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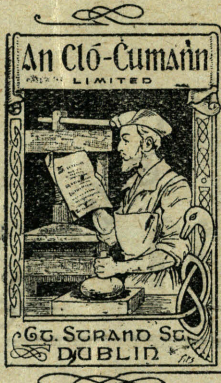
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SINN FÉIN

ÁRUS CAṪRAC BAILE ÁṪA CLIAṪ

LUĜNASΔ 27ΔṪ, 1908.



AN COMAIRLE NÁISIÚNTA

(THE NATIONAL COUNCIL).

ANNUAL REPORT, 1908.

On Thursday, August 27th, representatives assemble in the City Hall, Dublin, from branches of the National Council to take part in the deliberations of the fourth annual Sinn Fein Congress and to review the progress made by the National Council during the past twelve months. It is not without significance that the Sinn Fein assembly should this year be gathered together in the Council Hall of Ireland's capital.

Inside three years the Sinn Fein Organisation has compelled the attention and respect of all Parties in Ireland and of administrative bodies, whether elected by the people or controlled by the British Crown, and has even drawn into occasional sympathy with its projects the more intelligent and honest portion of what is perhaps the most injurious, incorrigible, and antiquated institution in Ireland—the Press.

Expressing from the first its faith in the competency of the Irish people, the National Council has unfailingly urged upon the General Council of County Councils, and upon the individual popular councils in Ireland, the wisdom and the necessity of extending the scope of their deliberation and action, and of using their powers to protect and enrich their country rather than to confine themselves to the collection and disbursement for unproductive purposes of taxes and rates. How far Sinn Fein has made an impression upon the Municipal, County, Urban, and Rural Councils in Ireland by direct appeal and specified programme let an examination of the schemes produced by the National Council tell. To what extent the underlying principle of Sinn Fein generally has made itself felt may be found by looking in many directions or by the neutral and observant may be discovered without any effort. Sinn Fein belief in the fallacy of Parliamentaryism is not lessened by the return to the British Parliament of a member for North Leitrim whose voice has not once been heard within the "House"—even by empty benches—since he was elected six months ago. The declaration of Kilkenny U.I. Leaguers that nominal representation at Westminster would

suffice, while evidencing distrust of the efficacy of Parliamentary methods only serves to strengthen the unalterable opposition of Sinn Fein to any plan of action which implies the right of British interference in our legislative affairs. The bitter sarcasm of the Westmeath United Irish Leaguers who proposed that a Peerage should be sought for Mr. Redmond is evidence of the disgust which is spreading in hitherto non-Sinn Fein circles with the policy of allying an Irish agitation with a British Whig programme.

The repeated declarations of Mr. Gwynn and others that Irish Parliamentaryism would be content if Ireland were formally deprived of her National Constitution and installed as a British Colony, together with the Irish Party's Imperial Home Rule Resolution, are admissions of the real aims of the nominal Home Rulers which have been forced by the constant application of the Sinn Fein analysis to the promises made, the tactics employed, results achieved, and the expense incurred by the Irish Parliamentary Party. Now that the National Council has succeeded in awakening the Irish people to the knowledge that a campaign on "the floor of the House" is impotent to advance the Irish demand for Legislative Independence, the Party engaged in the campaign ask a sceptical people to abandon definitely that claim the realisation of which they were told a few years ago was "not far distant," and to maintain at war-cost one-seventh of the members of the British Parliament who, in return, will guarantee that Imperial "Home Rule" will be extended to Ireland on the two following conditions: (1) That the British Liberal Government remains in office in perpetuity; and (2) that the Irish nation endorses the annulment of the Renunciation Act of 1783 and abandons its traditional right to Independence.

Politically, Sinn Fein has advanced so far—hastened particularly by the developments of the past year—that Ireland realises—comparatively plainly—that it has two courses of action to choose from; it cannot pursue both. The National Council is not impatient that the definite choice is not yet imminent. When the huge wavering element of the country will have clearly realised that the alternatives are National Regeneration through Sinn Fein or submersion in the British Empire through Parliamentaryism there will be but one Irish movement and that "not looking outside Ireland for the accomplishment of its aims."

