

## PART 1

### The Tricolour Flag

When the tricolour flag of Green, White and Orange was hoisted on the roof of the GPO at 12.30 pm Easter Monday 1916, it symbolised to all who knew, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) had taken the building and proclaimed the Sovereign Irish Republic.

The Green White and Orange tricolour had been long recognised as the flag of the IRB.

The tricolour had been adopted by Thomas Francis Meagher, a member of the IRB and adapted for the organisation. It had been draped on the coffin of James Stephens, founder of the IRB, at his funeral in 1901.

On 24th April 1916, the tricolour also flew from the FOUR COURTS, SOUTH DUBLIN UNION, JACOBS, IMPERIAL HOTEL, STEPHENS GREEN, CITY HALL. Boland's Mills and Marrowbone Lane flew the authorised flag of the Irish Volunteers, the green flag with the gold harp.

The tricolour has flown at all events under the IRB auspices since 1858 and recognised as the authorised Flag of the Irish Republic well in advance of the 1916 Rising.

### The IRBs Role in The Rising.

The IRB's role in the Easter Rising of 1916 is a significant one. Its objective to remove the yoke of enslavement on the Irish people and their land by a foreign power, namely the British Crown, had by 1916 taken 58 years of careful and strategic planning. The Rising was a major step in its overall plan to a Free and Independent Ireland.

The IRB was not a religious or class divide but an inclusive authority. Their recognition of all people as Sovereign, with a legitimate right to National Sovereignty was utmost to its campaign and its success.

For the IRB, Irish Nationality had nothing to do with religion. Nationality superseded all sectarian divisions. The question was Ireland against the Crown, not Catholic against Protestant. It was defined not by blood or faith, but by commitment to this view. The success did weigh itself on the role of all people yet within their own

ranks they were willing to step forward to its cause.

The GPO became HQ for the IRB's Military Council who were the signatories of the Proclamation acting on behalf of the Provisional Government proclaimed.

The Military Council knew in advance of the insurrection, their personal challenge, its potential outcome and yet despite lack of support from the main body of the Irish Volunteers through Mac Neills countermand, led the way.

Pearse had been asked to draft the Proclamation on the lines that were intimate to him. He submitted it to the Military Council on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 1916 in their meeting at 21 Henry Street, the home of John and Jenny Wise Power. A few small amendments were agreed, it was given to Thomas Mc Donagh for safe keeping. The document was printed in Liberty Hall. Pearse stood beneath the pillars of the GPO shortly after 12 noon on the 24<sup>th</sup> and delivered it to the People of Ireland.

### Cultural Revolution

To build a framework of National spirit, the IRB had founded many National groups from its inception in 1858.

It had helped restore an Irish pride and a deeper understanding of nationhood, which was readily displayed by those who joined their ranks, in the organisation itself and all the sub organisations it had established. Michael Davitt joined the IRB in 1865 and two years later gave up his job to become organising secretary funded by the IRB of the 'Fenians' in Northern England and Scotland.

He was arrested in London in 1870 while awaiting a delivery of arms, and was sentenced to 15 years' hard labour. The next seven years were spent in complete isolation in prison, where he was compelled to work in inhuman conditions.

With other political prisoners he was released on a ticket of leave on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1877. Michael Davitt subsequently became a member of the Supreme Council of the IRB.

Later he toured America with the active assistance of John Devoy, gaining the support of Irish Americans for his policy which was founded in the slogan "The Land for the People." Davitt was instructed by the IRB to establish the league. On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1879, the Land

League of Mayo was formally founded in Castlebar, with the active support of Charles Stewart Parnell. On October 21st, 1879, the National Land League was formed in Dublin with Parnell as President, and Davitt as one of the secretaries.

From that time right on to 1882 the Land War was fought in earnest. Seven men met in Hayes Hotel, Thurles on November 1st 1884 and founded the

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes, to organise training, gatherings and a network to communicate in the guise of sport.

