

No. 6512/3

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SECRET.

The Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

Inspector-General's Confidential Report for month of AUGUST, 1914, with County Inspectors' Reports for same period.

Precis of County Inspectors' Reports attached.

*Chief Secretary
Submitted for
your information as
regards the state of
public opinion in
Ireland on the outbreak
of the war. W.D.H.
16/8*

*Under Secretary
Submitted
W.D.H.*

21.9.14

*Chief Secretary
J.D.S.
21.9.14.*

*Seen by Chief Secy.
A.P.M.
21/9/14*

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*J.D.S.
23.9.14*

PRECIS OF COUNTY INSPECTORS' REPORTS FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1914.

ANTRIM. County quiet and peaceable; 9 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; no special activity on the part of political societies; no party demonstrations on 12th or 15th August; 3000 Ulster Volunteers armed with rifles and bayonets, with Maxim gun section, engaged in extensive field manoeuvres on 3rd August; no information that arms have been illegally imported during the month; the War has overshadowed all other interests and for the time being all parties appear to have forgotten their differences; Unionists entertain feelings of distrust and unrest regarding the Home Rule question and the motives and objects of the Irish National Volunteers; Distress Committees formed all over the County and large amount of funds collected for relief, but there is no distress so far; working parties everywhere engaged making comforts for the troops; "short time" general in the linen trade; other industries not yet affected; harvest generally satisfactory; coastline, railways, waterworks, etc. specially guarded, but there was no attempt at interference.

ARMAGH. County very quiet; no special protection required; 8 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 20 evicted farms, 15 of them derelict; political societies inactive; the war has undoubtedly allayed party feeling; the Ulster Volunteers had parades with arms on a few occasions; a great many of their drill instructors, as well as those of the National Volunteers, have been recalled to the colours and in consequence there have not been so many drills on either side; the U.V.F. as a body slow in making a move to join the Army pending a decision on the Home Rule question; the National Volunteers acting similarly; the latter have elected a Committee of 12 for the County, the majority of whom are in favour of British action regarding the war; no increase in number of rifles obtained by I.N.V.; mills in Armagh and Lurgan working "short time"; no appearance of distress so far; considerable number of the poorer classes have enlisted; crops fair; large number of horses purchased for the Army and good prices obtained.

BELFAST. General state of the City peaceable; owing to outbreak of the war, party feeling has to a considerable extent died down, but a good deal of anxiety is felt on both sides as to the fate of the Home Rule Bill; a strong feeling against its being put on the statute book until present crisis is over; 24 indictable offences; A.O.H. and G.A.A. active; U.I.L. inactive; one regiment of the Irish National Volunteers in Belfast numbering 3,250; of this number about 1200 who were Reservists have been recalled to their Regiments; 28 Unionist Clubs, they had five route marches under arms; the Ulster Volunteers fairly active; on 1st Aug. two strong contingents marched through the streets fully armed and with Machine guns, and many drills and route marches took place during the month; since the revocation of the arms proclamation, two Colt guns and about 1400 rifles, with ammunition, have been imported: most of this believed to be for the U.V.F.

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CARLOW. County in a peaceable state; 5 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; political organizations inactive; a public meeting in Carlow on 4th August advocated the fusion of Unionist and Nationalist Volunteers for the common defence of the realm, and resulted in the formation of a mounted corps 30 strong composed of all shades of opinion; promise of a plentiful harvest; prices for stock and farm produce good; people generally hopeful of the success of the Allies in the war.

CAVAN. County in a fairly peaceable condition, the most disturbed being the sub-district of Kingscourt in connection with an evicted farm dispute; feeling between Ulster Volunteers and Irish National Volunteers much better since outbreak of war; there is no sympathy for the Germans; 2 persons under constant protect and one protected by patrols; 7 indictable offences; 2 evictions; 11 evicted farms, 2 of them derelict; all the political organizations fairly active; no serious boycotting.

