

Crime—Special.

Hd.-Qrs. File No. _____ S.

Confidential Monthly Report = State of County

COUNTY OF Donegal

Letterkenny 2: 3: 15

I The County is in a peaceable condition - There is no agrarian agitation and no disturbed locality. No protection, constant, on the part of the police is afforded to any person.

There is no change in the relations of political parties outwardly since my last report. Peace prevails but at the same time old party animosities are not yet forgotten, and the extreme men on both sides say they will be renewed when the war is over.

The general feeling in the County is in favour of the war but beyond this, there is not much enthusiasm. I repeat today - In the remote districts along the Sea-border the people are nervous of a German invasion and are willing to give the Police information of anything suspicious that they may observe. but on the whole they are poor people who really do not and cannot appreciate the gravity of the situation. Recruiting is not satisfactory in the County generally and with the exception of the more educated people in the East of the County, the people understand very little about soldiering and countries, altogether outside their line of life.

Amongst this latter class of people however, it is very easy to create false impressions of the Army and ^{Military} Service: and although the Sinn Féin & Pro Germans are comparatively few, still if they get a free hand they would make their influence felt amongst an ignorant population.

A close watch is therefore being kept on the movements of known & suspected Sinn Féin and on any organisations of that or the Pro German type.

One of Name. Herbert M Pim. alias 'A. Newman' was B List Suspect arrived at Cashelmore from Derry on 20th Feb. & accompanied by ^{Daniel}

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Daniel Kelly - Stationmaster went on to Gortahork and tried to get the use of the Gaelic Hall there from the local Parish Priest, in which to hold a meeting next day. In this he failed. Next day however, Pim addressed a crowd near the Gortahork Chapel gate. He condemned the policy of Mr. Redmond & the Irish Parl^y party and the attitude of the Irish Nationalist Press towards the war; and the methods of Dublin Castle and is said to have praised Sir Roger Casement & his followers. His meeting was not a success as a call for hands in favour of his remarks resulted in only 16 persons putting up their hands - and soon the meeting melted away and no persons gave in their names as adherents of Pim's Policy.

Pim left for Derry on 22nd Feb., but on 24th Feb. returned to this County. Taking the Southern area around Mountcharles as his hunting ground - as that locality there is a nest of Sinn Féiners who have graduated there under the influence of Seumas Ine Inamur in Sinn Féin principles. - His visit to that locality was conducted under the close supervision of the Blues. He attempted no speeches or meetings and probably did only secret work. - All persons with whom he came into contact on these visits are being closely but discreetly watched.

Visits of this kind are to be viewed with suspicion especially when they are made to localities on the Coast line as they may result in the selection of secret agents for the Germans. - No doubt the Sinn Féin organization of itself could not well afford to pay the expenses of such men as Pim &

Conest Blythe without some help from abroad.

II Three indictable offences were reported in month of

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of February - as against a similar number reported in January 1916.

These offences are of the ordinary type - save that No. 1. below has something of the agrarian element in it, although it arose primarily out of a domestic quarrel between two brothers -

No. 1 Assault-causing bodily harm

On 13. 2. 15. two brothers, Patrick and Daniel McFinley of Crauford - Camport: had a dispute as to which of them would inherit their father's farm

Patrick struck Daniel with a spade - breaking his arm. Patrick has been arrested and returned for trial on bail to the forthcoming Assize -

No. 2. Slabbing. Two men named Henry Spence and John Wallau - labourers - when returning on evening of 23. 2. 15. from Blady & Castlefin quarrelling - and struck each other. Spence was rather severely stabbed with a knife by Wallau - who has been arrested & returned for trial in custody to the forthcoming Assize.

No. 3. Malicious injury to a Motor Car. The property of Dr. Hay of Buncbeg.

Two men - on 24. 2. 15. named Pat^r Mc Cole and Pat^r Gallagher called at Dr. Hay's residence to ask him to attend a child of Mc Cole's who was sick

As the Doctor was leaving in his Motor Car in response to their call, the men asked him for a seat in the car. This he refused and the men were dissatisfied -

The Doctor left his Car on the road at Crolly - walking some distance to Mc Cole's house leaving his car on the road

When he returned, he found the car overturned & injured in several parts. - Mc Cole & Gallagher have been arrested & remanded. - The Doctor has claimed £20 - as

compensation for the injury done - This is a most unusual kind of outrage in this County, where the people are generally quiet & well conducted.

