

No. 7770/S.

The Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

(1) Precis of Information
received in the Crime Special Branch
during DECEMBER, 1914.

(2) Inspector General's
Confidential Monthly Report for
DECEMBER, 1914.

LORD LIEUTENANT.

SUBMITTED.

Tha

14th January, 1915.

10/16

*Received from V.R. Lodge
DML
18/1/15*

7770 S.

SECRET.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY OFFICE, DUBLIN CASTLE.

Crime Department—Special Branch.

(The Officer to whom this File is addressed is responsible for its safe custody.)

SUBJECT PRECIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED IN THE CRIME SPECIAL
BRANCH DURING DECEMBER, 1914.Date 13th January, 1914.

INSPECTOR GENERAL,

I beg to submit herewith
a precis of the information
received in the Crime Special
Branch during December, 1914.

Certification

D.I. C.S.

UNDER SECRETARY,

Submitted.

D.I.G.



RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY.

Police reports from the provinces show that during the period from the 19th of November to the 15th of December 3,293 recruits joined the Army, of whom 1,474 were National Volunteers and 908 Ulster Volunteers.

From the outbreak of war up to the 15th of December 33,934 recruits joined the Army, of whom 7,619 were National Volunteers, 16,435 were Ulster Volunteers, and the remainder, 9,680, are not known to have belonged to either Force.

As regards religion this total includes 13,711 Roman Catholics and 20,223 Protestants.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S .

Copies of a leaflet entitled "Germany pledges assistance to Ireland" which assures the Irish people of the goodwill of the German Government, were sent during the month by post from various towns in the U.S.A. to persons residing at Pomeroy, County Tyrone, Menleugh and Mountbellew, Galway, E.R., and Dingle County Kerry.

Two copies of a pro-German journal, "The Vital Issue", were sent by post from the U.S.A. during December to the editor of the "Wenagh News".

550 copies of the December issue of "Irish Freedom" were seized by the police in the provinces, acting on warrant under the Defence of the Realm Act.

"Scissors and Paste", the newspaper that has replaced "Ireland (Eire)", and which is issued about twice a week, enjoys a circulation in the provinces of about 800 copies.

The American steam yacht "Sayenara" arrived at Leenane on the 22nd of December. It had left Southampton on the 16th of December and had come via Queenstown. It has been chartered for some months from Mr A. Draxel by a Colonel McBride, who is stated to be a retired U.S.A. officer from California. The yacht remained at Leenane until the 31st of December when it went to Westport. While at Leenane Colonel McBride met local Suspects P.J. Wallace and P. O'Malley and was ashore every day. It was stated that some repairs were necessary to the yacht's machinery and that it was bound for Bermuda. While at Leenane the yacht was under Naval supervision.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1914.

UNDER SECRETARY,

I.
GENERAL
CONDITION
OF THE
COUNTRY.

I have to report that there was little or no change in the condition of Ireland during the month of December. In the province of Ulster the Unionist Movement in opposition to Home Rule was inactive, and there was no display of party feeling. This is attributable to the War.

Before the outbreak of War the Ulster Volunteer Force was nearly 85,000 strong. Since then about 20,700 have joined the Army either as reservists or on enlistment, and efforts are now being made to recruit new members. According to recent information the Ulster Volunteer Force possessed on the 31st ultimo about 53,340 rifles: the estimate on the 31st of May, 1914, was 51,600 - increase 1,740.

In the counties of Clare and Galway agrarian disturbance was prevalent as usual. It is reported from Galway that the Congested Districts Board have suspended the division of an estate at Tiagnin in consequence of agitation backed up by local secret societies, and that some members of these societies are expected to get allotments which were originally marked for other persons. The division of the Butler Estate at Ballylins, County Clare, by the Estates Commissioners has caused much dissatisfaction among the local tenants because that portion of the Estate, ^{situated} in the parish of Barefield was not given to parishioners (who are not tenants on the Estate), and seventeen men have been returned for trial in connection with the disorder which occurred.

