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TUAIRISC

NEWS-LETTER OF THE WOLFE TONE SOCIETY

Number One

July 1965.

TO OUR READERS

The publication of this, the first issue of TUARISC, by Muintir Wolfe Tone (the Wolfe Tone Society), affords an opportunity to welcome all our readers, whether they be members of the Society, supporters and friends, or people hearing of the Society for the first time. It also affords a suitable opportunity to introduce the Society and explain briefly its aims and activities.

Constituted formally in July 1964, Muintir Wolfe Tone sprang from a wide-spread feeling that the organisation and enthusiasm which went into the all-Ireland commemoration of the bi-centenary of Wolfe Tone's birth in 1963 should find more permanent form in a new group. With the winding-up of the Wolfe Tone Bi-Centenary Directories after their year's work, the new society, Muintir Wolfe Tone, was founded.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Composed of young Republican-minded Irishmen of various religious persuasions, Muintir Wolfe Tone in its Constitution sets out as its primary objective the furthering of the establishment of a united, independent, democratic Irish Republic in accordance with the 1916 Proclamation and the Democratic Programme of the First Dail. The Society intends to show how the divided nation is kept wholly subject to British imperialism, though apparently free in part, by means of meetings, lectures, conferences, publications and other methods deemed suitable and win the support of the Irish people for the establishment of "Ireland of the 70s" as a united, independent, nation, with control over its financial policy, ability to plan its own investment without recourse to bribery of foreigners and employing to the full the considerable skill and ability of its people.

Muintir Wolfe Tone also plans to develop means of uniting the struggling sectional groupings in the country so that their aims will be aligned with the objective of a united Irish Republic. The organisation will not put up candidates for election. Membership will consist of active people with roots in the language, trade union, co-operative, republican and other organisations.

More can be learned about Muintir Wolfe Tone by writing to the Secretariat, 22, Belgrave Road, Dublin 6.

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REVOLT AGAINST CORPORATION PLANS

Business people, traders big and small, and ordinary residents of the Dublin city area bounded by O'Connell Street, Parnell Street, the Quays and the Phoenix Park are organising to fight the Corporation's £20,000,000 plan to level a 200-acre site in the North Central city area and rebuild an office and shopping centre.

A recent development in this fight was the holding of a public meeting attended by hundreds of people in the Father Mathew Hall in Church Street, Dublin, under the auspices of Muintir Wolfe Tone. The object of the meeting was to protest against the development plans of the Corporation for the Arran Quay parish area, where light industry is scheduled to take the place of the present residents.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Uinseann Mac Eoin, architect, town planner and editor of "Build" magazine; Mr. Paul Rowan, Chairman of the Capel Street Traders' Association; Mr. Patrick Leonard, chairman of the Arran Quay Residents' Association, and Mr. Michael O'Leary, Labour T.D. for the area. The official policy of deliberately reducing the residential population of the Arran Quay area was condemned and the meeting enthusiastically passed the following resolution:

"That this meeting of Dublin citizens of the Arran Quay-Four Courts-Capel Street area of the city, called by the Wolfe Tone Society, draws public attention to the serious failure of Dublin Corporation in drawing up plans for housing and "redevelopment" in the heart of Dublin to consult with the traders and residents affected:

"It demands that the Arran Quay parish area should be developed chiefly for residential purposes, that people from the area being rehoused should be rehoused within it, and that the Corporation build new housing units on some of the many suitable sites in the area rather than as at present, moving people miles away to the suburbs on being rehoused, with the many adverse social consequences this entails for the centre of Dublin:

"It demands also that the Corporation should refuse to adopt the proposals of the Lichfield Plan for the O'Connell Street-Capel Street-Parnell Street area whereby a large tract of the city centre would be 'developed' by foreign interests in such a way that numerous business people and their employees would be dispossessed or made unable to continue in business because of the inevitable large rent increases consequent on such a scheme; and that the Corporation should consult with the business interests involved with a view to developing and improving the amenities of the area through co-operative effort of those concerned".

OPPOSITION IN OTHER AREAS

In other areas of the city of Dublin opposition is growing to the schemes of the city planners. In Sandymount local residents have organised to oppose the Dublin Port and Docks Board plan for the industrialisation of this pleasant seaside suburb. On the north side there is opposition to the scheme for the reduction of the free area of the Bull Island, while

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residents of the Clontarf seafront view with misgiving also the plans of the Port and Docks Board to fill in the fore-shore for further factories and grimy docklands.