CLARE. No change in condition of County, but disturbed portions cannot be said to have in any way improved; outrages fewer as people are busy with harvest; 19 persons under constant protection and 55 protected by patrols; 8 indictable offences; one eviction; 38 evicted farms, 23 of them being derelict; sales of two estates under Land Purchase Acts took place affecting 28 and 7 tenants respectively; no combination against payment of rent; Irish National Volunteer movement gaining ground; membership 5,200; all do not drill, and not many of them would join the Army; various political societies quiet; no boycotting; some intimidation; great interest being taken in the War, public opinion is on the side of England and a bitter hatred and fear of Germany exists; 5 aliens arrested and handed over to the Military Authorities; promise of a plentiful harvest; prices for farm produce remunerative.

CORK, E.R. Riding and City peaceable and orderly; 5 persons under constant protection and 12 by patrols; 7 indictable offences; 29 evicted farms—9 derelict; tenants on the Lisle and Aldworth estates withholding rents to secure better terms of purchase; political organizations inactive excepting the Irish National Volunteers in which there is a lack of clear and decided leading; no boycotting or intimidation; mobilization of Reserves satisfactorily carried out; shortage of hay and straw but otherwise crops excellent.

CORK, W.R. General condition of Riding continues peaceable; 2 persons under constant protection and 3 by patrols; 6 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 15 evicted farms—13 derelict; 30 branches of the Irish National Volunteers with total membership of 2908; nearly all practice drill without arms; the attitude of the Volunteers towards the war is influenced by party politics, the Sinn Fein members very extreme in their views and opposed to England, but the majority of the Volunteers are anti-German; harvest prospects promising; potato blight has appeared in many places; tone of local Press strongly anti-German.

DONEGAL. Condition of County generally peaceable; no agrarian agitation; political unrest considerably abated since outbreak of the War, but there is mutual distrust by the two bodies of Volunteers over the question of Home Rule which has prevented young men from joining the Army; a number of drill instructors of both sections of Volunteers have joined the colours and in consequence drilling has not been carried on with much enthusiasm; 11 indictable offences; 3 evictions; 121 evicted farms—84 derelict; rents still withheld by 26 tenants on Inishfree Island; relations on the whole between landlord and tenant remain satisfactory; some trouble in connection with Owena Fishery at present held by the C.D. Board; political organizations inactive; 77 branches of Irish National Volunteers with membership of 10,781; measures are being taken to procure arms and money is systematically collected; a quantity of rifles have been obtained but the actual number is unknown; Ulster Volunteers well and efficiently armed; no boycotting or intimidation; harvest operations in full swing; potatoes abundant, grain crops very fair; the feeling of the people over the War is strongly sympathetic with England and strongly anti-German.

DOWN. County in its usual peaceful state; 7 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 12 evicted farms—6 derelict; the War has overshadowed all political movements; very little life in either section of Volunteers as numbers of their drill instructors have rejoined the colours; some dissatisfaction regarding the Home Rule question, both parties eagerly awaiting developments; harvest prospects good.

DUBLIN. County in a peaceful condition; no indictable offences recorded; no agrarian trouble; political organizations though well organized generally inactive, excepting the Irish National Volunteers which is strong throughout the county and actively supported by R.C. Clergy; there are 32 branches, membership 4,225; a great number of their instructors have been called to the colours, considerable amount of money collected for equipment; much progress made in drill; Skerries, Swords and Howth branches have small supplies of arms; there is a split between the Redmondite and Sinn Fein members of Swords branch; plenty of employment for labourers; harvest operations proceeding well and crops are good; general opinion is on the side of the Government in the War

FERMANAGH. County peaceable; political tension relaxed since commencement of the War; 3 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 9 evicted farms—1 derelict; A.O.H. and U.I.L. inactive; Irish National Volunteers not known to have any arms but considerable sums have been collected for purchase of arms; Ulster Volunteers armed with rifles; drilling by both sections of Volunteers has slackened as many of the instructors have been called up on mobilization; Army recruiting has not been successful up to the present as both sides are holding aloof owing to uncertainty of position regarding Home Rule; no boycotting or intimidation; agricultural outlook good; a large number of horses of excellent quality purchased by Government at remunerative prices; no distress so far.

