of any nation on earth.

BECAUSE, under God, she is yet destined to play, especially in the realm of the spirit, a conspicuous and glorious part in a world sunk in materialism.

BECAUSE she is rising rapidly, as a great INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, to a status in the world commensurate with and worthy of her unique and lustrous history.

BECAUSE the IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is pledged to help her to do these things.

BECAUSE the Irish National Association is active in endeavouring to make Australian citizens of Irish birth or descent conscious of and proud of their Race.

BECAUSE the Irish National Association needs YOUR help in all these matters.

BECAUSE the Association has led and will continue to lead Irish thought in this country.

BECAUSE YOU owe it to YOUR own self-respect to identify yourself with the great world-wide movement of the resurgence of Ireland and the Irish Race.

Cumann Náisiúnta na nGaeil

IRISH PRISONERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE

197 CASTLEBRIDGE ST.

SYDNEY

(1941)

CHAIRMAN:

Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, C.M.

TREASURERS:

Rev. J. Barry,
St. Basil's Presbytery,
George St. Sydney.

G. P. O'Connor.

COMMITTEE:

Hon. John McGrath, M.L.C.

Rev. Father D'Farrell

Rev. Dr. Tuomey, Ph.D.

John Doyle, M.L.A.

P. S. Cleary

Neal Collins

P. J. Miskin

John Sheehy

P. O'Leahy

S. McCormack

P. J. Baglin

P. Burns

M. Muir

T. O'Shea

J. D. Moran

SECRETARIES:

W. Liffa

J. Murphy

Dear Sir,

You are probably aware that eight members of the Irish National Association, against whom no charge has been formulated, are at present confined in Darlinghurst Gaol. They are being denied a trial, though they are all anxious to be confronted with their accusers.

It has seemed to those who are working on their behalf that liberty, like equality, should begin at home, and that Australians would be loth to come back from the blood-stained battle-fields of Europe in order to find their rights of freedom had been trampled upon during their absence.

Hence the Town Hall has been engaged for Wednesday 24th inst. for the holding of a Mass Meeting, which will be addressed by prominent speakers from this and other parts of the Commonwealth, the object of which will be to urge the Federal Government to bring those men before a court and jury.

The Committee in charge of the Meeting would be it a great favour if you would give the meeting as much publicity under the notice of your people, and the cause would be enhanced if you will recommend your constituents to make it as big a success as possible.

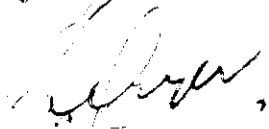


Irish Internees in Darlinghurst
Gaol, Sydney - 1918/9.

Back row (L to R): William MacGuinness,
Frank Mckeown, Michael McEwing, W.J.
Fegan

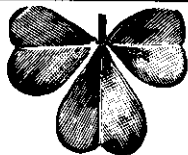
Front row (L to R): Edmund McEweeney,
M. J. O'Sullivan, Albert Dyer, Thomas
McEneaney.

(With the exception of W.J. Fegan, all were
members of the Irish National Association
and the Irish Republican Brotherhood.





The
Irish Seven



F. McKeown W. McGuinness M. McGing
E. MacSweeney M. Dalton A. T. Dryer, B.A. J. Fitzgerald

Internat. in ...



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The cause of "Home Rule" had been vigorously advocated and supported in Australia. As the minds of the majority were then conditioned, it was a worthy cause, but this led many to rationalise their attitude. Hence the separatist idea was held to be not only fatuous and impossible but was evidence of ingratitude to the State which was conferring a boon upon Ireland and which merited Irish devotion and loyalty and forceful support in the current war.

In common with most other people of Irish lineage, I regarded "Home Rule" as the only practical settlement of Ireland's status among the nations, until, in 1914, just after securing the Arts degree at Sydney University, Mrs. Alice S. Green's "Irish Nationality" came into my hands. Ireland's real history, her glories and her sufferings, were revealed to me for the first time. This knowledge, having been amplified, it was duly realised that other generations had never, during the long centuries, abated their demands for the fulfilment of the national ideal, complete independence.

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The Irish National Association thus became an historical organisation. In Australia it was the pioneer advocate of Irish Independence as it was the first organisation to preach the doctrine of a Gaelic Ireland.

