

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF Dartford.Confidential report for month of May 1914.

I. I beg to report that the state of this County is peaceable. No person has been receiving protection during the past month either constantly or by patrol.

The Irish Volunteer movement both in the County & City has made very considerable progress during the month. There are now four branches of the Irish National Volunteers in the County with 365 members & one branch in the City with 710 members making a total of 1075 members. Additional branches will probably be formed shortly in other places in the County.

The class of persons joining this force are on the whole respectable consisting for the most part of clerks, shop assistants & superior artisans. In Dungeness a good many labourers are enrolled. This movement is now supported by all classes of Nationalists with the exception of members of the All for Ireland League who up to the present have held aloof. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, G.A. Association & Gaelic League are all strong supporters of the Volunteer movement & the force is largely

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

recruited from the members of these organizations especially from the former of them whose president R. A. Kelly is Commander of the Watford branch. A number of persons of considerable local influence have attended & spoken at meetings held in furthering the organization of these various branches. On the City, in addition to R. A. Kelly who is the manager of a hardware business & president of the City branch Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Mayor, Aldermen R. Power, & Messrs Keane & Murphy solicitors have identified themselves with the movement. At Lismore Dr Donnelly (son) J. P., Dr Donnelly (son) J. P., & P. F. Walsh (of Tallent) are persons of influence who strongly support the local Volunteer force. At Dungannon J. A. Lynch (newspaper proprietor & editor) & Dr. Bennett the Shopkeeper & District Councillor have taken up the same attitude. The Roman Catholic clergy with a few exceptions are in sympathy with the movement & several of them both in the City & County have expressed their sympathy either by writing letters in favour of it or by attending meetings. I am of opinion however

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

that the majority of these gentlemen, though approving of the force in its present form, would be sorry to see them armed & capable of really proving a disturbing factor.

The organisation of these five branches of National Volunteers is rapidly improving. In the City & at Dismore they are divided into Companies & all of them are drilled regularly, generally twice or three times in the week. A proportion of the City force have also been given some mobility instruction for which purpose a Lee Enfield No. 1 rifle is used. This rifle has been provided by P. Burke a cycle agent in Waterford. About twenty five of the City force carry sword bayonets & a few of them have water bottles & bandoliers. A number of them both in the County & town carry dummy wooden rifles & they are drilled in the use of them.

There are four drill instructors attached to the Waterford City Corps all of whom have had military training. Eight are attached to the three branches in Cappoquin district all of whom have had some military training except one. Three instructors are attached to the Dungannon branch all of whom have had military training.

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

- II. Six Indictable offences were reported during the month viz.
- (i) Setting fire to heathen on a mountain at Glenary district of Cappoquin which occurred on 16.5.14 & for which a claim of £30 compensation has been made. Record funds.
 - (ii) Attempted suicide of Kate Butters which occurred at Mooneville district of Cappoquin on 18.5.14 & in which informations have been refused. Record funds.
 - (iii) Alleged highway robbery & indecent assault on Kate Bond which occurred at Dismore (Cappoquin district) on 29.5.14 & for which a man named Edward Bond has been arrested. Record funds.
 - (iv) Threatening letter received by Thomas Power of Dungarvan on 18.5.14. Recorded.
 - (v) Setting fire to a dairy attached to the dwelling house of Maurice Shanahan Castletown Tramem. Watford district which occurred on 13.5.14 & for which a man named Richard Norman has been arrested. Record funds.
 - (vi) Serious assault on John Flavin which occurred at Tramem, Watford district on 22.5.14 & for which four men John, Joseph, Denis & David Power were arrested. Record funds.

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

- III. No evictions took place during the month & no rented farms were either retained or surrendered. Satisfactory relations exist between landlord & tenant.
- IV. No Secret Societies exist in the County or City. A list of the various organizations is attached. There have been generally inactivity during the month with the exception of the G. A. A. & A. O. H. branches which have interested themselves in the Volunteer movement.
- V. No Boycotting or Intimidation exist.
- VI. The passing of the third Reading of The Home Rule Bill was celebrated throughout this County & in the City. Processions took place in Watford & in the principal County towns, & bonfires were lit. In Watford itself a large procession was formed which paraded the principal streets & suburbs & which was attended by the Mayor, & by Mr. Martin Murphy M.P. Three bands & about 400 of the local volunteer force formed part of the procession. The general feeling throughout the County & City seems to be

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

that all serious danger to the Bill becoming the law of the land is now over. The proposed Amending Act is not considered as a serious drawback, as the opinion among Nationalists is that the Government will not go further than the six years exclusion already held out, & that as it seems certain that this proposal will not be accepted by the Unionist party, the probability is that the Bill in its present form will become law. I have little doubt that if, by any combination among Parties an amending Act was passed totally excluding Weston or a portion of it, considerable resentment would be aroused here, though it is hard to say what form that resentment would take. Much I think would depend on the attitude taken up & the advice given by the Nationalist leaders. These latter seem now to be giving the Volunteer Movement their support, & I feel sure the reason is

Crime—Special.

Hd. Qrs. File No. _____ S.

COUNTY OF _____

that they recognise in this force a
weapon which will be of great use as
an argument in preventing any further
concessions to the Ulster party, & if it
failed as an argument an attempt would
I believe be made to use it as an
instrument in enforcing their views.

W. T. Pigg, D.D.
for C. I. McLeave
Waterford 1. 6. 14.