

# NEWS OF EPOCH-MAKING EVENTS SWEEPS THE COUNTRY

**5th INSTALMENT**  
ON Sunday, July 12, 1914, I arrived in Cork by train, on my way to Ballingearry, and was met at the station by Terence MacSwiney who brought me out to his house at Blackrock. Terry was very much interested in my plan of touring the South and presenting plays in Irish, and offered to co-operate in every way.

I may mention that "Na hAisteoirí" was the first company of Gaelic players, and my comedies of rural life, trivial though they may now seem, represented an advance in those days. They were the first plays written in Gaelic by a writer with a knowledge and experience of stage technique.

That evening we were visited by Sean O'Hagerly (brother of "P.S.") and afterwards Commanding Officer of Cork No. 1 Brigade and his wife, and Sean Terry and his wife practised miniature rifle shooting in the garden.

Next day I left for Macroom by train and cycled to Inchigeela, later cycling to Ballingearry, where I delivered three lectures. On Wednesday I received a letter from Terry as the result of which I hurried back to Cork. He had secured the Father Mathew Hall for our Cork production, and had arranged for accommodation for our players. I inspected the hall and hotel, was well satisfied, and thanked him warmly for his help.

I was back in Ballingearry next day in time for my lecture, but next evening I returned to Cork to meet my troupe Gaitlin de Bhulbh. Maire Ni Chonail, Maire and Brigid Dixon, Gerard O'Sullivan, Flamin O'Loingsigh, Diarmuid Hagerly, Con Collins and Muiris O' Cathain. Our first performance in Cork did not attract a large audience, but those present showed intelligent appreciation, and the critics, who turned up in force, were very kind.

**Inchigeela Memories**  
NEXT night we performed in Macroom to a small audience, but our next production, in the village of Inchigeela, left very pleasant memories. A fête of aerisocht had been recently held in a field adjoining the village, and the improvised platform, made of planks stretched across empty barrels, was still standing. We transferred planks and barrels to the village hall and made our stage. We had brought curtains and a set (of scenery) with us, and we borrowed furniture from the hotel where we were staying. In those days there were no buses and very few motor cars, and the people in country villages seldom got a chance of seeing a stage performance. I think practically everybody in the village and neighbourhood came to the performance. The schoolmaster, Mr. Tadhg Hehirly, very kindly stood at the door and collected the entrance money; and the curate,

Father Fitzgerald (brother of that "Dick" who gave his name to Fitzgerald Park, Killarney) sat in a front seat and, at the conclusion, made a speech warmly commending our work.  
Next day the troupe performed in Ballingearry College Hall to a large audience composed partly of students and partly of local people. Of course, as producer, I never appeared on the stage, and I felt the company could now carry on the rest of the tour without my assistance. By the way, Theopist (not to mention Pagliacci) would feel affinities with us, for our "scenery" was conveyed from Macroom to Inchigeela, and later to Ballingearry by an ass and cart!  
The troupe departed for Skibbereen and left me to deal with the students in Ballingearry. Immersed in these activities I was now completely out of touch with the developments in the Volunteer movement, since John Redmond's nomination had been accepted on the Provisional Committee.

**Killarney Mission**  
ON Sunday, July 26, with three companions, I set out from Ballingearry to cycle to Killarney, where the Gaelic Oireachtas was to be held. I had been commissioned by the "Freeman's Journal" to report the proceedings for them, as their local representative knew no Irish. I was thus dividing my activities down South between lecturing, play-producing and journalism.  
It was a day of storm and rain, with the wind in our faces, and there were some steep hills on our route. In fact, for a couple of miles it was impossible to cycle. When I arrived in Killarney I went to the lodgings secured in advance for my troupe of actors. They had not yet arrived, but were on their way from Kenmare, where they had been performing, "was so exhausted by my journey that I went to bed and slept for hours."  
When I woke and got up, my actors had not yet arrived, but the opening ceremonies of the Oireachtas were over. As an experienced journalist, this did not much worry me. I "ran Seamus Casey to earth," as my diary puts it (he was the Oireachtas Secretary and Padraig O'Dala, then General Secretary of the Gaelic League, and from them and others got all the information I wanted. I wrote my report and went to the Post Office to telegraph it to Dublin. In those days journalists usually telegraphed their news and very rarely used a long-distance telephone.

