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Mc C A B E, Alex ander.

'INDEPENDENT' 27-9-21.

IMPREGNABLE POSITION.

Mr. A. McCabe, T.D., said the Irish position was impregnable. They had dug themselves into that position, and it would take more than the army of an Empire to dig them out of it. As far as their representatives in Dail Eireann were concerned, there was no going back from the position they had taken up when they sent the letter to Mr. Lloyd George claiming independence for Ireland.

*Speeches on Ratification
by
McCABE. ALEX.*

'IRISH TIMES' 5-1-22.

FOR THE TREATY.

DUTY OF OPPONENTS.

Mr. Alexander McCabe (Sligo) said that he had decided to vote for the Treaty. In doing so he expressed regret at finding himself in opposition to many of the leaders. It was no pleasure to any of them to find themselves in opposition to one especially who, to their people, symbolised the national ideal. In this case no feeling of personal admiration or of animus could be allowed to prevent them from doing their duty to the people who sent them there. He had come to the conclusion that it was his duty to examine the Treaty, and he had decided that it could be honourably and profitably accepted for two reasons—first, because it represented the goods delivered, and not promised—goods that were never offered or, indeed, asked for before.

His second reason was that as a matter of expedience it was better to take this than run the risk of war or worse. As to the oath to the Republic, he regarded it as a binding obligation to use every endeavour to secure the realisation of the ideal. It never in his mind barred any particular method of achieving it. This Treaty meant that they secured practically complete control of the Army and the national resources. These were things which no Republican in his sober moments could or should refuse to accept. It was said that they were abandoning their principles and breaking their oath. For his part, he did not mind what anybody said or thought about him so long as he did his duty to the country, and his conscience was clear.

The opponents of the Treaty should remember that there were other ideals involved besides Republicanism. There was the ideal of a peaceful and happy Ireland, and a united Ireland. There was government by the consent of the governed, on which they took their stand before. Then there were the principles of Christianity. Were they worth consideration? How many of them could stand up in that House and say they never violated any of these principles, on which their religion was based. The speaker read out the Ten Commandments, and described them as the fundamental principles of their religion, as by law established.

Proceeding, he said that if their opponents succeeded in having the Treaty rejected they set aside every religious and Christian principle he knew of. They had sought for generations the realisation of the ideal of a united Ireland, and now they were gambling recklessly with the lives and welfare of 4½ millions of their people. That was not Christianity. It was unpalatable to him, and, he believed, to all, the idea of being associated internally or externally with the man-eater, but he was prepared to take the Treaty for what it was worth, and as a stepping stone for getting more.

"NOT A GRASSHOPPER."

MISS MACSWINEY'S PRINCIPLES.

Mr. McCabe went on to criticise the speech made by Miss MacSwiney, and said that if they were to act on her principles every man, woman, and child would be wiped out of existence.

Miss MacSwiney—I never said anything of the kind. It is only on the principle on which I spoke that you can avoid it.

Mr. McCabe—She would not even leave us a grass-hopper. (Laughter.)

Miss MacSwiney—All I can say is that the intelligence as well as the principle is on our side of the house.

Mr. McCabe said that it might be that Miss MacSwiney's mind was distorted by the experiences she had passed through.

Miss MacSwiney protested against her name being used. She did not bring her experiences into her speech, and she protested against any member—and she asked the protection of the Dail—using her name in that connection. "I assure you," she added, "I am quite sane about it."

Mr. McCabe said that the inference was that Ireland should fight to a finish, even if half the population was wiped out, and that he described as a criminal incitement to national suicide. The lives of the people should be their first consideration, and their principles and religious scruples should come long afterwards. Alluding to those who had died, he said that his experience was that with one exception (Tom Clarke) they would, he believed, have voted in favour of the Treaty. He reminded those people who were against the Treaty and had grievances, that they were not sent there to avenge wrongs committed in the war, but to secure an honourable peace. When the honours were counted up they were on their side. It was England had surrendered everything; they had surrendered nothing.

He appealed to all to rise above personal prejudices, and think not as the friends or relatives of dead patriots, but as the representatives of the people who had the fate of the country in their hands. It was to the living, and not to the dead, they owed their vote. He asked them before launching the country into war to think of the wives, mothers, and sisters who were waiting expectantly for peace, and to picture the despair which the rejection of the Treaty would bring into their homes.

