

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient, decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. The droplets are rendered with soft shadows and highlights, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. They are scattered across the frame, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners.

THE GERMAN PLOT AND THE 1918- 19 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC: A PERFECTLY PROPAGANDIC DISEASE

DR IDA MILNE, IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL MARIE CURIE FELLOW

SINN FÉIN'S PROPAGANDISTS ADAPT THE NEW TOOL OF FLU TO THEIR PRESS 'SPIN' IN THREE WAYS:

- 1. FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE MOVEMENT WHO DIE FROM INFLUENZA ARE EULOGIZED IN THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS.
- 2. THE MOVEMENT USES A SERIOUS OUTBREAK OF INFLUENZA AMONG NATIONALIST PRISONERS IN BELFAST GAOL TO HIGHLIGHT THE AWFULNESS OF THEIR PRISON CONDITIONS.
- 3. THE PROPAGANDISTS USE THE 'FLU' TO TURN AROUND THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN THE SINN FÉIN LEADERSHIP BY INTERNING THEM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

EAMON DE VALERA



ARTHUR GRIFFITH



German Plot internees in Holloway Gaol

Kathleen
Clarke



Maud Gonne



Constance
Markievics

CAPT. RICHARD COLEMAN, I.R.A.
SWORDS.



DIED USK JAN 9TH DEC 1918

Richard
Coleman

THE WORLD'S NEWS.

SINN FEIN PRISONER'S DEATH IN USK

MR. COLEMAN'S SAD END

CHAPLAIN'S STORY

HIS BROTHER OUTSIDE AT THE TIME

REMAINS COMING FOR A

man's death will come as a painful shock to the Irish public. There are others suffering from the influenza scourge, and unless something is immediately done we shall probably have further victims.

These men are in English prisons because they did their part in organising the country against conscription. Are we going to let them die without a vigorous united protest against their continued detention?

On Oct. 25th I wrote to the Prison Commissions suggesting that in view of the rapid course of the all-prevading scourge,

TH
UH
CO
DI
Th
throu
Colog
with
Sp
Mun
mass

Following
Coleman's death,
Darrell Figgis' letter
to Mr Shortt, in the
Evening Herald, 10
December 1918.

“ ‘I would suggest that with 6 months under feeding with close unhealthy confinement, little resistance would be offered to this infection were it introduced. If these men suffer in health, as would appear inevitable from such conditions, I wish to warn you of your responsibility in this matter.’

The Irish people, in a few days, will be given an opportunity of expressing their abhorrence of the English Government's treatment of Irishmen whose crime to love their country. Let the ripost be clear and unmistakable!”

To the Editor "Irish Independent."

Sir—The death of Mr. Coleman in Usk Prison adds another name to the long roll of Irish martyrs sacrificed by English military despotism. Like the 100 Irishmen and women arrested last May, Mr. Coleman was not charged with any offence; like the rest of us, he read in newspapers the fantastic accusations of Mr. Lloyd George and of Mr. Shortt, and, like the rest of us, he was denied the right of reply.

Now he is dead. The English authorities will say he died of influenza, but that does not lessen their responsibility.

In prison one's health is gradually weakened, one has less power of resisting illness. One has

MAUD GONNE MCBRIDE:

**COLEMAN'S DEATH ADDS A
NEW IRISH MARTYR TO THE
LONG ROLL 'SACRIFICED BY
ENGLISH MILITARY DESPOTISM'**

Irish Independent, 12 December 1918

WHY DID THEY DIE ?

BRIAN BORU	1014	NOT	to give a colour- able sanction to the slavery of Ireland.
EARL OF DESMOND	1467		
SHANE O'NEILL ...	1567		
HUGH ROE.			
O'DONNELL	1605	NOT	to secure the Partition of Ireland.
OWEN ROE	1649		
BISHOP McMAHON	1650		
FATHER SHEEHY ...	1700		
ARCHBISHOP			
O'HURLEY	1798	NOT	to pledge to a foreign Govern- ment the treasure and the manhood of Ireland.
FR. JOHN MURPHY	1798		
LORD EDWARD			
FITZGERALD	1798		
WOLFE TONE	1798		
EMMET	1803		
O'NEILL CROWLEY	1807	NOT	to enable out-of- date political hacks to bargain over Ireland.
PEARSE	1916		
CONNOLLY	1910		
ASHE	1917		
<u>COLEMAN</u>	1918		

THEY DIED TO SECURE THE
LIBERATION OF THE OLDEST
POLITICAL PRISONER IN THE
WORLD—

IRELAND!

RELEASE THE PRISONERS !
RELEASE IRELAND !

Advertisement and Coleman
picture from the *Irish Independent*,
11 and 13 December 1918

In 14 B D.O.R. Reg. made April last, I understand that you are responsible for the conditions of internment of the Irish deported prisoners.



Mr. Richard Coleman,
Of Swords, interned Irish prisoner, who died in
Ulster Prison.

Pierse McCan,
MP for Tipperary East,
dies 6 March 1919.



'OUR LATEST HERO-MARTYR WHOSE STAINLESS,
SINLESS SOUL HAS FREED ITSELF, AND HIS GREAT
FEARLESS SPIRIT HAS GONE FORTH AMID A
NATION'S GRIEF AND SORROW.... WORTHY
INDEED TO BE LINKED WITH ASHE AND COLEMAN.'

Tipperary Star, 15 March 1919