

RG24, vol. 4471, Sinn Fein Movement 1920-21

The reports were written by G.E. Burns, Lt. Colonel, District Intelligence Officer, Military District No. 4.

No date, 4 September 1920: The Sinn Fein organizer in Montreal in 1920 was a man named Gerrish. He received a letter from De Valera's HQ in New York about the importance of holding public meetings against MacSwiney's imprisonment. Lindsay Crawford has been supplied by New York with money "to start this propaganda at once."

Burns, 18 September 1920: Report of a secret meeting of the Sinn Fein executive. "Agent will try and keep in touch with this movement but finds it very difficult to get reliable information at present. There is no doubt that Sinn Feinism is very active in Montreal and Quebec at the present time."

Burns, 23 September 1920: "Agent reports that two emissaries from the Sinn Fein organization in New York have arrived in Montreal and met representatives here of the local organization." They couldn't supply much money for propaganda purposes, because most of the funds were going to arms and ammunition. "The above information must be very carefully handled as it is not at all improbable that if Agent be discovered by the improper use of the information he is now disclosing, his life would be in great danger."

Burns, 30 September 1920: The agent was invited by Gerrish to attend a secret meeting, where he would be introduced as "a prominent agitator in revolutionary circles in Montreal," as a member of the Social Democrats, and someone who was trustworthy. So, he was in.... The meeting was held in a house in Griffintown (210 McCord Avenue). He provided descriptions of "Flanagan" and "Murphy," who had arrived from the U.S.

Murphy spoke of a plan that had been "recently decided" upon at SF HQ in New York: "The idea was to strike Great Britain vitally in North America especially in Canada." "The cooperation of the Canadian Irish and revolutionary bodies here was urgent as in the event of a blow being struck at British Rule in Canada from the U.S. active assistance would be of great benefit in encouraging the US Irish and embarrass the British Government." "Agent is of the opinion that a plot is in contemplation to make an armed onslaught on Canada from the US backed by a revolution from within."

Gerrish assured the emissaries that "Irishmen in Montreal were almost to a man sympathizers with De Valera from the lowest to the highest in society."

Burns, 3 October 1920: A reporter from the *Montreal Star* told the agent that the "younger element" of SF were "very hard to manage and were ready for any

escapade of a revolutionary character.” Key figures in Montreal’s SF: Gerrish, Dillon and Collier. “It would appear there is some trouble between the young hot-headed Irish and the more conservative, and things become rather lively at these meetings.” Collier had been a Lieutenant in the CEF. Back in Canada, “he started a seditious paper called the ‘BEAVER’, suppressed by the Chief Press Censor. He was educated for the priesthood at Quebec, but dropped out, subsequently becoming a school teacher in Montreal, and latterly a newspaper reporter and correspondent.”

Burns, 9 October 1920: The agent now knows that the third man he met in Griffintown was Tom Clarke from Boston. Murphy, Flanagan and Clarke had left for Toronto earlier in the month, and would be in Ottawa for the convention. “The sympathizers with the S.F. movement had a public meeting in the Labour Temple last night Although it was called under the auspices of the Independent Socialist Party most of the 100 people present were Irish.” “A rather startling handbill was handed around.” Other organizers were named: Frank J. Burns (“who runs an automobile repair shop”); J.P. Landy (“who is employed in H.M. Customs here”); H.A. [sic] Stafford; John Thompson; Collier is now identified as “W.E. Collier”; Dillon (“a lawyer who is very active”).

The pamphlet: “The Self-Determination for Ireland League of Canada, Explaining the reason for its organization, its purpose and how to secure membership in it.” Ireland was experiencing a “military reign of terror,” imposed upon “a defenceless and unarmed people” who have established their own democratically elected Parliament and denied the right of the British government to rule Ireland. “The whole civilized world today bears witness in Ireland to a greater crime against Justice than that of Egypt when she loaded the shackles of slavery on the children of Israel.”

“The purpose of The Self Determination for Ireland League of Canada is to support the right of the Irish people to determine their own form of government, and to educate the people of Canada to the truth of the real conditions existing in Ireland, without prejudice, and having regard to the TRUTH only. To encourage the study of Irish history in all Canadian schools, public and private, and to encourage Canadian literature setting forth the truth about Ireland and her people.”

Names: J.W.M. Wallace was the secretary in Quebec City.