GALWAY, E.R. Riding continues in an unsatisfactory and unsettled condition owing to agrarian agitation carried on by U.I.L., United Estates Committee and Secret Societies, and also by the steady growth of the Irish National Volunteer movement; Athenry and Loughrea are the districts principally affected, but there has been a light improvement during the month and outrages have considerably decreased; 3 persons under constant protection and 89 by patrols; 4 indictable offences; 27 evicted farms—13 derelict; relations between landlord and tenant good except on Churcher estate where there is a combination against payment of rent; 11 political organizations in the County; in addition there are well organized and dangerous Secret Societies; boycotting and intimidation practised; one person wholly and 5 partially boycotted; 56 branches of the Irish National Volunteers, total membership 4,790; since the War commenced, and especially since Mr. Redmond's offer in Parliament, there has been a noticeable falling off in activity and drilling, and the craze to procure arms has for the present ceased; none of the members have volunteered for service nor is it likely that they will; they fear they may be compelled to serve if Germany is successful; while the people cannot be described as loyal to the Empire during the present War the feeling is undoubtedly improved since its commencement; they are convinced that if England is beaten this country will suffer.

GALWAY, W.R. The Riding has not been in so peaceable a state for years; this is attributable to the War and to fear of German invasion; the worst part of the Riding is at Clarenbridge which is in the grip of the local Volunteers nearly every member of which is connected with a Secret Society and a moonlighter; some of them have revolvers; shots fired at police patrols by members of the National Volunteers on three occasions; 4 persons under constant protection and 62 by patrols; 8 indictable offences; relations between landlord and tenant good and rents fairly well paid where demanded; 22 evicted farms—13 derelict; U.I.L. inactive; 54 branches of Irish National Volunteers, total membership 5,179; drills held occasionally generally after dark; the instructors as a rule wholly incompetent and the drills a farce; arms number about 50 amongst the lot; Volunteers not enlisting in the Army; Secret Society exists in a large part of the Riding and entirely dominates the I.N. Volunteers at Clarenbridge; boycotting exists to a small extent and intimidation is rife; crops above the average; no distress; the whole topic is the War and feeling against Germany is very strong.

KERRY. General state of the County satisfactory; 8 persons under constant protection and 6 protected by patrols; 14 indictable offences—they include a case of five cattle driven over a cliff and killed, and two murders; 74 evicted farms—18 derelict; one eviction; relations between landlord and tenant satisfactory; political societies inactive; 8 branches of the Irish National Volunteers with total membership of 579 formed during the month; most of the branches are without leaders or instructors, drill carried on in a half-hearted way; no fresh case of boycotting or intimidation; an extremely strong anti-German feeling in the county which is partly religious; tourist traffic ruined, first by the formation of the Volunteers and then by the war; prospect of considerable distress in Killarney and other tourist centres; weather unfavourable for harvest operations; good prices for agricultural produce; tone of local press temperate.

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KILDARE. County in a state of peace; 5 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 4 evicted farms, 3 derelict; enthusiasm of Irish National Volunteers has cooled owing to harvest operations and the recall of instructors to the colours; Kildare branches discourage enlistment, and Unionist and non-political supporters are likely to drop out; the War has overshadowed the Home Rule question; Lord Kitchen-er's new Army receiving any amount of recruits but they are principally of the corner-boy class; Volunteers not enlisting; harvest prospects good; tone of local Nationalist Press moderate.

KILKENNY County generally in a peaceable and satisfactory condition; one person under constant protection; 2 indictable offences; 32 evicted farms—6 derelict; Irish National Volunteer movement continues to spread; drilling not carried on systematically owing to recall of instructors to their Regiments; political organizations remain unchanged; attempted boycotting of Wm Dwyer does not cause him serious inconvenience; course of the War sympathetically followed by all classes and greatest confidence felt in result of British operations; party feeling practically non-existent, but the majority feel they are entitled to have the Home Rule Bill placed on the Statute Book.

KING'S CO. General condition of the county peaceable and orderly; 5 persons under constant protection and 4 by patrols; 4 indictable offences; 24 evicted farms—11 derelict; Irish National Volunteers showed great enthusiasm at beginning of the month after Mr. Redmond's speech, but none, excepting Reservists, have joined the new Army; since departure of Reservists, drill has deteriorated; there are about 10 rifles and 1500 rounds of ammunition in the County; political societies inactive; boycotting at Ballinowlart has relaxed; local trade and industries carried on as usual; harvest operations progressing in a highly satisfactory manner, and there is no want of employment.