Maurice Davin was elected President, Michael Cusack, John Wyse Power and John McKay were elected Secretaries. Archbishop Thomas William Croke, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt were asked to become patrons. Through their membership of the IRB, the IV and other groups, many members of the GAA took part in the Rising. GAA activities throughout the country came to a halt as many of the association's members were imprisoned. In 1916 the GAA entered the 'political arena' when it agreed to send a delegation to a Dublin Corporation conference for the purpose of forming a Political Prisoners Amnesty Association. After the 1916 Rising the British Authorities severely curtailed the movement of traffic throughout Ireland and this included trains taking people to Croke Park.

The Gaelic League was founded in 1893 for the purpose of re-establishing the Irish language and culture.

The political outgrowth of the League was culminated in 1905 with the founding of the Sinn Fein movement, (We Ourselves), by Arthur Griffith. This was the political wing of the IRB which was established to support withdrawing Irish members from the British Parliament and the setting up of an Irish Parliament along with abandoning constitutional methods of bringing about the repeal of the 1800 Act of Union. The plan called for a boycott of the British army and navy. No Irish members were to be sent to London and an Irish Parliament was to be established in Dublin. A court system would be set up, English goods boycotted and a general program of noncooperation with the English was to be instituted.

Countess Markievicz (Inghinidhe Na hEireann I na E) and Bolmer Hobson (IRB), two Irish Protestant nationalists, launched Na Fianna

Éireann in August 1909. Their new organisation for boys was the militarised reincarnation of Na Fianna Éireann that Hobson had founded in Belfast in 1902.

The Fianna was the first nationalist group in Ireland to begin drilling; it went on to train members of the I.R.B., and its members were among the few men to possess the military training necessary to become officers when the Irish Volunteers was formed in 1913. Na Fianna also organised girls' branches and its members later helped to establish Cumann na nBan.

As a direct consequence to the arming of the Ulster Volunteers with funding from Guinness, Rothschild and Kipling in 1912, members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in Dublin began drilling in secret.

While drilling continued, the IRB requested Bulmer Hobson to contact The O'Rahilly, a prominent nationalist and asked him to approach Eoin MacNeill.

It was the IRB's intention to use MacNeill as a figurehead of a new nationalist Defence Force.

Hobson helped to form the Irish Volunteers in November 1913; he recruited five senior members of the Fianna to the provisional committee of the new body: Ó Riain, Colbert, Martin, Lonergan and Liam Mellows.

The Supreme Council of the IRB met on 5 September 1914, a month after the United Kingdom declared war on Germany. At this meeting they decided to stage the rising before the war ended.

Responsibility for the planning of the rising was given to Tom Clarke and Sean Mac Dermott.

The Irish Volunteers, the smaller of the two forces resulting from the September 1914 split over support for the British war effort, set up a "headquarters staff" that included Patrick Pearse as Director of Military Organisation, Joseph Plunkett as Director of Military Operations and Thomas MacDonagh as Director of Training. Eamonn Ceant was later added as Director of Communications.

Plunkett had travelled to Germany in April 1915 to join Roger Casement. Casement had gone there from the United States the previous year with the support of Clan na Gael leader John Devoy. Together Plunkett and Casement presented a plan which involved a

German expeditionary force landing on the west coast of Ireland, while a rising in Dublin diverted the British forces so that the Germans, with the help of local Volunteers, could secure the line of the River Shannon.

In May 1915 Clarke and MacDermott established a Military Committee within the IRB, consisting of Pearse, Plunkett and Ceannt, to draw up plans for the rising.

IRB members held officer rank in the Volunteers throughout the country and would take their orders from the Military Committee, not from MacNeill.

James Connolly, head of the Irish Citizen Army (ICA), the sixth member of the Military Committee, was aware of the IRB's plans for a rising from 1915 and threatened to start a rebellion on his own if other parties failed to act. In January 1916 they convinced Connolly to hold off. Thomas MacDonagh would later become the seventh and final member of the Military Council.

