**NYPL Maloney IHP 34**

**Notes for Casement’s Dungannon speech of 8 June 1914**

Opening Remarks,

The Volunteers of 1782.

It was here in Dungannon the Irish Volunteers arose. Here within a stone's throw of us. And I will tell you this: One of the descendants of the Volunteers, a Dobbs, was with me the other day at Cushendall and stood beside the Irish Volunteers of 1914, as his ancestor did here one hundred and thirty five years ago. The red blood flows in Ireland still.

Yes, my friends, if you are true to yourselves "today shall be as yesterday and the red blood flows in Ireland still.

We are told Ireland cannot exist without British gold. We need doles from Westminster or we are bankrupt tomorrow. Irish volunteers do you know what you are doing? You are going, perhaps first of all, to disprove that lie. The Irish Volunteer movement is one to lead Ireland back from mendicancy to manhood.

This is no poor country, but an exceedingly rich country.

Proceed to prove it:

1st; We are the best market that John Bull has. He sells us some 70,000,000 pounds worth of his goods every year. More than he sells to the U.S.A., to Germany, to France, to any Govt. power in the world. He does all our carrying and transport for us – on his own terms, and make a high profit from it. Note the 38 per cent of the Hamburg–Amerika line being hunted out of the by the British govt.

2nd; Point out the land purchase instalments all go to him – John Bull lent no money to Ireland. None came here. He merely devised a financial means for us buying out his landlords instead of shooting them.

3rd Note the extraordinary expenditure on steamers, docks etc to deal with the traffic between Great Britain and Ireland, for better and more steamers between Great Britain and Ireland than between Great Britain and the Continent.

And yet we are asked to believe that we are a "poverty stricken country"!

Does a man spend millions – a business man – on a bad business? Not much.

Who made the Cunard Co? The Irish immigrants to the tune of fully 1,000,000 pounds a year for 50 or 60 years. The British mercantile marine very largely built upon, fed and maintained by this "poverty stricken country" that we are asked to believe is only maintained by the doles of Great Britain, and can only exist on British charity. This is one of the Master Lies of modern times. And in order that a United Ireland, controlling its own resources should not at once dispel it, our exploiting friend across the water Shawn B who made such huge profits from Irish disunion, has fastened on us his chief agency for holding Ireland  
down and keeping it in his grip – the Master Curse if Ireland – Sectarian Animosity.

The Irish Volunteers are going to slay that monster. We mean to kill sectarian animosity. This is our aim – our hope – our fixed purpose. We believe that if we can build up in Irishmen once again, manly reliance on themselves, a proud consciousness of and belief in their own manhood we shall assuredly bring all sections together; first in a spirit of emulation and friendly rivalry – next in one of comradeship in arms – and at length, when we have learned the secret that the armed man alone keepeth his own house, and armed Ireland will determine to be Master in his own House. And in that way we shall finally settle "The English question" that has afflicted us for so long.

Give of your courage; give of your means; give of your hope and affection to arm the Irish Volunteers.

An armed Ireland will be a self–respecting Ireland; a self–respecting Ireland will be a united Ireland; and a united Ireland will be a free Ireland.