LEITRIM. General condition of County continues peaceable; one indictable offence; no agrarian trouble; political societies fairly active; Irish National Volunteer movement spreading extensively; 40 branches now in county with membership of over 4,000; drill declining owing to absence of instructors with the colours and also to the fear of some members that they may be required to serve at the front; none of the Volunteers are armed; 5 rifles are at Carrick-on-shannon for drill purposes; people of the county unanimously in favour of the British in the War and hope Germany may be well beaten; crops on the whole very good; general tone of local press moderate; no boycotting or intimidation.

LIMERICK. General state of County and City peaceable; 2 persons under constant protection and 10 by patrols; 10 indictable offences; demand for reduction of rent on Lord Muskerry's Estate; relations between landlord and tenant otherwise friendly; 15 evicted farms—7 derelict; some unrest still continues at Friarstown over the division by the Estates Commissioners of the Roche-Kelly Estate; Irish National Volunteers not very active though movement is supported by all sections of Nationalists and Unionists since

Mr. Redmond's statement in the House of Commons; party feeling runs high in ~~Cork~~ City Corps owing to the action of the Sinn Fein members; no boycotting; great interest taken in the progress of the war, and the people, with the exception of the Sinn Feiners, are all on the side of the British and the Allies; tone of local Press mild.

LONDONDERRY. General condition of County and City satisfactory; party and political feeling modified since outbreak of War; 7 indictable offences; 2 evictions 14 evicted farms—8 derelict; anniversary of Relief of Derry passed off without disturbance; both sections of Volunteers had pickets posted at dangerous points to restrain their respective adherents; no demonstration held by Nationalists on 15th; no boycotting or intimidation; both Volunteer bodies continue route marching and frequent test mobilizations; no opposition is offered and good feeling prevails; general condition of the people fairly prosperous but trade has suffered as a result of the war; none of the factories have as yet closed down but hours have been reduced; harvest prospects favourable; tone of local press moderate; number of Emigrants from the Port 146 as compared with 355 for corresponding month last year.

LONGFORD. General condition peaceable; agitation against grazing system has practically disappeared; no special protection required; 2 indictable offences; one eviction; 8 evicted farms—6 derelict; relations generally between landlord and tenant good and rents fairly well paid; 7 tenants withholding instalments in connection with bog dispute with the Estates Commissioners; political organizations numerically strong; 23 branches of Irish National Volunteers, but shows a distinct falling off since outbreak of the War, attributable to Mr. Redmond's offer to Government and to the fear of members that they may be obliged to take the field; arms so far not available; the movement lacks organization; most of the instructors have been recalled to colours; two cases of minor boycotting; harvest promises to be a good average; hay crop light; prices for stock and produce fair; general feeling in favour of the British and Allies; tone of "Longford Leader" newspaper somewhat more moderate; relations between Police and people friendly.

LOUTH. County very peaceable; no indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; Irish National Volunteers number 4,869, but movement has not progressed since outbreak of War, and drills have discontinued in many places owing to Army Reserve Instructors having been recalled to their regiments; it is feared the Volunteers will do nothing to encourage recruiting; Army recruiting disappointing so far; feeling against Germany very intense; harvest extremely good and farmers have had a splendid year.

MAYO. County in a peaceable condition, a lull in all agrarian agitation, the interest of all classes being centred in the progress of the War; 4 indictable offences; general relations between landlord and tenant good, but rents withheld on three estates to force owners to sell; 25 evicted farms—12 derelict; political organizations strong

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but inactive; 63 branches of Irish National Volunteers; the organization is active, and the members generally in sympathy with England in the present War; boycotting of Mr. Fitzgerald-Kenny has ceased owing to his having taken a leading part in the Volunteer movement; Mr Carson and Mr Walshe still boycotted; no overt act of intimidation; good prices for farm produce and stock; crops giving excellent yield; people keenly interested in progress of the War and their sympathies are entirely with the British; tone of local Press moderate.