The Executive which Congress will elect this year will therefore have a wide field for propagandist activity, and the retiring Executive gives up office satisfied that it has during the last twelve months witnessed a growth of Sinn Fein feeling and an extension of Sinn Fein influence much greater than was anticipated when last year's Congress met. Sinn Feinidhthe will not fail to notice and to understand that Sinn Fein principles are finding unconscious expression in many of the activities of Irish life as well as direct manifestation in hitherto uncertain quarters. It has been thought well to dwell at some length on the purely political situation, and it will for some time longer be inevitable to touch upon that large and angry subject since the opponents of the National Council who have only a political programme place every conceivable obstacle

in the way of the success of Sinn Fein schemes, which are wholly apart from politics, and intended to benefit all sections of the Irish people. For example, the whole Parliamentary Press boycotted all reference to the Patents Act, and not one member of the Irish Party made an effort to enlighten Irish bodies as to the advantages Ireland might derive by offering facilities to friendly foreign capital to be invested in Ireland.

The National Council has a National programme which no platform ambiguity can misinterpret or distort. It is written and published. Instead of asking England to promulgate a scheme of Irish Self-Government, the National Council demands that the Irish Constitution be recognised. To compel its recognition without sending £25,000 annually out of the country to argue about the state of "crime" in Ireland, the National Council has this year more directly than before appealed to the publicly elected bodies in Ireland to act on their own initiative in matters affecting the welfare of Ireland. Thus when the Sinn Fein programme for reforming the

Poor Law System

forced on this country by England was presented to candidates at the June Council elections, successful men from all parties and in all parts of the country signified their adhesion to it in considerable numbers. Similarly last year, on the initiative of the National Council, the Poor Law Unions combined to give support to Irish industry in preference to any other. Again the National Council forwarded to the County Councils a scheme for the inauguration of

A National Civil Service,

and some of the Councils have appointed Committees to examine the scheme. It is yet too early to forecast what the reception of the scheme will be, but it must be noted as an opening of this important question, and it will not long be allowed to remain unsettled. Its endorsement by the County Councils would mean that it would be extended in detail by the Education Committee of the Executive and submitted to every public body in Ireland for adoption. The scheme proposes to classify employment in the popular services in Ireland; to make examinations necessary which will reveal in candidates a knowledge of the language, history, geography, economy, resources, and political rights of the country, and it would prevent our best schools directing all their endeavours towards placing Irish boys in the British Civil Service.

The Executive would be glad to report the prospects of the scheme, but it will not be possible at this Congress to say more than that the Executive has done its first and principal part. It has outlined a plan for nationalising and rendering more efficient the public service in Ireland. It is for those who are entrusted with the administration of public moneys to carry it into effect, and the National Council will not cease to urge that course until adopted.

The public elective bodies were also directly appealed to on

The University Question,

and if there is any serious attention bestowed on Mr. Birrell's makeshifts the recommendations of the Executive, which will be repeated when necessary, cannot fail to make an impression.

Again, the National Council last February intervened to prevent the Corporation of Dublin spending thousands of pounds on Bill-promoting in the British Parliament, and its intervention was successful. Since then a special

Housing

Committee of the Executive has drawn up a scheme for providing sanitary houses at cheap rates in towns, which has been published in the Press, and is also ready for issue in pamphlet form.

When the National Council took up the consideration of

The Patents Act

it immediately set to work to suggest the nature of the steps which Irish towns and cities should take to reap the benefits of some of the enterprise which would be attracted to these islands. In addition a memorandum was sent to the German, French, and American Governments, to Continental and American Chambers of Commerce and Press, and to the chief towns in Ireland.

