

# The Royal Irish Constabulary in County Mayo, 1889-1910

This dissertation was submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Heritage Studies at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Mayo Campus.

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work.

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## **Abstract**

This dissertation presents a social and administrative history of the Royal Irish Constabulary in County Mayo and focuses on the years 1889-1910 in particular. Drawing on a range of primary and secondary material, the force's structure, personnel, premises and peacetime activities are examined and an account is presented of an organisation that was well-integrated into society yet was, on occasion, challenged and resented.

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## **Abbreviations**

IRB Irish Republican Brotherhood

UIL United Irish League

DI District Inspector

CI County Inspector

MP Member of Parliament

DMP Dublin Metropolitan Police

PPF Peace Preservation Force

## Chapter 1 – Introduction

During the final decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Royal Irish Constabulary went from being a well-embedded and accepted part of Irish society, to being a demoralised, ill-equipped and reluctant enforcer of law and order. The force was disbanded in 1922 and replaced in the north by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. In the south, An Garda Síochána acquired their responsibilities (Malcolm, 1998).

The approaching centenary commemorations of important events in Ireland's revolutionary period will inevitably focus renewed attention on the RIC and on their activities. This dissertation explores the force's actions before the foundation of the Irish Volunteers and presents an account of its peace-time operations in County Mayo, especially between the years 1889 and 1910. This period of the RIC's history in County Mayo, between the turmoil of the Land War and the eruption of Revolutionary Nationalism, has been somewhat neglected. The years 1889 and 1910 have been chosen as suitable start and end points because detailed information on the force's personnel and premises is available for these years in two editions of the *RIC List and Directory*.

Sinclair (2008) claims that a police force mirrors the character of the society within which it operates and that "police history, in its broadest sense, is a sound indicator of social history" (Sinclair, 2008, p. 174). If this is true, then this project might well illuminate some aspects of society in the west of Ireland more than 100 years ago and be of interest to students of local history.

This dissertation addresses the following research questions:

- What was policing like in County Mayo at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup>?
- How was the RIC structured at a local level? What was the geographical spread of the organisation across the county?
- What were their everyday duties of constables in Mayo?
- How rigorously did they enforce the law?
- What were the religious, social and educational backgrounds of the RIC members?
- What were the political loyalties of RIC members?
- How did the press report police actions? Were they in any way critical of the police?

- Did women play a role in policing at this time in any way?

The main research findings are contained in the following chapters:

In chapter 4, some background and context is given with a description of the development of the force through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and an account of the Irish Constabulary by the travel writer Johann Georg Kohl. Sir Francis Bond Head's experiences at police stations (as a visitor) in Ballinrobe, Castlebar and Westport in the 1850s is examined. The experience of Constable Thomas Fennell in County Mayo in the late 1870s and early 1880s is also presented.

In chapter 5, some biographical information on Inspector General Sir Andrew Reed and Mayo's County Inspector Milling is provided followed by information on the police stations and administrative structure in the county in 1889. The career of policeman George McKee in Co. Mayo is then examined. The case of James Lynchehaun is explored as well as the conflict between the RIC and the nascent United Irish League.

In chapter 6, the brief partition of County Mayo into two separate administrative entities is examined. Violence against the RIC is examined under the sub headings "The Westport Pro-Boer Riots" and "Assault on the Police in Achill". The continuing hostility between the United Irish League and the police is explored in "A Police Inquiry". A short biographical piece on County Inspector Rainsford and a summary of the police structure in County Mayo in 1910 concludes the main research findings.

## Chapter 2 - Literature Review

For many decades, there was a common view in Ireland that members of the Royal Irish Constabulary had been mercenaries in the pay of an occupying alien power. Like in many post-colonial societies that had struggled for independence, there was a reluctance to accept that a large number of people had recognised, worked for, and supported an armed wing of government. It took a long time for the RIC to become a legitimate object of academic study. It was only in the 1980s that scholars began to look closely, and even sympathetically, at the lives of Irishmen who had served the British state. A substantial body of literature on policemen, soldiers and officials has proliferated ever since (Malcolm, 2006). This dissertation draws on some of these works.

### General Texts

In *The Transformation of Ireland 1900-2000*, (2005), Diarmaid Ferriter refers to the “relative tranquillity” of the working lives of RIC members around the turn of the century and he points to a policing report of 1902 which claimed that there was “practically no criminal class in Ireland” (Ferriter, 2005, p. 65). There was, in general, amiable relations between the policed and the police at this time and the majority of recruits were the sons of tenant farmers or rural labourers. Only political agitation and whiskey-fuelled public disorder kept the constables on their toes. The RIC was well-integrated into local communities and sergeants joined priests and teachers as the main actors on the typical Irish village stage. Despite this relatively calm situation, there were 12,000 armed RIC men in Ireland in 1900, which, along with 27,000 soldiers garrisoned here, made the country the “most densely militarised area of the British Empire in peacetime” (Ferriter, 2005, p. 66).

Elizabeth Malcolm’s *The Irish Policeman 1822-1922: A Life* (2006) is a very good general introduction to Irish policing before independence. Malcolm describes her work as a “collective biography” of the force between 1822 and 1922 and she structures the book as a “chronological life history, tracing lives [of policemen] from birth to death” (Malcolm, 2006, p. 9). To some extent, this dissertation mirrors Malcolm’s “collective portrait” approach but confines its geographical and chronological range within a narrower frame. Malcolm draws on published literature, memoirs, letters, personal documents, constabulary rules, guides, manuals and the letters of descendants of policemen. There is a brief account of policing before the setting up of the County Constabulary in 1822 - Ireland’s first

national police force. This force later became the Irish Constabulary, and later still, the Royal Irish Constabulary. Malcolm addresses the historiography of the force and discusses the hostility that the force encountered from both nationalists, unionists and conservatives. A portrait of the average RIC man is presented (“Portrait of a peeler: a man on the make” p.45) and the socioeconomic composition of the force is examined. She also explores the attractions and drawbacks of a career in the force.

Malcolm notes that policemen were scattered in small groups of generally less than 10, and often only 4, and were based in barracks in nearly 1,400 stations throughout Ireland. There were 250 policing districts and the county

was also crucial to the structuring of the constabulary, for districts were organised by counties under the command of a county inspector, directly answerable to the inspector general based in Dublin Castle” (Malcolm, 2006, p. 49).

Jim Herlihy’s book, *The Royal Irish Constabulary, A Short History and Genealogical Guide* (1997), is a good general history of the RIC and it is complemented by several illustrations of personnel and paraphernalia. Herlihy served as a member of An Garda Síochána and this experience advantaged him with a particular insight, especially in regard to police organisation and the challenges faced by policemen. His book is especially useful for genealogical research. Verse and balladry written by RIC men, and published in the *Constabulary Gazette*, are reproduced in Herlihy’s book and include some humorous compositions such as the following:

### **The Poteen Maker**

In the mountains of Erris in a place called Crossfin,

There once lived a man named Paddy McGinn,

Poor Pat had no love for the shovel or spade,

But making Poteen, well that now was his trade.

Poor Pat was as cute and as quiet could be,

And he always outvoted the old RIC,  
 They tried hard to catch him by night and by day,  
 But Paddy had always a plan to lead them astray.

(Reproduced in Herlihy, 1997, p. 69.)

In a short article in *History Ireland* (1999), Daniel Mulhall gives a synopsis of some of the main contentious issues facing Ireland (and the police) in the year 1900. “Ireland at the Turn of the Century” briefly describes a country that was, according to confidential police reports, “in a peaceable condition” but, according to the Irish chief secretary, “in a plastic state” and ready to be moulded into something new (Mulhall, 1999, p. 32).

### *Social Composition of the RIC*

In *Irish Economic and Social History*, (1992), there is a very useful article titled “The Domestication of the Royal Irish Constabulary”. In it, William Lowe and Elizabeth Malcolm argue that the RIC became “domesticated” and “naturalised” between its formation in 1836 and its eventual demise in 1922 (Lowe & Malcolm, 1992, p. 27). They argue that the force became incrementally more representative of the Irish population in its composition as the 19<sup>th</sup> century progressed and its duties became more routine and its ability to use force was diminished. Its responsibilities became more civil and less military. Towards the end of the RIC’s life, its religious profile mirrored that of the Irish population in general. The article outlines the major developments in the force’s history and it explores the socio-economic background of the recruits. It includes statistical data ranging from provincial recruiting figures to the geographical origins of constable’s wives. By the 1890s, Connacht was producing “30 per cent” of the recruits to the RIC “while possessing only 15 per cent of the country’s population” (Lowe & Malcolm, 1992, p. 34).

In “The social composition of the senior officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary, 1881-1911”, in *Irish Historical Studies* (2009), Fergus Campbell reviews the “influential” work of W.J. Lowe and Elizabeth Malcolm referred to above and then proceeds to present a challenge to it (Campbell, 2009, p. 522). He presents a study of 129 officers in the RIC between 1881 and 1911 and examines the social background of senior officers, (county

inspectors and those above). Their education, their relationship to landlord families in Britain and Ireland, their religion and their occupational backgrounds are explored. Campbell concludes that “at the top level – the county inspectorate and above – there was a glass ceiling above which most Irish-born Catholics were unable to ascend” thereby finding (at least some) fault with Lowe and Malcolm’s general contention that the force was losing some of its exclusivity and sectarianism (Campbell, 2009, p. 541). He argues that the existence of this transparent barrier provided ambitious catholic university graduates with a painful grievance and “a powerful motive for revolution” (Campbell, 2009, ps. 539&541).