Its revolutionary objects, perhaps naturally, evoked hostility, not only from Ireland's enemies, but from those deeply imbued with the tenets of "Home Rule". The attitude adopted is reflected in statements made, individually and collectively, by various persons and organisations immediately after the Rising. In this regard, the enclosed excerpts from local contemporary newspapers indicate this clearly enough. (In justice to many of those who thus commented it should be said that their views were later on profoundly modified when the true significance of the Rising was appreciated).

The Association accomplished much in the critical years. Branches were established in Brisbane and Melbourne. With a membership of about 2,000, Ireland's culture, traditions and ideals were fostered as were her language and history. The difficulty of obtaining news from Ireland (all Irish and Irish-American newspapers being prohibited imports) was surmounted by an efficient organisation of Irish seamen (prominent amongst whom were Andrew and Matthew Organ, of Cork) who kept open the lines of communication. The cause was

served by many ardent, eloquent and able lecturers. Amongst these, Rev. Dr. (now Monsignor) P. Tuomey achieved eminence.

In February and March 1918, the military authorities and civil detectives carried out a series of raids upon the homes of several members of the Association in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as my mother's home in Lithgow, New South Wales. They also raided the office of the Association upon two occasions. In every case they took possession of sundry books and documents. About May 1918, I was ordered to appear before a magistrate who conducted, in camera, an investigation for the purpose of seeking information as to the workings of the Irish National Association and as to the position of Irish affairs in Australia. In the light of subsequent events this was seen as an inquiry preliminary to the arrest of seven of us, all being members of the Association. The arrests were made simultaneously upon the night of 17th June 1918, and involved the following

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Michael McGing)	
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Frank MacKeown)	of Melbourne
Thomas Fitzgerald)	of Brisbane

We were all lodged in Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney. All were natives of Ireland, excepting myself, and to the best of my knowledge, I enjoy the distinction of being the only Australian-born member of the Irish race to have been gaoled in Australia for the cause of Ireland.

On 7th August 1918, a public enquiry commenced under the direction of Mr. Justice John M. Harvey, who recommended our continued detention. There is clear evidence that the Government contemplated placing me on trial for treason. This, however, was not done.

The war ended on 11th November 1918, and my companions were released on 19th December. I was detained until 11th February 1919, (a few days after Eamon de Valera's escape from Lincoln Gaol). At this point I pay tribute to my colleagues. They were a group of ^{as} noble, single-minded, self-effacing patriots as ever lived.

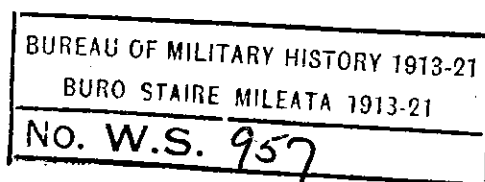
A day or two before release I was informed that I had been dismissed from the service of the Department of Customs. In an unsympathetic community, with unemployment rife, a long period of penurious hardship ensued, which terminated only in January 1938, when I graduated in Medicine at the age of 50.

A copy of the report by Judge Harvey upon his inquiry into the circumstances of our detention is enclosed. This report which is based largely upon documentary evidence is substantially correct. The case aroused very great public interest in Australia where we were known as "The Irish Seven".

During the visit of Mr. de Valera and Mr. Frank Aiken in 1948, I acted as chairman at the public meeting which was attended by about 13,000 people in Sydney and at which Mr. de Valera presented the case against Partition. The formation of the Australian League for an Undivided Ireland followed and I became secretary in New South Wales.

Born Balmain, Sydney, 1st March 1888.
 Mother a native of Poulnafoona, Clare.
 Paternal grandmother, Catherine O'Farrell,
 a native of Laoighis.

Signed: A.T. Dryer
 Polding Street,
 Bossley Park, N.S.Wales.
 18th May 1954.



IRELAND'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1916.

What some of the Irish in Australia said of it.

ARCHBISHOP KELLY, SYDNEY.

"We must regretfully consider the Sinn Feiners - in policy irreconcilable, in methods unwisely unpractical - as a standing antagonism to sound national policy.