A Woman Deputy—Are you speaking for the women?

Mr. McCabe—I know what the women want. The Woman Deputy—You are an old woman, I know.

Mr. McCabe protested against personalities being introduced, and, proceeding, said that he was not enamoured of the Treaty. There were certain objections to it. Document No. 2 was open to these objections. For instance, His Britannic Majesty—

Mr. de Valera (interposing)—I have several times said I will bring that document forward, and bring it here as an amendment. Unless it is here I do not think it is fair that it should be referred to.

FOR THE TREATY.



Mr. Alec. MacCabe, T.D. (Sligo and E. Mayo), who rather astonished the Dail by reading out the Ten Commandments, which, he said, were the fundamentals of their religion as by law established. But he made a good speech for the Treaty. (FREEMAN Photo.)

(CONTINUED IN
NEXT COLUMN.)

"IRISH INDEPENDENT"

26. 4. 22.

SLIGO TREATY MEETING

To the Editor "Irish Independent."

A' Chara—Permit me to contradict a statement emanating from the Headquarters of the unofficial I.R.A. to the effect that people were rounded up and armed to attend the Pro-Treaty meeting in Sligo. The only people who to my knowledge were rounded up for the occasion were the levies of young men who were drafted in to suppress free speech in the town. A considerable number of these young men have since reported to our Headquarters—a fact which proves that they were not alone ignorant of the purpose of the mobilisation, but completely out of sympathy with the policy and methods of its organisers.

As regards the employment of ex-servicemen, I think it is common knowledge, in this part of the country at least, that the official I.R.A. were not the first to have recourse to it. Even apart from this, however, I see no reason why any young Irishman should be deprived of the right to enter the National Army because he served in the great war. The great majority of the ex-army men I know are honest, straight-living men, who went out to fight, as they believed, for a principle, and I think a monstrous injustice is being done to them when it is suggested that their services are at the disposal of the highest bidder. Like 19 out of every 20 of the other citizens of Sligo, these men came to the meeting on Sunday last to give a hearty welcome to Mr. Griffith and his party to the town. No money was offered them for coming and none was asked. If any ex-soldier and his father were rewarded for their services to the extent mentioned in the Four Courts' communique, all I have to say is that it was not those on the side of the Free State who employed or paid them.

As far as the distribution of arms is concerned it may be mentioned that no men left the barracks for protective duty except those who were already members of the I.R.A. or the Regular Army. The former were drawn from practically every unit in the Co. Sligo, and represented five-sixths of the party on protective duty in the streets.

A. MACABA, Vice-Brig. (Sligo Brigade).



COL.-COMDT. McCABE, T.D.,
Who has been prominent in military
operations in the Midlands.

"IRISH INDEPENDENT"

30. 5. 22.

DAIL OFFICER ARRESTED

SWINFORD EXCITEMENT & ALARM

Strained relations existing between the local people and the Executive forces in Swinford barracks since the wrecking of business premises some weeks ago were intensified on Sunday by the arrest of Lt. Duffy (Dail troops).

Q.M. Gen. McCabe, T.D. visited the town and applied for the lieutenant's release. On going to the barracks a second time, Mr. McCabe was told there was no reply. Later, when Mr. McCabe was leaving the town it is alleged shots rang out as his car passed the barracks. Alarm and excitement were aroused, but no damage appeared to have been done, and it is believed the shots were fired in the air. Lt. Duffy is still in custody and indignation is felt at what is regarded as a flagrant breach of the truce.

McCABE. Alex. Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

Description:- Height 6'1". Pale complexion. Fair hair. Slightly bald. Small, clean shaven face. Athletic appearance. Weighs about 12 stone.

Age 31. (1921).

Occupation, Ex School Teacher.

ELECTED SINN FEIN M.P. FOR SLIGO AND MAYO EAST, May 1921. (P.A.102/13/18-7-21).

Prior to May 1921 Election, was a Member of "Industries", "Foreign Affairs and "Finance" Committees, Dail Eireann.

Member of Committee enquiring into the Resources of Ireland.(Ep.53/820).

Commandant, Ballymote Battalion, Sligo Brigade. (Is the means of holding the Batt. together).
Noted extremist, and very active Sinn Fein Organiser.

