

# Irish National Congress

PO Box No 2814, Dublin 7



# Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann

PO Box No 2814 Dublin 7

FEB 1997

## JUSTICE FOR ROÍSÍN

Our last newsletter featured an excellent article by Eamon O Cuiv, T.D., on the issue of the treatment of Republican prisoners in British gaols and, in the normal course of events, it would not have been our intention to return to the topic so soon. However, the outrageous and inhuman treatment of Roisin Mc Aliskey demanded our immediate attention. The refusal to grant bail to a sick woman who is now six months pregnant represents a disgraceful abuse of human rights. Her incarceration in two prisons, without adequate facilities for someone in her condition, is both callous and inhuman.

The Irish National Congress

has already mounted four pickets in support of Roisin, one at the German Embassy and three at the British Embassy and will continue to campaign in support of her civil and human rights.

The Roisin McAliskey Support Group meets every Monday evening in Teachers' Club at 8.00pm. At a recent meeting organised by the group Bernadette McAliskey spoke of how Roisin in strip-searched every evening at 8.00pm; before and after visits and before and after trips to court. She has been told by the prison governor that, if she gives birth to her baby in Holloway Prison, she will be immediately separated from

her baby because as a Category A prisoner she will not be allowed to use the mother-and-baby facilities if other prisoners are using them.

The Irish National Congress also supports the justice campaign for Danny McNamee, another victim of 'so-called' British justice. Anyone who wants information on this campaign should contact: Danny McNamee Support Group, 3 Sillogue Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11.

Telephone: 842 8470.

Fax: 842 0450.

### LOUGHGALL TRUTH AND JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

The relatives of the Loughgall dead intend holding a public inquiry, later this year, in order to establish the truth of what happened in the course of the ambush by the SAS in Loughgall village 10 years ago.

The INC has agreed to assist the relatives in establishing the inquiry.

Write to the address below for information. Donations will be gratefully received.  
62, St. James Crescent,  
Clondalkin, Dublin 22.



# BIGOTRY: THE TRUE NATURE OF ORANGISM

**B**ecause the British bear ultimate responsibility for the conflict in the North, nationalists and republicans are inclined to concentrate most of their energies in challenging British policies or in lobbying support for this challenge.

I believe this is particularly true in the South and one unfortunate consequence of this is the failure to critically analyse the Unionist/Loyalist/Orange position.

We, in the I.N.C. are as guilty as any in this regard. Many will recall I.N.C. campaigns during the cease-fire period, which criticized heavily the British government's failure to respond to that historic opportunity. Our banners, leaflets, posters and tee-shirts proclaimed "British must move for peace". Now, I'm not suggesting that nationalists and republicans should take pressure off the British government, however, after the disgraceful events of last July and the depressing possibility of a repetition

this year, I believe, at this time, that it's crucial for us to understand the true nature of Unionism/Loyalism/Orangeism.

It is crucial for two reasons, firstly, because of the parliamentary arithmetic in Westminster, the Unionist tail is, literally, wagging the Tory dog, and secondly, the present British government and the Unionists appear to be sleep-walking into another violent marching season.

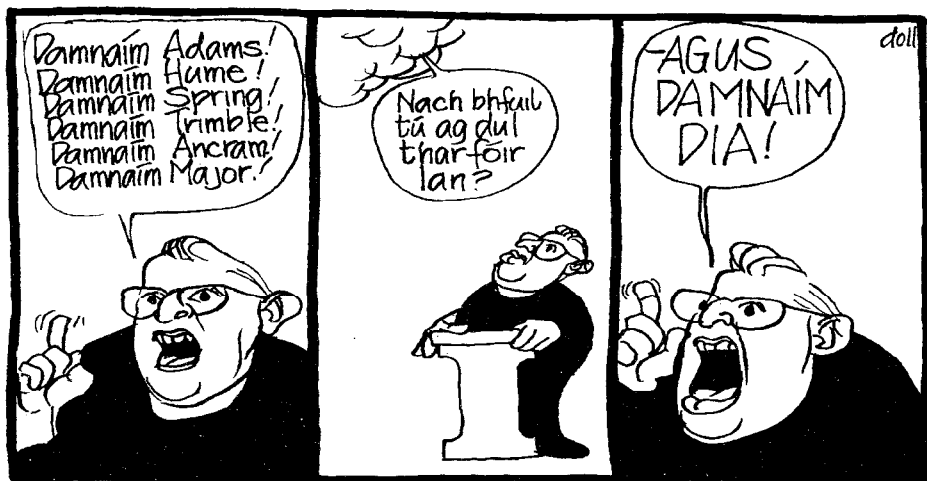
In the aftermath of Drumcree, last year, most reasonable eyes were opened to the truly reactionary nature of Unionism, but sadly, time passes, and even bitter memories fade.

