

## OBITUARY

### MR. E. A. SHEEHAN, B.L.

One of the best-known educationalists in Cork over the past half-century has passed away in the person of Mr. E. A. Sheehan, B.L., of 15 Grattan Hill, Cork. Associated with Presentation Brothers College, Cork, over a long period of years, his death will be regretted by hundreds of past pupils who had the privilege of being taught by him. An exemplary teacher, he possessed a profound knowledge of English literature, and his views and advice on matters pertaining to it were often sought. He was, too, a brilliant French scholar.

He took his B.A. and M.A. degrees in the Royal University of Ireland, by examination, and was prepared for it at Presentation College, Cork. He was awarded two law scholarships and the senior exhibition in law at the then Queen's College. In 1919 he was called to the Bar and when the Chair of History was offered to him at U.C.C. in 1920, he declined to accept for private reasons.

He was one of the founders of Sinn Féin in 1905, in Cork and a treasurer of the National Aid (Easter Week) Fund, 1916. He also served on the two Cork committees dealing with Belfast refugees and on those between 1922 and '27 which



provided help for the dependents of the fallen, prisoners and the wounded. During the first great war he did valuable work in the formation of the Cork Consumers' League, which prevented profiteering.

For some years past he had charge of the Bank classes in Presentation College and in this capacity he was singularly successful. His death will be a severe loss to the Presentation community.

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C O P Y.

15, Grattan Hill,

Cork.

9th November, 1921.

President De Valera, T.D.

Your Excellency,

I beg to enclose for your perusal copy of a letter on Reparations that I have sent to Mr. De Roiste, T.D., for Cork City.

I cannot impress on you too strongly the necessity for getting your Cabinet to give immediate attention to this question which greatly concerns the S. and W.

for Home Affairs, I would suggest that you or the Ministers stricken districts and L. G. D. and Industries visit the stricken districts and people at once.

Mise,  
Le leas mor,

(Signed) Edward Sheehan.



15, Grattan Hill,  
Cork.

9th November, 1921.

An Uasail Liam de Roiste, T.D.

A Chara,

In a letter of mine to the Lord Mayor of Dublin for Mr. Griffith's perusal (dated 17/8/'21) I wrote (inter alia) as follows:-

"The figures of County Court awards for Compensation set out daily in the "Independent" (Now about 9½ million pounds stg.) are a ridiculous understatement and grossly misleading for many reasons. I merely indicate a few:-

- (1) The powers of the County Court Judge to compensate are for malicious injury, and that only in certain limited cases.
- (2) Much private and all consequential damage is excluded, e.g. losses by stoppage of fairs, markets train services, compulsory closing, either general or of indicated private premises, deportations, curfew restrictions and general insecurity and all losses of wages arising therefrom.
- (3) Permits are now required and may be refused (especially in murder and other serious cases, in case of murder, or other personal injury or damage alleged to be inflicted by Crown Forces, and where the reprisal is official (in the case of property) all legal remedies are suspended.
- (4) In many cases persons who have suffered grievously, e.g. the dependents of civilians shot have not presented claims, often for the reason stated in (3).
- (5) The damages to be claimed by way of reparations should in many cases be exemplary because of their atrocious character or circumstances.
- (6) The Press is not always present when the decisions are announced."



WHAT SHOULD BE DONE:-

- (1) A careful return (1916-1921) should be made say from every parish of all injury or damage done to civilian person and property (with, where possible, exact date of each) inflicted by Crown Forces. Circumstances also to be briefly tabulated.
- (2) An inquiry, or series of such, presided over by a practising barrister of standing in each case assisted by two able business men, should be at once set on foot to estimate the money value of the loss of life and property, and private and public consequential damage inflicted during the past five years by the Crown Forces and policy. It should cover all cases, both those heard already and those for which no claim has yet been lodged. In the case of the latter there should be a preliminary inquiry and sifting out of bogus claims to save time.
- (3) The damages to be claimed should take account of all the circumstances, e.g., the position in life of the applicant (and public bodies should be enabled to claim special damages in cases of members of same, e.g. Cork City should lodge special claim as regards Lord Mayor MacCurtain), aggravation, etc., and the scale should be in accordance with the usual claims in such cases under International Law (not Malicious Injury Law as it stands).
- (4) Such claims should be presented in form against the British Government and alleged as against its agents and done by its authority or connivance, and against the ordinary customs of civilised warfare and of International Law.
- (5) Claims already investigated by the British County Courts in Ireland should be re-opened and the Commission should have power to confirm, reject or alter the amount awarded (according to Section 3 above).
- (6) No claims to compensation should be considered before the Commission but those arising from injuries to civilians by Crown Forces; but certain claims arising out of injury to person and property alleged to have been inflicted by the I.R.A. may be heard by the Commission on reference from the Dail Eireann Minister for Home Affairs.
- (7) The Commission should present interim reports as to the cases heard, the nature of the injuries and the circumstances, and the persons incriminated and damages, costs and expenses awarded, and a final report.

Mise, le meas mor,  
Edward Sheehan.

(signed)  
Edward

16 August 1922

Acara [?]

I enclose a few names to whose addresses special appeal might be sent and I hope to send some more when I get correct addresses to add to them. I have several more but will deliver to them by hand when I get copies from you to distribute.

I think it would be better to get the appeal to sympathisers printed right away but if you intend only getting out a couple of hundred for a start typewritten copies reproduced by Cyclostyle would be probably quicker.

The general appeal to public could be put into shape for the printer once you got the first appeal to sympathisers out. The appeal to the public would require some care as we have to avoid turning away money and must at the same time keep the flag up. No regrets, save for the dead and wounded and the unavoidable passing misery, no apologies and no surrender.