Member of Committee to enquire into local Government of Ireland.

Arrested in Sligo in November 1915 for having a quantity of Gelignite in his possession. Tried and acquitted in February 1916.

Formed a branch of the Irish Volunteers at Keash, Co. Sligo, in March 1916.

Came to Dublin the day before the Rising, and was not seen again until May 1917 when he returned to Ballymote and resumed his activities as an Organiser of Sinn Fein.

Spoke at various Meetings and advocated an Irish Republic.

Took a prominent part in commandeering land in the name of the Irish Republic in Co. Sligo in February 1918.

Convicted in March 1918 and sentenced to imprisonment. On his release from Prison in June 1918 he was interned. Apparently released.

Has been "on the run".

Arrested in March 1920 at Carrick-on-Shannon whilst travelling in a Goods Train disguised as a cattle dealer.

Signatory to "Report on Revenue" ("O" I.F. 15-4-21?) Epitome 53/820.

Re-arrested 10-3-21 and interned. Batch 103. Page 522.

Released on the 8th August 1921 as a T.D. to attend the Peace Conference at the Mansion House, Dublin.

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE TRUCE.

Present at a large Meeting at Keadue 4-9-21, and at Elphin on 25-9-21.

Elected Representative of Minister of Education. (IX/0359. 2-11-21).

Voted in favour of ratification of the Treaty on 7th January 1922.

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McCABE Alex. Ballymote, Co: Sligo.

Attended Conference at Carrick-on-Shannon on 4-4-22 in connection with forthcoming elections & re-organization of Army Commands in the Western Divisions. ("Irish Times" 7-4-22).

In letter to press re Sligo Pro-Treaty Meeting signs himself as Vice Brigadier Sligo Bde. (Ext. "Irish Independent" 26-4-22).

Mentioned in press as Q.M. General. (Ext. "Irish Independent" 30-5-22).

Nominated Treaty Candidate for Sligo & West Mayo. (Ext. "Irish Times" 2-6-22).

Elected member of 3rd Dail.

Col.-Cmndt. to be Divl. Adjnt. 3rd. WESTERN Divn. (P.G). (Ext. "Irish Independent" 24-6-22).

In charge of P.G. Troops in the Boyle area during the attack On Republicans. (~~XXXX~~ Ext. "Irish Independent" 7-7-22).

In command of P.G. Troops operating against Irregulars in Sligo. (Ext. "Irish Independent" 27-7-22).

Shewn as Col.-Comndt. i/c of P.G. Troops during the attack on Irregulars at Ballymote, Co: Sligo, on 12-7-22. (IX/1322).

Sent message of sympathy to Mrs. Arthur Griffiths on the death of her husband the President of Dail Eireann. (Ext. "Freeman's Journal" 14-8-22).

In command of P.G. Troops who attempted to effect a landing at Rockley near Sligo Harbour. The Irregulars engaged the attacking party on board the steamer "Tartar" and they report that the proposed landing was unsuccessful. (Ext. "Republican War News" No: 47 d/24-8-22).

In command of Column of F.S. Troops during round-up in Cos. Leitrim & Sligo. (IX/1539).

The following is an extract from Republican Propaganda Sheet:- "In my presence in Sligo Gaol Alex. McCABE & his men said that when they would get Devins, Cathy & Bofin they would NOT SHOOT them but BUTCHER THEM." (Ext. "The Fenian" No: 80 dated 12-10-22).

On 6-10-22 F.S. Troops under McCabe searched a steamer of the Laird Line in Sligo Harbour & seized 3 machine guns, 26 rifles, 10 shot guns, 3000 rds. rifle & 400 rds. revolver ammn. They were addressed to various merchants in Ballina. (IX/1549).

A.Gs. office, Krtobello, 28-12-22.

Col. Comdt. With troops operating at BALLYRUSH, Co. SLIGO. (F.I. 4/1/23)
"Wanted" by armed men who held up Irish Co. Co. Ken Council.
(I. T. 11/1/23)

Engaged in rounding up Republicans in the Arigna district. Presumably in command of the column that surrounded this area on 28-10-22. (IX/1649)

Residence at 9 Oakley Road, Ranelagh, destroyed by fire. (I.I.19-2-23).

Comdt., Inspection No.3 Staff, Donegal Command. (Off.A.L.Feb.'23).