In

In these three counties a great many persons are under police protection. The improvement which was noticeable in the state of Clare in November is, however, maintained. Agrarian unrest is also reported in certain localities in Mayo, Westmeath, Sligo, Roscommon, and King's County.

The National Volunteers are spread over the four provinces. The strength of this Force at the end of December is estimated at 156,750 members, of whom about 147,050 are said to be followers of Mr John Redmond, and about 9,700 are Sinn Feiners and others opposed to Mr Redmond's policy. The membership is still declining, partly on account of political dissension, and partly owing to the dread of impressment for military service. There is at present no enthusiasm in this Force, which has neither organisation, nor officers, is utterly untrained, and practically unarmed.

The number of rifles approximately in the possession of the National Volunteers on the 31st of December was 10,117, an increase of about sixty since the date of last return, the 10th of December; of the total number about 1,435 belong to the Sinn Fein Section.

Mr John Redmond and Colonel Moore reviewed 5,000 Volunteers at Limerick on the 20th of December, after which Colours were presented to the City Battalion. Mr Redmond advised the Irish people to sink their differences and work for the good of their Country, and to support England in the present crisis. He urged those who could do so, to join the Army; but so far his appeal had had but little effect on recruiting.

On the 6th of December Messrs John Redmond, Gwynne, Hasleton, O'Malley, and Cosgrove, M.P.'s., addressed a
meeting

meeting of over two thousand people at Tuam, County Galway. The meeting was boomed in the press and was intended to help recruiting, but though the Volunteer force in the county is nominally 8,000, only four hundred Volunteers attended.

The people as a whole are loyal to the Empire, and the minority of Sinn Feiners and other extremists who aspire to National independence and separation from England are probably more anti-English than pro-German. There is, however, reason to believe that in the event of invasion these extremists would, if able, assist the enemy, as a means of realizing their aspirations. It is known that Sir Roger Casement has been in communication recently with Irishmen in America in reference to a hostile landing in this Country, and it is probable that there has also been communication between members of the Clan-na-Gael in America and leading extremists in Ireland; but there is no evidence of any active preparation for an armed rising in support of an invading force.

Confidential information has been received from a reliable source in Ireland that a German force is expected to land in this Country. The same informant, however, also says that overtures have been made by Colonel Moore on behalf of the National Volunteers to leaders of the Sinn Fein Section proposing reconciliation, with a view to asking Government to recognize and arm the Volunteers for Home Defence. He further states that some of the leading extremists are reconsidering the desirableness of welcoming a German army in Ireland. They would prefer to see England so defeated and weakened on the Continent that she would be unable to resist the demand for Irish independence.

On the 19th of December a stranger who calls himself Colonel McBride of California arrived at Queenstown in the steam yacht "Mayonara", 580 tons, New York Yacht Club: he has

has since visited several places on the coast of Galway and Mayo and is now at Westport. He hired the Yacht at a very high rate from a wealthy American named Drexel. Colonel McBride is a typical German in appearance and is said to speak English like a German and he frequents the company of Sinn Feiners. His visit to the west coast has no apparent object, but he is closely watched by the local police and there is no reason to believe that he has landed any arms. He called on an Englishman who has lately taken a place near Westport. This gentleman tells the police that he has been employed by the Admiralty and War Office in the construction of aircraft and armoured motors, but from inquiry at the War Office this statement is incorrect. The "Sayonara" has been visited by warships and is under observation.

Reports from an agent in America show that the German-Irish Societies there were active during the month. On the 1st of December "The German-Irish Demonstration" at Chicago passed a resolution calling on "Congress to lay an embargo on all contraband of war excepting foodstuffs alone, and thereby withdraw from the contending Powers all aid and assistance from the United States Republic", because England by her Naval supremacy is "master of all contraband goods transhipped by sea". On the 21st of November the declaration issued by the German Foreign Office at Sir Roger Casement's request pledging friendship to Ireland was transmitted from Berlin to America by wireless, and was published same day in "The Boston Traveller". Copies of this declaration were circulated on the 6th of December^{at} a Clan-na-Gael meeting in Brooklyn at which James Larkin, John Devoy, and Kuno Meyer, were present. Copies are also being sent by post to Ireland. On the 16th of December four hundred delegates attended a convention of the United Irish League at New York and Mr

John

John Redmond's policy was approved.