The first appeal should clearly state for whom it is intended and why. It should point out that it is to the Irish people at home and abroad we have to look to make even immediate provision for the dependants of the dead, wounded, prisoners and those who have been or are likely to be victimised as in 1916 for their loyal adherence to their ideals in their country's best interests and steady persecution of them in practice at the risk of life and liberty. It is the people themselves, not any Government, that must make provision for the Republican dependants.

It might give a few figures of the need for help but that is understood, but it could state some of the classes of cases that have already appealed for assistance.

It should also state that the utmost care will be taken that the relief shall be given only to the classes mentioned and only upon strict investigation.

It might point out also that local committees have been already started in Dublin and other cities and that these will ultimately federate into an association similar to the Volunteers Dependants Fund Committee of 1916.

The top of the appeal should have some Irish headings. The title might be Republican (or Volunteers) Dependants Aid Committee in English and Irish. At first you should have the name of the head of your organisation. If you like you can avoid having a chairman or president. In that case let your sister-in-law's name (and address) come as treasurer, and it will strike the public first. The names of the other treasurers and secretaries to follow.

On second thoughts, I think your idea of a typed circular to sympathisers first is a good one. In a few days we can all see things clearer and meanwhile be getting ahead with the main appeal.

Count on my support in any way I can help,

mise le mest

(Signed) E Sheehan



The Irish Republican Army Dependants' Fund  
Acuinse an Saedlaib (??)  
Appeal

56 Grand Parade  
Cork

Scara (?)

As a result of the civil war now raging, it becomes of immediate and pressing necessity to provide for the dependants of those of the Republican forces who have fallen in battle, the wounded, the prisoners and those who have because of their association with the Republican cause been victimized by being driven from employment.

Already many helpless dependants of these men, women and little children, are appealing for urgent help.

There is no immediate prospect of assistance to them from the purses of those to whom we have always turned, those families and individuals who cherish, by instinct, national beliefs and ideals and have always come forward with a helping hand to aid those who have suffered in the cause of Ireland.

For us there can be no question of appealing to any Irish government, save one cherishing Republican ideals and working in their interest. Those who are striving by the aid of British artillery and armoured cars to crush the Republican resistance are not likely to consider the feelings or sufferings of the dependants of those opposed to them, nor have we any intention of appealing to them.

It is to those who still believe that the fight against allegiance to and domination by England was a fight in Ireland's most vital interests and that those who have taken up arms for the defence of the Republic have the strongest claim upon our practical sympathy that we now appeal most urgently to help the dependants of the fallen and the victimised and to help them at once.

The need is urgent and our duty is clear.

To make the movement a success we need the active sympathy and endeavours of all Republicans and we beg of you to circulate this appeal among your friends.

[The next line is in Irish and I cannot decipher it]  
Subscriptions may be sent to any of the undersigned.  
Names and addresses

..... Chairman  
..... Hon Treasurers  
..... Hon Secretaries

Send 5 copies of appeal each to under-mentioned

Dr Conway, Aghada  
Jerome O'Reilly, Scotts Square, Cobh  
Mr & Mrs F J Healy, Wilmount House, Wilmount, Cobh  
H Hyde, Ashburton, Gardiners Hill, Cork  
Edward Sheehan, 15 Grattan Hill, Cork (10 copies)  
Mr Shorter, Piners St  
F Cronin, 18 Sunday's Well  
Professor O'Sullivan, Richmond Lodge [?] Rd  
Miss B O'Sullivan, Richmond Lodge [?]  
Mrs O'Shea, Baking Stores, Oliver Plunkett Street  
Arthur Berry, 121 Patrick Street  
Mrs Nolan, Magazine Road  
Mrs O'Mahony, Dun Desmond [??]

### The IRA Dependants Fund

A little more than six years ago the National Aid Fund was started to support the Dependants of those who fell or were imprisoned in the Battle of Freedom.

Since then the appeals for the same cause to the people of Ireland have been almost continuous, and the people of Ireland have generously responded. We had hoped the need for them was nearly at an end.

Once more however we have to appeal for the Dependants of the soldiers of the Republic. The circumstances are more tragic, more heart-rending, for now an element of bitterness and unhappiness has entered into the physical suffering and the mental torture of the past five years.

But that bitterness and its cause will not justify the public in refusing to aid the women and little children whose bread-winners have sacrificed their all for a Cause they hold dearer than life itself.

That Irishmen are divided at present is a fact that we cannot ignore. That fact will surely not prevent Irishmen and women from answering this appeal on behalf of those who are suffering today as they have suffered before.

Pending the establishment of a permanent Committee, subscriptions may be forwarded to the undersigned.

[This next piece is in different handwriting and does not appear to be connected with Uncle Ned's appeal. However it is quite interesting, so I have included it]

Poems by Thomas MacDonogh	5/-
Literature in Ireland by Thomas MacDonogh	7/6
Bards of the Fail & Gall, Sigerarn	6/-
E Hull's Early Irish Literature (in 2 volumes 3/6 each)	) 7/- )
Beginnings of Modern Ireland by Philip Wilson	5/-
Heroes of the Dawn by Violet Russell	3/6

14 April 1919

Dear Mrs Conran

Above list will probably give you enough to chose from. Others are available of course. But Russell's stock is not larger - not very varied rather and without a catalogue I don't find it easy at the moment to make a longer list.

Please tell Mr Conran I shall send his subscription on to the Volunteers Fund (£10).

Kind regards

mise

[can't decipher the rest]