The Dublin Industrial Development Association was not slow in taking action, and the Dublin Corporation followed. Drogheda then applied for further information, and, receiving it, acted upon it; Celbridge District Council and Carlow Urban Council put themselves in touch with representatives of foreign governments, and Cork and Waterford Corporations decided also to act on the lines suggested, while Wexford, Gorey, and Enniscorthy took a similar course, Wexford Town Council securing a direct envoy to convey its Memorandum to Continental capitalists. Limerick, Newry, Kilrush, Strabane, Dungarvan, and the Louth County Council have now taken up the matter. Whatever be the result, the Corporations and Urban Councils in Ireland have been roused to the necessity of taking common action on self-reliant lines, and they have discovered, too, that any effective measures which Ireland can employ to safeguard and further its national commercial interests have their initiation in home-centred patriotism.

Had the General Council of County Councils risen to the understanding of its powers in this direction, scattered Memoranda despatched through the British Post Office would have been unnecessary, and Envoys might have visited the capitals of Europe and America with a message and an invitation from a body empowered to express the will of the Irish people.

The Patents Act was passed while the Irish Party were at Westminster, but they saw no significance to Ireland in it; the General Council was nobbled last year by Parliamentary nominees, and has slept the sleep since. Sinn Fein will yet invigorate the Councils and animate the General Council with national activity and dignity.

Of the other schemes upon which the Executive is enabled to satisfactorily report this year to Congress mention must be made of the successful

Industrial Classes

established in Leitrim. Miss Marian J. O'Shea was appointed Industrial Organiser in April last, and founded and taught three classes in Manorhamilton, Glenfarne and Glenade for cottage industries. Over 120 pupils have been trained so well to date that exhibits of their work at the Oireachtas Exhibition called forth praise from every quarter. A great deal of the goods exhibited were sold at very profitable prices. Miss O'Shea is now engaged in permanently establishing the industry, and a co-operative society for Leitrim is being discussed.

The Sinn Fein Bank

has also been established in Dublin, and there is every prospect that its membership and transactions will be very large. Mr. Geo. Russell gave great assistance in the preliminaries.

The event of the year in publication circles was the issue of

"Leabhar na hEireann,"

which has been hailed with an extraordinary chorus of greeting from the Irish Press and the public. It is the happiest example yet produced of the ideal Sinn Fein state of affairs. The number of subjects and the variety of contributors emphasise the comprehensive nature of the Sinn Fein movement, and revealed the vast amount of work to be done without entering into party channels.

In pursuance of certain resolutions, adopted at the Ard-Chomhairle, 1907, the following work has been carried out:—

1. County Committees—Louth, Leitrim, Wexford, and Dublin, established.

2. Industrial Committees (Central Branch)—Central Bureau, established as sub-com. of the Executive; Cork, Dublin, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Belfast, Limerick, Dundalk, branches working through local Industrial Associations; North Leitrim, Castlebar, Castlerea, Castleisland, Maryboro', Kildysart, Newry, Celbridge, Tullamore, and Granard Branches, working with Executive.

Industrial Committees established by the American Branches—New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, Chicago, Lynn, and Minneapolis.

Buenos Aires Branch, working with Executive and Industrial Associations in Ireland direct.

Correspondents to the Executive Committee in Denmark, Berlin, and Paris.

Irish Store established in New York.

3. Land Committees (Castlebar Branch)—Clare, Galway, Kilkenny, Kerry, Leitrim, Longford, Leix, Roscommon, and Wexford Branches have during the year acted in the spirit of the Castlebar Resolution, and, in addition, a committee was appointed by the National Executive to inquire into and report on the present state of land purchase finance. The report has not yet been issued.

4. Propaganda in General.—A resolution at Ard-Chomhairle, 1907, dealt comprehensively with a programme for this year. It considered the most desirable and necessary steps to be taken to actively carry out the Sinn Fein programme to be the establishment of a National University on the Polish and Hungarian model, a proposition which will be before Congress. The Education Committees Primary Scheme has received favourable consideration by the Christian Brothers; the establishment of an Irish Consular Service, which the Council's action with regard to the Conference of Colonial Premiers and the Patents (Amendment) Act, has advanced nearer realisation and inaugurated a direct intercourse between Sinn Fein Ireland and the countries of Europe and America; the establishment of a Model Bank, which has been carried out; the establishment of a daily paper, which is at present being essayed; and the encouragement of an Irish Mercantile Marine, which depends to a large extent on the success of the Council's efforts to gain Ireland recognition abroad.