**Howth Gun-running**  
WHEN I handed my message to the clerk, addressed to Dublin, he remarked: "Terrible things have been happening in Dublin to-day."  
"What things?" I asked in anxious surprise.  
"The Irish Volunteers landed a cargo of guns at Howth," he said, "and when they were marching back to Dublin they were attacked by the British soldiers. There was



## HOWTH GUN-RUNNING AND OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I

shooting, and a lot of them were killed."  
"Good heavens!" I said, bewildered. When I had left Dublin two weeks previously I had no knowledge of any landing of arms. The secret had been well kept. The story of their being landed at Howth sounded to me fantastic.  
"Do you know anything of a Volunteer officer named Judge?" asked the clerk.  
"I do," I said. "He is a captain of the First Battalion."  
"He's dead," he said. "He died of a bayonet wound."  
That was the form in which I first got news of the Howth gun-running—needless to say, in a very



Terence MacSwiney

garbled form. Mr. Judge only received a trifling hurt from the prick of a bayonet, and lived many years afterwards; and it was not the Volunteers who were fired on but unarmed people in the streets, when the soldiers were marching back to barracks.  
I returned to the lodgings in a great state of excitement and anger. The actors had just arrived, accompanied by Tadhg O'Sganail, who sometimes played small parts for us, and was later to win laurels as one of our best Gaelic comedians. I called the young men aside and blurted out the news I had heard to them. Their astonishment and anger was as great as mine. They were all members of the same Company in the Volunteers, and the same circle of the I.R.B. It was galling to think that our comrades had been in action against the British while we had been down south play-acting.  
"Why were we not told of this?" was the cry. "If we had only known we could never have left Dublin." But I realised that to carry out gun-running successfully it would not do to broadcast information beforehand. There was even talk of cancelling our engagement for the Oireachtas and returning at once to Dublin; but I felt that this would be only locking the stable door after the horse was stolen.  
Presently, Tomas O'Connell, brother of one of our actresses, Maire, and later a School Inspector,

joined us and gave us a more accurate account of what had transpired in Dublin.

### Four People Killed

NEXT day the papers were full of accounts of the occurrence, and denunciations of the action of the Dublin Castle authorities and the shooting of Dublin citizens by the soldiers. Four persons had been killed and forty wounded by the firing. The contrast between this and the gun-running at Larne by the "Ulster Volunteers," when armed Crown forces were held up and defied with impunity, was, of course, galling on the Gaelic Leaguers assembled in Killarney held an "indignation meeting," at which speeches were made by Dr. Hyde, myself and others and a strong resolution of protest was passed.

On Tuesday and Thursday we produced our plays to crowded audiences. Friday's paper contained the news that Austro-Hungary had declared war on Serbia, but nobody in Killarney read the news attached much importance to it. It seemed only another of these "little wars" of the Balkan States, one of which, between Bulgaria and Turkey, had only just concluded. People were far more excited over the Howth gun-running and its consequences and the future of the Volunteers.

troupe, having completed their tour, returned to Dublin. I stayed in Kerry for some days with relatives.

### The Outbreak of War

ON Tuesday, August 4, I returned to Killarney to learn that England was at war with Germany and Austria.  
I cycled across the hills to Ballingearry, and on the way, in a remote and almost uninhabited part of the mountains, had a long conversation in Irish with a man, as my diary records, "on the war and Irish and international politics." I was much struck by his intelligence, general information and grasp of things in



Dr. Douglas Hyde

even remote a place, where few people even saw a newspaper.  
I stayed in Ballingearry for three weeks, and during that time, formed the local young men into a Company of Volunteers, giving them all their instruction in Irish.  
There was a dear old lady in the district with whom I liked to converse, as her Irish was delightful. She confided to me that she was worried about the war. She had managed to save some money which she had deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank; and she was afraid that the British Government would lay hands on it for the purposes of the war. I tried to reassure her on the point, but she continued daily to make anxious enquiries from me, and others who had read the newspapers, as to the progress of the war.  
Now it happened that one day the newspapers contained the translation of a Papeal Encyclical deploring the war and asking for the prayers of the faithful for peace, and in the same issue, a letter by William O'Brien, M.P., also deploring the war and its possible consequences.  
When I met my old lady that day she was beaming. "I hear," she said, "that we're likely to have peace soon."  
"Is that so?" I said, affecting interest.  
"Yes," she said, "I hear that the

