

CURFEW! POUF! FIGHT FOR TYRONE DUBLIN FRONT RETREAT

How Much Longer Shall This Silly Regulation Remain in Force?

IT SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE

Irritation—Irritation—Irritation is Its Only Chime

The Curfew has failed. It has failed to effect any of the things that the official announcements claimed it would accomplish. Its only success has been a mighty aggravation of the temper of the long-suffering people of Dublin.

RESULTS OF A THREE-MONTHS' EXPERIMENT

The Curfew came into force in Dublin at midnight on the 23rd February, so that it has just had a three months' trial. The results of that three months may be summed up as follows:—The citizens of Dublin have been inconvenienced and harassed by the working of the Order; no good has been done and the objects ostensibly sought to be achieved by the imposition of the Order have not been effected.

It has been proved beyond any reasonable doubt that the Curfew serves no good purpose. It is condemned by the bulk of the citizens and it is welcomed by footpads and burglars who take advantage of the deserted streets to carry on their nefarious work.

A quarter year's trial has shown conclusively that the Curfew should never have been introduced, and that being so, it should be at once withdrawn.

If its object was to protect the Crown forces, as was declared, it has failed ignominiously. Before it was imposed all attacks by armed men in Dublin upon the members of the detective and other forces took place before midnight, and since it was introduced two policemen have been shot in broad daylight.

On February 20th Mr. Curtin, publican, was shot at 7 o'clock in the morning by armed and masked robbers; on March 2nd a man named Jameson was shot dead in broad daylight at Ballymun; on March 3rd a body of armed civilians held up a mail van in Parnell street in the middle of the day and coolly walked away with the contents; on the 24th March, at 5.30 in the evening, a man named Alan Bell of a fruiterer and killed him; on April 14th Const. Kells was shot at Parnell street, and at 1 p.m. on April 20th Detective Dalton was shot at Mountjoy street.

What protection did the Curfew afford the victims of these tragedies? Did it save the Castle mints? It is now and has all along been an punishment on the people for the acts of a few. Subjected to its regulations, Dublin has been likened to Warsaw under the Russians. During the occupation of Belgium by the German armies no such restrictions were imposed on the people of the Belgian cities.

Constant and brutal treatment by their oppressors has engendered in the Irish people a spirit of martyrdom. They uncompromisingly resist any hardships under which other peoples would sink. All the irritating restrictions of the last few months have been patiently borne by the 420,000 people residing in the Dublin Metropolitan Police area. They have seen their city taken possession of by the military, their streets patrolled by armed cars, and their houses and offices searched by all the paraphernalia of war.

They have not revolted, nor have they raised any great outcry, because they have come to realise that the only law recognised by Britain is that which is just, and that no justice need be expected from their present governments.

OUT GOES ANOTHER CASTLE LIGHT

Retirement of Mr. P. J. Headlam

Another Dublin Castle official has lost his job. Mr. Maurice P. Headlam, Treasury Representative, has been unexpectedly sent back to London, to rejoin the Treasury staff there.

A few days ago Mr. Headlam was quite unaware of his impending departure, and had made arrangements for his usual week-end fishing trip on Saturday. But now he is gone and Dublin Castle will see him no more.

The office of Treasury Representative is peculiar to Dublin. There is no such position in Edinburgh, for example. It was designed specially to curtail expenditure in connection with projects for which good Government would be naturally responsible.

His activities did not interfere with expenditure on the semi-military police forces, the army, or on the ceremonial equipment of Dublin Castle, from Removable Magistrates to the erection of barbed wire entanglements around the Viceregal Lodge.

When a matter affecting grants for education, agriculture or commercial development was brought before the Treasury, Mr. Headlam was usually sent there back to the Treasury Representative in Dublin for his opinion and advice, thus giving Mr. Headlam an extraordinary power of veto.

It will be remembered that Lord French received a prepared scheme for industrial and social reconstruction involving the expenditure of certain sums of money on Ireland and was justly entitled to it in proportion to the sums made available for similar work by the Government in Great Britain.

It is believed to have been primarily responsible for the withholding of the Education grants to enable Irish teachers to be properly paid, and made no secret of the fact that it was he who had prevented the carrying out of any reconstruction scheme in Ireland.

Now then, Mr. Greenwood! When is this new policy to be applied to an ordinance that even to the Castle mind must obviously be absurd?

Stern necessity required many of the people to be abroad at night during the last three months. They know the risks and the dangers inseparable from the working of the Order. They have been held up at the pistol point in the dead of night when pursuing their peaceful avocations, and some of them have been arrested when by mischance they forgot to bring their permits.

Even permits give no guarantee of immunity from the dangers incidental to the enforcement of the Order, and rather than avail of them many workers remain at their occupations until the evening, and the majority of the bodies of industrial people are greatly embarrassed in carrying on their business.