This resolution also empowered and directed the Executive to invite the co-operation of the County Councils by drafting and presenting to all candidates at the recent elections a programme in consonance with the above objects, and with the establishment of a National Civil Service and the other objects of the Sinn Fein movement.

In so far as the National Civil Service and Poor Law schemes are concerned, the Executive has carried out this part of the resolution, but a whole programme was not submitted to candidates.

In the same resolution was embodied a direction to the Executive to demonstrate to the Irish people the method of collection of the British revenue in Ireland and the means by which over-taxation might be resisted. This has been done by the publication of No. 6 Pamphlet, by the issue of handbills, and by the Irish Year Book.

The Executive was empowered to institute in its discretion a General National Fund for these purposes. The response to that appeal has brought in to date about £240, as compared with £125 up to Ard-Chomhairle, 1907. The Anti-enlisting Propaganda has been carried on quietly.

(b) A resolution urging the study of Irish language and history on members of the National Council by joining

branches of the Gaelic League, or where they were non-existent by the establishment of classes has not, to the knowledge of the Executive, caused any change in existing conditions respecting those subjects so far.

(c) An instruction to the Publication Committee to provide suitable and brief National Literature for Irish children was considered by that committee, but nothing in that direction has been possible yet. The subject is still under consideration by the Publication Committee.

5. General.—South-East Dublin Branch Resolution, which was adopted, asked the Executive to consider the advisability of calling a Conference of all National Bodies in Ireland, the United States, Argentina, and of the Irish race generally to discuss the Sinn Fein movement and initiate a national movement which would beware of past failures. This recommendation was briefly considered by the Executive shortly after the Ard-Chomhairle, but the time was not then thought ripe.

So far the Instructions and Recommendations from Ard-Chomhairle.

Original Aims.

The second resolution of the 1905 Convention hailing the General Council of County Councils as the nucleus of a National Authority has, of course, become temporarily inoperative, as the General Council surrendered its deliberative functions to the Parliamentary nominees at its last annual meeting.

The first and third inaugural resolutions, appealing respectively to the whole people and to the individual to act as free men, still, of course, summarise the Sinn Fein Programme.

In the definition of its aims the National Council set forth 15 objects to be immediately pursued. The Council has made progress in ten of them.

1. Through the initiation of the Council, a Conference of Poor Law representatives met last year to decide on joint action to secure that Irish unions would stipulate for Irish goods in preference to foreign. That Conference was a success. Pressure must still be brought on the larger bodies mentioned.

2. An Irish Consular Service is dealt with in the Ard-Chomhairle resolutions, but perhaps in view of the manner in which the large Irish Municipal Corporations have received the Patents' Act Memoranda, and other bodies have inquired for information on the subject, a direct and bold appeal to the country on the question might have satisfactory results, especially when it is considered that the National Council endeavours always to constitute the popularly-elected Councils the real administrators of the country's affairs.

3. The re-establishment of an Irish Mercantile Marine is a subject involving the success of other of the Council's proposals, including the preceding two as well as Nos. 9 and 10 following.

4. The General Survey of Ireland under the auspices of the County Council has not yet taken place, and there has, perhaps, not been an opportunity lately to urge its importance.

5. The establishment of the Sinn Fein Bank, the agitation against the export of bullion and the currency of paper money has made a beginning in the reform of banking in Ireland, but a National Stock Exchange is still a remote ideal.

6. We must await the opinions of the County Councils throughout Ireland on the National Civil Service scheme before we can record progress in that direction; the National Council has so far done its utmost.

7. National Arbitration Courts—The time is ripe for this project to be discussed by Congress, and a motion on the subject will be before the Ard-Chomhairle.

8. The founding of the Hibernian Assurance Company may fill this want, and if it does not dependence must necessarily be placed on the success and expansion of the Sinn Fein Banks.