MEATH. General condition of county satisfactory; 2 persons protected by patrols; 7 indictable offences—one a murder; no agrarian trouble; the only organization showing any activity is the Irish National Volunteers, there are 61 branches with total membership of 5,586; one case of boycotting; 2 cases of intimidation; everyone taking an interest in the progress of the War and the unanimous feeling is anti-German.

MONAGHAN. County peaceable in all parts; no agrarian trouble; 5 indictable offences; 52 evicted farms—26 derelict; political organizations fairly active; 19 Unionist Clubs and in 7 of these drill with arms is practised; 43 branches of the Irish National Volunteers; drill with arms practised in 3 of these, and without arms in the remainder; very few volunteers armed with rifles but arms are coming in very slowly; drilling not carried on with the same keenness as before the War; much of the bitterness existing between Unionists and Nationalists has been obliterated by the outbreak of War and all danger of collision between rival parties has disappeared for the present; a considerable number of Ulster Volunteers willing to join the Army, but the Irish National Volunteers show no disposition for military service; they are waiting a decision on the Home Rule question; harvest proceeding, and all crops good; tone of local Press moderate.

QUEENS. General state of the County has been peaceable; 2 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; political organizations numerically strong but show no activity; 7 evicted farms—2 derelict; Irish National Volunteer movement still spreading and membership has reached 4,038; review at Maryboro on 15th August attended by Mr John Redmond M.P. and some influential Unionists; activity in drilling has fallen off owing to recall of instructors to the colours; no arms have, up to the present, been served out; harvest in full operation and crops show an abundant yield of good quality.

ROSCOMMON. General condition of the County fairly peaceable; 3 persons receiving constant protection and 4 by patrols; 4 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 16 evicted farms—14 derelict; U.I.L., A.O.H., G.A.A., and the Gaelic League all work together and are very strong and influential throughout the county; Irish National Volunteer movement continues to extend; there are now 56 branches and 5,583 members; review without arms held by Major Crean on 30th August when 1,200 members paraded; no arms as yet supplied to Volunteers; the War is the absorbing topic of interest and there is a fine spirit of loyalty manifested; an attempt to circulate seditious leaflets generally condemned; Germany is hated and France beloved; hay light, other crops look well; tone of local Press moderate.

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SLIGO. County generally in a peaceable condition; 2 persons protected by patrols; 7 indictable offences; one eviction; rents well paid and general relations between landlord and tenant good; 9 evicted farms—2 derelict; excepting the Irish National Volunteers none of the political organizations show any activity; 38 branches of National Volunteers with membership of 4,536; drilling and route marching practised; so far, none appear in public with arms; a Unionist Volunteer Corps has been formed, about 70 strong; one case of minor boycotting; people in general taking an active interest in the War, their sympathies being entirely with the British forces; Distress Committee formed in Sligo, but at present there is no distress; ample employment in the town; harvest prospects very good; tone of local Press very gratifying.

TIPPERARY, N.R. Riding quiet and free from serious crime; one indictable offence; one person protected by patrols; relations between landlord and tenant continue to be good and for the most part rents well paid; 16 evicted farms—7 derelict; political organizations dormant excepting the National Volunteers of which there are now 3,745 members enrolled, nearly all receiving drill instruction, and, but for a few isolated cases, they are without arms; they are expecting some steps to be taken to organize them for the defence of Ireland; a strong feeling of loyalty to the Crown has been aroused by the War which is the absorbing topic of interest; it is believed that the bulk of the National Volunteers would enlist in the Army if their leaders advised them to do so; tone of local Press strongly anti-German and loyal to the British Government.

TIPPERARY, S.R. County peaceable; 2 persons under constant protection and 3 protected by patrols; 2 indictable offences; one eviction; relations between landlord and tenant good; 28 evicted farms—5 derelict; no boycotting or intimidation; no great activity on part of political organizations; anti-enlistment notices circulated which caused some anger in the Riding; young men are not enlisting; National Volunteers continue to enrol and drill regularly; a growing lack of enthusiasm pending decision of Government regarding Home Rule; the movement, taken as a whole, not making much progress in efficiency or organization; from some parts come reports of genuine loyalty and readiness to act, from other parts reports of dissatisfaction and a desire to have the National Volunteers armed and equipped to utilise them against the Northerners and to establish a Republic. harvest operations progressing rapidly; a good deal of potato blight.