Montreal:

Padraic Pearse branch – J.B. Shanahan
 Robert Emmett branch – J.J. Whelan
 Thomas D’Arcy McGee branch [!] – John O. Daly
 Joseph Plunkett branch – J.D. Altimus
 Theobald [sic] Wolfe Jone [sic] branch – John Loye

Lachine: John E. Nagle
 Sherbrooke: Terrance Walsh
 Windsor Mills: Gordon Pender

Provincial Secretary: H.J. Stafford.

Burns, 14 October 1920: Meeting of around 800 at Congress Hall, St Patrick's Church. "A good many ladies were present." Total membership in Montreal given as 6,042. Speeches by Rohan ("employed in H.M. Customs"), Todd ("also of Customs"), O'Donnell, McTavish and Cahan. Build-up to the Ottawa Convention.

"The committee in charge of framing of resolutions to be presented to the Convention, brought up the question whether it would be advisable to forward a cable to the King regarding loyalty of Irish people in Canada. At the mention of the King's name, there was a storm of hisses, and shouting many yelling 'to Hell with the King'."

At least 150 people from Montreal were going to the Convention.

"A short address was made by a Russian Jew representing Montreal revolutionary societies in sympathy with the movement. It was well received."

"TODD made the statement that the U.S. Irish helped to attack British rule in Canada in 1866 & that today there were more of them and there was greater sympathy for the cause among U.S. citizens and there was every reason to believe there would be very active assistance when it came time to strike in the present crisis. Besides there was a better organization in Canada than in 1866."

Burns, 15 October 1920: Reports on a meeting of delegates to the Ottawa Convention. Speeches made by Cavanagh (a lawyer), Brennan ("only two months out from Ireland) and Cahan. Delegates from Moncton would be arriving in the morning. "The refusal of the King to grant the petition for the release of MacSwiney was discussed and caused a noisy demonstration. Hisses and curses on the King predominated especially among the younger element. The young men being very hard to control but the chairman succeeded."

Burns, 20 October 1920: Press reports of the Convention "are fairly accurate." To avoid the police, the Montreal members on the train were told "to take off their Sinn Fein badges and also to conceal all banners and flags," and were instructed "to proceed to St Patrick's Hall individually, not as a body. It was the original intention to march to the Convention Hall with banners flying."

De Valera had said that "he would like to meet as many of the delegates as possible at Ogdensburg N.Y. after the close of the Convention, where he would make an address & give advice as to future propaganda.... A large number went. About 75% of the Montreal crowd went. From what agent learns the speech of De Valera was very bitter against Britain. He was assured of wholehearted co-operation of the Canadian League."

"In the course of the Convention Lindsay Crawford was interviewed privately. He was much interested in what was being done in Montreal by the socialistic organizations and expressed his intention to come to Montreal shortly and hold a big mass meeting of all the sympathizers with the movement, getting together members of all revolutionary bodies He said no great revolution had ever been accomplished without fighting and that history teaches that the freedom of nations was nearly always attained, not peaceably but by warfare. He said everyone should be very guarded in talking 'fight' but that all preparations should be made quietly and with the utmost secrecy. He said the League was agreeably surprised at the large amount of money they were enabled to gather in from sympathizers, a great deal without solicitation."

"Agent is of the opinion that the operations of the Ottawa Police, backed in a conspicuous way by a detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, acting as a reserve, had a great effect in preventing disorder, as there was a miscellaneous crowd of probably three thousand, ready to smash up the Convention & raid the Hall."

Burns, 21 October 1920: There was a large meeting in Congress Hall, with Loye in the chair. He wanted action against the newspapers that published false reports about the delegates being pelted with rotten eggs and tomatoes. "The chairman paid a tribute to Fitzgerald the dead hunger striker & characterized him a martyr. The entire audience rose & paid silent tribute for a few moments."

"A propaganda committee was appointed to discourage & suppress if possible the flying of the Union Jack in Montreal and stop the playing of the National Anthem in theatres and other public assemblages. 'O Canada' was recommended instead. Somebody proposed they all sing the latter then and there, but the Chairman would not have it as he doubted if anyone knew it well enough."

Burns, 24 October 1920: The delegates who met De Valera were extremely impressed by him. De Valera said, among other things, that "he was handicapped greatly in his movements by Scotland Yard men and Secret Service Agents. He said they trailed his every movement & complained he could not go

across the street without being followed.” “He expressed himself as much pleased with what had already been accomplished in Canada.”