In all these areas little or no consultation was done beforehand with the residents. The ordinary citizen apparently has little importance in the eyes of officialdom. But by organising, forming associations and fighting their cases, as the residents of Arran Quay are doing, the citizens of these other areas can be assured at least of having their grievances heard and listened to. In their fights for their rights such citizens' bodies can count on the active leadership and help of the Wolfe Tone Society.

DERRY'S CAUSE

More than 15,000 Derry people have petitioned Stormont that the new Six County University be established there instead of in Coleraine. This figure represents half the adult population of Derry - Catholic and Protestant together for the first time in generations.

Prominent Unionists have joined in the protest. The local Unionist M.P., Dr. Robert Nixon, has accused the "nameless, faceless men" in the Unionist Party who have influenced Stormont to site the University in Unionist Coleraine rather than in predominantly Catholic Derry. He said that the situation was the product of "an environment of miserable bigotry aimed at Unionist domination".

What can we do about it? For this is something which concerns the whole of Ireland. Derry is the natural urban centre for the whole north-west of the country, even if it is at present cut off from most of its hinterland by partition. A University there could serve Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon and those parts to the north-west of the 26 Counties whose people have now to send their sons and daughters to Galway or Dublin if they are to get a chance of going to College.

ALL-IRELAND?

A Government that stood for the welfare of All-Ireland would champion Derry's cause. Mr. Lemass was asked recently in the Dail if he would take the matter up with Captain O'Neill. Dublin could offer jointly to subsidise a University in Derry, set it up there itself if necessary, or offer financial assistance to the Derry people themselves in doing so. This would put O'Neill nicely on the spot; whether he agreed or disagreed he would be exposed before his Unionist following, while the rest of Ireland would be backing the move towards the unity of the people of Derry. But it was learned that the matter was "outside the Taoiseach's jurisdiction".

Limits to the Taoiseach's "jurisdiction" in matters such as this seem to be very willingly accepted. For these are the days of the integration-with-Britain policy when partition and its evil effects are played down all around.

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BRIBERY OF FOREIGNERS

The scandal of huge monetary inducements to foreigners to set up factories in the 26 Counties has been aired a few times in public. Even in Leinster House voices have been heard questioning the wisdom of granting colossal financial aid to firms such as Verolme and Potez whose long-term prospects are, to say the least, clouded in uncertainty.

A case might be made for helping foreigners to set up industries here if Irishmen were given comparative treatment in the way of grants and loans. But such is not the case. Consider the example of Mr. K. (name withheld) who for 10 years or more has farmed over 4,000 mink in Co. Dublin. His mink project had reached the stage when it was imperative to expand or cut back in production and, to further production, he was prepared to invest up to £50,000. So he approached an Foras Tionnscail for a grant.

He was told that he could not get a grant for mink production as An Foras had just given a Danish group a grant of £48,000. with which they were starting operations near Swords. Foras would like to see how the Danes got on before handing out any further grants for mink production. Mr. K. thought this reasonable enough - especially as it seemed to show a concern for the national welfare - until a few months later when he read a report in the newspapers that another group of Danes near Athy had got a grant of £100,000. for mink farming.

Mr. K. felt rather sore about this, especially as he discovered that the Athy people were doing no more than he was - in other words they were primary producers only, sending pelts for processing abroad. Mr. K. decided not to expand and cut back on his mink numbers. He has 1,000 at the moment and may shortly go out of them entirely. Thus does An Foras Tionnscail foster the setting up of industries by natives.

THE TAILORS' HALL

The news that an offer had been made to take over and restore the historic Tailors' Hall, in High Street, Dublin, was welcomed by all interested in seeing this old Guildhall, so rich in associations with the United Irishmen, preserved for the nation.

The offer, made by Mr. Robert Guinness, a director of the furniture firm of Messrs. Hicks Ltd., is being considered by Dublin Corporation in whom Tailors' Hall is vested. Muintir Wolfe Tone have received assurances from Mr. Guinness that, in the event of his offer being acceptable to the Corporation, the Hall will be faithfully and lovingly restored to as near its original state as possible. Representatives of Muintir Wolfe Tone heard from Mr. Guinness some of his plans and ideas for the Hall and surrounding area, and have no hesitation in stating that his project is worthy of the support of all who value this relic of old Dublin, this reliquary of Republican traditions.

All who wish to receive TUAIRISC regularly should send their names and addresses, together with remittance, to the Secretariat, 22, Belgrave Road, Dublin. Subscriptions for receipt of TUAIRISC are: 10/- for a year; 5/- for six months. It is hoped to issue TUAIRISC once a month. So place your order NOW.