Men employed by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation no longer carry out their work at night, no letters are delivered at the newspaper offices between 11.30 p.m. and 5 a.m., doctors, nurses and clergy obeying urgent calls do so at considerable risk, and people seeking succour for the dying are liable to be molested, and theatre-going has been restricted.

In the meantime the city is living under war conditions. Tanks and armoured cars roll noisily through its streets at night and disturb its inhabitants. Searchlight flash through the thoroughfares; military cycle about the city; shots ring out and alarm the citizens; and strange rumours and legends are being carried on. There are thousands of soldiers in the city; they have taken over control of the streets at night, and they have arrested some hundreds of citizens for being abroad without permits.

The people arrested were practically all unoffending citizens who had forgotten their permits, missed their last trains or had some other legitimate excuse for being abroad. They were kept in jail, some for four or five days at a stretch, and prosecutions did not take place in more than two or three per cent of the cases.

Meanwhile burglars are enjoying halcyon days. A serious result of banding over the care of the streets to the military who concentrate on the capture of permitless pedestrians is that robbers have become easy of access. Footpads walk through the side streets unmolested, and burglars break and enter shops with impunity.

The military say it is the duty of the police to look after these people, and the police say it is the duty of the military to see that nobody is abroad without a permit at night. So the game goes merrily on. The good are made to suffer and the evil-doers go free.

It is not long that the force ended. Has it not been demonstrated that the Order serves no good purpose; that it inconveniences the citizens and facilitates the robbers, and that it has failed to achieve any object?

ULSTER INSTANCES A GREAT ANOMALY

Perhaps the most interesting of all the coming County Council elections will be those concerned with the fight for the County of Tyrone.

This interest is largely the result of the jerry-mandering of the electoral areas by the Local Government Board and of the other attempts which have been made to bring into operation, so far as the County Council of Tyrone is concerned, what might be called an ascending minority.

The jerry-mandering practised by the Local Government Board is almost incredible in its character and in its probable results, and it has been carried out in violation of the principle of Proportional Representation and of the Act of 1919 by which that principle has been applied to Local Government elections in Ireland.

An examination of the last census figures will give a pretty accurate idea of the relative strength of parties in the county. The entire population was 142,665, of whom 79,015 were Catholics and 63,650 non-Catholics. It is safe to claim all the Catholics as being Nationalists, and those who claim the right of Ireland to absolute independence as well as those who make the demand for lesser forms of self-government.

Even conceding that all the non-Catholics are Unionists—and they are not, because very many of them are at least Home Rulers—the Nationalists would have a majority of 15,365.

L.G.B. Jerry-mandering. To come to the Local Government Board jerry-mandering, the report of the Royal Commission on Electoral Reform, upon which the system of Proportional Representation was introduced, stated:—

"It is agreed that if the scheme (Proportional Representation) is to work to the best advantage constituencies of 7 or 9 members at least are necessary, and the results adequate to the importance of constituencies of less than five."

The Local Government Act of 1919 provides that the Local Government Board are to preserve the same proportion with the principle of Proportional Representation and to the areas shall in each case be such as to give equal representation upon the basis of population.

Let us see how the Local Government Board have ignored both the report of the Commission and the directions contained in the Act of 1919. The Commission states that if the scheme of Proportional Representation is to work to the best advantage, constituencies of 7 or 9 members at least are necessary, and that members at least are necessary, and that members at least are necessary.

Will it be believed that in face of this declaration that the Local Government Board for Ireland have elected in the County of Tyrone five constituencies of 7 or 9 members each, but five constituencies of only 4 members each, and that they have persistently called to their attention has been the Act of 1919 in which it is violated?

Then as regards the mandate to arrange the constituencies as to give equal representation upon the basis of population, the following figures will show how the Local Government Board have ignored it. The table gives the names of the electoral areas, or constituencies, the population of each, and the average number to each constituency.

Table with 3 columns: Area, Population, Ave. No. to each member. Rows include Clogher, Coolshingaun, Omagh, and Strabane.

F.R. Principle Violated. The total population of the county being 142,665 and the Local Government Board having chosen five constituencies of four members each, this is itself a violation of the principle of Proportional Representation, which requires that the number of members should be in proportion to the population.

Measures, Shields and Manganham, solicitors for the Nationalists, communicated with the Local Government Board, pleading before the Commission that the constituencies of four members were not in accordance with the Act of 1919, and that the Board should be ordered to amend the constituencies.

Names Missing from Official Story of Alleged Outrage. In the Government's official diary of Irish "outrages" for May 24th, the following appear:—

"Co. Westmeath.—At 2.50 a.m. on the 12th instant, fifteen armed and disguised men called at the house of a resident, and ordered him to get up and go to the yard and made him go on his knees and swear that he would withdraw his candidature from the Local Government election."