"The Government, by following hesitating lines of action regarding the Home Rule Bill, furnished an occasion for the propagation of disaffection. The rebellion, if the Dublin disturbance deserves the name, is but an untimely ebullition of rankling, misconceived patriotism. Hired suborners will have procured this deplorable disorder. I think that at such the arm of law and order should strike.

"Personally I am confident that the Irish in Australia promptly disown every deed of disloyalty to the Government in the present war, and they stand behind the National Organisation headed by Mr. John Redmond and his colleagues. - "Evening News", Sydney, 28.4.16.

Speaking at the opening of a new wing to St. Joseph's Hospital, Auburn, on 30th April 1916, Archbishop Kelly alluded to the disturbances in Ireland. Dr. Kelly said that, speaking of hospitals, one naturally thought of disease. There were diseases of the body and there were political diseases. The Sinn Fein was a political disease and he had to condemn it. Ever since he had first heard of it he had condemned it. X X X When they read of rebellion and the efforts of the irreconcilables to put in opposition north and south and west, they condemned those who had taken an active part in a disturbance that had caused a scandal throughout the world. Taking the matter from the point of either religion or sentiment, there was no reason in it - it was only doing harm and causing bloodshed. Violence should never be resorted to against the powers that be. In resisting the Government, they were resisting God, and the fruit would do more harm than good. On the points of reason and of sentiment, he would condemn it as a scandal against decency, against good sense, and reason". "Sydney Morning Herald", 1.5.16.

ARCHBISHOP DUHIG, BRISBANE.

Speaking at a recruiting meeting held in Albert Square, Archbishop Duhig said that the hearts of Irishmen were in the right place xxxx They were particularly gratified that the arch-conspirator, Sir Roger Casement, was now in the hands of justice. He (Casement) had become a traitor to the Empire. "Sydney Morning Herald, 1.5.16.

ARCHBISHOP CLUNE, PERTH.

"I think that I shall be speaking for the whole of the Irish by birth or sympathy when I say that we look upon these recent developments with deep regret - even with shame and abhorrence. I feel that the vast majority of those with nationalist sympathies and aspirations have no part to play in this insane work". "Sydney Morning Herald", 1.5.16.

ARCHBISHOP CARR, MELBOURNE.

"Evidence of Irish loyalty is abundant. When the secret history of this movement comes to be written, it will be found to be the result of German intrigue, or support from some Irish-Americans, of hostility to the Irish Nationalist Parliamentary party and to the role assumed by a small knot of desperate irreconcilables. From every point of view I regard the disturbance as an outburst of madness, an anachronism and a crime." "Evening News", Sydney, 28.4.16.

ARCHBISHOP MANNIX, MELBOURNE (on 29.4.16).

He said that the outbreak was truly deplorable, but they must not lose sight of the facts of the situation. People must expect to reap what they sowed, and, knowing as he did, what had been going on in Ireland before and since the outbreak of the war, he was not altogether surprised at the lamentable things that had occurred, sequence and response, as it were, to the campaign of armed resistance and civil war which the Carsonites had been allowed to preach and prepare for within the past few years. Their leader, instead of being sent into prison, was taken into the British Cabinet. He was quite clear in his mind that the British Government, by its failure to deal with the treason of the Carsonites and by its shifty policy with regard to Home Rule, had - unwittingly, he supposed - led up to the result which they must all deplore. He hoped that the immediate trouble was already over or that it would soon be, and he hoped, too, that those who were already calling out for execution would first pause and try to fix the responsibility of the outbreak before condemning the misguided leaders of the movement to be shot. They should remember that the leaders of another movement were taken into the British Cabinet. (applause) - "Sydney Morning Herald", 1.5.1916.

VERY REV. M.J. O'REILLY, C.M. (SYDNEY)

"That there should be a small irreconcilable minority in Ireland need excite no surprise. The amazing thing to me is that the great bulk of the people should have buried their old hates, even while Home Rule, like Mahomet's coffin, remains suspended between earth and heaven. In South Africa, where Home Rule was granted, the authorities had to deal not with a riot but with a rebellion. Nobody seems to have emphasised the fact that, out of 85 home rule constituencies, not a single seat was ever even seriously contested on the Sinn Fein ticket. And the Parliamentary representation must be held to reflect the opinion of the people.