### Travelogues

The German travel writer Johann Georg Kohl visited Ireland in 1842 and wrote an account of the Irish Constabulary in his book *Travels in Ireland* (1844). He was struck (and impressed) by the military posture of the force (Kohl, 1844). Sir Francis Bond Head was also impressed with the police when he toured the country in 1852. His travel book, *A Fortnight in Ireland* (1852), contains an account of Irish Constabulary stations at Ballinrobe, Castlebar and Westport, and an account of the Revenue Police at Castlebar. According to Head’s report, the police had very little to do - there was virtually no crime in Mayo at that time (Head, 1852).

### Memoirs – Thomas Fennell

Elizabeth Malcolm, in *The Irish Policeman*, notes that:

...former RIC men exhibited a marked tendency to write, and sometimes publish memoirs. Some of these accounts, especially those written by Protestant officers, lauded the RIC and offered stout defences against the force’s critics. But accounts written by Catholic constables tended to be far more ambivalent: still mainly laudatory, yet at the same time defensive, uneasy and full of self justification (Malcolm, 2006, p. 29).

This assessment seems to be particularly true in the case of Thomas Fennell. His account of his career, *The Royal Irish Constabulary – A History and Personal Memoir* (2003), was edited and published by his granddaughter more than 50 years after his death. Fennell was a catholic from Derry and rose to the rank of head constable. He passed the written examination for promotion to district inspector but he did not proceed to that rank (for some unknown reason – possibly because of his religion). He spent 8 years serving in

Mayo (starting in 1875) and his narrative is nationalistic in tone. He was an admirer of Michael Davitt and was disappointed with the unfortunate position that the men of the RIC had to take during the Land War. In general, Fennell felt that “At all times, even during the Land War, up until 1920 there was a good feeling between the rank-and-file and the general public and this tended to balance other disagreeable features of the service” (Fennell, 2003, p. 19). In his memoir, he rejects the charge that the police engaged in acts of espionage and argues that the majority of intelligence that the police supplied to the state was of the “common knowledge” variety. In other words, “...the R.I.C. had eyes and ears as well as everybody else” (Fennell, 2003, p. 159).

### Memoirs - George McKee

A very relevant source for this study was the “Private Notes of George McKee, Royal Irish Constabulary, Castlebar, 1880-1915”. This 25-page memoir was reproduced in the *Journal of the Westport Historical Society* (1998). It details McKee’s professional and private life in the towns he served in around Co. Mayo. McKee’s grandfather, father and six brothers all served in the force. He was born in Drummin RIC barracks near Castlebar and he joined the force when he was 18. He was stationed in several stations around the county and was transferred to County Leitrim in 1896. McKee was a devout christian but not a catholic. In a poignant account of his personal life, he shares some of the tragedies that befell him. Three of his children died in infancy. Another child was born with a congenital deformity and required prolonged medical attention. His wife, Mary Ann Morrisson, was his aunt’s daughter – presumably therefore, his first cousin. Like Fennell, McKee rose to the rank of head constable (McKee, 1998).

### Other

A biographical piece on the RIC’s inspector general between 1885 and 1900 appeared in *History Ireland* titled “Andrew Reed (1837-1914): a very civil policeman”. It recounts Reed’s role in quelling sectarian disturbances in Belfast in 1886 and tells of the reforms he initiated within the force, many of which led to what Lowe and Malcolm call “domestication”. He was uncomfortable with the concept of the force as a semi-military body and worked to civilianise it. He was the only inspector general to have risen through the ranks without a military background and under his tenure the use of promotional exams was encouraged. He was also a writer of police reference books (Radford, 2005).

In *Irish Historical Studies* (2003), Phillip Bull investigates the foundation of the United Irish League (UIL) in County Mayo in January, 1898, and details some of the early confrontations that this influential organisation had with the police. He notes that the purpose of the UIL was both agrarian and political and that the methods used by the police, especially in west Mayo, to curb its growth failed spectacularly. Violent confrontations in Westport between the police and UIL supporters created headlines and brought condemnation on the Mayo RIC from many quarters (Bull, 2003).

The secondary sources reviewed above are referred to in chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this dissertation and are synthesised with other material to give an account of the RIC in County Mayo. The acquisition and use of primary material is discussed in the following chapter.



Figure 1 - Police at Eviction Scene, 1880-1900, The Lawrence Photograph Collection.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

## Chapter 3 - Methodology

The following primary sources have been used to further explore the activities of the RIC in County Mayo and to address the research questions.

### *The RIC Collection*

Documents published on a CD-ROM titled *The RIC Collection* (2011) were examined, especially “The Royal Irish Constabulary List and Directory” (1889 and 1910) and “The Royal Irish Constabulary Manual or Guide to the Discharge of Police Duties” (1909). The “List and Directory” was published twice a year. It was an essential handbook for members of the force. The 1910 edition, in an appeal to potential advertisers, claimed that it circulated “through every city, town, and village in Ireland in which there is a police station” (The RIC Collection, 2011b). It contains lists of constabulary departments, lists of resident magistrates, information on the coast guard, regulations for the force, lists of officers, lists of head constables, lists of stations, information on holidays and information on pay rates. Crucially, it contains lists of officers, head constables, stations, protection posts and other information for Co. Mayo in 1889 and 1910. Some of these lists are reproduced in the appendices. These three documents are cited in chapters 4, 5 and 6 in the following way:

- Royal Irish Constabulary List and Directory for the half-year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 1889: (The RIC Collection, 2011a)
- Royal Irish Constabulary List and Directory for the half-year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 1910: (The RIC Collection, 2011b)
- The Royal Irish Constabulary Manual or Guide to the Discharge of Police Duties, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 1909: (The RIC Collection, 2011c)

### *Photographs and Sketches.*

Sketches reproduced in this dissertation were found on the Mayo County Library website in the historical newspaper illustrations section. Digitised photographs from the Lawrence and Poole photographic collections were sourced at the National Library of Ireland’s online catalogue. Some of the images do not date to the period 1889-1910 but were included because it was felt that a visual impression of the RIC was required and that these particular images were relevant. They are spread throughout the dissertation in no particular order and it is hoped that they complement the text.

### *Newspaper Reports*

Contemporary newspaper reports that referred to the RIC in Mayo have been studied and exploited. GMIT library has access to the largest online database of Irish newspapers – the Irish Newspapers Archive. This database holds digitised and archived regional, daily and out-of-print newspapers exactly as they would have appeared in their original print version. Searching through and viewing these newspapers was a relatively straightforward process. There was a huge volume of material available. Only the material that was relevant, or that was suitable to illustrate a particular point, was selected and drawn on for this project. The main publications studied were *The Mayo News* and *The Connaught Telegraph*. It has been noted if a newspaper has been known to have had a particular political bias.

### *Other*

The online census records for 1901 and 1911 were not a fruitful source of information for this project. It is not possible to search for RIC barracks in the online census and locating a barracks by browsing was a tedious and unprofitable exercise. In the census returns, RIC members invariably identified themselves by their initials only.

Confidential monthly reports written by county inspectors for Mayo were studied at Mayo County Library. Unfortunately, deciphering the handwriting of County Inspectors Milling, Brooke and Rainsford proved to be extremely time-consuming (and in some cases impossible) so this source was, sadly, under-exploited.

## Chapter 4 – The Evolution of the RIC

### *Origins*

In medieval Ireland, the notion of a police force was unknown. Laws, in both the Gaelic-controlled and English-controlled parts of the country, were enforced collectively. In 1308, The Statute of Winchester (1285) was extended into Ireland and it formed the basis of law enforcement for the following 500 years. Householders were obliged to keep arms and to present themselves when the apprehension of a criminal was required. The first appearance of justices of the peace (magistrates), constables and night watchmen in Irish history can be dated to this period (Malcolm, 1998).

Constables served in baronies and parishes from the 1300s and played a part in military, civil and criminal matters. They acted for magistrates, who often appointed them. In the eighteenth century, increasing agrarian protest, political agitation and a dissatisfaction with what was believed to be an ineffective Baronial Constabulary led central government to attempt to reform the policing system. In 1787, the government established a new constabulary force which could be readily deployed to disturbed areas. Magistrates and grand juries, sensing that their traditional local powers were being usurped, resisted the introduction of the new body and it was only ever dispatched to 4 counties. In 1792, the Irish Parliament confirmed the right of grand juries to appoint constables in some baronies, as long as they were protestants. Many of these men worked on a part-time basis, were badly paid, lacked uniforms and were unarmed. The “Barnies”, as they came to be known, were the main organ of law enforcement in rural Ireland until the establishment of the centrally-controlled County Constabulary in 1822 (Malcolm, 1998, p. 39).

A uniformed, armed, and government-controlled police force existed (at various times) in Dublin the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was the first of its kind in the British Isles but was opposed by ratepayers who thought it was too costly and too oppressive. It competed for survival with locally-controlled, unarmed forces. In 1836, the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) was formed. DMP constables were not armed and they could marry freely. Its G Division investigated political crimes. The DMP survived until 1925 when it merged with An Garda Síochána (Malcolm, 1998).

In 1814, Chief Secretary Robert Peel introduced the Peace Preservation Force, a mobile unit that could be dispatched to counties that had been proclaimed as disturbed. The

presence of these “peelers” in a particular region was obnoxious to the landed class and to ratepayers there because the local authorities had to pay for their upkeep, whether their presence was requested or not. The PPF was essentially a type of “riot police” and it was only ever used in disturbed areas (Herlihy, 1997, p. 31). Ireland at that time had no shortage of disturbances however, and by 1822, the PPF had seen action in half the counties of Ireland.

In 1822, a *national*, centrally-controlled and permanent constabulary was established for the first time. The PPF was absorbed into this new body (known as the County Constabulary) only to re-emerge in 1831 at the time of the Tithe War. The PPF and the County Constabulary were permanently fused after reforms in 1836. This amalgamated force would be known as the Irish Constabulary (Malcolm, 1998).