The Agent had a secret meeting with Gerrish, Stafford and Collier: “Word had been received from the U.S. that owing to all ships sailing from U.S. seaboard to Europe being closely watched, it was found next to impossible to ship to Ireland any more arms or ammunition. It was also disclosed by Stafford that considerable quantities of arms & ammunition had been bought in Montreal and smuggled to the US via Rouses Point. Stafford subsequently admitted to agent privately he had personally taken over two motor cars full, being accompanied as a cover by two ladies – members of the League. It was now ordained that these shipments to the U.S. be discontinued at once ... but it was urged that special efforts be made to forward the goods via Canadian Ports. It was also urged by the U.S. Headquarters that arrangements be made to smuggle arms & ammunition into Canada from U.S. for furtherance to Ireland. Stafford stated the latter arrangement could easily be effected as they had so many S.F. members employed in the Customs.... Regarding the ships sailing from Montreal – Stafford said that had already got in touch with certain steamship people, and they were prepared to forward the first shipment very shortly.” Because the Agent was not from Ireland, and would not excite suspicion, they asked him to go with the ship’s crew, and deliver the arms on the other side of the Atlantic. “Agent expressed great surprise at being honoured for the undertaking, but asked for time to consider matters, as he had to consider his wife and family, and take into consideration the possibility of arrest and a long separation from home Agent is awaiting instructions, which I promised to give him without delay.”

Several copies of a poster announcing a Memorial Mass-Meeting in memory of MacSwiney on 29 October, with speeches by Crawford and Armand Lavergne (“who will speak in French”).

Updated edition of the SDILC pamphlet, describing the Convention: Attended by a thousand delegates “from every province of Canada and from Newfoundland”; Newfoundland now joins the organization – the SDILCN. “This convention is historic for two reasons; it is the first time a great Irish race convention was ever held in Canada; and the first time that Canada and Newfoundland ever came together on a common ground, and it portends greater unity and harmony between these two great countries.”

Poem entitled “The United Irish League,” dated Toronto, October 1920, by “An Irish Canadian”: “True sons of Green Erin – ev’ry friend, all who love her, / Are banding together for one common cause, / In brotherly union, the world all over, / To win for her freedom to make her own laws.”

Burns, 27 October 1920: "Congress Hall was overcrowded last night. Loye in chair. Steps were authorized to be taken to secure a larger Hall." There were reports that McGill students were planning to break up the protest meeting planned at the Arena on the coming Friday. More fundraising activity. "Agent was confidentially informed that the local organization had a good friend in one Dr. Foran who was employed in the Dept of Justice Ottawa, who kept them well informed of what was going on in Govt. circles."

Burns, 4 November 1920: 'Information has been received that a Sinn Fein agent named McTaggart is in Montreal negotiating for ammunition and arranging shipment.' "Was an officer in British Army has been employed by Valera as a messenger." "It has been hinted that ammunition is being bought in Trenton Ont & taken over to US in trucks. Frank Burns says he is leaving with a party with two trucks, tonight – 4th – for Ontario." "A large meeting was held in Congress Hall last evg – Loye in Chair -- \$700 was collected. The use of this hall has been refused by the Parish Authorities and the Branch notified to look for other quarters. This has caused much grumbling. A new branch has been organized in Verdun, called 'McSwiney' branch."

Burns, 19 November 1920: "A number of Irish attended the opening of the so-called 'Montreal Labor College' on Saturday night. This was celebrated by a dance and supper. There was a large crowd present.... This institution is nothing more or less than [a] school for the teaching of Socialistic, Soviet and Communist ideas."

"A warning has been sent out by the S.F. to be careful how Dr. Foran's name is used in connection with his identification with the S.F. movement, as occupying a Govt position it is dangerous for him."

Burns, 23 November 1920: Two Sinn Fein delegates from Boston "met Burns and others at former's garage, #943 Atwater Ave – they had \$100,000 in Irish Republican Bonds and left a quantity here for sale. Burns holds \$20,000, which he is getting rid of. This garage of Burns seems to be simply a blind – no business is being done there at present. Where meetings take place of the ringleaders of the movement, it is in the office of this place, all the blinds being drawn and precautions taken to keep out stray intruders. Burns is no doubt the leading spirit in the S.F. activities in Montreal. He personally has been handling the smuggling &c of arms & ammunition."

Burns, 30 November 1920: \$37,000 of the bonds have already been sold. De Valera "enclosed some literature on the Irish question, which he suggested should be used as propaganda by the Montreal newspapers. After some discussion by the local committee it was decided to approach the French newspapers at once. Accordingly an automobile was hired and a committee of

five, among whom were Burns, Gerrish, Collier, jumped in and drove first to the Press office." "The committee was turned down *cold*, the La Presse people positively declining to have anything to do with the matter. They next drove to La Patrie but there met with exactly the same emphatic refusal."