Nevertheless we should never forget that when it came to getting their own way, last July, the Unionists were prepared to mount, what was in effect, a "coup d'etat", and unfortunately, as we know law and order collapsed, at the expense of the Nationalist community, mainly, because there was no political will to challenge the Orange mob. The sim-

ple truth is that the search for justice has been consistently undermined by Unionist bigotry, which embodied by Trimble, Paisley and others still prevails, immune to reasoned decent common sense.

The I.N.C. has decided to devote some of this newsletter to examining the nature and history of Unionism/Loyalism/Orangeism. In this way, we hope to contribute to the re-building and re-consolidation of a consensus, fully committed to building peace with justice in Ireland.

Robert Ballagh  
Chairperson.



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## PEACE AND NEUTRALITY ALLIANCE

**T**he Peace and Neutrality Alliance was established to defend Irish Neutrality as Ireland is slowly integrated into a nuclear armed Superstate. PANA seeks to promote the values of positive neutrality and to help build a democratic and non nuclear armed future for Europe. The I.N.C, recognising that Irish neutrality and sovereignty are threatened fundamentally by proposed changes in European Union Policies and structures, decided to affiliate with PANA and consequently will co-operate with the alliance in all its future articles.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

1ST PRIZE Michael Giltrap, Laois  
2ND PRIZE Aidan McCourt, Dublin  
3RD PRIZE Liam Malone, Limerick

# RÉITEACH POLAITIÚIL - BÍMID I MBUN GHNÍMH AGUS BEIDH AN LÁ LINN

*I lár 1995, le linn soscogaidh Arm na Poblachta, Bhí Alex Maskey, ball de cheannasaíocht Shinn Féin, mar aoichainteoir ag cruinniú poiblí i nGaillimh. Bhí na mór-fhadhbanna polaitaíochta a bhí sé mar príomh-aidhm ag an bProiséas Siochana iad a réiteach á phlé aige - críochdeighilt in Éirinn, Cothrom na Féinne do náisiuntóirí sna 'Sé Chondae, mí-chothromaíocht an RUC, príosúnaithe polaitíochta agus dí-airmiú chuile thaoibh sa choimhlint.*

Cureadh ceist air faoi a thuairim maidir le easpa cainteanna uile-pháirtí agus idirbheartaíocht réalaíoch faoin am sin agus an dócha go rachaidh na hÓglaigh i mbun chogaidh arís. Bhí a fhreagra fíor-shuimiúil. Cé nach raibh éinne siúrálte nach mbeadh feachtas míleata ann arís bhí rud amháin thar a bheith cinnte, sé sin, go mheadh gá do-sheachanta tabhairt arís faoina mór-fhabhbanna lárnacha a bhí phlé aige cheana.

Anois, nuair a bhfuil an feachtas míleata linn arís caithfimid cuimhniú ar an bhfreagra fáidhiúil sin agus beart dá réir a dhéanamh.

Tá an dúshlán a bhí, agus dúshlán an lae inniu mar a gcéanna do phoblachtánaigh - caithfidh siad feidhmiú go polaitiúil chun ceannaireacht a thabhairt do mhuintir na hÉireann chun go féidir leo brú ar aghaidh chun réiteach polaitiúil nua atá inghlactha do chách a aimsiú. Baineann dúshlán an Phróisís Siochána le gach duine in Éirinn agus aon duine atá baint acu le hÉirinn, sé sin tacaíocht a thabhairt don bhrú chun teacht ar réiteach. Caithfimid teacht ar aontas iomlán cuspóire idir chuile thaobh maidir le réiteach na

coimhlinte ina iomláine tré aontas agus comhráití.

