

123

M.2.

M A G U I R E, Thomas.

"NO NECESSITY FOR GUN."

Comdt. Maguire, T.D., at Glenamaddy, said Ireland's status was national—not that of a Dominion. Those who said the people were the masters would not allow the young men and women who made such great sacrifices to have a voice in the settlement. They were signing a thing worse than the Act of Union. It was the gun that did the business. When a voice cried: "Nothing was ever got except by the gun," Comdt. Maguire replied:—

"Don't take it that I advise the free use of the gun. There is no necessity for the gun now, and if there is, you have men that will use it, not against their own people, but against the British enemy if he ever attempts to come back,

'INDEPENDENT' 29-5-22.

**MAYO CO. HOME AND IRISH
MADE ESSENTIAL BY ONE VOTE
ONLY**

At a meeting of the Mayo Co. Home and Hospitals Committee, on a proposal to appoint 3 wardmaids in the Co. Home, Miss E. Staunton said there should be a distinct understanding that the candidates know Irish. Chairman (Mr. P. O'Hara)—If you do you will be penalising worthy people who don't know Irish. Miss N. K. Sweeney thought that the Irish test was a bit rushed and people were not prepared.

Comdt.-General Maguire, T.D.—It is proposed and seconded that Irish be an essential condition. Mr. Walsh proposed and the chairman seconded that candidates having a knowledge get a preference. Four voted each way, and the chairman said the proposition fell through.

Comdt.-General Maguire said it was a disgraceful thing at this stage in Mayo to give the English language a preference. Chairman—It doesn't mean that. Miss Staunton—It means that the Irish language has been turned down. Chairman—We are giving Irish a preference. Mr. Sammon—It should not be forced down the people's necks. People must get time.

Gen. Maguire—For 30 years the Gaelic League has been killing the Irish language. Mr. M. J. Egan, Sec., Co. Council, said the Co. Council had made Irish essential and that Committee would be only creating trouble for themselves if they decided the contrary. Chairman—The Co. Council cannot control this Board. Miss Sweeney said she would vote for the motion that Irish be essential. The motion was then passed.

'Freeman's Journal'

8-7-22.

ITEMS FROM THE WEST

**Sporadic Activity Of
Irregulars**

No fighting is reported from Tuam between the National and Irregular forces. The district was strongly held by the Irregulars who have now vacated it, and are reported to be in Ballinrobe.

Under the command of Tom Maguire, T.D., a force of Irregulars arrived in Tuam on Sunday night last with the object of burning the barracks there, and but for the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin, who prevailed upon them to desist, they would have carried their intention into effect.

Republican.

MAGUIRE. Thomas. Cross West, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

Age, 29. (1921).

Occupation, Coach builder.

ELECTED SINN FEIN M.P. FOR SOUTH MAYO AND SOUTH ROSCOMMON, MAY 1921.

Commandant, South Mayo Brigade.

Commenced to take a prominent part in the Sinn Fein Movement towards the end of 1919 and soon became the acknowledged leader of the Party in his district.

Has staff of criminals who plan outrages and ambushes. (List 6/21/2. Vol.3. (14)).

Took a very prominent part in the organisation of the I.R.A. in South Mayo and attended all meetings.

Attended Sinn Fein Convention in January 1920.

Has been "on the run" for the past 12 months prior to the 11th July 1921 (Truce) escaping arrest by Military and Police.

Believed to have taken part in the PARTRY ambush 7-3-21, and was known to have been wounded when in charge of the Tournmakeady Ambush.

Was elected a District Councillor for Ballinrobe, and eventually elected Chairman.

Mentioned in Mulcahy's documents.

Made a speech at Enniscrone (IX/0096).

Made a speech at Balla. (IX/0096).

Made a speech at Ballinrobe 2-10-21 (IX/0180.)

Voted against ratification of the Treaty on 7th January 1922.

Signatory to Military Convention held in Dublin, March, 1922.

Has stated through the Press that he & his Staff (who are in charge of the barracks at Mullingar) recognize the New Executive formed at the above Convention. (Extract 'Irish Times' dated 1.4.22.)

Mentioned as Comdt-Gen. Republican Troops. (Extract 'Irish Times' dated 16.5.22.)

Re-nominated as a Republican Candidate for his present constituency. (Ex. 'Irish Times' dated 2.6.22.)

Returned unopposed for above constituency.

Commanded a force of irregulars during the conflict between P.G. Troops & Irregulars (See Press Cutting 8-7-22)

MAGUIRE. Thomas. (Continued.)

Led Irregulars when Ballinrobe was captured by P.G.Troops.
(Ref. 'Freeman's Journal' dated 29.7.22.)

Documents found on E.ENRIGHT (An Irregular who styles himself 'Chief Field Engineering Inspector') revealing his plans for the destruction of public property, etc, were addressed to 'Comdt-Gen.Tom MAGUIRE'. (Ref. 'Freeman's Journal' dated 15.8.22.)

ON 19-8-22 WAS COMMANDING 3RD W.DIV. OF IRREGULARS. (I.X/1572.)

Stated to be in charge of Irregulars in Co. SLIGO. (Ref. I.X/1421.)

Taken prisoner (with 100 of his men) by National Troops in North Galway. (Ex. 'Irish Independent' dated 20.10.22.)

MAGUIRE Thomas,
T.D.

Cross West, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

Particulars from S.F. Division.

Member for South Mayo, and Roscommon.

His father is a carpenter, and Thomas was brought up to follow his father's trade, and they carried on a very fair business until the end of 1919. About that time Thomas commenced to take a very prominent part in the Sinn Fein movement, he soon became the acknowledged leader of the party in his district, and took a very prominent part in the organisation of South Mayo, attending every meeting within the area.

He soon became so entangled in the movement that he entirely gave up his business, and devoted his whole time to organising the I.R.A. He has been on the "run" for several months, and has more than once escaped arrest by both the Military and Police by "the skin of his teeth". He was believed to have been in charge of the Partry ambush, and it is known for certain that he was in charge of the Tourmakeady ambush, he was wounded in that battle, and very little has been heard of seen of him since, although it was reported that he attended the Dail Eireann meeting in Dublin recently.

He was returned unopposed at the last election. He is also Chairman of the Ballinrobe Rural District Council, thereby having a seat on the Mayo County Council.

Commdt. South Mayo Brigade.

On the night of the 11th. March last, Maguire attended a Meeting of rebels at a Stable situated in Lord Oranmore's demesne at Castle Mac. Garrett, Claremorris; making the usual fiery speech of the Sinn Fein "stump" orator, in which he stated that Mayo would soon be surpassing the deeds of the South. He congratulated Ellis Staunton, who was present (since arrested) for the re-organisation of the Claremorris Battalion of the I.R.A.

He then left the district, but a certain captured ~~document~~ despatch written by Maguire during his activities in the Partry Mountains, revealed the fact that he probably organised, or ordered, the brutal murder of Constable Thomas Hopkins at Levasse, Ballindine on 8th May last.

Command of a Division in Roscommon January 1922.