Pope and William O'Brien are making some kind of arrangement (socrarr éigin) between them."  
To many people in West Cork at the time William O'Brien, M.P., was second in importance only to the Pope.  
On Tuesday, August 25, I returned to Dublin after nearly seven weeks' absence—returned to a very much changed situation as far as the Irish Volunteers were concerned, owing to the control of a political party, and also a greatly changed situation, as far as Ireland was concerned, owing to the outbreak of a European war in which England was involved.  
Mr. Redmond's speech in the British House of Commons, in which he pledged his unconditional support to the cause of England and offered the British Government the services of the Irish Volunteers—followed by a proposal, sponsored by Colonel Maurice Moore, on the Executive of the Volunteers, to bring that body under the control of the British War Office—a proposal which was at the time rejected—made it clear that an impossible situation had arisen. The differences within the Executive were soon to come to a head.  
Another instalment on Monday.

**ON MONDAY**—A graphic first-hand account of the Volunteer Split, a stormy meeting at which revolvers were flaunted and Padraig Pearse was assaulted, and the "inside" story of a daring plot by James Connolly which might have changed the course of Ireland's history.

### LICENCES SUSPENDED ON DRUNK CHARGES

Dermot Cronin, Rathfarnham Rd. Terenure, had his licence suspended for three years, was fined £20, received a suspended sentence of one month, and was bound to the peace for twelve months when he was convicted of driving while drunk and dangerous driving, by District Justice O'Grady at Swords.

John Magnus Garrioch, manufacturers' agent, Wyvernetta, Killiney Hill Rd., Killiney, had his licence suspended for twelve months, and was fined a total of £20, with five guineas expenses in the Dublin District Court on charges of driving while drunk and dangerous driving.  
Brian Skiffington, Tubbercurry, had his licence suspended for twelve months and was fined £10, when charged at Tubbercurry with driving while drunk.

### DUNDALK COLLEGE UNION DANCE

Close on 1,000 people from many parts of Ireland attended the 40th annual "Past Pupils' Union dance" at St. Mary's College Hall, Dundalk. In previous years, the attendance had been limited to about 100, but the recent opening of the new college hall more than doubled the accommodation available. At the end of the dance Mr. J. Dempsey (Skerries), President of the Union, thanked all who had come. He was introduced by Dr. J. K. Lavery, Dundalk, vice-president.

### LABOUR COURT'S WORK WAS INCREASED IN 1951

The annual report of the Labour Court for 1951 states that there had been an increase of work for the Court during that year. Wage and salary increases granted during the year through the Court or otherwise amounted to £11,500,000.  
The number of disputes dealt with was 212, compared with 143 in 1950.

### BRITISH WARNING ON MOUNTAIN FLIGHTS

A circular issued in London by the Ministry of Civil Aviation warns of danger caused by strong vertical currents to aircraft flying over mountains. It says that a recent accident investigation had drawn attention to the hazards of turbulence over mountain ranges. The circular says: "In particular it has been stressed that a clearance of 1,000 feet which may be regarded by some operators as a normal safety limit can, under certain conditions, be dangerously inadequate."

### RECENT WILLS

Estates are gross and in Ireland and England unless otherwise stated.  
£20,732—Mr. Joseph M. Long, 129 Rathfarnham Rd., Dublin. £20,008 (Northern Ireland and Britain)—Dr. Samuel J. Parker, M.B., Ballymacorney, Bangor, Co. Down. £14,958—Mr. Norman Sikes, Deep Park, Castleknock, Dublin.

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**'FLU costs millions**  
40,000,000 man-hours and millions of pounds—that's the colds and 'flu bill every year! Yet if no one had been ill due to these two complaints there would have been, according to one magazine, enough labour available to build 14,000 three-bedroom houses! So 'flu is a luxury and not a pleasant one either, WHILE  
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Quick-spreading 'flu has suddenly appeared in a number of districts. It certainly loses no time—works and offices say that 'flu cases have been mounting rapidly in the last few days.

**THE FIRST SIGNS ARE SHIVERY, UNEASY SENSATIONS. DEAL WITH THEM QUICKLY**

The best course is to have 'ASPRO' on hand and use it straightaway. 'ASPRO' soon gets hold of 'flu for it acts in three ways at once, as an antipyretic (fever reducer), as an analgesic (relieving pain) and a sedative (soothing, calming and comforting). Keep a strip of 'ASPRO' with you during these tricky weeks. 'ASPRO' does not harm the heart or stomach.

Take 2 tablets with a Hot drink at bedtime -

**WAKE UP FRESH AND CLEAR-HEADED**