

Shane Browne, PhD Candidate, UCD School of History



**The National Volunteers: the power of political notables in
mobilising the masses?**

DOYLE'S
HARVING WAREHOUSES
43 UP. O'CONNELL ST.,
 FOR
HIGH-CLASS TAILORING.

Officer's Uniform from 40/-
 Overcoats 25 to 40/-
 Lounge Suits 35 to 50/-

RELIABLE MATERIALS.

Note Address
L. DOYLE,
 43 UPPER O'CONNELL ST.
 (Corner of Henry St.), Dublin.

VOL. I.—NO. 11.

The
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER



Official Organ of the National Volunteers

JAMES J. SCANNELL
 Auctioneer and Valuer,
4 BACHELOR'S WALL
 DUBLIN.

Highest Prices Realised for
 Pianos, Antique and Modern
 Furniture, China, Cut Glass,
 Oil Paintings, Etc.

SALE AT ROOMS EVER
 WEDNESDAY.

TELEPHONE 272.

DUBLIN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O.
 AS A NEWSPAPER.]

PRICE—ONE PENNY.

THE CONVENTION SYSTEM

HOW IT WAS STARTED

BY CHARLES STEWART PARNELL

THE EVILS IT REMEDIED

THE "BRASS BAND," THE BANTRY
 BANNTS AND THE CARPET
 BAGGERS.

(Special to the "National Volunteer.")

Mr. Redmond's reiteration of the determination of the Irish Party to adhere to the method of selecting Parliamentary candidates by Conventions will be received with pleasure and approval by all right-thinking Nationalists. The recent revolt in one of the Ulster counties will receive little countenance in the rest of the country, and even in that County itself is condemned by the majority of the Nationalists.

The occasion is important enough to make it desirable to go back a little over the origin of the Conventions and the service they have rendered in bringing the National cause to beyond position which it now holds. Conventions have always been a potent weapon of the people in Ireland. As a historical lesson, one need only recall the great Convention of Grattan's Volunteers at Dungannon, when

"The Church of Dungannon was full to the door,
 And gun, pike and sabre flashed fire on the floor."

So powerful were Conventions in Ireland as a means of expressing the organised voice of the nation that for many generations the holding of Conventions was made illegal, and it was only in very recent times that these oppressive laws were repealed. In 1865, Russell saw that if we were to have a strong and united movement we must abolish ourselves in Parliamentary constituencies in Ireland. Some impatient spirits in those days, who are actuated more by private ambitions than by patriotic motives, are too young to remember what the representation of Ireland was like in the middle of the 19th century and down to the 'eighties. We had

MUNSTER UPHOLDS THE IRISH LEADER



Assembling of the Volunteers in the Market Place, Limerick.

(Specially taken for the "National Volunteer.")

OUR IRISH ARMY.

TRAINING OF THE VOLUNTEERS

(BY A MILITARY OFFICER.)

(TENTH ARTICLE.)

THE ATTACK

THE WEAPON THAT GAINS THE VICTORY.

The bayonet wins the battle. All the efforts of the other arms lead up to the final decisive moment when the infantry charge with the bayonet. The aeroplane fly on ahead to spy out the enemy's movements; the cavalry scout and drive back the opposing screen of hostile horsemen; the artillery overwhelm the foe with its guns; the rifles cover the troopers with bullets—all to enable the infantry to get home with the cold steel.

THE CONDUCT OF A BATTLE.

When the actual service and the mounted troops have discovered the enemy's position, the guns open fire on the fight goes forward until his advanced troops and people are driven in or captured, and the real, main position is disclosed. Then the General, from information received or from personal reconnaissance, decides on what he considers the key to it, and opposite this concentrate his biggest effort. It may be one flank or both, the centre or some other point, the capture of which would decide the issue of the battle. Then the enemy is held along the whole front but the real attack is directed with massed forces upon the key of the position. The artillery strives to keep down the enemy's fire as the infantry goes forward. First comes the Firing Line, preceded by scouts and followed by the supports. These form the First Line, the mission of which is to establish with its rifles a superiority over the enemy. Next comes the Second Line, the Local Reserve, meant to cope with the sporadic counter-attacks of the hostile Local Reserve, who will make sudden dashes out from various parts of the position to break up the attackers' Firing Line. Behind and well clear of the fight advances the Third Line, the General Reserve, ready under the General's hand to complete the victory or avert defeat.

National Volunteers marching in formation at the Waterford Sports Field c1914. (Image courtesy of the NLI)

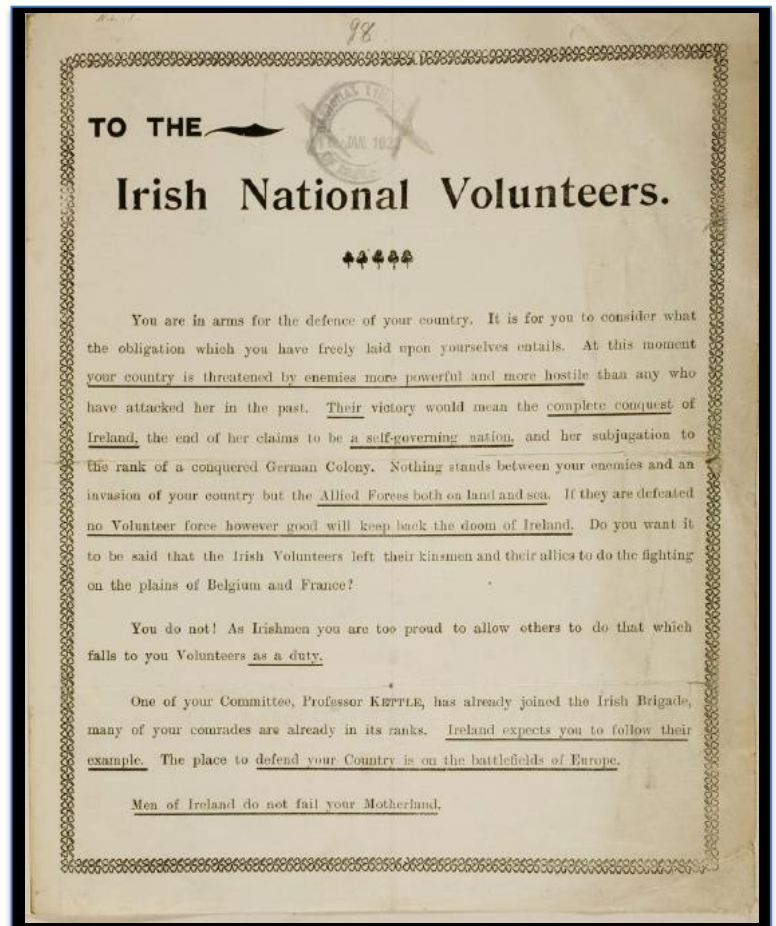


‘My last word today will be that when; in a few short months hence, the Parliament that we have already won opens its doors, I hope there may be seen marching through Dublin and assembled in College Green a hundred thousand at least of well-drilled and well-equipped Volunteers’. Redmond, 11 October 1914, Waterford. (Image courtesy of the NLI)





Poster for the German Fatherland Party



To the Irish National Volunteers (NLI)



**‘We Nationalists of Ulster
have made up our minds
that if we are attacked we
will defend ourselves’.
Joseph Devlin**