The insurrection is well documented and its leaders executed.

Diarmuid Lynch, member of the Supreme Council of the IRB and the last man to leave the GPO, removed the tricolour flag, ensuring it was not captured, so that the campaign would go on.

It was brought to Vaughans Hotel, GHQ of the IRB through the underground tunnels which ran throughout Dublin City and set the tone for the next phase of the IRB's plans for a Free and Independent Ireland.

## PART 2

The Ongoing Revolution.

After the Rising, many members of the IRB, Irish Volunteers, Citizens Army, the Hibernian Rifles and many other National groups and individuals suspected of Republican connections were rounded up and incarcerated in prisons around England.

In their absence Kathleen Clarke, wife and subsequent widow of Tom Clarke, led the reorganisation of the IRB at home.

When the Republican prisoners in England were transferred to Frongach internment camp in Wales, secret IRB meetings took place amid their members incarcerated there.

The executions of the 'Leaders of the Rising' had shifted public opinion at home and abroad. Their military strike was only part of their overall action.

It's potential outcome was known in advance of the surrender by the leaders who were willing to 'sacrifice themselves for the common good'.

In 1917 the Mc Guire family purchased Vaughans Hotel from Mrs. Vaughan, situated at 29-30 Parnell Square and Granby Row in Dublin, to retain the GHQ of the IRB and utilise the underground tunnels which led there.

The campaign was ongoing to push forward the next phase of their plans for the proclaimed Sovereign Independent State, which was to contest the up and coming General election.

The Mc Guire family donated one million pounds sterling to organise the election campaign for the general election, which was held on the 14th December 1918, and to fund the establishment of all organs of the Sovereign Independent state.

Unlike Guinness's who used their money for British interests in Ireland, donating 50,000 pounds sterling in 1913 to the Ulster Volunteers to arm them against Great Britain and Ireland once a potential 'Home rule' came into effect in 1914.

Once armed the Ulster Volunteers became The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF).

It had been a major part of the overall plan of the IRB to contest the next available election with a promise of self governance achieved by the mandate from the people. The First World War had postponed that inevitably and by January 1916, the IRB removed the clause within their own constitution, which had been in place since the Roberts faction of the Fenians had invaded Canada in 1866 for any military strike, home or abroad, to free Ireland.

The IRB distanced themselves further after the Fenian Dynamite Campaign in London in 1883. They felt any premature Military strike against the might of the British empire outside of Irish soil was futile and that a cultural revolution for their language, heritage and land was where they would concentrate their efforts. Once they had empowered the people with a new sense of National identity under the noses of the invaders, they could push forward and contest by a democratic process.

However, with the arming of the Ulster Volunteers, the Citizens Army drilling and the danger of conscription, tension was mounting and the tide was turning.

At their last Supreme Council meeting in Clontarf in early 1916, the removal of this clause allowed the IRB to further their plan for a Military uprising. It was there decided "If Connolly goes out, we will too". Pearse felt it necessary to clearly define in the words of the Proclamation 'until our arms have brought about the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women'.

The election campaign promised the people of the 32 counties, under the Sinn Fein manifesto, a self governing body in Dublin free from Westminster.

The provisional government which had been constituted in 1916 to administer 'the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people' continued. Vaughans became a hub of activity for the next phase in the years 1917-18. constitution and organise a Defence Force to protect all interests of the State, the Sovereign Republic of éire. Michael Collins referred to Vaughans as 'joint number one'.

After the landslide victory, the first sitting of the elected representatives of the new governing body 'Dáil Éireann' was been planned from Vaughans.

The official 'Seals of office' of Dáil Éireann was designed, using the National emblem, the Harp and the name of Nation, eire. Vaughans Hotel is where the state, the sovereign Republic of Eire, was founded.