9. The British Government and majority of Irish public men interested in the control of railways and other means of transit have enhanced the difficulties in the way of placing these enterprises under the management of a body responsible to the Irish people by the holding of the Railway Commission. The Commission has yet to report, but it may conceivably be advisable to forestall that report by circularising the Elective Councils, the Railway Companies, and any body of influence in the country.

10. Wexford has demonstrated what powers are possessed by Irish public bodies regarding Sea Fisheries, but only the Sinn Fein paper keeps interest in the subject alive.

11. The Reformation of Education in the primary stages has been begun by the Christian Brothers. The N.C. is now urging on the Elective Councils to insist on the institution of a Faculty of Agriculture, a Faculty of Commerce and National Economy in the new University.

7, 13, and 14 are sections of the programme in which regular progress is being made, but the latter part of section 14, proposing a National Assembly, has not been advanced so persistently of late.

15. The Poor Law Scheme of the National Council has been drafted to carry out the intention in this section, and the Housing Scheme, now being printed, may be considered an auxiliary.

Finally, five of the aims of the Council remain wholly unrealised, and of the other ten, the National Council has propounded definite schemes in nine cases, while outside persons, as a result of Sinn Fein teaching, have interested themselves in one instance—the establishment of an Irish Insurance Company.

Resume of Branch Progress during 1908.

Apart from the work done by the Executive of the National Council which is elsewhere recorded, the advancement of the Sinn Fein movement by the energy and perseverance of the Branches throughout this country and abroad has been a feature of this season's campaign.

At the Congress of 1907 there were 57 branches affiliated with the Executive; the total up to August 1st of this year is 115. County Committees have been established in Dublin, Leitrim, Wexford, and Louth.

While the number of branches has been doubled in twelve months, and Sinn Fein has been established in all the great cities of America, the general advance of the movement is not adequately represented by the organised expansion. There is an abundance of evidence in the correspondence with the Central Authority and in Press reports to prove that Sinn Fein principles are established and practised in many centres where no branch of the National Council so far exists and the indirect application of Sinn Fein to some of the problems of the country alluded to in the Executive Report, while not coming within the scope of this review, must be remembered as indicative of the influence of the movement.

It is anticipated that next year Congress can be definitely informed of the number of enrolled Sinn Feinidhthe. Each Branch will, after this Congress, be required to strictly comply with the rule specifying that a list of paid-up members be sent to the Executive in time for inclusion in the Annual Report, and records of progress monthly will be insisted on with equal emphasis. Many Branches and all the County Committees deserve commendation for their regular attention to these important details, and it must be stated that there are few (if any) instances of a Branch having neglected to report information of any unusual or particular business with which they had to deal. Especially gratifying was the action of Branches everywhere in Ireland with reference to the Poor Law Pledge. However, the perfect and proper condition of things is not only desirable, but essential. A Sinn Feinidhe in future will mean a person pledged to the Sinn Fein Programme, a paying and working member of the Sinn Fein Organisation, who can produce in evidence his card of membership. A Sinn Fein Branch will be a properly-equipped, well-situated, self-sustaining society doing locally what the Executive does nationally.

The following resumé of work done by County Committees and Branches is taken from reports where specially forwarded for Congress and where not so forwarded, from monthly and occasional reports. Where essentially complete, the Branches or Committees must be given credit; if in any instance incomplete it is part of the penalty for non-compliance with a rule drafted in the interests of Branches, and above referred to:—

COUNTY COMMITTEES.

1. Dublin (established March 28, 1908), comprising 16 Branches, two of which the committee itself was instrumental in establishing, while Celbridge (Co. Kildare) Branch owes its inauguration to the Cycle Corps of the Committee. This Corps visited many of the districts skirting the city, and did propagandist work distributing considerable quantities of Sinn Fein Literature. The Committee proposes to direct its attention in the coming session to the large centres which are still without branches, such as Balbriggan, Dunleary, Blackrock.

The Committee, existing informally at first, gave great assistance to the Executive in election work and in arranging meetings. At the Poor Law Elections in June the Committee drew up and had largely signed a pledge of its own, and has drawn attention to the desirability of forming Sinn Fein Poor Law Parties similar to the Dublin Corporation Party.