Under-Secretary for Ireland Thomas Drummond was the architect of the restructured Irish Police system. He had worked throughout the country with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and had acquired a comprehensive knowledge the grievances of the peasantry. The Drummond Act of 1836 consolidated and repealed all previous policing acts. The headquarters of the new force was based at “the constabulary office” which took up nearly a complete wing of Dublin Castle. From 1836, every county was supervised by a county inspector and counties were subdivided into a number of districts, each commanded by a district inspector. There were 1,400 police barracks around the country. Marriage was forbidden for policemen until seven years of service had been completed. Potential brides were vetted. Sometimes a married couple would live in a barracks and the wife would provide meals for the men who messed together. Drummond’s Code of Conduct for the Irish Constabulary (1837) stressed how important it was for constables to:

...act in the discharge of their various duties with the utmost forbearance, mildness, certainty, and perfect civility to all classes of Her Majesty’s subjects and that upon no occasion or under any provocation should they so far forget themselves as to permit their feelings to get the better of their discretion, and conduct themselves unduly and harshly in the performance of their respective offices (quoted in Herlihy, 1997, p. 48).

*“A military garrison, though under another name”*

In September, 1842, a German travel writer called Johann Georg Kohl visited Ireland and wrote an account of the new Irish Constabulary and its premises in County Kerry. While travelling from Killarney to Bantry, he stopped and entered a police station which he described as a “new, neat, spacious building” (Kohl, 1844, p. 143). To Kohl, it resembled a small fortress and he opined that it was likely to keep the natives “in awe”. The martial character of the building and its occupants immediately struck him:

All round was a wilderness, and reminded me of the military stations so often picturesquely situated in the wild regions of the Austrian frontier. The house contained eight men of the constabulary force, as it is called, and which is a military-armed police, now extended over the whole of Ireland, for the prevention of crime, the discovery and apprehension of criminals, the protection of property, and the preservation of the peace. It consists of 8,000 men, classified and disciplined in the same manner as soldiers... They are armed with carbines and swords, and also use their bayonets as daggers. They differ from the soldiers in their uniform alone, which is somewhat less ornamented and of a dark green colour. This police force is therefore, properly a military garrison, though under another name. (The *English* constables carry no arms, but only a short round baton.) (Kohl, 1844, p. 143.)

Kohl claimed that the Irish Constabulary would be more useful than an army of 30,000 men if a rebellion broke out in Ireland due to their strength, their unblemished characters, and their intimate knowledge of the country and its inhabitants. He noted the geographical penetration of the organisation and claimed that in Tipperary there was “a police station every three or four miles” (Kohl, 1844, p. 144). He also offered some thoughts on the ethnic composition of the force, and of the tendency of Irish exiles to take employment as policemen overseas:

I have somewhere read that these constables are mostly Englishmen ; but from the inquiries which I have made, I have no doubt but there are as many, if not still more, Irishmen among them. *Even in the London police there are more Irish than English, for the latter are not over partial to this service* [My emphasis] (Kohl, 1844, p. 144).

*Sir Francis Bond Head Encounters the Police in County Mayo*

In the summer of 1852, Sir Francis Bond Head toured in Ireland and published some observations on the Irish police in *A Fortnight in Ireland* (1852). In the west, he visited Ballinrobe and was so affected by evidence of distress there, and so impressed by the results of newly employed agricultural practices, that he felt like he had to go to meet Lord Lucan. On his way to Castlebar, he travelled through a countryside which was “composed, in almost endless proportions, of three ingredients, bog, stones, and peat” (Head, 1852, pp. 128-129). He visited a constabulary station near Ballinrobe and was pleasantly surprised by the condition of the interior:

It was really a picture and a pattern of cleanliness ; the walls and ceilings of the rooms were milk white, the floor as clean as a farm kitchen table, and the men, notwithstanding the rain, in perfect parade order. I asked the sergeant commanding, whose arm was distinguished by three chevrons, whether there was much crime in his neighbourhood. “Very little indeed,” was his reply. He said there had been no evictions lately (Head, 1852, p. 129).

In Castlebar, Head observed about a dozen men in blue uniform standing outside a door on one of the town’s main streets. Unfamiliar with their costume, and eager to find out who they were, he entered the building and was soon in the presence of:

Two officers in blue military frock coats, gold scales on their shoulders, and wearing swords exactly as if they were of a regiment of the line. The one was a sub-inspector and the other a lieutenant of what is called in Ireland “the Revenue Police”...these officers very readily and obligingly explained to me – who had never before even heard of their force – that its especial duties, which, previous to the year 1836, were performed by the military, accompanied by an excise officer, are to suppress illicit distillation and malting. In order to do so, armed parties, four times a week, by day and by night, and for at least eight hours per diem, make excursions to search the town lands, every suspected house, concealed caves, &c. The whole force consists of about 1000 men under officers...The men, like those of the constabulary, are armed, efficiently equipped, and well disciplined and drilled (Head, 1852, p. 133).

The Revenue Police was established in 1832 in an effort to suppress illicit distillation and stem revenue loss. In 1836, two-thirds of the force were dismissed because of indiscipline

and poor training and the entire body was re-formatted. New recruits were trained along the lines of light infantry and the majority of the force was stationed along the western littoral. They were quite effective and they eventually drove poteen-makers off the mainland and onto the western islands. It can be said that this accomplishment led to the Revenue Police becoming a victim of its own success. In 1854, a commission of enquiry concluded that the suppression of illegal distilling no longer required a separate police force. In 1857, it was disbanded and the Irish Constabulary assumed its responsibilities (Herlihy, 1997).

After his visit to Lord Lucan, Head visited the constabulary barracks at Castlebar. He found an orderly contingent of men stationed there in a clean, 5-roomed establishment. The men on duty assured him that religious differences between the men never caused any friction. At Westport, Head encountered policemen who had been to Clare Island the day before to attend at an eviction. The head constable told Head that he had been present at numerous evictions for the previous 5 years in the neighbourhood and that apart from one instance of animosity at Kilmeena, no resistance whatsoever had been made. He claimed that the people of the area had always been amenable to the law and that “it was a matter of wonder they were so submissive” (Head, 1852, p. 152).

During Francis Bond Head’s tour, he was repeatedly assured by the constabulary that the people of County Mayo were particularly honest and that there was scarcely any crime at all in the county. At Westport the head constable informed him that, when it came to crime, there was “None whatever...some petty larcenies, that’s all” (Head, 1852, p. 153). During eviction duty, he admitted that the police had great difficulty but that they endeavoured “to joke off anything that is said against us ; and even if it comes to blows, we will bear a good deal rather than have re-course to deadly weapons” (Head, 1852, p. 152).

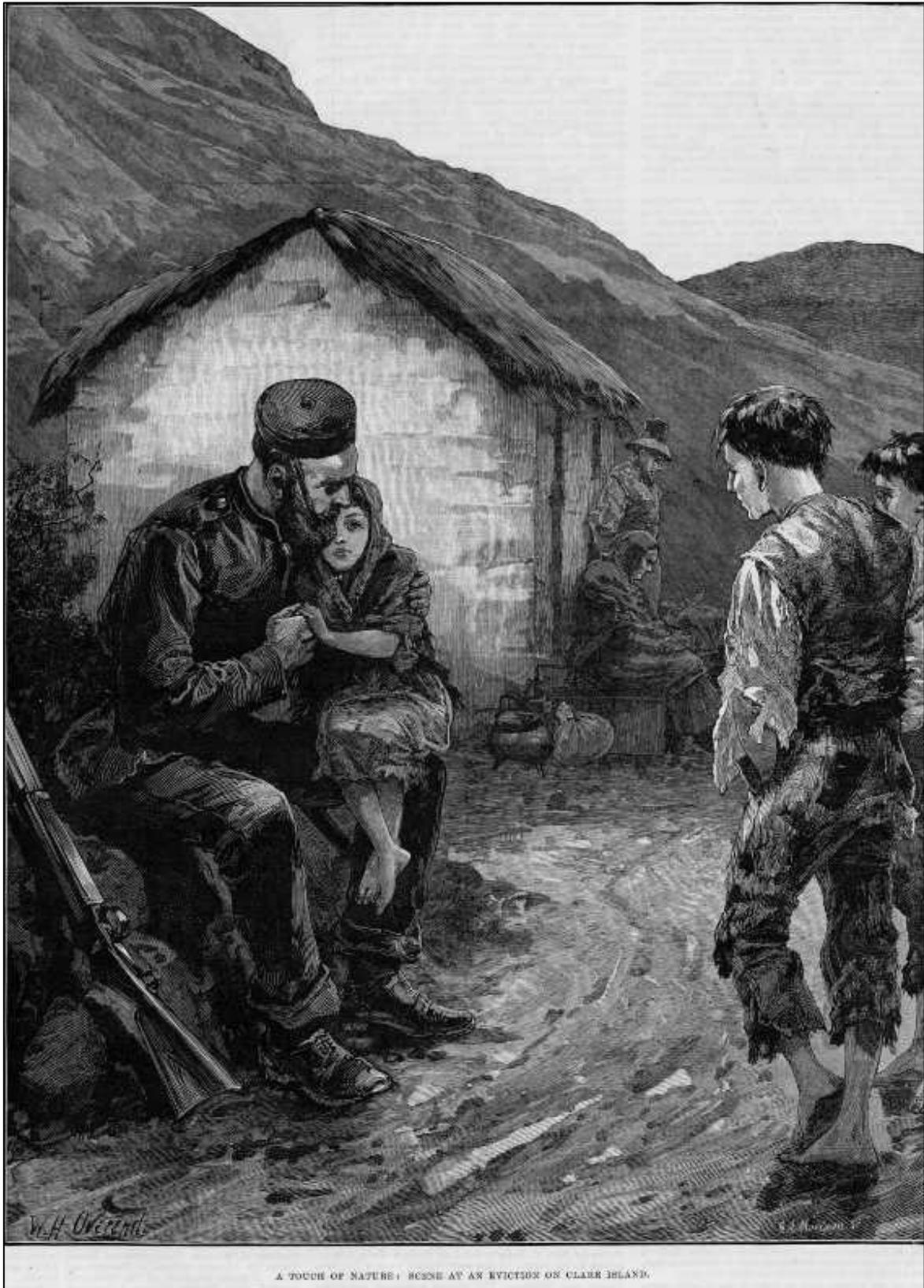


Figure 2 - Eviction Scene on Clare Island. From *Illustrated London News*, 1886.