"It is learned that the sale of these [bonds] is principally among working Irish people who can ill afford to subscribe; but their patriotism, fired by incendiary speeches at the many secret meetings being held in all the Irish Catholic parishes, impel them to contribute to the 'cause' by purchasing these bonds, although in many cases considerable hardship and self sacrifice are involved."

"Hatred of Great Britain is being fanned into flames at all meetings lately held and the more conservative members have great difficulty in holding the younger element down. Sedition is being constantly preached."

On the 26th, there was a meeting at Collier's to discuss the sale of the bonds. They found that they had around \$18,000 in cash, and decided to leave it with Collier overnight; he would "bring it down in the morning to Headquarters & have it turned over and deposited." However: "Since this leave taking about 11 p.m. Friday night [26 November], Collier has not been seen neither have the \$18,000." All day Saturday, Sunday and Monday, the committee looked for him. "They are beginning to think that Collier has decamped with the money! Some however are charitable enough to think he has met with some mishap. Every effort is being made to keep this out of the papers, as it is thought publicity will do the cause a lot of harm."

Burns, 3 December 1920: On Tuesday 30 November, Gerrish received a letter from Collier, who was in St John's Quebec. An emergency meeting of Sinn Fein was held, at which Gerrish read the letter, which "simply stated that he [Collier] had been given \$1000 by the committee for propaganda in St John's and was out there for this purpose.... Burns, Boyd, Stafford & others positively denied giving the \$1000, and emphatically repeated the story of \$18,000 having been given to Collier for safe keeping over night, which was to be brought to Headquarters the following morning. Some pertinent questions were put by the Chairman as to the system of handling cash From the answers given it developed that things were very loose. Dillon threatened to resign unless this affair were [sic] straightened out at once and all the money returned. Others present were very bitter in denouncing those in charge of the funds. Burns offered to return his proportion of the money missing out of his own pocket. All considered if the story got out it would be a bad thing for the League." They decided to make more inquiries about Collier in St John's, and to ask Sinn Fein HQ to send someone to investigate the handling of the funds. A man named Larkin was appointed as the investigator. There were no books of receipts or expenditures, and suspicions were growing that "others have had their hands in the pot." Again, every effort

was made to keep this quiet. "It was considered a great blow to the organization."

Burns, 11 December 1920: Larkin had been very critical about the finances of the Montreal branches, and reckoned that \$60,000 was unaccounted for. "He held the financial committee responsible," and recommended that it should be replaced by new people. By this time, Collier had returned to Montreal; he had been working with the Toronto branches. "He denied having received \$18,000 from Burns, Stafford & others," and said he'd been given \$1000 to cover his expenses and his commission for selling \$10,000 worth of bonds. He also said that he had been given "instructions to go out of town, to any place in Canada where he thought he could sell them." He'd been in Toronto, where he learned to his surprise that he'd been accused of absconding with \$18,000.

A special investigation was held, with "Dillon K.C." in the chair. "Besides the accused, F. Burns, P. Doyle, J.P. Landry and Secy Stafford the accusers were present & were subjected to a severe examination by Dillon & Father Heffernan. Collier accused his associates of putting up a job on him in order to get him out of the way, so as to cover up their own wrongdoing & fasten suspicions on him. The examination of these men disclosed a bad state of affairs, resulting eventually in Burns and Stafford being suspended from the League, and the whole lot of those intrusted with the handling of the funds being given until the first of the new year to file a complete statement of their receipts and disbursements and paying into Dillon all monies due.... Collier says he did not turn in what was left of the \$1000 alleged to have been given him, but says he is going to hang on to it, and shake the whole gang whom he characterized as a 'gang of crooks.'" It was "a stormy session almost leading to a fight." "They are unanimous in the opinion that if the affair gets into the press it will be a fatal blow to the cause."

"When Larkin was here, he freely boasted that they were going to 'get' Lloyd George. He said several times they had sent men from New York over to England for this purpose, but that they were apprehended on arrival at the other side. He said the mistake was made in sending too many over in a bunch, & that it had been now decided, that it was a job for one or two men only & that steps were being taken in this direction. Larkin is a fierce Sinn Feiner. He claims the solution of the Irish question to be the assassination of the British Premier."