The Committee drew up and had published advice on Registration, and established Ward Committees to assist persons to secure or defend their votes.

The Dublin body has Trade and Unemployment Sub-Committees, which, however, have not had time to make much progress.

A pamphlet is being issued to householders dealing with Irish manufacture.

President, J. V. Lawless; Secretary, L. S. Mac Eadarlaioich; Rep. on Executive, F. I. Lawless.

2. Leitrim—The chief work done by the Leitrim Committee was strenuous fighting to capture North Leitrim for Sinn Fein. There are 12 Branches embraced by the Committee, one of them recently established. Meetings of the Committee have discussed tillage, co-operation, and other matters, and the successful industrial classes established in Manorhamilton, Glenfarne, and Glenade by Miss O'Shea bear testimony to the application and capacity of the dwellers in O Ruairc's lovely country. South Leitrim has not yet moved, but Carrick-on-Shannon will make a beginning.

President and Representative on the Executive, C. J. Dolan.

3. Wexford, with 7 Branches, set about organising the county, and has continued since with marked success. Some victories were gained at the June elections, and the contingent of

Sinn Feinidhthé at the unveiling of the Father Murphy Memorial in Enniscorthy was a striking feature of the demonstration. The aim of the Committee is to organise the county, and the formation of Branches is imminent in many centres.

Mr. Sears is Chairman and Representative on the Executive.

4. Louth Committee, embracing 7 Branches, is only recently established, and has large scope for organising work. Mr. P. Hughes (Dundalk) is President, Mr. M. Toner, Secretary, and Mr. A. O'Hare (Cooley) represents the county on the Executive.

(Galway and Cork are entitled to County Committees.)

BRANCHES.

Dublin (16).—The Central Branch, with a big membership and a safe financial condition, serves as a platform for the Executive, and has had several crowded meetings addressed during the session by, among many notable men and women, Messrs. A. Griffith, J. Sweetman, C. J. Dolan, etc., etc., and has a still more ambitious programme prepared for next session. The Branch maintained men in Leitrim during the election contest, and contributed respectably to the Sinn Fein Fund. Its members were active in the municipal contests.

Clontarf West.—Large membership; finance good; enterprising; built new hall; conducts language, history, dancing and singing classes. Several successful lectures during the season. Specimens of Irish goods are exhibited in the premises. The Branch has not much influence in municipal elections.

Drumcondra-Glasnevin has conducted an energetic campaign in furtherance of Industrial Revival; secured a seat at the last Poor Law Elections, and has pledged all, save one, of the sitting guardians to the National Council Poor Law Programme.

The Branch subscribed handsomely to the Sinn Fein Fund.

Eireann Oige (Fitzwilliam Ward), like Clann na hEireann (Clontarf) is a long-established and consistently useful Branch, and has carried out a series of propagandist lectures during the season, which were well patronised by the public. The Branch, with a rather small membership, is well financed, and contributed largely to the Sinn Fein Fund.

Inns Quay secured a large increase of members during the season, and is in a financially sound condition. Though fighting hard, the Branch suffered a defeat in the municipal elections, but had the Poor Law Pledges signed by some of the successful candidates in June. The Branch, in common with many others, finds a difficulty in securing premises large enough.

Kilmainham, reviving during the season, has a fairly large membership and a strong position politically. A young and little known candidate was barely beaten for a city councillorship in January, and the Branch ticket was entirely successful in the Poor Law Elections. Registration work is a fine art in this district.

North-East, situate in a hostile slum ward, made a slow opening of its session, but having found comfortable premises its membership rapidly increased, and its roll is now one of the highest. A candidate from the Branch at the Municipal Elections was beaten by a heavy majority, but the Branch continues to gain ground.

Rotunda, not long established, has had weekly meetings, and is busy with registration work. A candidate in the Sinn Fein interest in the ward polled heavily against Mr. Nannetti, M.P.

South Dock, Trinity (Thomas Davis), Branch has paid particular attention to Municipal politics, its candidate for councillorship of one ward losing by a few votes, and a candidate in the other making a good initial effort. In June a Sinn Fein Poor Law candidate was successful.