Dáil Éireann, the Sovereign Republic Ratified.

By the 21st January 1919, everything was in place to ratify and declare the new State, the Sovereign Republic of éire, exactly and in verbatim with the Proclamation.

The War of Independence began and under the most trying conditions, the newly democratic elected representatives of the people began their task of managing the affairs for and on behalf of the people.

The use of the tunnels which led to Vaughans was an important asset to this new revolutionary body and for the success of the War of Independence.

The reorganisation of the Irish Volunteers as the Irish Republican

Army came out of Vaughans Hotel and it is the only place the Defence Force, the IRA (Oglach na h'Eireann) can say the War of Independence is over.

Vaughans Hotel was sold to The Workers Union of Ireland in early 1953 in deference to James Connolly. Its contents were subject to a controversial auction later that year. It's interior was sadly gutted after the making of the movie 'Michael Collins' in 1996 to facilitate apartments and now a popular place to stay.

Raising money was one of the first items on the agenda of the Sovereign Irish government, as the funds provided would allow smooth running of the departments and fund its protection from Britain.

The financing of the ongoing Irish revolution from both domestic and international loans was organised.

The 'Internal and External Loans' in Ireland and America raised the money to provide Sovereign Dáil Eireann with the funds to resist British authority and to create the institutions of a working government.

Money from the sale of bonds made the Dáil government function from 1919 to 1921.

Free State and Dáil loans.

The truce with Britain, the fictitious Treaty of 1921, and the creation of the Oireachtas of the Irish Free State were not the end of the matter, however.

The Irish Free State came into existence, with the oath to the King, his heirs and successors and with membership to the British Commonwealth. The annexed six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry and Tyrone, an apartheid orange state to be known as Northern Ireland, split the Sinn Féin coalition and led to the outbreak of the Civil War.

War may have ended on the face of it with 'The British', but continued cloaked in the guise of the Free State.

The Free State government had relatively easy access to borrowing money and weapons from Britain and access to tax revenue, but the anti-Treaty forces were in an increasingly desperate position, financial and otherwise.

The Free State drafted 55,000 into their 'National Army' funded by Britain to quash the Republic.

Once again money became crucial.

As the circumstances unfolded, whichever group controlled the money raised for the Sovereign Republic through its loan drive funds and bonds in Ireland and America would determine the outcome.

In 1922 the Free State began court proceedings to prevent Dáil Éireann access to the millions raised. They claimed they were the legitimate 'Third Dáil' elected.

In 1923 the reinstated British BAR courts, through the 'winding up act 1923', which legislated under British law in Ireland to dissolve the Sovereign Courts which had been in operation under Dáil Éireann since 1919, in Dublin granted the Free State monies deposited internally.

In 1927, however, the American courts deemed that the 'Irish Free State succeeded the de jure government of Great Britain and Ireland, and NOT the revolutionary organization known as Dail Éireann'.

The court hearings did not end the money matters and disputes; it did however help explain the success of the self governing body Dáil Éireann, the War of Independence and the establishment of the Sovereign Republic of eire. It also provides an extensive history of the Free State and their ability to quash the democratically elected revolutionary Government known as the 'first and second Dail'.

It also provides the 'delicate relationship' between the Free State, the Department of State and Irish American communities in America.

The cases clearly define elements of Irish legal and diplomatic history. Follow the money trail and you will find all the answers.

### PART 3

A study of Professor Francis M. Carroll: 'Money For Ireland'. Finance, Diplomacy, Politics and the First Dáil Éireann Loans, 1919-36.

Raising money was one of the first items on the agenda for the Sovereign Irish government by the Irish and Fenian Republican Brotherhood at home and abroad, as the funds provided would allow smooth running of the departments and fund its protection from Britain.

The financing of the ongoing Irish revolution from both domestic and

international loans were organised by the IRB and Fenians in Ireland, America and other Irish centres abroad.