"I left Ireland on my return to Australia only just ten months ago, and it is only seven months since I made the public statement that, after three months spent in Ireland, it was plain to me that three-fourths of the people accepted Home Rule as a final settlement, and were heart and soul with the Allies in the world-war. I see no reason to modify that estimate now. I am not surprised to find that all our representative Irishmen in Australia, who have so far spoken, have been painfully shocked by the recent riots in Ireland. It is horrible to think of the numbers of wretched dupes whom a misguided patriotism has led into the shambles. A dreadful responsibility lies on the shoulders of the leaders.

"It is something to know that Casement is an Ulsterman and a Protestant, if only to show that the rebels numbered amongst them the fools of all parties. But the stupidity of the attempt is not its worst feature. Nothing could well be more criminal." "Sydney Morning Herald", 2.5.16.

AUSTRALASIAN HOLY CATHOLIC GUILD, and IRISH NATIONAL FORESTERS, Sydney.

(Cable). Executives Australasian Holy Catholic Guild and Irish National Foresters representing ten thousand members in conference assembled, deplore the uprising of the irresponsible minority and express entire confidence and support to the Irish Parliamentary Party and ultimate success of British arms. J.E. Burke, T.E. Avery, secretaries, Castlereagh Street, Sydney". "Sydney Morning Herald", 3.5.16.

CELTIC CLUB, PERTH.

"The Committee of the Perth Celtic Club has despatched the following cablegram to Mr. John Redmond, M.P., "Irishmen of Western Australia regret the Dublin affair. They have confidence in you. Reply, enlightening us". "Sydney Morning Herald". 29.4.16.

CELTIC CLUB, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

(Cable to John Redmond). "Deepest sympathy with you in your present trouble. The unfortunate occurrence in Dublin tends unjustifiably to cast disgrace on our country and to discredit us abroad. x x x

(Cable to Mr. Asquith, Prime Minister of England). "Irish here regret painful occurrence on the part of a misguided section of the people, and feel confident that firm and prudent administration by the British Government will secure an early re-establishment of order. They express appreciation of and gratitude for the splendid services of the Government to Ireland, and feel assured that the administration of Irish affairs is in capable and tactful hands." "Sydney Morning Herald", 2.5.16.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE, MELBOURNE.

(Cable to John E. Redmond). "The Irish in Victoria view with abhorrence the outbreak at Dublin of futile and meaningless rebellion, and sympathise with the Irish National Party in its cruel struggles against the criminal efforts of an insignificant minority to thwart the noble objects of peace and reconciliation which had almost been accomplished. Such fanatics betray gross ingratitude for the benefits Ireland received through the long agitation and generosity of the Irish abroad, as well as for the valuable help rendered by the British and other democracies. Brave Irish soldiers are dying at the front that their country may prosper. Their nobility of sacrifice should shame all wreckers of Ireland's future. The guilt of this horrible bloodshed at Dublin be on the heads of the misguided leaders of the outbreak". "Sydney Morning Herald". 28.4.16.

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE, HOBART.

(Cable to Mr. John Redmond): Stating that the Tasmanian friends of Ireland deeply deplore the fanatical rebellion in Dublin, and assuring him of their entire confidence in Mr. Redmond and his National Party triumphing for Ireland and Empire. M.M. Ryan, President. "Sydney Morning Herald" 1.5.15 (?)

QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION.

(Cable to Redmond and Asquith): "Queensland Irishmen condemn and deplore the disturbances in Ireland and re-affirm their confidence in the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary Party. Irish soldiers in the present war, by their valour and devotion, have demonstrated their loyalty to the Empire." "Sydney Morning Herald". 28.4.16.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, MELBOURNE.