South-East, one of the oldest city Branches, had rather an uneventful session. A Sinn Feinidhe won a councillorship, and also became a P.L.G.

Usher's Quay, after returning a Sinn Feinidhe to the Corporation, became a vigorous Branch with Central Rooms, sufficient funds, and a large membership roll. The Branch has progressed systematically, and will probably secure further victories next year. Its Poor Law Ticket was successful in securing a majority in the June elections.

Wood-Merchants' Quay Branch was successful in its both wards in the City Council contests, but was unfortunate in Poor Law returns. The Branch is vigorous, and has had open-air propagandist meetings during the summer.

Swords Branch, though new, ran candidates for District Council in June, one of whom was beaten by a few votes. The Branch has organised public meetings, and projects holding others shortly.

Bray, new Branch, working smoothly.

Belfast (2)—The West Belfast and Cuchullain Branches combined to organise open-air meetings during the summer. The latter Branch subscribed one of the highest Branch amounts to the General Fund.

Cork (5)—Cork City Branch had a very large meeting in the City Hall in November, and one also in Blackpool. The Branch has regularly distributed Sinn Fein literature in adjacent districts, and copies of the Policy Pamphlet were sent to every member of the Corporation and of the Rural and County Councils.

The anti-enlisting propaganda was carried out thoroughly.

One very significant piece of work due to the Branch's initiation is the changing of "George IV." and "Wellington" Bridges

to the "O'Neill-Crowley" and "Thomas Davis" Bridges respectively.

The Branch is fighting hard against the admission of soldiers to Technical Schools, and protested strongly against the appointment of Crown officials on the Harbour Board.

The Branch brought the Patents Act under the notice of the Corporation, and intervened with success in the city elections.

With a hostile Corporation and a violently bigoted Parliamentary journal to fight, the Cork City Branch is making very satisfactory strides.

The other Cork Branches have had no large opportunities during the year. Macroom subscribed fairly to the General Fund.

Waterford.—The City Branch does not boast a very large membership, but is well represented on the City Council, and has largely-attended meetings. The Branch induced the Council to adopt a memorandum on the Patents Act, and Dungarvan Urban Council has done likewise.

A member of the Branch secured a councillorship at the January elections. The Branch is now fighting to prevent seoinn athletics from gaining the ascendancy in Port Lairge.

Kilkenny Branch, established in April, with a fairly large representative membership, is promising well; and,

Limerick City is also strong, with a systematic and progressive method of carrying on its business. The Branch took action over the Patents Act, with satisfactory results.

Galbally Branch (Limerick) was successful in the June elections, a number of its members being elected on local Councils.

Strabane suffered a loss in membership owing to certain local circumstances, but has held on persistently, conducting with vigour the anti-recruiting campaign.

The Tullamore Branch has progressed evenly since its formation in March last, entering into correspondence with the Urban Council re naming the streets of the town in Irish.

The Port Leix ("Maryboro'") Branch is able to report very satisfactory progress. It is one of the oldest Branches, its membership is comparatively large, and it has conducted a very regular agitation in favour of preference for Irish-made goods, which is now bearing fruit. The Branch distributes literature, and avoids unnecessary friction with opponents.

The Louth, Leitrim, Clare, and Down Branches make regular progress. Carron (Co. Clare) has gained a big increase in membership. Granard Branch is also in vigorous condition.

*The London Central, the largest subscribing Branch this side

of the Atlantic, has also a big balance at hands, and also a great membership roll. It has had some big meetings, one addressed by Mr. A. Griffith.

Thomas Davis Branch (London), in spite of very unfavourable conditions, has made continued headway, and out-argued two Branches of the U.I.L.

The Exiles (Liverpool) must be numbered amongst the most practical Branches of the Organisation. With an increasing membership and strong finances, they have established a successful society for the sale of Irish goods, and have sent a considerable amount of money to Ireland.

They likewise challenged a Branch of the U.I.L. to debate the merits of Sinn Fein, but received no response. The Branch drew up and issued a useful leaflet, which they distributed free in quantities.