These 'Internal and External Loans' in Ireland and America raised the money to provide the Sovereign Dáil Éireann government with funds to resist British authority and to create the institutions of a working government. Money from the sale of bonds made the Dáil government function from 1919 to 1921.

This part of the history of the Irish struggle for self-government, in the raising of money in Ireland and America and the financing of Dáil Éireann government operations has been told by Professor Francis M. Carroll in his book 'Money For Ireland'. Finance, Diplomacy, Politics and the First Dáil Éireann Loans, 1919-36.

Carroll makes reference in his preface to Kathleen Burks work, 'The Sinews of War' where she asserts the American financing of the British war effort between 1914-18 was the muscle power behind the 'Allied victory in the Great War'. Carroll states his book is about 'The Sinews of War' in Ireland and the sources of financing during the War of Independence, Civil War and the following decade. However, his work is more than that. It covers the Political, Diplomatic and Financial history of that time.

Francis M. Carrolls book takes an objective view into these years, extensively covering the legal disputes between the Free State Government and the Sovereign Dáil Éireann, its appointed trustees of the 'Dáil loans'. He looks into the injunctions, legal proceedings, judgements and later the various legal opinions surrounding the Free State challenge into the ownership of the Dáil Éireann bond drive at home and in America.

He examines Dáil Éireann's need for money and it's Bond Certificate Drive in America.

Carroll looks in dept at the Treaty crisis, the Civil War, and the rival claims of the Dáil funds.

After the landslide victory in the general election of 1918 for the IRB's Sinn Fein manifesto to set up a self governing body in Dublin free from the grip of Westminster, the elected representatives set up Dáil

Éireann at the Mansion House, Dublin on the 21st January 1919 and proceeded to administer the institutes of a working government.

The Irish Free State came into existence in 1922 with the oath to the King, his heirs and successors and with membership to the British Commonwealth. The annexed six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry and Tyrone, an apartheid orange state to be known as Northern Ireland, split the Sinn Féin coalition and led to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Carroll looks at an overview, without complexities of opinion, of the political, diplomatic and financial history of that time period. The court hearings help define the facts as to the order of events in Ireland before, during and after the 'Civil War'.

In 1922 the Free State began court proceedings to prevent Dáil Éireann access to the millions raised. The Free State claimed they were the legitimate 'Third Dáil' elected.

In 1923 the British BAR courts were reinstated in Dublin under the 'Winding up Act-1923. These courts granted the Free State monies deposited to the 'Dáil Loan' internally in Ireland.

The legal proceedings examined both sides of the claim to the funds.

Carroll's work focuses on the judgements in the BAR Courts of Judges Johnston, Meridith and Fitzgibbon. Each giving their determinations based on the arguments presented.

Fitzgibbon focused on the 'proposed articles of agreement between Great Britain and Ireland' which were agreed marginally by Dáil Éireann but acceptance and ratification of it as a Treaty were made by the members elected to the Parliament of Southern Ireland, based on the British 'Ireland Act' of 1920, known later as the Free State (Saorstát Éireann). In fact the British themselves would only negotiate and treat with that body, the Parliament of Southern Ireland under their 1920 Ireland Act, they failed to recognise Dáil Éireann.

A point to note, there is no mention of Dáil Éireann in negotiations, articles or the Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland.

However, the three judge panel ignored this fact, Judge Fitzgibbon stating; "It is a settled principle of International Law that upon the suppression of a rebellion the lawful government upon reestablishing its authority, succeeds to all the property of the usurping government".

And went on to deem " The Government of the Irish Free State so far succeeds to that of the second Dáil by conquest or overthrow, is founded upon a Treaty entered into by the delegates plenipotentiary of the Second Dáil and ratified by that body".

He stated "If the British Government had been successful in crushing the insurrectionary movement in Ireland it could have recovered and claimed the funds in question as the success of the Revolutionary Government which had collected them".

