

CONFIDENTIAL.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH, 1915.

UNDER SECRETARY,

I.
GENERAL
CONDITION
OF THE
COUNTRY.

I have to report that Ireland was on the whole peaceable during the month of March.


In Ulster the political truce was observed, and party feeling was kept under control. At St. Johnston in Donegal, however, on St. Patrick's Day, there was nearly being an outbreak owing to the action of a Nationalist band in attempting to parade the village; and in like manner at Limavady, in Londonderry, serious disturbance was only averted by the Nationalists consenting to abandon a band parade which they had intended to hold. These incidents serve as an indication that although the relations between Nationalists and Unionists appear to be, and are, more friendly since the outbreak of War, under the surface the old party bitterness is still strong.

With reference to the remaining provinces, the counties of Clare and Galway are as usual disturbed by agrarian agitation which necessitates a large number of persons being afforded police protection. Agrarian trouble is also prevalent in parts of Sligo, Westmeath, and Queen's County.

The Ulster Volunteer Force, 62,000 strong and possessing about 54,700 rifles, was sufficiently active to preserve the efficiency of the organization, but drilling was not carried on with the same energy as before the War.

The Irish National Volunteers displayed a certain amount of activity in preparation for the general review of the

Force



Force in Dublin on Easter Sunday; but apart from this there seemed to be little or no enthusiasm in the movement. The membership fell during the month from 142,000 to 139,000, including a section of Sinn Feiners and others opposed to Mr Redmond's policy, numbering 9,000. It is estimated that the Redmondites have about 8,800 rifles, and the Sinn Feiners 1,400. The Sinn Fein section is making special efforts in Cork, Limerick, and Kerry, where for some years past there have been dissensions in the Nationalist ranks, to acquire increased influence and following, but so far with little success.

The people of Ireland, with the exception of Sinn Feiners and other extremists, are everywhere loyal to the Empire in the War. The extremists are but a small party with no men of position or influence as leaders, and they are most unpopular with the supporters of the Parliamentary Party. For instance, a few weeks ago at Turloughmore in Galway the expression of pro-German sympathies by a man named Murray led to a riot, and several of the rival parties have since had shots fired into their houses at night.

The recruiting figures for the month ending 15th March, compared with those for the preceding month, show a decrease of 1057 recruits- nearly 900 of this decrease occurred in Ulster. A suggestion is circulated by the press to the effect that the Ulster Division will never be asked to fight, while, on the other hand, the nationalist soldiers are to be sent to the front. This is, no doubt, believed in some quarters.

The rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association, to which

which reference is made in part IV must also militate against recruiting, as they appear to be designed with the intention of, as far as possible, preventing intercourse between members of the Society and the forces of the Crown.

However, during the latter part of March recruiting parties with bands have been touring through the country, and at every place visited they have met with a satisfactory reception.

Return of persons protected during each of the past two months:-

Number of persons protected	Constantly	By patrol
On 28th February 1915	45	200
On 31st March 1915	43	205