"At the annual district meeting of the H.A.C.B. Socy., Victoria district, a motion was agreed to unanimously deploring the "disturbing efforts of the misguided and insignificant portion of people in Dublin, and expressing its earnest desire that the faction will meet with its deserts, and the loyalty of Ireland's sons will remain unsullied". "Evening News", Sydney, 28.4.16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, MELBOURNE:

"The following motion was agreed to at a meeting of the National Directory of the Hibernian Society today and was ordered to be cabled to Mr. John Redmond, leader of the Irish National Party: "The Hibernians of Australasia, representing 600 branches, in inter-state conference assembled at Melbourne, in union with His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Carr), in renewing unswerving loyalty to yourself and party, publicly condemn the late lamentable folly of extremists in the old land, but deeply deplore the ruthless retaliatory measures of the Home Government". "Sydney Morning Herald". 17.5.16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, BROKEN HILL :

"The Sacred Heart Branch of the Hibernian Society has carried the following resolution: "We Hibernians assembled at Broken Hill view with abhorrence and disgust the rebellious spirit prevailing in Ireland and convey to Mr. J.E. Redmond our deepest sympathy, and pledge moral support and unswerving loyalty to the Irish National Party under his leadership". This has been cabled to Mr. Redmond. "Sydney Morning Herald" 9.5.16.

H.A.C.B. SOCIETY, SYDNEY:

(From Annual Report) - Your Board regrets exceedingly that it should be necessary to close this report with a reference to the truly lamentable occurrences which have just been reported by cable. As members of the representative Irish Society of the Commonwealth of Australia, we feel inexpressibly grieved at the outbreak of disturbances which from every point of view are deplorable in the extreme.

The conference will doubtless take an early opportunity of voicing its abhorrence of such an utterly misguided course of action ... We look forward with unshakable confidence to the complete triumph of Allied arms".

IRISH NATIONAL FORESTERS, BROKEN HILL.

"At a meeting of the Wolfe Tone Branch of the Irish National Foresters, Broken Hill, the following motion was carried: 'That this branch of the Irish National Foresters learned with the deepest indignation and regret the lamentable occurrence in Ireland, and that in view of the fact that the leader of the Irish Party had succeeded in getting the British Government to acknowledge the right of the Irish people to govern themselves, any attempt on the part of the Sinn Fein or any other body to thwart the legal efforts of Parliament, and of the majority of the Irish people, in bringing the Home Rule measure into operation after the war, is disapproved of by every fair-minded loyal Irishman'". "Sydney Morning Herald", 17.5.16.

MR. P. MCGARRY, M.L.A., N.S. WALES:

"Mr. P. McGarry, M.L.A., stated yesterday that, as an Irishman who had fought for the Nationalist cause for the past 35 years, he entirely condemned the Sinn Fein Rebellion. He felt that no true Irishman could have the slightest sympathy with the outbreak, fomented as it had been by German agents." "Sydney Morning Herald". 17.5.16.

DR. CHAS. W. MacCARTHY, SYDNEY:

(Cable to Mr. John Redmond) - "Sectional pro-German rioting disgusts Home Rulers here. Take heart. Our race with you and gallant countrymen at front". "Sydney Morning Herald". 28.4.16.

DR. N.M. O'DONNELL, MELBOURNE:

"Dr. N.M. O'Donnell, president of the United Irish League, stated that he believed there was a nest of Sinn Fein men in that city, whose interests were in common with those of the Sinn Fein Society in Ireland. They dissociated themselves from any activities of the Irish bodies and refused to march in the St. Patrick's Day procession on the ground that the processionists stopped outside Parliament House and sang: "God Save the King". Such men must not be associated with the Irish cause". "Evening News" Sydney. 28.4.16.

IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(From the minutes, dated 24th April 1916.) "The monthly Ceilidh set down for this night was abandoned in sympathy with the patriots who lost their lives (being murdered after the Irish Insurrection) to satisfy the blood-lust of the champion of small nations".

see paragraph 3 page 2 of Covering Statement.

COPY.

IRISH PRISONERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE
197 Castlereagh St.,
Sydney.

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Dear Sir,

You are probably aware that eight members of the Irish National Association, against whom no charge has been formulated, are at present confined in Darlinghurst Gaol. They are being denied a trial, though they are all anxious to be confronted with their accusers.

It has seemed to those who are working on their behalf that liberty, like charity, should begin at home, and that Australians would be loth to come back from the blood-stained battle-fields of Europe in order to find that their rights as freemen had been filched from them during their absence.

Hence the Town Hall has been engaged for Wednesday, 24th instant, for the holding of a Mass Meeting, which will be addressed by prominent speakers from this and other States of the Commonwealth, the object of which will be to urge the Federal Government to bring those men before a judge and jury.