The bearded and uniformed man holding the child appears to be an RIC constable.

(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

### *Engels on the Irish Constabulary*

Unsurprisingly, Friedrich Engels's assessment of the Irish Constabulary was strikingly different to that of Johann Kohl's. While visiting Ireland in 1856, Engels harshly condemned the force and he included policemen, along with priests, lawyers, bureaucrats and country squires, in his list of "parasitic growths" that were supported by a country that was without any industry and that was "in ruins". The German Marxist had "never seen so many *gendarmes* in any country" and he claimed that "the sodden look of the bibulous Prussian *gendarme* is developed to its highest perfection here among the constabulary, who are armed with carbines, bayonets and handcuffs" (quoted in Malcolm, 2006, p. 29).

### *"Royal"*

The Irish Constabulary became the Royal Irish Constabulary in September 1867 in recognition of the role it had played in suppressing the IRB rising of that year. Queen Victoria decreed that henceforth the force was to wear a harp and a crown as part of its insignia (Herlihy, 1997). The badge of the newly-named force was created at this time.



Figure 3 - Inspector-General's Instruction on Station Badges, 1910.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

*Constable Fennell in County Mayo and the Killing of Ellen McDonagh*

Thomas Fennell, in *The Royal Irish Constabulary – A History and Personal Memoir* (2003) records two instances in which the police had to present deadly weapons. He was posted to Mayo in 1875 and he served there for eight years. According to Fennell, an “instance of firing that might have been avoided” occurred at Inver, near Belmullet, in 1880 (Fennell, 2003, p. 36). A body of policemen escorting a process server was attacked with stones and one shot fired accidentally by nervous constable was followed, (as so often seems to happen in these cases), by a volley of supporting shots from other constables who assumed that an order to fire had been given. Before the officer in charge could stop the firing, a young girl named Ellen McDonagh had been gravely wounded. It took her several days to die. In Fennell’s account, the inquest was abandoned on a technicality and there were no repercussions for the policemen involved. The press reported that the girl had been on the receiving end of a bayonet thrust and that the incident was an example of RIC brutality.

Sometime before the killing of Ellen McDonagh, Constable Fennell experienced a similar situation in the same area. At Stonefield, near Belmullet, a police party protecting a process server was met by a crowd of men and women throwing stones. Some of the police had been hit before the head constable in charge:

...halted the party and warned the people that, if they continued to oppose our advance, it would be for them a serious matter. With fixed bayonets, he ordered the police to advance. The crowd stood their ground and stones hopped off the rifles. Again he halted and ordered the party to load, warning the people that if they did not disperse they would be fired upon... There were twenty police in the party, so that the people would have had little chance if the Head Constable had persisted in forcing his way. The attitude of the crowd convinced him that if he did, lives would be lost. He ordered the police to lower their arms, and unload and, abandoning the attempt to proceed further, marched the police and process server away (Fennell, 2003, p. 37).

The head constable’s actions were later approved by the Castle. In Fennell’s memoirs, the Land War is cast as one of the most difficult periods in the history of the RIC. Before it erupted, “the duties of the force were neither stringent nor disagreeable” (Fennell, 2003, p. 96).



Figure 4 - Attack on Police at Belmullet. From *Illustrated London News*, 1881.

(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

## Chapter 5 – The RIC in County Mayo, 1889-1900

### *Inspector General Sir Andrew Reed*

In 1889, Sir Andrew Reed was the inspector general of the RIC. He had held that position since 1885. After completing his cadetship at the Depot (the facility in the Phoenix Park, Dublin where recruits and cadets were trained) in 1859, he served as sub-inspector in Counties Tipperary and Donegal. He became county inspector for Donegal in 1879. He edited and revised several editions of the official police reference manuals and was always keen to recommend strict sobriety for the members of the force. (Radford, 2005).

Generally seen as a progressive reformer, he encouraged the use of promotional exams and abolished punitive fines for infringements when a simple admonition would suffice. Dismissals from the force were less frequent under his generalship. Under his leadership, the force became more civilianised and he was uncomfortable with the concept of it as a semi-military body. He was the only inspector general of the RIC to have risen through the ranks without a military background (Radford, 2005).

### *County Inspector Oliver Milling*

Oliver Milling was the county inspector for Mayo in 1889. He was based at the county headquarters at Westport Station. He had been appointed to that post in 1887 after 22 years as a district inspector. He was first appointed as an officer in the force in 1865 and was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> district inspector (the highest of 3 grades of district inspector) in 1878. His father had also served as an RIC officer and had been awarded the Constabulary Medal for Gallantry during the Fenian Rising of 1867. Following in the family tradition, Oliver Milling's son, John Charles, would later become a district inspector, and a resident magistrate. He was murdered by the IRB in Westport in 1919 (Price, 2012).

### *RIC Structure in County Mayo*

According to the *RIC List and Directory* (1889) there were 10 district inspectors under Milling's command in 1889. (One of these, either district inspector Ball or district inspector Sullivan, was probably attached to County Roscommon. Both were stationed at Ballaghaderreen.) The county consisted of 9 police districts and each district had between 6 and 10 stations. There were 62 stations in the county in total. As well as the stations, police facilities in the county included 7 huts, 4 temporary stations and 2 protection posts. There had been a police station on Clare Island just before the *List and Directory* had been

published but it was discontinued. The same was true of a short-lived station at Strandtown. The 2 protection posts were at Baraboy and Kilgarif in the Ballaghadereen district (See Appendix IX) (The RIC Collection, 2011a).

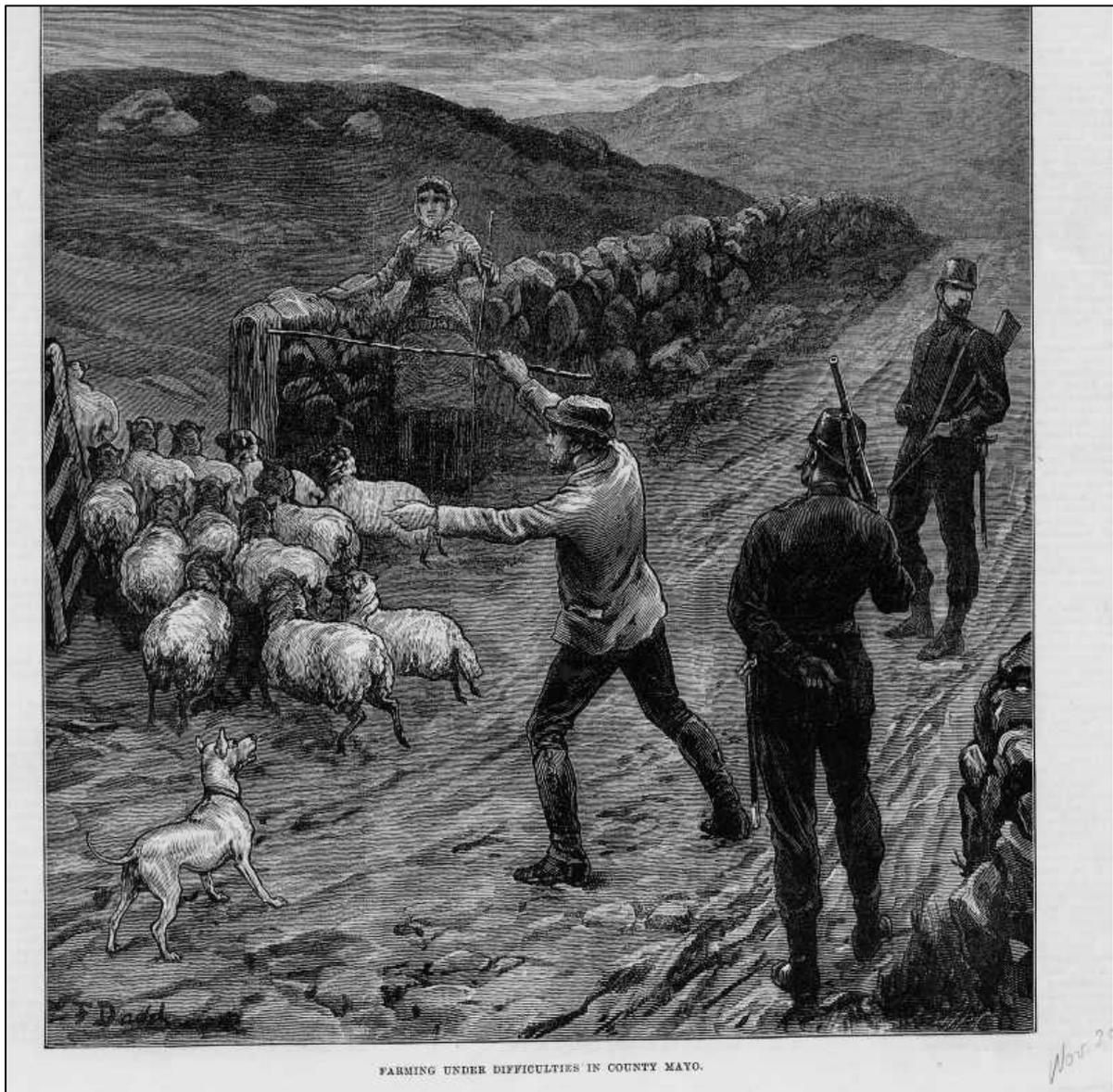


Figure 5- Armed Constables on Patrol in County Mayo. From *The Graphic*, 1880.