On the 17th of December a German-Irish meeting was held at New York. The principal speakers were James Larkin, John Devey, and Kuno Meyer. Irish Volunteers were present in uniform and a collection was made for the purchase of arms. Devey confirmed Sir Roger Casement's assurance of Germany's goodwill towards Ireland and said every effort must be made to stop recruiting.

The agent has so far failed to obtain any information concerning the alleged preparations for a Clan-na-Gael expedition to Ireland. He states - "Well-meaning people among the Clan-na-Gael are nervous with regard to the position of Ireland. They all wish success to Germany if Ireland got a Republican form of Government by it; but..... they fear that our young men may be led into conflict with the Forces of the Crown, and men of Larkin's blood-and-thunder character are not approved of because of his likelihood to incite young men to such action".

RETURN of Persons protected during each of the past two months :-

No. of Persons protected	Constantly.	By Patrol.
On 30th November, 1914.	46	219
On 31st December, 1914.	47	202

II.
INDICTABLE
OFFENCES.

The returns of Indictable Offences show a decrease of 17 on comparison with the returns for November.

The following cases may be mentioned :-

CLARE.

On the 9th of December about 2 p.m. a party of fourteen men of Barefield parish assembled on the public road near Ballyline demesne to meet Mr Blackhall, the Estates Commissioners' Inspector, who was in another part of the Estate dividing lands which had been taken over by the Estates Commissioners. The Barefield tenants considered that the portion of the Estate in that parish should be divided among them, but the Inspector declined to do so as they were not tenants on the estate. He received a threatening letter on the 7th of December. On the 9th of December when the Barefield party found that Mr Blackhall had returned to Ennis by a different route so as to avoid them (which he did on the advice of the local Sergeant) they became excited, and when going home they fired fifteen revolver shots. All have been identified.

On the 11th of December at 2-15 p.m. ten men entered Ballyline demesne and commenced digging lock spits on the lands recently marked for division by the Estates Commissioners' Surveyor, and they refused to desist when cautioned by the police.

On the 14th of December a crowd of seventy-one men assembled on the road at Ballyline where they were addressed by Rev. J. Scanlon, P.P.,

Barefield,

Barefield, who advised them to drive cattle into the divisions assigned to Rev. Father Menahan, Adm. Grusheen, and others, which they did. Police were present and took the names of the ringleaders.

In connection with the above cases seventeen men have been returned for trial.

CORK, W.R. On the 29th of December James Delaney fired two revolver shots at James Kelleher outside a publichouse in Macroom sub-district, and wounded him in the abdomen. Motive - Kelleher had refused to stand him a drink while both were in the publichouse. Delaney was considerably under the influence of drink at the time. He is on remand. Kelleher is progressing favourably.

GALWAY, W.R. At 5 p.m. on the 9th of December four revolver shots were fired at the back of Ellen Forde's house in Clonboo sub-district by four men who have been identified by Ellen Forde's daughter, and returned for trial. The motive was intimidation, because Mrs Forde had on the previous day evicted a labourer from a house on her lands where he had resided for years and which he claimed to hold rent free.

ROSCOMMON. On the 26th of November, 1914, while on their way home from Boyle to Cootehall Lawrence O'Hara struck Patrick Farry, an R.I.C. pensioner, on the head, knocked him down, and beat him about the head

head until he became unconscious. Parry recovered consciousness after some hours and went home and took to bed. He died on the 18th of December of lung trouble aggravated by the exposure while lying on the road. O'Hara has been returned for trial on a charge of murder. The motive for the assault was that O'Hara charged Parry with being the cause of his dismissal from the position of secretary of a local creamery.

On the night of the 19th of December two men armed and disguised entered the house of Brian Sweeney, Clonboo, Galway District, and seized and carried away his gun. They have been identified and returned for trial.