Ní féidir a shéanadh nó a sheachaint go bhfuil éifeacht ag forbairt an stráitéis pholaitiúil seo ar stráicíl armtha an IRA. Ní féidir leanúint le feachtas míleata le gluaiseacht leathan pholaitiúil atá ag dul i dtreo réiteach comhráitithe mar gur comhbréagnú a bheadh i gceist. Mar sin, caithfidh na coiníollacha atá gá leo chun sos cogaidh nua ón IRA a athbhunú a bheith mar thosaíocht do na poblachtánaigh sin ean aon leithscéal a dhéanamh mar gheall ar sin a rá go soiléir. Ní athbhreithniú atá i gceist leis an staid seo maidir le rathúlacht, buntáistí nó eile an fheachtais mhíleata faoi mar a gcuireadh i gcrích é ó 1969 ach léiríonn sé an riachtanas gníomhaithe i gcomhtéacs an stráitéis pholaitiúil.

Tá sé soiléir go dtugann an impasse polaitiúil reatha seans dúinn rathúlacht nó eile an Preisén Siochána go dáta a mheas. Go ginearálta, mheasfainn féin go bhfuair an próiseas greadadh ach níl sé marbh fós ná baol dó. D'éirigh thar barr leis chun caimiléireacht Rialtais Sasana, neamhghéilliúlacht na n-

Aontachtóirí agus ardcheannas na nÓráisteach sna 6 chondae a thaispeáint go soiléir do mhuintear na hÉireann, Sasana agus an domhain mhóir. Chomh maith leis sin, bhain an próiseas amach agus choinnigh leibhéal tacaíochta i measc na nÉireannach sa bhaile agus thar lear atá rithabhachtach agus a bhí mar phríomhchuspóir ag an bpróiseas féin.

Mar fhocal scoir, iarraim ar phoblachtánaigh agus Naisiúntóirí iad féin a ghríosú chun comhaontú i measc phoblal na hÉireann a chur chun cinn chun réiteach polaitiúil, a bhfuil siocháin agus ceart mar bhunús leis, a chur i gcrích. Má bhíonn misneach agus cinnteacht againn, caithfear go n'éirídh linn.

Joe Neylon - Gaillimh - Eanáir 1997.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

**We have no big financial backer to pay our bills. We only survive on the voluntary contributions of our supporters. Please send what you can to the Irish National Congress, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7. All contributions will be acknowledged.**

## Apology

The INC would like to sincerely apologise to Capt. James Kelly for the omission of his name from his excellent article on "Consent and Peace" in our last newsletter. The omission was due to technical circumstances.

# THE MASSACRE

## Placing Drumcree in a

*Those who believe that the contentiousness of the routing of Orange marches is a phenomenon of the late 20th century or, who insist, as historian Ruth Dudley Edwards does, that the issue is a deliberate ploy by Sinn Fein to cause dissension and confrontation, should examine the events that occurred in a Co. Down townland 147 years ago - on 12th July 1849.*

A decision was taken, prior to that date, to re-route the Orange march to Tollymore Park, Castlewellan by a road through a pass known as Dolly's Brae in the townland of Mahaermayo. A Mr. Reynolds later claimed in the House of Commons that the Orangemen chose to ignore the 'good straight road' to Castlewellan in favour of the circuitous route because the immediate district around Dolly's Brae was inhabited solely by Roman Catholics.

*At that point some of the Orangemen went on the rampage, burning several local houses.*

Dolly's Brae had not seen an Orange procession for 30 years previously and the local inhabitants were particularly sensitive because, on a previous occasion, according to a letter sent from a resident of Lisburn to a friend in Wexford, Orangemen had killed there the son of a widow named Dolly - hence the name 'Dolly's Brae'. It is unclear why William Beers, magistrate of Co. Down and grand master of the Orangemen of the same county, gave the order to use this route in that particular year but there were suggestions that, because of the destitution and Famine suffered by the

inhabitants over the previous three years, it may have been a timely opportunity for the Orangemen to 'put the boot in' when morale might be expected to be at a low ebb.