(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

### *The Career of George McKee*

The memoirs of George McKee give a flavour of the life of an RIC man in County Mayo during the 1890s. McKee claimed to have been born in Drummin RIC barracks near Castlebar in 1862. (He also calls it “Drum” Barrack.) His sister Caroline was born there two years before. His father was a head constable and seems to have been stationed in several Mayo towns during his career. George’s grandfather had served in the police too, for over 30 years - and drew a police pension for about 35 years afterwards. Six of George’s brothers joined up and all, apart from Hugh, seem to have done well in the force. Hugh resigned from the force in 1900 and had been doing badly in it for some time. He was “too fond of drink” and he had been “reported for tippling”, an infringement that was treating very seriously in the force (McKee, 1998, p. 116).

George joined the force in March, 1880 and served for a total of 26 years. After training in the Depot in the Phoenix Park, he was dispatched to county headquarters at Westport and then immediately transferred from there to Ballinrobe. He was stationed at Ballinrobe during the Boycott episode. Usually, newly-trained men were not allowed to serve in the counties that they came from. Perhaps this rule was relaxed because of the extreme unrest during the Land War. McKee was on duty at Dowagh protection post (near Ballinrobe) in 1881 protecting a man called Thomas Gildea. He then served at Cong and in 1882, he arrived at Castlebar and worked in the county store issuing new clothing to the men.

### *Paperwork*

In January, 1890, Constable McKee was informed that he was to be transferred to Westport. He was to work in the county inspector’s office as an assistant clerk, replacing Acting Sergeant Doyle who had recently been promoted. It was common for county inspectors to appoint promising constables as clerks to help them with their paper work, thus guaranteeing such men rapid promotion. As Malcolm (2006) has noted, the RIC was used by the state for a wide range of purposes and became, over time, a complex bureaucracy. It used huge amounts of paper and ink. By 1911, county inspectors, were required to keep twenty-two books, from registers of public houses to postage books to personal journals. They were also required to make 65 returns each year to the inspector general including monthly financial statements, quarterly returns of farms from which tenants had been evicted and annual returns of the numbers of sheep killed by dogs. Registers of police pensioners and of forges in each district had to be kept by district

inspectors, along with sixteen other books. Returns had to be sent to the county inspector each month and each quarter. These returns included (among other things), information on cases of boycotting and police revolver practice. Head constables had to keep a daily diary of the duties that they performed. Not maintaining books properly was a serious offence but most of the paper work compiled by the RIC had nothing to do with crime. As Malcolm has noted, “If Irish policemen were trained at the Phoenix Park Depot as soldiers, many of them spent a great deal of their time employed essentially as clerks” (Malcolm, 2006, p. 96).

McKee was not particularly happy with his transfer to a new station. Although only a short train journey away, he missed his friends and his mother in Castlebar. He started work in Westport in February, 1890, and quickly came to enjoy it. He became “contented and settled” in his new station and he found the work “interesting and pleasant to perform” (McKee, 1998, p. 102). His main task was the keeping of the county register. He made frequent trips back to Castlebar by train to visit his mother. In late December 1891, he was given leave to return home for a short period. According to a relieved Constable McKee, “Christmas in a Police Barracks is anything but pleasant” (McKee, 1998, p. 106).

#### *More Transfers for McKee*

Work in the county inspector’s office became lighter in 1892 and McKee was directed by “that gentleman (Mr Milling)” to revert to ordinary outdoor duty in March of that year. For some unexplained reason, McKee felt that this kind of work in Westport would be unpleasant, so he applied for a transfer to Ballina station. County Inspector Milling granted him his request and made it known to him that his promotion was not far away. McKee’s brother had worked in Ballina station before being transferred to Newport as a clerk. He preferred the outdoor duty and found it beneficial for his health. Police work in County Mayo at this time does not seem to have been especially onerous. It is interesting that McKee notes that the general election of 1892 gave the RIC “something to do” (McKee, 1998, p. 106). Later that year McKee learned of his promotion to the rank and pay of acting sergeant. He had been 12 years and seven months in the RIC.

In January, 1893, McKee moved from Ballina to Bonniconlon on a temporary transfer. Some disquiet had risen in that vicinity on account of a man named Ginley having taken a farm of land that had had its former tenant (Durkan) evicted for non-payment of rent. Ginley became hated in the area and had to get constant police protection. Extra men

were sent to Bonniconlon station. McKee describes this task as “very hard duty” (McKee, 1998, p. 107). He spent 5 weeks protecting Ginley and his property. He was glad to go back to Ballina.

In April 1893, McKee learned that he was to be transferred from Ballina to Achill Sound. Concerned by the prospect, McKee believed that he had left “a very good station for a bad one” but he was prepared to “go to any place that the exigencies of the service may require”. Ultimately, he found Achill “not so bad as represented” but its principal drawback was that it was “so unapproachable” (McKee, 1998, p. 107).

### *Social Life*

Despite his earlier comments about Christmas in a police barracks, he seems to have enjoyed the Christmas of 1893 at his station at Achill Sound. He did apply for a week’s leave of absence but was refused. He had an enjoyable time of it thanks to the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Johnston at the nearby hotel which he visited on several occasions during that time. In early January 1894, he returned the favour and hosted a party in the barracks for the proprietors of the Hotel Achill Sound. This was not particularly unusual. Barracks sometimes hosted dances for their men and for the local community. Malcolm (2006) describes a New Year’s Eve party in 1900 at Dromond barracks in County Leitrim that began at 9.00 p.m. and “continued without a break” until 7.00 a.m.. The venue had been highly decorated for the occasion and attendees (including 25 single women) were supplied with “all classes of liquors and beverages” (Malcolm, 2006, pp. 186-187). The event was organised by the head constable, the acting sergeant and the four constables who lived in the barracks. Catering was supervised by the sergeant’s wife.

Women were not permitted to join the RIC at any level (Campbell, 2009) but in some circumstances they did have a role to play in police matters. In *The Royal Irish Constabulary Manual* (1909), policemen were informed that the searching of a female prisoner should only be done by “The wife of a constable, or should she decline, the barrack servant in her presence, but not in the presence of the men” (The RIC Collection, 2011c). It was assumed that the barrack servant would be female. In February 1894, George McKee was transferred from Achill Sound to Swinford Station. He was glad to be getting away from “such a backward pace” (McKee, 1998, p. 108).

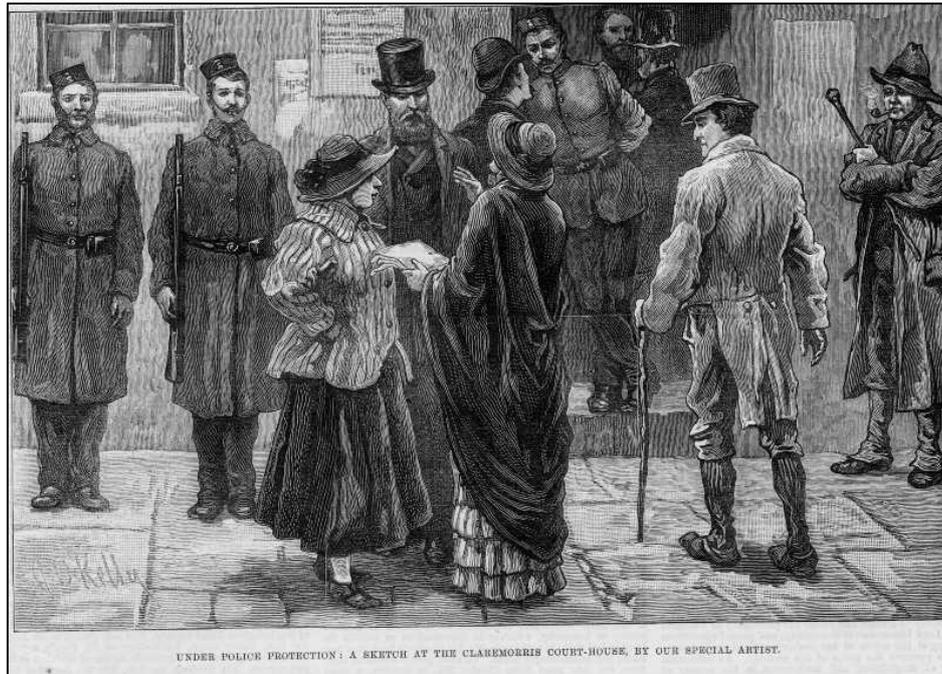


Figure 6 - "Under Police Protection" Outside Claremorris Court-house.  
(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