Burns, 13 December 1920: A split is emerging in the League in Montreal. "Some of the more radical agitators have got together and are advocating the organization of a branch to be composed of those Sinn Feiners who are in favour of more drastic measures being taken in Canada against British Rule. It is claimed not enough action is in evidence & that Dillon & other officials like him

are preventing the true weight of the Sinn Fein element in Canada, Montreal in particular, being felt by Great Britain.”

They want to set up a new society, the “Friends of Ireland,” to act as an auxiliary branch of the League. They want “to strike a blow at Great Britain in Canada, by an endeavour to upset the Canadian Govt & separate Canada from the British Crown. To this end they have been promised assistance from the Sinn Feiners in the United States.” They were going to ask SF HQ for \$200,000 of Irish Republican Bonds, and they planned to start their own paper in Montreal. A key goal was “To get into communication at once with the advanced Sinn Feiners in the US, to arouse them to prepare for the invasion of Canada at an early date, as being the most vulnerable point in North America, where the British Govt. can be successfully attacked. A blow here, with the possibility of success, it is claimed would do more to help the cause than anything else in sight.”

“In the course of discussion, it was announced there would be a revolution in England very shortly, in fact there be a vast social upheaval. The British Govt would have their hands full looking after home affairs, so that the chances for success in Canada would be of the best, & no great likelihood of interference of any sort, as was [?] in Canada the sympathies of the Labour, & Socialistic parties in addition to Sinn Feiners, were in the direction of cutting loose from England.”

“Basically the moving spirit in this new agitation is Gerrish, assisted by Collier & others, who wish to get together the young fighting Irish men & break away from the control of the older and more conservative who are afraid to come out straight on the question of rebellion, but whose sympathies are entirely in its favour.”

“It was stated at this meeting that any quantity of arms & ammunition may be purchased in Canada – even machine guns.”

“A rapid canvas is being made of the radical Sinn Feiners, who at present are all worked up to a new state of excitement in view of the burning of Cork & the declaration of martial law in the south of Ireland.”

The controversy over the funds “seems to have caused a measure of stagnation in the activities of the various branches.”

Burns, 16 December 1920

Gerrish has disappeared, and has probably gone to New York on a mission for the new organization.

Burns, 21 December 1920

Gerrish had indeed been in New York. His demand for funds “was turned down flat.” “The committee, who were accompanied by DeValera’s secretary, stated that upwards of \$300,000 had ‘disappeared’ in Canada & no definite results shown. Lindsay Crawford was accused of having made away with \$100,000 personally. Great reliance had been placed on the Canadian Irish ‘doing’ something; but it was stated that outside of a few meetings, which accomplished nothing, they could not see that any serious blow had been struck in Canada against British rule.”

“Gerrish says he asked the committee what they wanted done, & was answered without reserve, ‘blow up public buildings and harbour in Montreal, also the Bridges across the St Lawrence and destroy property by fire.’ He claims he told them he was afraid this could not be done in Montreal, but if they would send the men to do the job, they would get assistance locally, but there was no one to lead such an undertaking in the city of Montreal. The American Sinn Feiners are sore on Lindsay Crawford, as they clam he has no ‘guts’.”

Burns, 30 December 1920

Information in New York that De Valera is in France; because the secret service are watching closely ships going to Britain and Ireland, he’s looking for direct routes to non-British ports.

“SF activities in US & Canada are somewhat at a standstill.” It’s difficult to get arms and ammunition into Ireland, and there are controversies about the funds. “Meantime, in Montreal circles, the great question under discussion seems to be the disposal of the funds.... Some are complaining that everything is now in the hands of a ‘bunch of lawyers.’”

“It was reported last week that an ineffectual attempt was made by a Federal agent to get on the inside. He represented himself as a SF just from Ireland, but as he had no SF passport to leave Ireland he was spotted at once. There is a big outcry by members, to ‘get’ this man. His description is being circulated. Additional guards are being put on League meetings.”

Burns, 24 January 1921

Things are “not very lively in the Self Determination League.” Appeals for more funds have not had the anticipated response, probably because of concerns that the money is entirely at the disposal of De Valera. That’s an interesting point. The appeal for funds was made “for the alleged purpose of buying food for the starving people,” and the thought that the funds were actually being used for

revolutionary purposes seems to have deterred a significant number of the Montreal Irish.

An agent from New York, McCarthy, had been in Montreal and Ottawa, trying to get more money, "and also settle some dispute at Trenton, Ont re a contract for arms & ammunition. He made the statement that they could not get a pound of stuff over via U.S. ports, they were so closely watched by British Agents."

