

Confidential Report of the state of Waterford
County and City during May 1915

I. The general state of the County continues to be peaceable. No protection is necessary for any individual.

II. The only indictable case deserving special mention was an extensive burning of an unoccupied dwelling house and farm buildings, at Ballycadd in Portlaw sub-district, owned by a farmer named John Kierrey. The buildings are separate in situation and there was no doubt it was the work of an incendiary. Kierrey is popular and suspicion could only attach to a man named Loneyan who lived in a house 40 yds away and who was annoyed with the Kierrey family owing to Kierrey's brother, a magistrate, going "hard" against Loneyan in a case heard at Kilmacthomas P.S. Loneyan was bound to the peace. The burned house and the house in which Loneyan resided being a mile off the road away in the fields in an isolated situation there is little prospect

II cont'd If getting evidence as owing to the dry weather no tracks were left at the scene.

III The relations between Landlords and Tenants are good throughout the county and rents well paid. On the Chearnley estate in Ballinaculty sub-distinct the tenants memorialized their landlord, Major Chearnley, for a reduction but this was not granted.

There was no eviction.

One evicted farm was retaken by the former tenant who was reinstated at the old rent but let off two years arrears.

A seizure for £100 (about) for rent and costs was made on the Perry estate in Tallow S.D. The seizure was released and one year's rent about £20 accepted as a settlement.

No notices of eviction were posted during the month.

IV

IV.

The Political and other organizations existing in the County are as follows: -

30 Branches of U. I. League

5 " - A. F. I. "

10 Divisions of A. O. H. (Board of Erin)

1 Branches Federated Trades and Labour Union

1 " Dockers and Carters "

1 " Seamen's and Firemen's "

1 " Irish Transport "

1 " Land and Labour "

1 " Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

1 " Town Tenants' League.

" " G. A. A.

1 " J. N. Farmers

1 " Gaelic League

28 " J. N. Volunteers

1 " Lat. Boy Scouts

1 " Hibernian Boys Brigade

1 " Cumann na mBan (Women)

There

IV cont^d

There was no special activity in any of the above during the month.

Councillor W. P. Partridge of Dublin came here to organize the local branch of the Irish Transport Union. The membership of which had greatly fallen off, few subscriptions being paid irregularly. He held meetings in various parts of the City. His speeches were very guarded and directed solely to press on labourers to join the union. His mission was a failure and he did not succeed in ingratiating himself with local labour leaders who fight rather shy of the union owing to attacks made upon them from time to time in the "Irish Worker". He had no intercourse with local Sinn Féiners.

There has been a good deal of discussion in the City battalion of the I.N.V. Volunteers during the month, the causes being of a personal and rather trivial nature.

At a recent election of Officers "Major" Fitzgerald a former High Sheriff was ousted and replaced by Mr. Maguire manager of Heane and Co's drapery establishment, &c. The reviews of the
and

Cont^d

of the drill instructor, Murphy, were dispensed with as he was very rough with the men at drills. He is replaced by another ex-soldier named Killy.

These changes may improve matters but the Sinn Féin element are watching their chance to establish a branch of the Irish Volunteers.

The rural branches of the I. L. V. are not very active.

Recruiting for the Army has been rather slack lately. This is not surprising owing to the large number who joined during the recruiting campaigns in the end of March and part of April.

The recent changes in the Government has caused much discussion. Generally it is approved of as being likely to tend towards a more vigorous prosecution of the War.

Nationalists are displeased with the appointment of Sir Edward Carson and are of opinion that the chances of Home Rule seem to be jeopardised. Some of them even go so far as to say that no more Nationalist Irishmen should enlist. This statement is however made and

IV. cont^d

made in a very guarded way as the "Defense of the Realm" act is regarded as being a very powerful measure.

The Sinn Féiners and other extremists are pleased at the change as they profess to believe that Home Rule is doomed which will lead later to Mr Redmond and his party being thrown over by the people which will open the way for the Sinn Féiners.

Nationalists state that none of the Ulster Volunteers who enlisted have yet gone to the front while other Irishmen who enlisted more recently have done so. These statements are believed to do a good deal of harm.

II

Boycotting and Intimidation is high.

VI

Good prices are realized for all kinds of farm produce and stock.

Food and meat prices are high.

There is however no acute distress caused by the war as labour is plentiful for those who have not enlisted and

VI cont^d

and a good deal of Separation Allowance
money is in circulation.

The feeling between police and people
is very good.

The local papers all support the
cause of the Allies and public opinion
is in the same direction.

Dated at Waterford

1st June 1915

W. P. C. Petre

C. I.

The Inspector General.