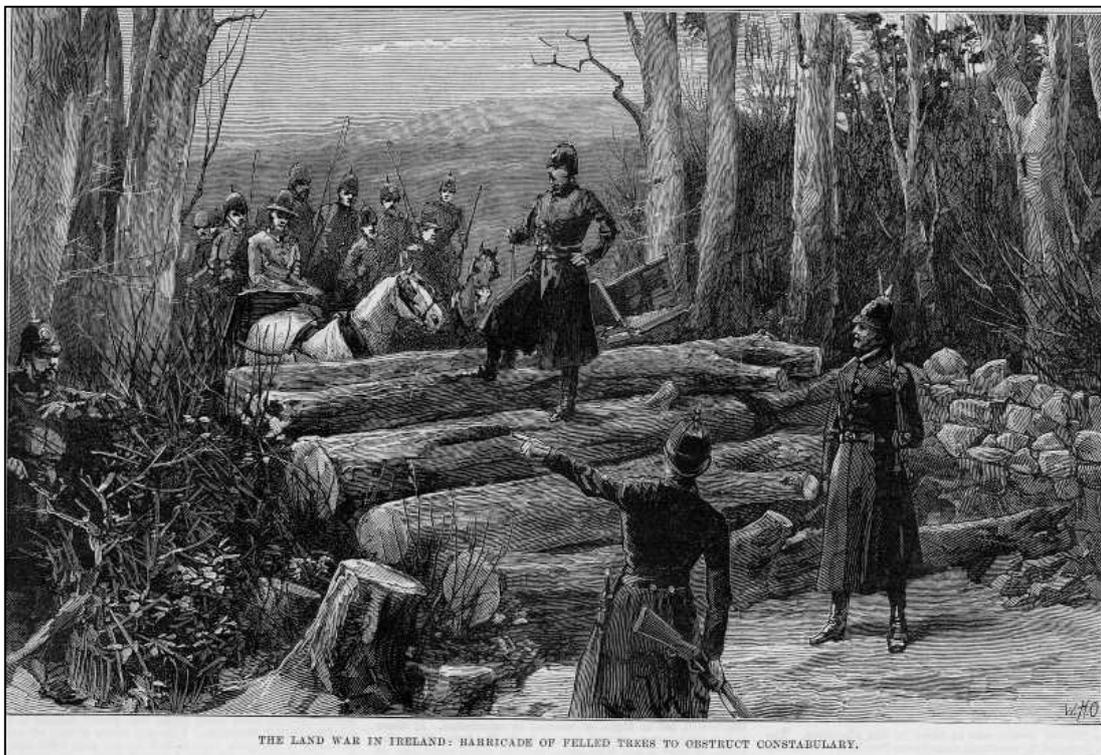


Figure 7 - Constabulary Obstructed. From *Illustrated London News*, 1887.  
(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

### *Lynchehaun*

One of the most embarrassing episodes in the history of the RIC in County Mayo occurred a few months after McKee's departure from Achill. James Lynchehaun was taken into custody by the RIC on the sixth of October, 1894, and was charged with assaulting his landlord Mrs Agnes McDonnell at the Valley House, Achill, earlier that day. Mrs McDonnell's home had been burnt to the ground in the same incident and the vicious assault that she had endured that day resulted in her being facially disfigured for the rest of her life (Byrne, 2011).

A week later, while being escorted to Castlebar jail by a Constable Ward, Lynchehaun escaped at Polranny. Huge efforts were made by the RIC to find him and the case became famous throughout the United Kingdom. It was generally known however, that he remained at large in Achill. A reward of £100 was offered by the government for information that could lead to his re-arrest. For eleven weeks, hundreds of policemen searched for him (The Mayo News, 1895).

On January the 6<sup>th</sup>, 1895, in the early hours of the morning, County Inspector Milling and District Inspector Rainsford approached (in bare feet so as not to make a sound) the house of James Gallagher near Achill Sound. They entered the house and removed a timber box that had concealed a hole in the floor. A sergeant at the scene ordered Lynchehaun (who was hiding in the hole) to emerge or be shot. The fugitive surrendered without any resistance. Gallagher and a woman named Masterson, a relative of Lynchehaun, were also arrested at the scene. Under heavy escort, the three were removed to Mulranny where they were taken by train to Westport. The interest in the handcuffed Lynchehaun was such that, at Westport, a large crowd was waiting at the station for his arrival. (The Mayo News, 1895).

At his trial, in July 1895, he was found guilty and sentenced to a life time of penal servitude. Justice Curtin added:

Your crime is murder, except for the accident that by a merciful intervention of providence this woman was endowed with splendid courage and vitality, though poor wreck she will live for a few and miserable years. The sentence of the court is penal servitude for life. (Quoted in Byrne, 2011.)

Lynchehaun confounded the authorities again in 1902 when he escaped from Maryborough Prison. A £100 reward was again offered for any information leading to his re-capture. He subsequently made it to America and successfully fought extradition charges by claiming that his attack on Mrs Mc Donnell was of a political nature. Lynchehaun's infamy helped to shape characters in the work of both James Joyce and John Millington Synge. In his later years he spent some time as an inmate of the County Home in Castlebar before eventually dying in Scotland (Byrne, 2011).

**£100 REWARD !**

**ESCAPE OF  
CONVICT JAMES LYNCHÉHAUN  
FROM MARYBOROUGH PRISON.**

**JAMES LYNCHÉHAUN**, convicted of attempted Murder and Arson, having escaped from Maryborough Prison on the night of 6th September, 1902, I hereby offer a Reward of £100 to any person who will give information to the Police leading to the re-capture of the Convict.

His Description is as follows:—Brown hair, hazel eyes, light-brown eyebrows, coarse mouth, fresh complexion, stout make, very short neck, height 5feet 9½ inches, cut mark on back of left hand above little finger on the outside, cut on first finger of left hand. He escaped from Maryborough Gaol without boots or coat, but wore Prison trousers, shirt and socks. He may assume a disguise. He was clean shaven when he escaped.

The above reward will be paid to the person entitled to it by any Officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary, or through any Officer of any other Police Force.

Dated at Dublin Castle, 11th September, 1902.

**NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN,  
Colonel, Inspector-General,  
R.I.C**

Figure 8 – Lynchehaun's Second Escape

Source: Connaught Telegraph, 20/09/1902, Page 4

*The United Irish League and “savages in uniform”*

A major challenge to police authority in County Mayo (and a great strain on their resources), arrived in 1898 in the form of the United Irish League (UIL). It was formed in January of that year in west Mayo and, by early 1900, it had spread across most of Ireland. The principal founder was William O’Brien and the organisation’s objectives were the complete transfer of ownership of agricultural land from landlords to tenant farmers and the conversion of grazing land to tillage in the hope of meeting the needs of impoverished smallholders. Within a short period of time, the UIL had attracted the attention of both Parnellite and anti-Parnellite factions within Irish nationalism and its influence led to a weakening of the animosity between those two groups. The inaugural meeting of the league was held at Westport on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 1898, and was addressed by O’Brien. For the first 9 months of its existence, the UIL’s activities were limited to west Mayo where it campaigned against land “grabbers” and intimidated graziers (Bull, 2003).

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, the Government began a prosecution of a local league man called John O’Donnell along with some other activists. There was a large crowd in Westport that day because it was a fair day and protests in support of the activists erupted on the streets. The police were unprepared. There were further disturbances in the days that followed. The police and government became concerned and Assistant Inspector-General Allan Cameron of the RIC was sent from Dublin to Mayo to investigate the League’s activities. He reported that Mayo was “seriously and dangerously” affected by the agitation (Bull, 2003, p. 407).

On February the 17<sup>th</sup>, court proceedings resumed against O’Donnell and the police were better prepared and stronger in number. A crowd of eight hundred had gathered in the streets. A violent conflict between police and protestors ensued. The confrontation was large enough in scale and intensity to later warrant discussion in Parliament.

Two days later, under the headline “Police Ruffianism”, *The Mayo News* published an article which harshly condemned the police who they said had “set upon the people in what looked like a deliberate attempt to provoke them into resistance”. It continued:

Inoffensive men and women standing in the doors of houses in James’s Street were pulled into the street by policemen, and then shoved and hustled about in a most outrageous manner. Mr Cameron and Mr Milling, the County Inspector, all the time paraded in the Street, smiling at the performance, as if it were something very

funny indeed. Mr Grady, the proprietor of the United Irish League rooms, was quietly standing in his own gateway when two savages in uniform pulled him out to the pavement and hustled him along some considerable distance from his house. Mr Milling, who must have known Mr O’Grady very well, was an amused spectator of the ruffianly conduct of his subordinates. (*The Mayo News*, 1898, p. 4.)

It should be noted that *The Mayo News* at that time was ran by the Doris brothers – strong nationalists and supporters of the UIL.

Shortly afterwards, it was announced that the UIL would hold a meeting at Cushlough, south of Westport. The authorities proclaimed it an illegal gathering and the organisers, at the last minute, cancelled the meeting. The RIC, taking no chances, patrolled along a stretch of road nearby for 7-8 hours on a bitterly cold day. 50-200 policemen were involved. The UIL depicted the whole incident afterwards as a successful hoax – a deliberate ploy to make the police look ridiculous (Bull, 2003).

From March to June, the UIL consolidated its position in Mayo. Bull (2003) has noted that the league’s growth was helped by the RIC’s inclination to view any decline in its activity as evidence of its collapse into impotence and adds that “consistently for the first six months the police under-estimated its long-term significance” (Bull, 2003, p. 410). Police were inclined to refrain from interfering with O’Brien for fear that his incarceration would lead to increased kudos for him and increased prestige for his movement.

The police themselves were targets of the league’s activists. Carpenters sent by the Board of Works to build huts for the extra police at Moyna and Slinane were boycotted and could not obtain accommodation near their place of work. Police stationed at Brockagh had problems getting supplies. UIL meetings continued to be announced, simply to mislead the police and to strain their resources. During the month of March, the number of people receiving police protection in Mayo rose from 13 to 122 (Bull, 2003).

Bull has noted that police interference in the early activities of the UIL consolidated the movement and gave it publicity and status. The banning of a UIL meeting in Ballinrobe in October 1898 was said to have doubled the number of applications for membership. On that day, a force of 200 policemen under Cameron had blocked all access to the town. Michael Davitt had to approach the town by boat through Lough Mask. The UIL survived (in name at least) until 1918 (Bull, 2003).

### *Administrative Change*

In November 1899, *The Western People* reported that important changes were about to take place in the policing of County Mayo. The county was to be divided into two ridings, North and South. Ballina was to become the head-quarters of the North Riding and Westport was to be the head-quarters of the South Riding. Both would have a county inspector. Oliver Milling, the county inspector before the change, remained at Westport (The Western People, 1899).