In the event, news of the proposed change of route had obviously leaked out to the inhabitants because a group of 300-400 arrived on that morning to take up positions at the pass. However, a troop of the 13th Light Dragoons, a company of the 9th Foot and a body of the constabulary had beaten them to it and were already in position guarding the pass.

Major Walkinson of the 13th Light Infantry, in his evidence to the inquest on the bodies of persons killed at Mahaermayo, described these men as Ribbonmen. He stated that they were armed with pikes, pitchforks or muskets and that he knew they were Ribbonmen because they were not dressed like Orangemen. However, Mr. Reynolds said in the House of Commons that the people were improperly called Ribbonmen. He claimed that the term was, to a certain extent, imaginary, and had been coined as set-off against the name of Orangemen.

The Orange march passed on to Castlewellan without incident headed by a troop of Enniskillen Dragoons. Two Catholic clergymen - the Reverends Morgan and Mooney

- had arrived to try to restrain their people and to attempt to avoid confrontation. Major Walkinson had felt it was unlikely that the Orangemen would return by the same route. However, at about 5.30pm they reappeared and were 'all armed to the teeth' according to Walkinson.

*Dr. Hunter told the inquest that Hugh King and John Sweeney died from gunshot wounds.*

They comprised about 1,500, women as well as men and all armed except the women and the drummers. When they had gone through the pass, followed by the police, magistrates and the military, a shot rang out which Major Walkinson was unable to ascribe to either side. However, a member of the Kildare constabulary, writing from Rathfriland, claimed that it came from the Orange party. There followed an exchange of shots and the police became 'furious partisans' for which they were later eulogised in the Orange journals, according to a Mr. Moore, speaking in the House of Commons. Prisoners taken were all from the Catholic side. At that point some of the Orangemen went on the rampage, burning several local houses. Hugh King and John Sweeney appeared to have been killed in the skirmish while Anne Traynor and Patrick King were brutally murdered by the Orange mob.

Bridget King and Margaret Traynor, in their evidence to the Coroner at the inquest, stated that Patrick King was at home caring for his mother when the Orange mob broke in the door; that he was stoned and stabbed in his garden while begging for mercy and died about 10 minutes later. Dr. Hunter told the inquest that, in his opinion, Patrick King had died as a result of

# AT DOLLY'S BRAE

## Historical Perspective

a blow to the skull with an 'angular blunt instrument'.

Margaret Traynor stated that a mob wearing sashes fired into her house burning and destroying it. They chased the old women - Ann Traynor, aged 85 years - into the byre. The witness did not see what they did to her. She was still alive when they left but died an hour later. Dr. Hunter described her many wounds but judged the cause of death to be a blow to the skull by a blunt instrument. Margaret Traynor said they also shot her husband, Arthur Traynor, who was taken prisoner by them and handed over to the military. Arthur Traynor appeared as a witness to the inquest - still a prisoner - pointing out the bullet still lodged below his eye four days after the event, and left completely untreated while in custody. Mr. Quin, J.P., intervened at this point and castigated the parties in whose custody he was for their neglect. Traynor was at last placed under the care of Dr. Hunter.

*'inhuman butchery of an unoffending poor old women of 85 years and an idiotic man'..*

Dr. Hunter told the inquest that Hugh King and John Sweeney died from gunshot wounds.

Mr. Murland of Murland & Murphy, Solicitors, representing the families of the victims, in cross-examining James Ponsonby Hill, sub-Inspector of the constabulary, asked him if he believed that 1,500 men, armed and walking in military array, was not calculated to create a breach of the peace. Murland went on to argue that it had been an unlawful assembly but there were conflicting views on this. In reply to the question: 'Didn't you, in point of fact, march with the Orangemen to protect them?' Ponsonby Hill

replied 'Yes, and to prevent any disturbance or breach of the peace'.