Meredith stated; "Accordingly, argument for the defendant became more plausible when the significance of the Declaration of Independence and the Oath of Allegiance was stressed as providing material for the case". He went on to say " The Irish Republic may not have attained complete Independence, it may not have obtained International recognition, it may not have become the de fact Government over all the territories that it claimed as its rightful heritage; but at the very least it had advanced to such a stage of self realisation as made it something more than a mere association for the promotion of a particular ideal and it had at all events attained such sovereign authority in its own concerns as enabled it to enter a treaty with a power it sought to shake itself free".

Johnston stated in his judgement; "In or about April 1919, representatives from all parts of Ireland were summoned by persons purporting to act on behalf of an Irish Republic to attend a certain assembly in Dublin. The said assembly, under the name Dáil Éireann by resolution ratified the Declaration of Independence of Ireland and an Irish Republic and anointed ministers responsible to the said Dáil Éireann".

Later in his deliberations he said "Further, the legislation of the Free State has thought fit, for reasons which I have no doubt were regarded as equitable and just, to give a limited recognition to some of the Government activities of Dáil Éireann. I may refer in particular to the Dáil Éireann Courts (winding up) Act (no.36 of 1923) and the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act (no.9 of 1923)".

All three Judges ruled in favour of the Free States claim to the Internal loans raised but granted the Trustee of the Dáil Loans, Stephen O Mara, who was contesting the case, expenses to be taken from the Dáil loan fund.

Francis M. Carrolls work also covered the Dáil Funds hearing in the New York Courts, the various arguments put forward and the correspondence before, during and after the case.

We can see from Carrolls extensive work, that in 1927, the American BAR courts deemed that the 'Irish Free State succeeded the de jure government of Great Britain and Ireland, and not the revolutionary organization known as Dail Éireann'.

And therefore not entitled to the monies raised.

It was agreed that due to Dáil Éireann not getting international recognition and having been deemed an illegal assembly by the British, the loan drive was illegal in British law.

The remaining funds were to be paid back to the subscribers.

Judge Peters Judgement is covered in full in Carrolls book as are the various legal opinions after the case.

Friends Of Irish Freedom (FOIF) which had been set up by Irish and Fenian Republican Brotherhood had rallied to collect funds for the new Irish Republic through James McGuire and objected to the Free State claims on the monies they had raised.

Carroll looks into the Free State considerations of appealing the decision by Judge Peters and their various meetings and correspondences.

In one meeting Cosgrave concluded "The decision was not without its compensations" inferring to the Free State not being responsible for paying back millions (two million was mentioned but most likely four million) to the patrons of the American Dáil funds which had been spent by the Dáil government between 1920-1922.

Saorstát Éireann had already 'borrowed' £10,000,000 and was heavily in debt.

The Free State did not appeal Peter's decision.

Professor Smiddy who had been corresponding with the Free State was cabled "Government has decided not to appeal Bonds case"

As the circumstances unfolded, whichever group controlled the money raised for the Sovereign Republic through its loan drive funds and bonds in Ireland and America would determine the outcome.

The Free State's ability to deny the Republicans access to the loan

funds through a ten-year court battle would prove a powerful weapon in defeating the Republicans.

Smiddy pointed out that the primary objective of the injunction had been successful in "depriving Anti Treaty Forces the funds during the civil war and that the courts decision released the Irish Free State from any obligation to pay the money back".

The court hearings did not end the money matters or disputes and Carroll goes further to look into new claims for the Bond Certificates in America.

The court hearings did however help explain the success of the self governing body Dáil Éireann, the War of Independence and the establishment of the Sovereign Republic of eire. It also provides an extensive history of the Free State and their ability to quash the democratically elected revolutionary Government known as the 'first and second Dail'.

It also provides the 'delicate relationship' between the Free State, the Department of State and Irish American communities in America.