Figure 9- On Sentry Duty, ca. 1880-1900, The Lawrence Photograph Collection.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

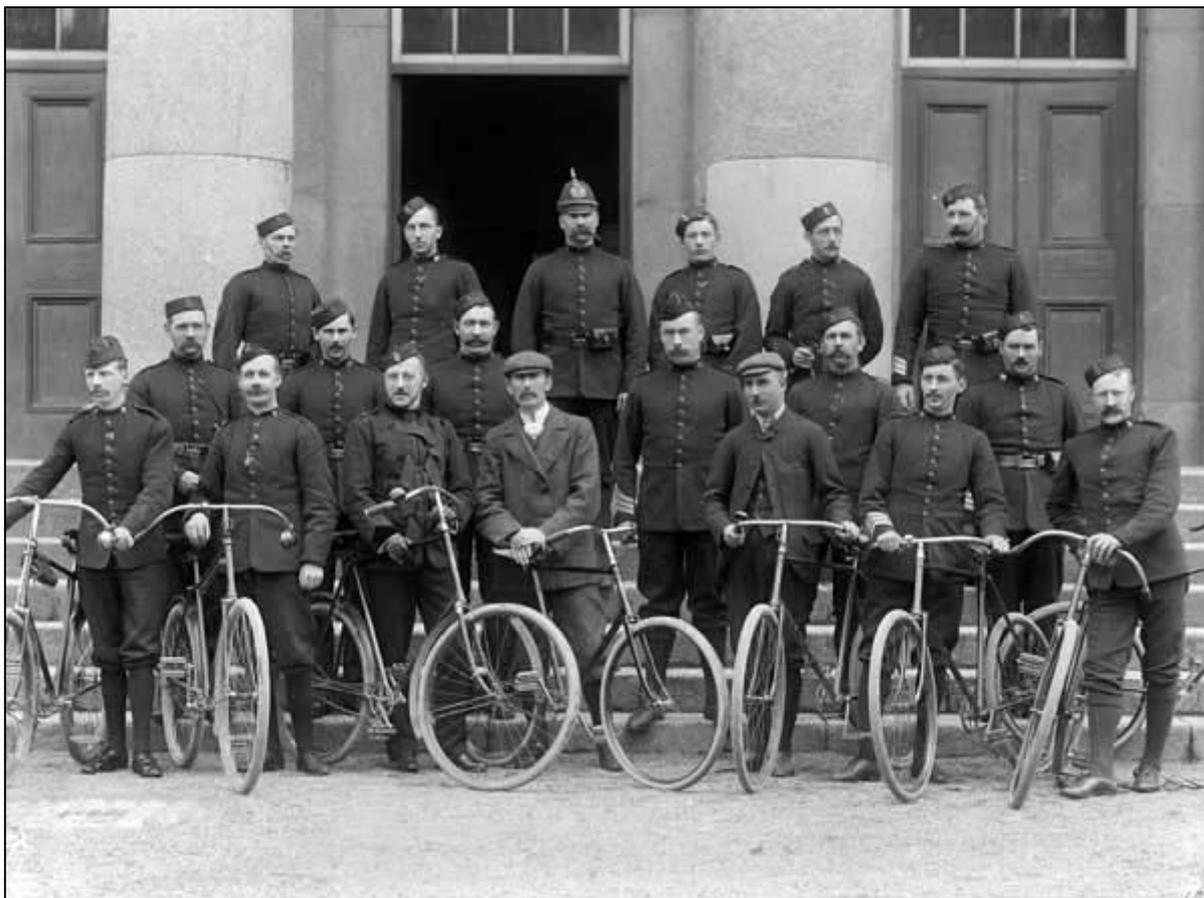


Figure 10 - RIC Group with Bicycles ca. 1897, The Poole Photographic Collection.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

## Chapter 6 – The RIC in County Mayo, 1900-1910

### *The New Century*

As the twentieth century dawned, there was a common feeling in Ireland that a period of new political activity was imminent. The Irish chief secretary George Wyndham (who was elected after the general election of 1900) felt that Ireland was in “a plastic state” and could be shaped “almost at will” (quoted in Mulhall, 1999, p.32). A new form of nationalism, inspired by the Gaelic League, was beginning to assert itself. Despite these stirrings, confidential police reports to Wyndham’s office in Dublin Castle invariably described a country that was peaceable. In December 1899, the police had reported 174 agrarian outrages, 34 evictions and dozens of people under police protection. These incidents however, were not considered significant, especially in comparison to the turmoil of the Land War years (Mulhall, 1999).

The Boer War, (which erupted in October, 1899), had a considerable impact in Ireland. In late 1899, a police document reported (with some bewilderment) that pro-Boer feelings were widespread among all classes of nationalist. Word of Boer successes on the battlefield brought celebrating crowds out onto the streets of Dublin. The war was a particularly divisive topic in Ulster. As a result of the hostilities, Michael Davitt resigned as an MP and travelled to the Transvaal to see the situation at first hand (Mulhall, 1999).

The first January of the century saw the reunification of the Irish Parliamentary Party under John Redmond and in June, the rapidly growing United Irish League became its grassroots organisation. Police reports continued to record efforts by secret societies to recruit new members but throughout the country, the effects of land legislation, the expansion of the railways and the reform of local government (which ceded control of local authority to nationalists) seemed to be having a stabilising effect. The population of Ireland had dropped by a quarter of a million between 1891 and 1901, and in 1899, Ireland had a higher emigration rate than any other part of Europe. Thousands migrated for temporary periods in search of seasonal labour (Mulhall, 1999).

Queen Victoria visited the country for 3 weeks in April as part of a campaign to boost army recruitment. The visit was fairly well-received although police were obliged to seize an edition of Arthur Griffith’s magazine, *The United Irishman*, in which Maud Gonne had penned an article labelling the royal “the Famine Queen” (Mulhall, 1999, p. 34).

### *The Two Ridings and the Officer Class*

From late 1899, Mayo had two county inspectors and both were overseen by a new inspector general. Sir Neville Chamberlain, a veteran of wars in Afghanistan and South Africa, replaced Sir Andrew Reed as inspector general in 1900. Oliver Milling continued in his role and was joined by County Inspector JT Brooke. Brooke was based at Ballina and oversaw the North Riding. The working life of an RIC officer around the turn of the century was, in general, not particularly demanding. Vere Gregory, (a relation of Lady Gregory), became a police officer in the 1890s and claimed that:

During the first twenty years of my service, and before the political situation became acute, there was probably no other profession in the world which afforded such scope and leisure for enjoying a maximum amount of sport at a minimum expense (quoted in Campbell, 2009, p. 535).

In the early years of the force, the vast majority of officers were protestants. Candidates had to be nominated by the lord lieutenant to compete in an examination for cadetship which eventually led to an appointment as a district inspector. Reforms introduced by Reed towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century allowed more catholics to become officers. In 1895, new rules stipulated that half of district inspectors had to have served as head constables before taking the cadetship exam and training. Men taking this route to the rank of district inspector were more likely to have been catholic. Between 1901 and 1910 roughly half of *all* officers had come from the ranks (Campbell, 2009).

Between 1881 and 1911, 81 per cent of county inspectors were protestant. Most county inspectors (84 per cent) of this period were Irish born, and of these, most were from Leinster. A substantial number were the sons of police officers and there was a strong tendency in the RIC to nominate police officers' sons for cadetship. Officers were expected to be from a particular social background. An aspiring RIC officer in the 1890s was confronted with the following essay title options during his examination for cadetship: "Horse breeding in Ireland", "Salmon fishing in Ireland" and "Describe an Irish jaunting car and a typical Irish jarvey". The examinee, John Regan, recalled that the test appeared "to load the dice in favour of those in hunting and fishing circles" (quoted in Campbell, 2009, p. 528). The proportion of English-born officers between 1881 and 1911 increased from 7.5 per cent to 28 per cent.

The division of Mayo into two ridings for police administrative purposes did not last long. In 1904, Ballina was discontinued as a headquarters station and County Inspector Brooke left to take up a position as County Inspector for Carlow. The *Western People* reported that

During his residence in Ballina he was held in the highest esteem. The men under his command would never desire to serve under a kinder or more considerate officer, and they were greatly attached to him (Western People, 1904, p. 21).



Figure 11 - Group of Officers with Inspector-General Neville Chamberlain, 1900.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)



Figure 12 - Royal Irish Constabulary, Committee Group, 1895.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

### *The Westport Pro-Boer Riots*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 1900, a pro-Boer disturbance occurred at Killaghour, Westport. Head Constable William O'Connor, a veteran of 24 years, was severely injured in the incident and was later awarded £200 in compensation. The event was sparked when some local loyalists decided to celebrate the taking of Pretoria by Lord Roberts, the commander of British forces in South Africa, by setting off fireworks in a field near Killaghour, overlooking the town. Head-Constable O'Connor, along with some other constables, attended the event to prevent any possible breach of the peace. A crowd of people came from the town to challenge those preparing the fireworks and were confronted by the policemen and turned back. A "disorderly" crowd returned which numbered about 150 persons and once again they attempted to force their way past the police. The crowd shouted "Cheers for the Boers and Kruger" and "Down with the English" and pushed through the police line into the field. "Cheers for the Irish Brigade" was also heard (The Western People, 1900, p.3). Attempts were made to disperse the crowd. When it became apparent that the loyalists had fled, the crowd attacked the police with stones and sticks. The head-constable was knocked senseless by a flying stone that struck him on the face.

The disturbances continued into the night. He claimed that he was unable to resume duty for two months afterwards due to physical and mental distress. His ambition to become a district inspector was also dashed. He was unable to attend the promotion examination and he would have been too old to be eligible when the next round of examinations took place. The compensation hearing heard that examination for the office of district inspector was only open to men under the age of 45 (The Western People, 1900).

During the hearing, Head-Constable O'Connor was asked by a cross-examiner: "Am I right in saying that the respectable ratepayers of Westport have always shown a rather good feeling towards the police?" He replied: "Yes, the respectable ratepayers; still, of course, there are some heavy ratepayers quite the other way". At the same hearing, Constable Daniel Griffin stated that: "I believe nine-tenths of the people of Westport were in sympathy with the crowd who were carrying on that conduct that night" (The Western People, 1900, p.3).