SLIGO.

On the 8th of December Rose di Lucia, an Italian, was murdered in her house in Castle Street, Sligo. Her husband, Angelo di Lucia, and a servant girl, Jane Reynolds, have been arrested, and there is ample evidence against them.

RETURN of Indictable Offences recorded during each of the past two months.

No. recorded in	Agrarian.	Non-Agrarian.	Total.
November, 1914.	12	130	142
December, 1914.	14	111	125

III.
EVICTIONS AND
OTHER MATTERS
BEARING ON THE
RELATIONS BE-
TWEEN LANDLORD
AND TENANT.

There were no evictions of importance. Rents are fairly well paid, and the relations between landlord and tenant are generally friendly. There is, however, friction on estates in various counties where reductions of rent have been demanded; and on other estates in Cork, Donegal, Galway, W.R., Queen's County, Waterford, Sligo, and Mayo, the tenants are in combination to withhold rent, in order to force the landlords to agree to sell, and to grant abatements.

The method^{adopted} by the Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners in distributing the lands in the Richardson Estate in Galway, and the Butler Estate in Clare, has given much dissatisfaction.

RETURN of Evicted Farms unlet, &c., on 31st December, 1914.

Evictions in December.	Total No. of Evicted Farms.	No. of such Farms derelict.	Retaken by	
			Old Tenant.	New Tenant
9	704	342	3	6

IV.
POLITICAL
SOCIETIES
AND OTHER
ORGANIZA-
TIONS.

The Unionist societies and the Ulster Volunteer Force displayed little activity during the month.

On the Nationalist side, the United Irish League, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Board of Erin), and the National Volunteers, which together represent the volume of Nationalist opinion under the leadership of Mr John Redmond, were also comparatively inactive. The County Inspector of Kildare considers that the reason the Volunteers do not join the Army in greater numbers is not on account of any leaning towards Germany,

Germany, but because their loyalty towards the Empire is not strong enough to induce them to risk their lives, especially as they believe that the war will be won without them.

The extreme section comprising the Sinn Fein, Irish Republican Brotherhood, and Ancient Order of Hibernians (Irish American Alliance), were fairly busy. They are bitterly opposed to recruiting and will continue working on the quiet to prevent men joining the Army; but the fear of Courtmartial has put a stop to the open circulation of seditious and anti-recruiting literature by the party in Ireland, though it is being sent over by post from America. Sinn Fein and Irish Republican Brotherhood organizers were moving through various districts and several private meetings were held. At one of these meetings in Dungannon an important suspect is alleged to have said that they might soon have an opportunity to strike a blow for the freedom of Ireland. He told them that in the event of any attempt to disarm them they should use their weapons rather than surrender; but he did not advocate the cause of Germany. The local police are keeping a close watch on all suspects, but so far they have failed to detect any circulation of German money.

The historical Anniversary of the Closing of the Gates of Derry by the Prentice Boys at the commencement of the Siege in 1689 was celebrated by a public procession in that City on the 18th of December, but the demonstration, which was on a smaller scale than usual, passed off without disturbance.

V.
BOYCOTTING
AND
INTIMIDATION.

Cases of boycotting, but not of a severe type, are reported from Clare, Cavan, Galway, King's County, Westmeath, and Sligo.

Intimidation generally accompanies agrarian agitation and is particularly prevalent in Clare and Galway.

VI.
POINTS OF
SPECIAL
INTEREST.

Shortage of flax is still affecting the linen industry in the North of Ireland, and many of the mills are working half time. Woollen and shirt factories are, however, fully occupied.

A steady increase in the output of coal at the Gracefield Colliery is reported from Queen's County.

Prices for live stock and all kinds of agricultural produce are very high.

Speaking generally there is no distress, but the poorer class are feeling the increased ^{cost} of coal and provisions and find it harder to make ends meet.

A good deal of suffering is experienced in Westmeath and Roscommon owing to the Shannon floods.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL.

14. ^{ed} JANUARY, 1915.