

— Sinn Féin. —

AN COMAIRLE NÁISIÚNTA

(THE NATIONAL COUNCIL).

Executive Offices:

11 LOWER O'CONNELL STREET, DUBLIN.

THE POLICE AND THE NATION.

“The Irish People are a Free People, and no law made
“without their authority or consent is or ever can be
“binding on their conscience.”—*National Council Constitution.*

At its April meeting the Dublin Corporation by a large majority voted the collection of a tax of 8d. in the £ from the citizens for the upkeep of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force. This force, unlike the police force in the cities of Great Britain, is free of civic control. It is a British Governmental force maintained as part of the machinery of Dublin Castle, and the citizens of the Irish metropolis are denied all voice in its affairs. They are, however, taxed for its upkeep, and several of their local revenues are seized and confiscated to its use. The force is large out of all proportion to the needs of the city, and its cost is far beyond that of any police force under civic control in Great Britain (there is no civic control of the police in any part of Ireland) with the exception of the city of London police—a force, archaic and unique. The principle of “No taxation without representation,” which lies at the foundation of constitutional government, could not be more grossly violated than it is in the case of the Dublin police tax. A year ago the National Council issued the following circular on the subject, and yet in face of the facts adduced, a large majority of the members of the Dublin Corporation have again voted to collect this tax from the citizens: “The Dublin Metropolitan Police Force is the most costly and extravagant police force in the world, and the proportion of police to the population inflicts a gross injustice on the citizens, Dublin being practically a crimeless city the cost of police ought to be less than for cities of a similar population, but as the following table shows, it is vastly more:

Comparative Statement of Cost of Police in various Cities in the Three Kingdoms.

	Population last Census	Strength of Force	Gross Cost £	Police Rate £	Proportion of Population to each Policeman	Cost per head of Population
Dublin ..	390,187	1,172	160,183 1901	8d.	333 to 1	8 2½
Sheffield ..	408,994	515	51,354	4½d.	794 ,, 1	2 6
Bradford ..	279,767	396	38,890	3 63d.	713 ,, 1	2 9
Glasgow ..	760,423	1,379	134,192	3 9-16 on Rents £10 and over 1 25-32 Rents under £10	551 ,, 1	3 5½
Manchester	543,872	1,009	116,880	5d.	539 ,, 1	4 3½
Liverpool ..	684,947	1,421	193,273	5½d.	503 ,, 1	5 7½
Bristol ..	334,632	499	53,906	5 1-8d.	659 ,, 1	3 3
Nottingham	239,753	290	31,102	4 3-8d.	826 ,, 1	2 7
Bolton ..	168,205	167	16,566	2¾d.	1,007 ,, 1	1 11½
Huddersfield	95,008	120	12,074	4½d.	792 ,, 1	2 6
Leeds ..	428,968	572	53,332	3¾d.	749 ,, 1	2 6
Hull ..	240,739	362	34,071	4d.	655 ,, 1	2 9½
Belfast ..	348,955	937 (In 1901)	—	3½d.	372 ,, 1	—
Birmingham	522,182	820	82,055	4d.	636 ,, 1	3 1½

“In Sheffield, Bristol, Leeds, and Hull, the police act as fire brigade, in Liverpool 61 of them act as fire brigade and 300 more are trained in the use of fire appliances; and in Nottingham and Huddersfield a portion of them act as fire brigade and in all the above cities the police are under the control of the people. In Dublin the people have no voice or control in the management of the police, but have to pay an excessive rate for the upkeep of an extravagant force. It is time that this monstrous grievance was removed.”

Since the above circular was issued, the official annual report of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force for 1906 (1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906) has been issued. It discloses an aggravation of the state of affairs shown in the circular. The police force has been increased from 1172 to 1194 “effective” members, whilst 52 “non-effective” policemen are in receipt of full salaries—this, of course, being exclusive of the pensioners. The force at present consists of :

- 7 Superintendents.
- 24 Inspectors.
- 42 Station Sergeants.
- 149 Sergeants.
- 1,024 Constables.

In all, 1,246 men, or more than double the number of policemen in English cities such as Sheffield and Leeds, both of which have much larger populations than Dublin. Nearly £100,000 was divided up in pay between these men, and the average cost of each Dublin policeman worked out at about £135 per year. That is, each policeman in Dublin swallows

up the wages of two skilled artisans or four unskilled labourers. His cost is greater than that of the average public official who holds a university degree or has passed a severe competitive examination.