The jury were charged by the Coroner to find the whole party of Orangemen guilty if they believed the assembly to have been illegal, as Mr. Murland claimed but he impressed upon them that he didn't believe this to be the case. If they agreed with him then they would have to find that death had been caused by person, or persons, unknown. In the event, the latter verdict was brought in.

Such a result could be expected where the magistrates who led the Orangemen sat on the bench and the Orangemen themselves sat in the Jury-box.

However, there was an outcry from many quarters in the wake of what became known as the massacre at Dolly's Brae which forced the British Government to initiate an inquiry into the events. This inquiry resulted in the dismissal of at least two magistrates - Lord Roden of Tollymore Park who had hosted the Orangemen, plying them with food and drink, and Mr. Beers, grand master of the Orangemen of Co. Down.

An outraged letter to the Editor

of the Leinster Express (a conservative paper) expressed horror at what was described as the 'inhuman butchery of an unoffending poor old women of 85 years and an idiotic man'.

A letter which appeared in the Dublin Evening Post has amazing resonances for us today: 'You, Orange clergymen, chief promoters of these processions, who with words of Christian charity on your lips are so careful to prepare and light the match that lights this year's conflagration'.

And how about this extract from a letter in the Dublin Press the following day: '.. the Government should have done better. As prevention is better than cure they should have adopted measures of prevention. They cannot now restore the lives that have been lost, nor readily and speedily assuage the maddened feelings that have been excited...'

Those who gave the orders at Drumcree a century and a half later had obviously failed to learn any lessons from Dolly's Brae.

Margaret Urwin  
November 1996.

Cló Spidseoir

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# *I.N.C. Members meet Unionists & Alliance party in Portlaoise*

Margaret Urwin and Jim Fleming were part of a group that met Unionists and Alliance Party members in Portlaoise on the weekend of the 22nd of November to the 24th. Other members of the delegation included Fianna Fail councillors, Ogra Fianna Fail, a peace group from Meath and a community group from Kimmage. The weekend was organised by the Laois Peace Group and was funded by Co-operation North. Two Quakers from Quaker House in Belfast facilitated the weekend.

Initially the Southern group and the Northern group separated. Each side made a list of ideas, conceptions and misconceptions they had about the other side. This was used as a basis for the discussions over the weekend.

In the final session on Sunday some of the Unionists admitted

The following items came up for discussion in the various work shops that followed:-

1. The historical aspects of the problem
2. The Orange order
3. The increase of Orange order marches over the last 25 years
4. Identity and Culture of Northern Protestants
5. The R.U.C.
6. Where is the Peace Process now.
7. Civil Rights
8. Discrimination
9. The British Presence in Ireland
10. Partition
11. Church dominated South
12. Respect for Protestant culture
13. Fall in Protestant population in the South.
14. European dimension

that if Britain decided to pull out of Ireland, there was very little they could do about it. Some also agreed that the British government in 1921 did not

intend partition to be permanent.

It was hoped that in February 1997 the group may get together in Belfast for a further meeting.



Members of the I.N.C. at the 25th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Derry.



# FAIR EMPLOYMENT

## *New Report Exposes British Government*

The British Government's Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights has issued a set of research papers which collectively raise serious questions over the willingness of the British Government to make any meaningful effort to eliminate or even significantly reduce discrimination in employment against nationalists in the North of Ireland. (Across the North, Catholic men are still 2.2 times more likely to be unemployed than Protestant men and Catholic women are 1.8 times more likely to be unemployed than Protestant women). A short review of some of the 25 papers provides compelling evidence of the British Government's lack of good faith on this issue.

Christine Bell, lecturer in law in Queens University Belfast, in a review of the cases before the Fair Employment Tribunal (FET) comments, 'that while discussions around fair employment often seek to address the subtleties of structural discrimination, for the most part the cases [before the FET] concern fairly blatant direct discrimination. As the 'worst' cases are usually settled, the cases before the FET are ones where the employer felt they had a case. In many of the cases, Bell says, the employers' arguments contain an implicit rejection of the legitimacy of fair employment legislation.