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III No evictions were reported during the month— one evicted farm in Kellubhenny District has been struck off as it was no longer really an evicted farm— one evicted farm was retaken during the month by a new tenant with consent of the former tenant— No evicted farm has been surrendered

Relations between landlords & tenants are good & rents on the whole have been well paid. There is no change of record as regards the tenants on Inishfree Island against whose decrees for rent have been obtained— Since last report the two tenants on the Wilson Estate in Ardara District still withhold their rents & nothing has been done regarding them.

The sale of the Olphert Estate in Dunfavour District to the C. D. B. is I understand nearing completion— Moreover there is no mention that I know of— about Land Purchase in the County.

IV The U.V.F. and I.N.V. may now be said to be the principal political organisations in the County.

The U.V.F. has four battalions with a membership of 2600. Most of the men have uniforms and are well drilled and equipped— The number has somewhat decreased as some members have joined the Army and others have not recently identified themselves with their old units.

It is estimated that about 2000 of the members can be armed with modern rifles.

The I.N.V. has 64 branches with a membership of about 2000— of this number about 500 can be armed with rifles of various patterns.

The I.N.V. is composed chiefly of members of the R.O.K. (B.O.F.) and a few Sinn Féin.

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The latter show a disposition to sheer off from the J. N. V. as such and to form cliques of their own. There are about 226 Min. Hinder. As regard numbers they are almost negligible; but a good many of them have some education. a few have been in America: and accordingly have more influence than the numbers would suggest - amongst the poorer & less educated people -

The MC Clergy are strongly opposed to them but cannot always take strong notice of them.

The U Leaper has 39 branches. with a membership of 6-300. Most of the branches merely nominal - but of late an official organizer has been working amongst them.

The AOH (Ref E) has 72 divisions. & 6000 members most of whom are in the J. N. Volunteers.

The AOH (J. A A) has 9 divisions but little is heard of them.

As regard the Min. Hinder it is likely that it will soon be better organized owing to the recent visits of Ernest Blythe & Herbert M. Price. War B list suspects.

Drilling is not much practised now either by the UVF or the J. N. V. This is due to some extent to the fact that most of their drill instructors - being Army Reservists - have rejoined the Colours - and also to the fact that the spirit of antagonism between the rival parties is for the present not acute.

V. Boycotting & Intimidation do not prevail

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VI The Police are paying particular attention to the coastline for enemy Submarines - mines - Aircraft etc. and are receiving some assistance from the natives. The mountains and all lonely spots have been searched and will continue to be searched for possible enemy air-craft-bases - So far nothing has been discovered to show that any aircraft has found a landing place in this County.

All strangers are carefully watched and noted. and nothing is being left undone to insure that the enemy will receive neither assistance or information from this County.

Our chief difficulty is in dealing with the Sinn Féiners who come from a distance - referred to above - but the best possible will be done.

Cardinal Mercier's pastoral has been read in almost all the R.C Churches in the County and in some places the people are much incensed against the Germans as a result.

Recruiting for the Army is not very brisk - During February 38 joined - including 17 S. National Volunteers - 9 Ulster Volunteers and 12 non-descript.

So far as we can learn very few. Anti-

Recruiting or Pro-German papers come into the County - One copy of "Seisearn & Páistí" has been traced to Gortahork in Dunfurnagh District.

There is as yet no report of distress.

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distress among the poorer people in consequence of the War - The rise in prices seems to have affected the poor in the towns more than elsewhere: but in some of the towns distress is being warded off by the grants made to the wives & relatives of the soldiers at the front -

In the rural districts farmers are able to pay good wages owing to the high prices for cattle - flax and corn: and in the western districts where are people for the most part by the migratory labourers, the good wages they earned in Scotland are not yet spent; and they are therefore not pinched for food. The potato crop of last year was very plentiful, and this also helps to keep away want.

Ad Robert G.

The Inspector General