Last year, the Dublin Corporation collected from the citizens £27,344 for the maintenance of this force—the Dublin County Council collected £14,288 from the residents outside the city boundaries, and the Castle authorities in addition, confiscated the following local revenues, all of which rightfully belong to these two bodies, and applied them to the police force :

Hackney-car and carriage licences	£3,520
Police Court fines and fees	6,085
Publicans', pedlars', and chimney sweeps' fees	497
Miscellaneous	705

In all £10,807—making a grand total of £52,436 taken from the people of Dublin during the year, and used without reference to their wishes or without deference to their authority.

The Dublin metropolitan area contains 80,000 families. Each family is compelled by the tax to pay 13s. a year to the Castle. The wealthy families pay it directly, the poorer families indirectly—through their rent. It means a levy of 3d. a week on every family in the city and suburbs.

The remedy for this state of affairs remains with the electors.—If the Dublin Corporation and the Dublin County Council refuse to collect the tax, the present monstrous state of affairs will be brought to a head. The following are the names of the members of the Dublin Corporation who voted for the levying of this tax at the first April meeting :—

Alderman Coffey.	Councillor Francis Cole.
Alderman Healy.	Councillor Cox.
Alderman Keegan.	Councillor Sherlock.
Alderman Dowling.	Councillor Moloney.
Alderman Reigh.	Councillor James.
Alderman Irwin.	Councillor M'Walter.
Alderman R. O'Reilly.	Councillor Harrington, M.P.
Alderman Cotton.	Councillor M. Doyle.
Councillor Crozier.	Councillor Bewley.
Councillor Vance.	Councillor Meade.
Councillor Madden.	

At a subsequent meeting, held on April 23rd, the motion to authorise the levying of the police tax was carried by 19 to 16—45 members of the Corporation not attending.

At this meeting it was alleged that if the police tax were not collected by the Corporation the poor rate could not be levied. This is not the case. The poor rate and police tax are in no way dependent on each other, and the Corporation can, if it desires, collect in any year the poor rate, whilst declining to collect the police tax.

The following are the names of the members who voted on April 23 for the collection of the tax :—

Alderman Coffey.	Councillor Crowe.
Alderman Healy.	Councillor Hutchinson.
Alderman Lyon.	Councillor Cox.
Alderman Irwin.	Councillor Sherlock.
Alderman Robert O'Reilly.	Councillor James.
Alderman Cotton.	Councillor M'Walter.
Councillor M'Carthy.	Councillor Harrington, M.P.
Councillor M. Cahill.	Councillor Monk.
Councillor Vance.	Councillor Altman.
Councillor T. J. Lawlor.	

Alderman Reigh, Councillor Francis Cole, and Councillor M. Doyle voted on the 23rd of April against the collection of the tax.

The National Council has issued the following :

SINN FEIN PAMPHLETS.

1. The Sinn Féin Policy, 1d.
2. Purchase of the Railways, 1d.
3. England's Colossal Robbery of Ireland, 1s. per 100 to Branches.
4. Ireland and the British Armed Forces, 1s. per 100 to Branches.
- 4a. Constitution and Aims of the National Council, free.
- 4b. Circular to Traders (with National Trade Mark), 1s per 100 to Branches.
5. Constitutionalism and Sinn Féin, 1d.
6. Ireland and the British Revenue (in preparation).

Sinn Feiners may now join :

1. The Central Branch National Council, 11 Lower C'Connell Street. Meets Monday.
2. South-East Branch National Council, 41 York Street. Thursday.
3. South Dock and Trinity Branch National Council, 4 Lower Sandwith Street. Tuesday.
4. North-East Branch National Council, 87 Marlboro' Street. Thursday.
5. Inns Quay Branch National Council, 53 Bolton St. Friday.
6. Usher's Quay Branch National Council, 43 Dolphin's Barn Street. Monday.
7. Wood and Merchant's Quay Branch National Council, 143 Francis Street. Wednesday.

"SINN FEIN" THE ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Published by an Comairle Náisiúnta, 11 Lower O'Connell St., and Printed by an Cló-Cumann, Ltd., 68-71 Great Strand Street, Dublin.

M. 155φ/8