HOUSES RAIDED BY POLICE. Police from Strabane and Traid raided the houses of Sinn Féin members in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, on the 20th inst. The houses were searched for arms and explosives, and the occupants were taken to the police station.

SAVING OF A LIFE. A steam roller was raised near Danganooon and a life, ammunition and a pair of field-glasses taken. The property belonged to an ex-soldier.

EXCESS ON LUGGAGE

Removal of War Restrictions in Ireland

The Minister of Transport has issued directions relating to the removal of war restrictions on personal baggage and certain goods and the weight of same which a railway passenger may convey with him, free of charge. Charges for certain luggage and goods, in excess of the amount allowed free in Great Britain, will be as follows:—For distances not exceeding 50 miles, 1d per lb.; exceeding 50 but not exceeding 100 miles, 1d per lb.; exceeding 100 miles, 1d per lb. The excess charge will be made when the amount payable is less than 6d. These charges are reduced by 50 per cent. in the case of commercial travellers, lecturers, emigrants, fishermen, merchant seamen, ship's crews, shipwrecked mariners, theatrical companies, and music hall artists.

The charges to be levied on excess luggage, and certain goods accompanying passengers on railways in Ireland will be those which were in operation on Dec. 31st, 1919, with an addition of 50 per cent. except as above stated in the case of through passengers between Ireland and Great Britain, and the charges will be those in force in Great Britain. These alterations take effect on and from June 1st. The war restrictions on the removal of personal baggage will be withdrawn.

ANGLICISING THE R.I.C.

High Official of the London Police Transferred to Dublin

The "Daily Herald" is informed that volunteers have been asked from the Metropolitan Mounted Police and also from the cavalry units in Ireland to transfer to the Royal Irish Constabulary. Inspectors in the metropolitan mounted branch are being offered special privileges in pay and pensions if they will volunteer for service in Ireland. A high official of the metropolitan police, who recently arrived in the cavalry and South Africa under Sir Nevill Macgregor, has already been transferred to Dublin for organisational purposes.

Generous increases of pay and allowances for the R.I.C. are to be recommended to Parliament forthwith.

A CHANGE OF FLAGS.

Cork Harbour Board yesterday discussed a motion by Mr. Good: "That the future flag of the Irish Republic be hoisted from the flagstaff of the Admiralty pier at Queenstown, and other buildings and ships under the control of the Board, as we consider the time has arrived when the foreigner should get notice of our independence."

In deference to the wishes of several members of the Board, Mr. Good delayed the words "and ships" and the resolution in amended form was carried by 10 votes to 3.

CITY FISH TRADE

Labour Dispute Which May Have Serious Results

The strike of the Dublin fish and poultry traders, and the members of the Dublin Fish and Poultry Merchants' Association who decided to suspend business until the strike is over, has been discussed at a meeting of the Board, as we consider the time has arrived when the foreigner should get notice of our independence.

The whole question of transport of munitions of war, not only in Ireland, but in Great Britain, will be considered at a special meeting of the National Executive of the Railwaymen's Union in London to-day, and it is expected that definite instructions, which are anxiously awaited, will be issued.

COMPANY STAND FIRM

It is stated that the London and North Western Railway Co. have determined to maintain a firm attitude in connection with the picketing of the railwaymen, and will not be moved by the picketers. The company has decided to stand firm, and will not be moved by the picketers.

Mr. James Bertram, Irish Secretary of the N.U.R., stated yesterday that the men would not be allowed to picket, but they had no objection to handling foodstuffs, and on these conditions that they would go back to work. The situation affected the Slieve Donard or any other ship bringing munitions of war.

Thousands of men in Swansea Docks Idle

Thousands of men in the Swansea Docks have been rendered idle by a lightning official strike of hydraulic powermen, harbour slopmen, lockmen and pilots. The men have been idle since the strike began, and the docks are almost deserted.

LIBERALS IN THE FUTURE.

Sir Robert Horn, speaking in Glasgow yesterday, said that Mr. Asquith had not palliated the Irish situation, but had brought the question back to a partisan controversy. The Independent Liberals in Parliament were irrevocable remnants who would ultimately join the Labour or Coalition Parties.

ARMAGH PROTESTANT BISHOPRIC.

Right Rev. Dr. Plunket, Protestant Bishop of Armagh, presided at a meeting of Armagh Diocesan Synod, called to elect a bishop. The candidates were—Rev. F. J. Holohan, M.C., Drumahaire; Rev. C. R. Kerrin, Carrisbane; Rev. G. W. O'Connell, Carrisbane; and Rev. J. O'Connell, Carrisbane. The election was postponed to the month of July.

(Continued on Column 1, Page 6.)