

At a special meeting of Central Council held at Croke Park on Sunday, 28th May 1916, Mr. J.J. Hogan presiding in the absence of Ald. Nowlan, arising out of the press reports before the Rebellion Commission by those giving evidence endeavouring to connect the G.A.A. with the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army, the following report was drawn up to be handed the Press, copies to be also sent to the Chairman, Rebellion Commission:

Lord Hardinge's Commission

Special Meeting of Central Council

At a special meeting of the Governing Body Central Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association, held on Sunday, May 28th, at headquarters, Croke Park, Dublin, the Secretary, amongst other matters, drew attention to a series of allegations vide Press reports, made before the Rebellion Commission now sitting.

After some consideration and discussion it was decided to issue the following statement:

The position of the Gaelic Athletic Association in relation to politics is clearly defined in the following rule, which, as far as the Governing Body knows, has been stringently acted on:

"The Gaelic Athletic Association, Limited, shall be a strictly non-political and non-sectarian Association. No political questions of any kind shall be raised at any of its meetings and neither Central Council, Provincial Councils, County Committees nor clubs shall take part as such in any political movement."

The Central Council, therefore, gives an unqualified denial to the statement of Matthew Nathan, that the Gaelic Athletic Association signed a manifesto on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Dublin in September 1914. The Central Council goes further, and states, without any qualification or reservation whatsoever, that neither directly nor indirectly had the Gaelic Athletic Association any connection with such opposition to the Prime Minister's visit, as was displayed.

Since the Gaelic Athletic Association is non-political it follows that the members thereof are at perfect liberty to join any political organisation they may choose to be identified with. And hence the Central Council finds, that many members of the Association are attached to the United Irish League, All-for-Ireland League, Irish Volunteers, National Volunteers, and various other national associations. The statements, therefore, that the Gaelic Athletic Association has been used in furtherance of the objects of the Irish Volunteers are as untrue as they are unjust. It is perfectly inaccurate to say that police and military are not admitted to gatherings under the rules of



the Gaelic Athletic Association. They have always been admitted to all such gatherings provided they were prepared to pay the fee charged the general public.

The Central Council strongly protests against the misrepresentations of the aims and objects of the Gaelic Athletic Association as tendered to the Commission by Sir Matthew Nathan and other witnesses, and thinks that all such allegations should, at least, be accompanied by definite proofs.