The Committee in charge of the meeting will esteem it a great favour if you will be so good as to bring it under the notice of your people, and the obligation will be enhanced if you will recommend them, by their attendance, to make it as big a success as possible.

I am etc.,

Sgd. M.J. O'Reilly, C.M.

P.S. Sympathisers who are unable to attend the Meeting can send contributions to the Hon. Treasurers, by whom they will be duly acknowledged.

CHAIRMAN: Very Rev. M.J. O'Reilly, C.M.

TREASURERS: Rev. T. Barry; St. Benedict's Presbytery,
George St., Sydney.
G.P. O'Connor.

COMMITTEE:- Hon John Meagher, M.L.C.; Rev. Father O'Farrell;
Rev. Dr. Tuomey, Ph.D., John Doyle, M.L.A.,
P.S. Cleary; Neal Collins; P.J. Minahan;
John Sheehy; P. O'Loughlin; S. McCormack;
F.J. Anglin; P. Burns; M. Muir; T. O'Shea;
J.D. Moran.

SECRETARIES: W. Lillis; J. Murphy

COPY.

THE IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA

PADRAIG PEARSE BRANCH, SYDNEY.

The Irish National Association was founded on the 21st July 1915, primarily to advance the cause of Ireland in Australia and to advocate the ideals of Irish national independence and republicanism.

In this field it is the pioneer organisation in Australia.

Its prestige is enhanced by the fact that, during the "dark and evil days" preceding and following "Easter Week", its voice alone, in this country, was raised in advocacy of a free and independent Ireland and in defense of the principles which were the inspiration of Fenianism and Sinn Fein and which animated the men of the Rising-Out in 1916. These principles, once derided, are now triumphant. And these principles were and are those of the Association.

The Association will endeavour to organise and unite people of Irish blood in Australasia in order to relume the light of Irish tradition and sentiment and to bring these to bear upon the moulding of Australian culture, to rebut the calumny and the ignorance which prevails regarding Ireland in this land and to co-ordinate the efforts of all who truly desire to raise the status of Ireland, to advance her interests and to augment her influence upon a world which sorely needs it.

Its objects, as defined in its constitution, are:

- (a) To assist Ireland to achieve her national destiny;
- (b) To preserve the ideal of Ireland's sovereignty;
- (c) To extend the influence of Irish ideals, tradition and culture upon civilisation;
- (d) To encourage the use of Irish as a written and as a spoken language;
- (e) To foster the study of Irish history, Irish literature; Irish music, Irish art, Irish dancing and Irish sports and pastimes;
- (f) To promote Irish industry and commerce;
- (g) To foster Irish racial consciousness amongst persons of Irish birth or descent.

COPY

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN
THE IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

- BECAUSE you are a member of the Irish Race.
- BECAUSE Ireland is a primary Motherland of Australia.
- BECAUSE the history of Ireland is, for YOU, a source of pride - great and legitimate.
- BECAUSE Ireland was, for centuries, before her aggressors struck at her, the cultural centre of civilisation.
- BECAUSE during Europe's darkest ages, she brought the light of Christianity and civilisation to that continent.
- BECAUSE she has played the major role in establishing and maintaining Christianity in Australia, as well as in other countries.
- BECAUSE the glory of her fight for NATIONAL FREEDOM, during nearly eight centuries is not approached by that of any nation on earth.
- BECAUSE, under God, she is yet destined to play, especially in the realm of the spirit, a conspicuous and glorious part in a world sunk in materialism.
- BECAUSE she is rising rapidly, as a great INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, to a status in the world commensurate with and worthy of her unique and lustrous history.
- BECAUSE the IRISH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is pledged to help her to do these things.
- BECAUSE the Irish National Association is active in endeavouring to make Australian citizens of Irish birth or descent conscious of and proud of their Race.
- BECAUSE the Irish National Association needs YOUR help in all these matters.
- BECAUSE the Association has led and will continue to lead Irish thought in this country.
- BECAUSE YOU owe it to YOUR own self-respect to identify yourself with the great world-wide movement of the resurgence of Ireland and the Irish Race.

CUMANN NA IS IUNTA NA nGAEDHEAL