"Lindsay Crawford was here Saturday. He said he had just returned from Halifax where he went to try to make some arrangements for shipment of commodities from that Port. He said he had found many Sinn Feiners in the shipping business also in Government Official positions & said he was assured small shipments could be handled without difficulty."

Burns, 2 February 1921

Mayor Callaghan from Cork had paid a "fleeting visit" to Montreal. "Lindsay Crawford has been here and spent several days looking for a house. He says the S.D.L. Hqrs will be moved to Montreal in May, as the Toronto environment is not agreeable."

Burns, 3 February 1921

Two men from New York, McKenna and Flanagan, had been in Montreal "for more ammunition to be shipped to the US for furtherance to Ireland." SF had managed to get almost all its stock of arms and ammunition from New York to London, "through influential friends in the shipping business." After meeting Frank Burns, they travelled to Trenton, "where they are arranging for the shipment to be sent by rail to Montreal." "The assignment is to be met here and transferred to sleigh and taken over the border either near Rousses Point or at a road ... in that vicinity. Owing to snow the roads are impracticable for trucks.... The transaction is to take place at once."

[Note follow up: Illeg to GOC, Military District No. 4, 17 February 1921: "An investigation has failed to show any signs of persons named McKenna and Flanagan being in Trenton and further, that no evidence can be found of any fire-arms or munitions of any kind being manufactured at that place."]

Burns, 5 February 1921

A Sinn Fein representative from Ireland, John McAlister, has arrived in Montreal, to look into financial matters.

“At a meeting here at 808 Papineau Ave last night (secret) one Patrick a Christian Brother announced [?] a strong movement afoot in the U.S. to organize an Irish army of 500,000 men and that great success had so far been achieved. The idea is to reinforce the S.F. in Ireland and attack British Interests in America, including an invasion of Canada.”

Burns, 10 February 1921

“One J. O’Riley a representative [of] SF from Halifax has been in Montreal some days in conversation with shipments of arms & ammunition in Halifax. He reports considerable success in making arrangements at that port. He gave his address as care of Mary C. Regan ‘Evening Echo’ Halifax NS.”

In Trenton, people were refusing to ship ammunition on the railways, because “they had received information that they were being watched by the Federal authorities. However they said that if delivery were taken directly at the factory, they would carry out their contract. They would take no responsibility for carnage.”

Meanwhile, in Montreal, \$900 had gone missing, and the air was thick with accusations. One person was called a Black & Tan. “Lloyd left the chair & about 20 (mostly women) followed him out the Hall.” Flanagan, from Chicago, represented the Irish Labour Party and was “spreading propaganda to boycott English goods.”

Burns, 25 February 1921

The dispute over funds was continuing. “Gerrish is suspected of being a British spy. Found that he had made many trips to England during past few years.”

“O’Sullivan, foreman for street cleaning, offers basement of premises owned by him in Laval Ave, near Prince Arthur for storage of ‘goods’ for shipment to Ireland.”

“O’Riley goes to NY, says now easy to get good over to Ireland via NY.”

“Announced at a meeting that the British Opera Coy now playing in Boston ‘The Maid of the Mountains’ had been boycotted & had to cancel dates.” More calls for boycotting British goods.

“Lloyd has resigned”

“Flanagan in a speech made recently said the Irish in Western States had strong hopes of inveigling the U.S. into war with England, & all the politicians were working to that end.”

Burns, 10 March 1921

“All the energies of the Montreal League seem to be centred on the drive for subscriptions for the relief of Irish people who are sufferers through the revolution.... Nothing of a serious nature has developed.” At a large meeting, it was announced that over \$40,000 had been subscribed to the relief fund.

“Father J. [T?] Heffernan made a lengthy speech chiefly on the subject of the parade on St Patrick’s day He advocated the lavish display of Sinn Fein flags and banners. He predicted, with all the Irish Societies, combined with the newly organized S.D.L., the largest parade ever held in Montreal. He urged everyone to show their sympathy, in the public way, with the patriots who were fighting British oppression & terrorism in Ireland.”

Charles J. Armstrong, Brig. General, GOC, M.D.4. to Chief of the General Staff, Militia Headquarters, Ottawa, 4 May 1921: “With the completion of the Financial Year 1920-21 intelligence duties in connection with the marginally noted movements [Sinn Fein Movement, C.B.U., etc.] were reduced to a minimum and it is the intention during the present month to cease taking an active part for the present in keeping these movements under observation, as it is considered that this is the duty of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.” Approved, 11 May 1921.