The cases clearly define elements of Irish legal and diplomatic history. On Page 114 Carroll concludes; "The decision in Irish Free State v. Garanty Safe Deposit Company contained a large measure of irony inasmuch as it reinforced the Republican opponents of the Irish Free State. It confirmed their view that the Irish Free State was the "Freak" State rather than the political descendant, legally and democratically arrived at through the process of representative government of the first and second Dáili."

Francis M. Carroll's book 'Money For Ireland'. Finance, Diplomacy, Politics and the First Dáil Éireann Loans, 1919-36 is a must read.

In Addition:

The civil war had depleted numbers within the IRB.

The close relationships forged in the establishment of the Sovereign Irish Republic had split during the civil war and now left the Republican side without access to the monies they had raised, their members had been executed or jailed and their options dwindling.

Three wars and a revolution in a few short years, had taken its toll.

Some attempts had been made to establish a branch of the IRB within the Free State under Richard Mulcahy, however the oath of allegiance within article 17 of Saorstát Éireann Constitution was in direct conflict with the IRB Oath of allegiance. His attempts were not accepted by the remaining members who had remained faithful to the Republic.

Mulcahy abandoned his efforts.

The remaining members of the IRB and other active bodies like Cuman na mBan, the IRA, iníghinidhe na hÉireann with others were living in dangerous times.

Throughout the years that followed, the ‘Anti-treaty’ Republican side continued to recognise the Sovereign Republic exactly and in verbatim to the 1916 Proclamation for and on behalf of the people arguing the first and second Sovereign Dail had never been disbanded and that the constitution of 1919 remained.

They met regularly amid those delicate and treacherous years.

In 1937 DeValera amended the 1922 Saorstát constitution and created a new constitution for the 26 counties.

Article 4 of the constitution adopted that Ireland -26 counties, formally known as the Freestate be named Eire.

The once great Republican did not use the occasion to claim the 26 counties as a Republic.

The Partitioned 26 counties known as ‘Southern Ireland’ by the British, which had become the Freestate, was now in 1937 known as Eire.

In 1948 the Freestate parliament established a ‘Republic of Ireland act’ which in section two of the act ‘described’ the 26 county Freestate as the ‘Eire/Republic of Ireland’.

The members sitting in parliament of the Southern Ireland assembly were as unclear about this aspect of the act as the next.

The act did not change the name of the state but gave it a description.

Costello who introduced the bill to the Oireachtas at the time explained ‘... article 4 of the constitution (she) will find that the name of the state is Eire. Section 2 of this bill declares “this state shall be described as the Republic of Ireland.

The Republican communities continued to meet and in 1948 Republicans were still enduring arrests and execution under the Freestate.

In 1949 the British responded with an 'Ireland act 1949' which formally referred to the Freestate 26 counties as 'Republic of Ireland' in any future UK legislation only and also provided that the 26 counties from that day forth be known as Eire 'the part of Ireland heretofore known as Eire'.

On the day the act came into force the King, George VI sent this message to Sean T O Kelly

" I send you my sincere good wishes on this day, being well aware of the neighborly links which hold the people of the 'Republic of Ireland' in close association with my subjects of the United Kingdom. I hold in most grateful memory the services and sacrifices of the men and women of your country who rendered gallant assistance to our cause in recent war and who made notable contribution to our victories. I pray that every blessing be with you today and in the future.'

The UK's aversion to using "Ireland" as the formal name for the state has remained a source of diplomatic friction.

In 1996, the constitution review group considered amending the constitution to declare that the 26 counties/Ireland/Eire should be named 'Republic of Ireland'.

However decided against such an amendment.

The fact remains Ireland 26 counties is not a Republic but only referred to as such.

The present day Oireachtas was established by the British Ireland act of 1920.

The IRB and other old Republican groups continue to this day.

Each year on the 21st January a commemoration is held in the Mansion house led by the current IRB President William James McGuire.

Inghinidhe na hEireann 2015