The papers by Bell and Maureen Maguire raise another interesting issue in the extent to which legislation covering discrimination of grounds of political opinion is fatally compromised by the qualification introduced under unionist pressure in 1976 that the act would not outlaw discrimination against those whose political opinions included support for 'political violence'. The FET has ruled that an employer who 'reasonably

believed' that a person supported political violence would not be guilty of discrimination. Justice Kerr, in the Northern Ireland High Court, has ruled that s.42 certificates preventing Fair Employment Commission (FEC) investigations could be legally issued not just if there was suspicion of personal 'association with terrorists' but by reason of a 'perceived vulnerability to pressure from terrorist organisations'. How wide could such a justification for discriminating go? Could it for example include all Sinn Fein voters, or relatives of Sinn Fein voters or all of those living in strongly republican areas?

Maura Sheehan and Mike Tomlinson carried out a survey of the long-term unemployed in West Belfast (both Falls and Shankill) which confirms the importance of the overall unemployment differentials as an indicator of labour market inequalities. Sheehan and Tomlinson also find in their survey that, for respondents who had ever worked, 42% of Catholic men and 18% of Catholic women (18% and 14% for Protestants respondents) had been intimidated at work and nearly a third of these had experienced physical violence. Yet despite this evidence of intimidation and discrimination unionist and British government commentators talk of a voluntary 'chill factor' when they deny that discrimination is behind the reluctance of many nationalists to even seek work in strongly unionist areas of factories.

Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment (PAFT) and Targeting Social Need (TSN) programmes were launched amid huge publicity by the British Government as evidence of their commitment to equality. PAFT guidelines are supposed to ensure that all public policy decisions are 'equality proved' to ensure that there is no

discriminatory impact. TSN was designed to target public spending in areas of high disadvantage as a means of reducing the relative disadvantage of the nationalist community, without specifically introducing positive discrimination in favour of nationalists. The review of the PAFT guidelines concluded that they have received very little priority in their implementation and are largely a symbolic and publicity measure. Many civil service departments had not even circulated these 'priority' guidelines. Where they were implemented they showed little awareness of the nationalist community. The NIO for example used 'equality' guidelines to try and justify the extension of an RUC liaison scheme to Newry. Nationalist towns it seems had not been getting their fair share of RUC 'liaisons'. With 'equality' like this on offer who can blame people for being cynical? The review of TSN showed that despite its declared aim of reducing the differential between Catholic and Protestant unemployment rates it has been implemented in a manner which largely neutralised this objective. As civil service departments declared that all public expenditure was meeting some 'social need', the need to focus on the level of inequality between the two communities was sidelined.

While the collapse of the peace process has meant that very little attention has been focused on the review of fair employment laws in the North it is important that this issue is kept on the political agenda. It is one of the clearest examples, along with the RUC decisions in Drumcree and other areas, of the British Government's utter unwillingness to tackle unionist intransigence. So much for no selfish or strategic interests!.

# Armistice Day

John Doyle

*Every year, in November, Irish society must endure sterile and divisive controversy concerning Armistice Day, poppy wearing and the commemoration of the thousands of Irish who died serving with British forces during World War One.*

Although it is now nearly eighty years since the end of that war, and although most of its survivors are now dead, the arguments appear to be getting more rather than less intense. Demands are being made, that the Irish state should fully and unconditionally participate at official level in Remembrance Day ceremonies. These ceremonies would conform to the pomp and solemn pageant of the British imperial military ethos.

This annual agitation is being orchestrated by a small, vociferous, but highly influential coterie of politicians, media people and others in the 26 co's who espouse Unionist or Redmondite opinions, or who have links with bodies such as the Royal British Legion. These people appear to be working to a definite agenda. So far, they have had it easy. The little debate that there is on this matter tends to be woolly and sentimental. Nonsense and mischief go unchallenged by default.