Cavan.—The Cavan Branches (Cavan and Kilmore) have done good work this session, the first-named securing pledges from a number of candidates at the June elections. Both Branches were strongly represented at the Finea meeting, as was Granard.

Castleisland, Castlereah, and Castlebar Branches have been untiring during the past year in forwarding the movement as the smallest occasion arose.

Glasgow, Manchester, and the Celtic Literary Society (Liverpool) have pushed ahead during the year.

America.—Branches are now working systematically in all the principal cities in the States and in Buenos Ayres, and some heavy contributions have been sent to the Home Exchequer. The American Branches work mostly on the industrial idea, and the projected establishment of a huge Irish store in New York will, if carried out, be in no small measure due to the Sinn Fein Organisation.

The Sinn Fein Daily Paper and the Irish Stamp.

The great majority of the Branches reporting for Congress promise support to the Sinn Fein daily, and it may not be inopportune to remind Sinn Feinidhthe that the sale of the Irish stamp provides some revenue for this purpose.

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Sinn Féin.



AN ÁRD-CHRAOBH.

SRÁID PEARCAIR, A 6,
ÁT-CLIAÉ.

6 HARCOURT STREET,
DUBLIN.

The acquisition by the Sinn Féin Bank of the commodious new premises in 6 Harcourt Street, affords to Sinn Féinidhthe a splendid opportunity of centralising their work and of conducting the movement in the city with greater vigour and effect than hitherto. The recognition of this fact by the city branches of the Sinn Féin organisation led to the formal proposal of a fusion of existing branches in the Capital, and assent was given to this proposal at a Conference held on 7th September, 1910, at 6 Harcourt Street, under the presidency of Mr. Arthur Griffith.

It will be the purpose of the new Ard-Chraobh or Central Branch to carry on an active propaganda and to educate the public mind on questions of National importance by lectures and debates, open-air meetings and literary publications, and by directing the operations of the movement in the city through local sub-committees in charge of particular districts. It will provide a rallying centre not only for the Sinn Féinidhthe of the Capital, but for all those in country districts where no branch of the organisation now exists. It will also carry out such social functions as will tend to greater intercourse among Sinn Féinidhthe and bind them together in a brotherhood of Gaels.

Houses of the Oireachtas

A Provisional Committee has been appointed to take the necessary steps to start the new branch on its career of usefulness, and this Committee appeals to all Sinn Feinidhthe in the City to join in taking an active part in preaching the doctrine of self-reliance. There is work to do for all and work will be found for all. The annual subscription to the Branch will be 6s. (including the levy to the National Council), payable in one sum, half-yearly or quarterly, in advance, for Members resident in the city and suburbs ; and 3s. for Associate Members resident in country districts where no branch of Sinn Fein exists.

Appended is a form of application for admission to membership. If you are a believer in a self-reliant Ireland fill it up and send it on to the Honorary Secretaries, Ard-Chraobh, 6 Harcourt Street.

I believe in the principles and policy of the Sinn Fein organisation, and wish to be enrolled as*.....member of the $\Delta\mu\tau\ \acute{\text{C}}\rho\alpha\sigma\theta$.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

*Here Insert the words "ordinary" or "associate" as the case may be.

A Provisional Committee has been appointed to take the necessary steps to start the new year on an equal footing with the old and this Committee appeals to all Zion Pioneers in the City to take an active part in preparing the documents of the year. There is work to do for all and work will be found for all. The annual subscription to the Branch will be due (including the rate to the General Council) payable in one sum, half yearly or quarterly, in advance for Members residing in the city and suburbs, and for Associates who have rendered a country district where no branch of the year exists.

Appointed as a local application for admission to membership. If you are a member in a settlement abroad fill in an application form and send it on to the Honorary Secretaries, Ard-Cheshbon, Hincourt Street.

I believe in the principles and policy of the Zion Pioneers organization, and wish to be enrolled as a member of the Zion Group.

Name.....
Address.....
.....

*Here insert the words "ordinary" or "associating" as the case may be