

Castle File No. _____

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D.9.

O' D O H E R T Y, Joseph.

Speeches on Ratification
by
O'DOHERTY. Joseph.

'FREEMAN'S'

9-1-'22.

"BACKWARD STEP"

**Northern Deputy on the "Split
in the Cabinet"**

Mr. Jos. O'Doherty (Donegal) said when he read the terms of the Treaty signed in London everything that was good in him revolted against it. Like his co-deputy from Tircornall, he came to Dail Eireann with a mind open to conviction against the prejudices he held, but no argument was produced by those in favour of the Treaty which had any influence on him. He saw in it the giving away of the whole case of the Irish nation. He saw them coming not nearer the day, but farther away from it.

He could not be on the side of those who were swallowing pills and taking a backward step, in the hope that they would find themselves in a better position than they were today. When he consented to stand for North Donegal constituency, he consented to stand for the Republic. At the first public meeting in the constituency the chairman of the Comhairle Ceannairé told him there was only one way to win the election and that was not to mention the word Republic. Very well, he said to the chairman, they were entitled to their opinion, but they might get another candidate (applause).

THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

He was prepared to admit the mandate of that election was one of self-determination, but it was a terrible crime to interpret that mandate against the interests of the people. He knew the people of North Donegal would accept this Treaty, but they would accept it under duress—at the point of the bayonet. They would accept it as a stepping-stone to war. It was not peace they were getting, it was not liberty they were getting.

At this stage he had no intention of saying anything against anyone in that assembly, but he would say the people's will was flouted in London when the Treaty was signed, and he had sufficient data to satisfy his mind that the men who signed it knew it would cause a split in the Cabinet, knew it would split the Dail, and split the country.

THE FINAL WORD.

Yet, knowing that they accepted a document which embodied no clause or phrase which would enable them to bring it before the people, for whose will they had so much regard. If they put the people's will before their own will they should have demanded that if the Dail turned it down, the Irish people would have the final word (hear, hear). He was not afraid to go into his constituency with a Cabinet Minister, or any member of that House, and fight on the question of the Free State against the Irish Republic (applause).

DOCUMENT NO. 2.

His mind, continued Mr. O'Doherty, was not small enough to deny the big difference between Document No. 2 and the Treaty signed. It was not a question of "Tweedledum and Tweedledee," as he was told the night before this Session opened. It was the great question of Irish sovereignty, and as long as he had a weapon to fight for that cause he would not be a party to give away the sovereignty of this nation (applause).

O'DOHERTY. Joseph. 65, Clarendon Street, Derry.
and 32, Connaught Street, Dublin.

and ? Clare St Derry.

Age 35.

Occupation. Insurance Inspector.

Elected Sinn Fein M.P. for Co. Donegal, May 1921.

Voted against Treaty on Sat 7-1-22.

Provincial Representative of the I.R.A. Executive for Ulster.

Commandant, No.1. Derry Brigade.

Considered one of the most extreme men in the North.

Receiver and Distributer of An t'Oglac.

Brother of suspects James and Vincent O'DOHERTY of Derry.

Arrested in connection with 1916 Rebellion.

Released in July 1916.

Was at one time a National School Teacher.

Subsequently held a post in FALLON's, Dublin.

Acted as Canvasser and Manager for a newspaper called the "PHOENIX" (which was run by his brother) during its circulation from Dec. 1916 to Feb. 1917.

On 29-9-17 attended the funeral of Thomas ASHE, who died as a result of Hunger Strike in Mountjoy Prison.

Attended Sinn Fein Convention in Dublin, October 1917.

In January 1918 was present at a public meeting at Beresford Place, Dublin organised by the Sinn Fein Committee.

On 7-1-19 attended an Irish Republican Part Meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin.

On 21-1-19 attended the Meeting of the Sinn Fein Parliament in Mansion House, Dublin (Dail Eireann first Sitting) and also a private meeting of the I.R. Party 22-1-19.

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On 20-2-19 attended the Sinn Fein Ard Chomhairle in the Mansion House, Dublin.

In March 1919 attended the Dail Meetings in Dublin.

At the General Election of 1918 was elected Sinn Fein M.P. for North Donegal.

Attended Dail Eireann Meetings at the Mansion House, Dublin in April and May 1919. also in June and August of the same year.

Visited Dublin in May and Strabane in June 1919 in connection with the New Ireland Assurance Company.

On 9-9-19 and 6-10-19 attended Sinn Fein Meetings at Headquarters, Dublin.

At Buncrana on 5-10-19 and at Barndonagh 19-10-19 addressed Meetings in support of the Dail Eireann Loan. Prosecutions were ordered in both cases, also at Rosnakill 26-10-19 when he made a similar appeal.

On 28-10-19 visited Dublin Offices of Dail Eireann.

A letter addressed to O'DOHERTY re Ernest O'MALLEY's visit to Donegal was found amongst the captured papers of Michael Collins.

On 10-1-21 was arrested at his home in Derry and lodged in Derry Jail.

Mentioned in Epitome 53/4435 page 73. Correspondence between Michael Collins re Dail Loan.

Interned 1921.

Released 8-8-21 to attend Peace Conference at the Mansion House, Dublin.

Has not shown any activity since his release. (Police Report Oct, 1921).

Extract "Irish Bulletin" Vol. 5. No 20 29-6-21. "Imprisoned 1920. Re-arrested 1921."

Was deported to England after the Rebellion of 1916 and released in June 1916.

Was arrested by order of Government on 1st March 1917 for Deportation to England and lodged at Arbour Hill Barracks. Released from Arbour Hill on account of the General Amnesty.

On 4-11-18 was appointed Inspector of the "New Ireland" Assurance Society for Ulster.

Re-nominated & returned unopposed as Republican candidate for his present constituency in the 3rd Dail.