Hardly a family in Ireland was left untouched by the tragic enormity of young lives lost during the Great War. It is therefore entirely proper - and indeed long overdue - that appropriate public ceremonies be held to commemorate the many thousand who went away, and never returned. What is not acceptable however, and should not be tolerated, is the efforts at conferring a new respectability upon the British Army under the guise of honouring the war dead. During the course of the war, the British Army ruthlessly suppressed the Easter Rising. Several years later, their soldiers were murdering and pillaging in Ireland. Then there is the record of that army in the 6 co's from 1970 onwards. We are debasing ourselves as a people if we allow this agenda to go through unchallenged.

Much of the blame for allowing this situation to develop rests with the political establishment of the 26 co's, who are drifting rudderless in the face

of the campaign waged by pro-imperialist elements. They lack the backbone needed to defend the national interest in this matter. In 1983, they capitulated to demands that the Irish Army participate in Armistice Day ceremonies. Television viewers were treated to the sorry spectacle of soldiers at St. Patrick's cathedral in Dublin, carrying Union Jacks and regimental standards of the old 26 co's based British garrison.

Irish nationalists must confront these agitators, because there is more involved here than simply commemorating the Irish war dead. They should be confronted on the historical record; the unanswerable indictment of carnage and mass slaughter. Their campaign should also be seen as a veiled propagandist attack on separatist Irish nationhood, an attempt at a restoration of close institutional ties with the U.K. This all comes at a time when the Irish state itself is in the process of denying the revolutionary past of its founders. In the historical vacuum, the British record in Ireland can be accorded a rehabilitation.

Between 1914 and 1918, over 300,000 Irish enlisted in the crown forces. Some joined for idealistic reasons, most joined to escape poverty; a form of economic conscription. Alongside millions of soldiers of all nationalities, 35,000 Irishmen too, were slaughtered in just four years, in a vile and useless conflict that had nothing directly to do with any issue in Ireland. Thousands more were maimed, blinded and traumatised. On one day alone, July 1st 1916, some 2,000 men of the 36th Ulster Division, (UVF) perished at the Somme! In numerous other engagements from Flanders to Mesopotamia, hundreds would die, often in the space of a few hours.

Seventy years after the famine, another holocaust had come upon Ireland through incorporation under the Act of Union. The poppy wearing brigade prefers a sanitized version of these events.

There was little glory either for Redmonds volunteers. The British government refused requests for the establishment of separate Irish formations - although this was granted to the UVF. Middle class Catholics were denied field commissions, officer posi-

tions being reserved for ascendancy types and for the sons of the Anglo-Irish Junker class. To add real insult to injury, the names of (non-unionist) Irish fighting units were excluded from "mention in dispatches", not withstanding heavy casualties and exceptional courage under fire.

These young men were lied to and betrayed. Home Rule for Ireland was first promised, but then suspended. Furthermore, Redmond had told them that the war was a "just war .....undertaken in defence of small nations and oppressed peoples". Redmond was referring to Belgium, but Roger Casement and others had exposed the real Belgium; a ruthless colonial power that practiced genocide and slavery in Africa. Young Irishmen fought and died for freedoms that were being denied to their own and to other peoples land. They died in an inter-imperialist conflict.

The greatest nonsense arising from this whole issue is the assumption that Armistice Day can be officially commemorated by a state that still gives lip service to the Easter Rising. Only a really naive, weak or stupid government would entertain the idea that the Easter Week volunteers and the British Army can be given recognition at official level and receive "parity of esteem" in state ceremonies. Can you think of any country, anywhere in the world, that honours its hero's of liberation on the one hand, and the army of its colonial oppressors on the other? The anti-national cliques orchestrating this issue, understand only too well that if their campaign succeeds, the Irish states relationship with its past will become irrevocably changed. That, is the whole object of their endeavours.

## FOOTNOTES:

35,000 Irish killed in four years. Lets put that figure in some perspective.

- Four times as many as have been killed in all politically related conflict in Ireland this century!

- Or; ten times the numbers killed in the 6 co's during the present conflict from 1969!

More Ulster protestants died in one day at the Somme, than have been killed in all politically related conflict at home, this entire century!