TYRONE. County in a peaceable state throughout; one person protected by patrols; 4 indictable offences; one eviction; 19 evicted farms—11 derelict; no agrarian trouble; both Ulster Volunteers and National Volunteers actively engaged drilling and route-marching; about 200 U.V.F. have enlisted for service during the war and some of the National Volunteers but not in such numbers as they are apparently awaiting a lead from the promoters; it has been learned that there are about 500 rifles in Omagh for distribution to the Irish National Volunteers which have now in the County about 2000 new magazine rifles and they hope to be fully armed and equipped by Government for the defence of Ireland; the War has worked a revolution in the state of

party feeling in the county; during Army mobilization the Sister Volunteers and National Volunteers turned out together with bands and escorted the troops; feeling against Germany intensely strong amongst all sections; Unionist and Nationalist newspapers are written and conducted in strongest imperial tone; dirty politics kept out of all newspapers at present; anniversary of Closing of the Gates of Derry celebrated by a small meeting only at Caledon; larger demonstration abandoned at request of Police; general condition of the people satisfactory; good employment for labouring classes; cattle and farm produce fetch good prices; prospect of an excellent harvest; mills and factories all working as usual and giving good employment.

WATERFORD. General condition of county and City peaceable; no agrarian trouble; political societies numerically strong; none active except the Irish National Volunteers of which there are 43 branches; drilling practised in all districts; few arms available; a spirit of hesitancy manifested amongst the body regarding recruiting for the Army pending settlement of the Home Rule question; most of the trained instructors have rejoined the Army; feeling of patriotism for defence of the Empire and of Ireland unanimous but no practical effect as yet; the National Volunteers, as a whole, taking no active measures either to prevent or to encourage recruiting for the Army; harvest prospects promising; general business proceeding as usual; relations between Police and people excellent; tone of local Press very moderate.

WESTMEATH. County, comparatively speaking, quiet; some slight agrarian troubles in Moate district and in Ballymore sub-district; 2 persons under constant protection and 5 protected by patrols; 4 indictable offences; 2 persons partially boycotted; 12 evicted farms—9 derelict; political organizations inactive excepting the Irish National Volunteers of which there are 43 branches, with total membership of 4,152; with a few exceptions all branches actively engaged in drilling without arms; a number of instructors have been recalled to the colours; 27 branches paraded for inspection by Colonel Moore on 15th August; anti-English speech by a publican at a drill of Ballynascary Branch; harvest up to standard of former years; the War is the sole topic of interest; subscriptions to various Relief funds have been generous, and people in all conditions of life are engaged in providing comforts for the troops; tone of local (Nationalist) Press generally moderate.

WEXFORD. County peaceable; 7 indictable offences; one eviction; relations between landlord and tenant good; no boycotting or intimidation; political organizations numerous but inactive with the exception of the Irish National Volunteers of which there are 55 branches, total membership 5,140; weekly drills carried out; on a few occasions a small number of obsolete rifles carried; proposals to arm the National Volunteers for protection of Ireland meets with general approval but opposition shown by a small though aggressive body of Sinn Féiners who are circulating an anti-English pamphlet; harvest prospects generally good; police receiving ready assistance from the people of every class in connection with the War, and state of feeling in this respect all over the County is quite satisfactory.

WICKLOW. County continues peaceable; 2 indictable offences; no agrarian trouble; 8 evicted farms—2 derelict; political societies inactive; 27 branches of Irish National Volunteers, membership 2,850; drilling continues; spirit of loyalty more prevalent amongst the masses of the people and the general desire is for the success of the British arms in the War; very little recruiting for the Army probably owing to absence of recruiting sergeants; tone of local Press loyal and politics, for the present, cease to be discussed; every prospect of good harvest; every class of produce reaches an advanced price; employment good.