

# PROMINENT SINN FEINERS WERE QUIETLY ARRESTED

## Documents Showing Germans to Have Been in League With Leading Sinn Feiners, Have Been Discovered

London, May 19.—The government has adopted the policy of the iron hand in dealing with sedition in Ireland. All the leaders of the Sinn Fein society have been arrested by a swift comprehensive dragnet drawn by the police and soldiers during Friday night and early hours of the morning. The movement was apparently a complete surprise, and most of those arrested were quickly and quietly placed aboard ships.

The dragnet swept all over the country and there was no possibility of resistance. The majority of those arrested were taken from their homes while abed and only a few scuffles and a little revolver play took place. According to latest reports hundreds of arrests were made.

### Fostering Plot

The proclamation by the new viceroy states that the arrests were made because a plot with Germany was being fostered. This gives the government ground for justification. The Sinn Fein movement has been for a long time conducted in defiance of all civil laws and war prohibitions—but the Sinn Fein leaders, except in the case of oratorical outbursts have not identified themselves with the Germans and so long as the Sinn Fein appeared to be a purely Irish movement, a considerable section of the English people have been disposed to think that the government might turn a blind eye toward it, and trust to the soldier elements in Ireland to maintain a balance.

### Sinn Feiners Arrested

The prisoners rounded up Saturday include De Valera, who was the oratorical soul of the Sinn Fein; Arthur Griffin, who through his newspaper organized the society 14 years ago; Countess Markievicz, who figured dramatically in the Easter insurrection in 1916, the small group of Sinn Feiners who recently won their parliamentary election from the Nationalists and refused to take their seats at Westminster, with various leaders of the local branches. A large proportion of those arrested figured in the Easter rising and were afterwards pardoned by Premier Asquith's government.

The latest turn of the kaleidoscope of the complicated Irish situation has surprised the whole of Britain as completely as it did its victims. Only a few weeks ago Lloyd George's war cabinet proposed to settle the Irish question by coupling home rule with conscription.

Factions would be placated by that plan, but after a short agitation it appeared that both were excited to greater antagonism than had existed before.

The Nationalists questioned whether the home rule offer was not a scheme for conscription. The Ulsterites insisted that conscription was only a device for thrusting home rule on them. And the Irish quarrel among Irishmen settled back into the old time-worn rut.

The general interpretation of the government's new plans read from the viceroy's proclamation is that conscription will be side-tracked for a time, while a scheme for voluntary enlistment is tried.

### Position of Nationalists

The latest developments place the Nationalist party in an embarrassing position. John Dillon and his followers have withdrawn from Parliament and joined the Sinn Feiners and the church is in a strike against conscription. If the Sinn Fein is proved to be in conspiracy with the Germans, the Nationalists must drop their new alliance, because the Nationalists never have been pro-Germans, nor even anti-British, but only home rulers.

### Did Not Cause Disturbance

London, May 19.—"There have been no disturbances anywhere in the country, as far as is known here" says a Dublin despatch to the Evening News. "Indeed the most striking feature of the government's coup was its swiftness and thoroughness. All arrangements were carried through like clockwork, dumbfounding the Sinn Feiners, who boasted that the authorities were afraid to arrest Prof. de Valera or any other leaders, and would meddle only with the smaller fry of the organization."

In no case, says the despatch, was resistance offered to the police and soldiers who made the arrests. The Dublin offices of the Sinn Fein and the offices of the National Aid Fund were taken over by the military. All the Sinn Fein members of parliament have been arrested. Dublin remains quiet, the correspondent adds, but there is a feeling of suppressed excitement.

### Effect in Dublin

London, May 19.—The Dublin correspondent of the Evening News says:

"The city was electrified when it woke up Saturday to read the lord lieutenant's proclamation revealing the existence of a German conspiracy and to learn that practically all of

the Sinn Fein leaders had been arrested. Despite the stink of conscription, numerous persons thought that the government would not use a real firm hand in Ireland, and consequently the surprise was greater and the effect on the disloyal element more salutary."

### Important Documents

London, May 19.—Documents of great importance in connection with an Irish conspiracy have fallen into the hands of the government through the arrest by coast guards of a man with certain evidence upon him.

### 500 Have Been Arrested

London, May 19.—Five hundred Sinn Feiners were arrested at various towns in Ireland yesterday, according to a Dublin despatch to Evening News.

A vessel carrying seventy-three Sinn Fein prisoners left Kingston, Ireland, last evening, says a Dublin despatch to the Central News Agency. It is expected the ship is proceeding to Holyhead, Wales. A large crowd cheered as the ship departed but the demonstrators were dispersed quietly.

### Headquarters Raided

Belfast, May 19.—There is some evidence that the Sinn Fein leaders had preparations made for a long time for any coup that might take place. When the police and soldiers went to the headquarters in Harcourt street, Dublin, Saturday morning they discovered that beyond a lot of more or less routine correspondence there was no document of importance. It was from these offices that the whole Sinn Fein movement was directed.

Professor de Valera was in the offices last night for a few hours conferring with some of his lieutenants. He left shortly after ten o'clock, taking a train to his home at Greystones, where he was arrested. He made no attempt to conceal his surprise.

Countess Markievicz protested bitterly against her arrest and insisted on taking a pet dog, which wore the republican colors, along with her.

Tadge Barry, who has twice been imprisoned already in connection with revolutionary movement, was arrested and conveyed to Dublin by a strong escort. Peter Hourihan, editor of the Southern Star of Skibbereen, was also arrested. Dr. McNabb, of Belfast, was taken by the police while electioneering in East Cavan.

### Wrong and Foolish

Dublin, May 21.—John Dillon, the Nationalist leader, in an interview with the Associated Press correspondent today, emphasized the divergence between his party and the Sinn Fein, whose policy he declared to be "wrong and foolish and bound to end in disaster."

Mr. Dillon said he still believed in a friendly settlement with Great Britain. He adhered to the declaration of the late John E. Redmond, made at the outbreak of the war, that the "cause of the allies is the cause of freedom."

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