#### *Assault on the Police in Achill*

In April, 1902, *The Mayo News* carried a report on the monthly Petty Sessions that were held at Achill Sound. In the article, details of a trial of some men accused of an assault on the police were covered. The assault had happened on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February of that year, a fair day at the Sound. Two Constables, Dolan and Flannery, had arrested an old man named McGinty that day for drunkenness. Another man, a Patrick McLoughlin, had interfered with this procedure and was arrested as well. The policemen then tried to bring both prisoners to the barracks but a crowd approached and demanded that the policemen release their prisoners. The female members of the crowd (which grew to about 100 people) were said to have been particularly insistent. The confrontation quickly escalated and the crowd became "terribly excited". The police were forced to draw (and use) their batons. In the ensuing chaos, both constables were assaulted, one was relieved of his baton, and stones were thrown by the crowd. Constable Dolan was kicked in the mouth as he lay on the ground. It took the policemen half an hour to escort the prisoners along 200 yards of road. They were eventually rescued by colleagues who were attracted by the commotion (The Mayo News, 1902).

At the trial, Mr A. B. Kelly, defending the accused persons, put it to Constable Flannery "that in Achill, as a rule, the police generally get help from the people when

arresting a prisoner, if necessary? The police were never interfered with before in arresting a prisoner until this occasion". The Constable replied: "I believe this is one of the isolated cases that have occurred in Achill...we were never interfered with before in arresting a prisoner". It was noted by the Chairman of the proceedings in his concluding remarks that the whole event was extremely regrettable, especially in light of the fact that Achill Island had been "so peaceable for a good many years". Four of the defendants were sentenced to imprisonment at Castlebar Jail. They were immediately conveyed there by train (The Mayo News, 1902). Violent incidents much less severe than this could be treated very severely by the courts. In 1904, a young man "of the farming class" from Irishtown was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment with hard labour at Castlebar Jail for kicking a police sergeant's dog (The Mayo News, 1904, p.6).

### *The Orangemen's Day*

In July of 1902, ninety members of the Mayo force, from both north and south ridings, travelled to Ulster to police the Twelfth of July celebrations. Fifty members left with District Inspector Lowndes from Ballinrobe and forty left from Ballina under the command of District Inspector Monson. A writer in the *Connaught Telegraph* opined that "serious trouble" was anticipated because policemen based in Mayo had not been drafted to the north for fifteen years (Connaught Telegraph, 1902, p. 4). The men were sent to Lurgan and Rostrevor.

### *A Police Inquiry*

In August of 1902, at the courthouse in Castlebar, a week-long inquiry was held into allegations that certain officers and men of the RIC had behaved illegally in connection with illicit distillation. The proceedings were presided over by Assistant Inspector General Gamble and a Mr Meldon, Resident Magistrate. The members of the force who faced charges were all stationed in County Mayo. Those indicted were District Inspector Dowling, District Inspector Shankey, Head Constable Gray, Sergeant O Connor, and Constables Ward and Dunleavy. They were all charged with neglect and violation of their duties. All accused officers and men pleaded not guilty. (Connaught Telegraph, 1902).

The main charge levelled at the policemen was that they had (while on revenue duty), repeatedly claimed rewards for the seizure of the *same* poteen still in the townland of Ballygarriff, north of Turlough. It was alleged that on several occasions, they found a

still, reported it as seized, claimed a reward for its seizure, failed to destroy it, hid it, and then repeated the exercise again and again in expectation of continued financial reward. It was alleged that they had done this on six occasions. Charges were also levelled against Sergeant O'Connor and Constable Ward for drinking illicit spirits and against Sergeant O'Connor for having attempted to induce locals to manufacture poteen. Constable Colman Dunleavy was charged with having attempted to sell articles of jewellery, contrary to the police code.

The court was empowered to examine witnesses on oath and to report to the Lord Lieutenant. The prosecution was conducted by the County Inspector for Galway, Mr Lopdall, and a District Inspector Shiel from Nenagh. A solicitor from Swinford, Mr Mannion, appeared for the defendants. There was great public interest in the case and, according to the *Connaught Telegraph*, the venue was crowded. Local clergymen and politicians attended.

There was a strong political element to this inquiry. Questions had been asked in the House of Commons by nationalist (and UIL-linked) MPs during the previous months about the activities of the Mayo police. A Mr J O'Mahony appeared (in an apparently semi-official capacity) as a representative for Dr Robert Ambrose MP and for the ratepayers of the district concerned; Pontoon. His right to participate in the trial was contested from the very beginning. Mr Mannion (defending the policemen) objected to O'Mahony's early interventions, claimed that his presence there was "for an ulterior purpose", and insisted "in the strongest manner possible, that this gentleman" had no *locus standi* there. O'Mahony, in reply, claimed that both the prosecution and the defence were "going hand in glove with one another". He was told by the presiding officials that he was not allowed to examine witnesses and that he was only allowed to "watch the proceedings" (*Connaught Telegraph*, 1902, p. 3). Frustrated, O'Mahony walked out of the court on the first day.

Some of the witnesses who testified against the police were UIL members. James McHale claimed that he saw the policemen locating the still and concealing it again at Ballygarriff several times. It emerged that District Inspector Dowling had become exceptionally unpopular in the district because of his tenacity in attempting to suppress the league. He had been responsible for the prosecution of John O'Donnell (by now an MP for South Mayo) and another league man called Conroy for their political activities. It was

alleged by the defence that the whole affair had been a conspiracy by members of the UIL to frame the police in revenge for prosecutions following political speeches made years before.

When questioned by Mannion, County Inspector Milling (for Mayo South Riding), said that District Inspector Dowling was under his command and that only two stills were recovered during the period in question. Mr Gamble, the presiding officer, was informed that a reward of 30 shillings was usually given to a policeman for the seizure of a complete tin still. Milling deposed that if rewards were sought in respect of seizures other than the two mentioned, they would have appeared in the returns and no reward could be paid unless a seizure had been duly reported. To complicate matters, the division of the county into north and south ridings had led to some of the Pontoon district (including the townland of Ballygarriff) being positioned in the Mayo North Riding area. Milling could not therefore account for any seizures made in that area after that demarcation (*The Cork Examiner*, 1902).

If the alleged seizures had occurred, and if rewards had been granted, they would have appeared in the North Mayo Riding police reports. On the final day of the inquiry, Mr JT Brooks, County Inspector for Mayo North Riding, deposed that the Pontoon district was under his jurisdiction at the time that the alleged offences occurred and that *no* reports of seizures of stills came to him. Consequently, no rewards could have been paid out to the accused policemen (*The Cork Examiner*, 1902).

Presumably, a report on the proceedings was delivered to the Lord Lieutenant. There are no further references to the matter in the newspapers and it seems likely that the Lord Lieutenant concurred with the defence solicitor's assessment that the whole story was concocted by UIL members in an attempt to avenge the attempted suppression of the UIL and other nationalist agitators. The level of animosity between the police and UIL activists was particularly strong at this time. Between October 1901 and October 1902, seven Irish MPs had been convicted and imprisoned (some with hard labour) as a result of making political speeches (HC Deb 20 (1902) 113 col. 237-40).



Figure 13 - Police at Eviction Scene, 1886-1890, The Lawrence Photograph Collection.

(Source: National Library of Ireland, Online Catalogue.)

### *County Inspector Rainsford*

In July of 1907, County Inspector Ross Carthy Rainsford was transferred from Queen's County to Co Mayo, thereby replacing Oliver Milling (The Western People, 1907). Rainsford, (Milling's barefooted companion during the capture of Lynchehaun in 1902) was originally from County Louth and had graduated from Trinity College Dublin before becoming a cadet. He became a district inspector in 1886 and served in eight different counties. In 1912, he was transferred to County Leitrim and served as County Inspector there. He retired in 1920 at the age of sixty-one and had served in the RIC for thirty-eight years (Malcolm, 2006).

During Rainsford's time as county inspector, land agitation and nationalist campaigning continued. According to the 1910 edition of the *List and Directory*, there were 66 constabulary stations operational in the county. (An increase of 4 since 1889.) (The RIC Collection, 2011b) (See appendix X)

## Chapter 7 - Conclusion

The findings of this research on the RIC in Mayo concur with Ferriter's assessment that the working lives of policemen at the turn of the century were relatively tranquil and that only political agitation and public drunkenness posed challenges to law and order. There was, in general, friendly relations between the people of Mayo and the police at this time. The ferocious attack on the police in Achill was considered unusual. For policemen like George McKee, there seems to have been prolonged peaceful periods of paperwork, patrolling, and protection duty. These long spells were however, interrupted by sporadic outbreaks of intense civil unrest.

The birth of the UIL in Mayo posed huge problems for County Inspector Milling and his successors. The organisation's rapid growth took the police by surprise. Early attempts to suppress the league were completely unsuccessful and clearly some sort of retribution was wished for by those who levelled accusations against District Inspector Dowling in 1902. The pro-Boer riots in Westport were almost certainly linked (or inspired) by the growing strength of the UIL and its confrontational methods, acquired during the previous two decades during other campaigns of land agitation. The RIC's image was in no way helped by the local press who could, at times, be quite hostile. The religious, educational and social backgrounds of the UIL agitators and the policemen who were instructed to confront them would have been almost exactly the same.

The RIC's journey from militarised body to "domesticated" body certainly left it in a weakened position to counter the threat of Revolutionary Nationalism. By the time Constable James McDonnell of Belmullet was shot dead at Soloheadbeg in 1919, the RIC had become manned by long serving constables with little military training. It was ill-equipped and reluctant to fight a guerrilla war (Malcolm, 1998).



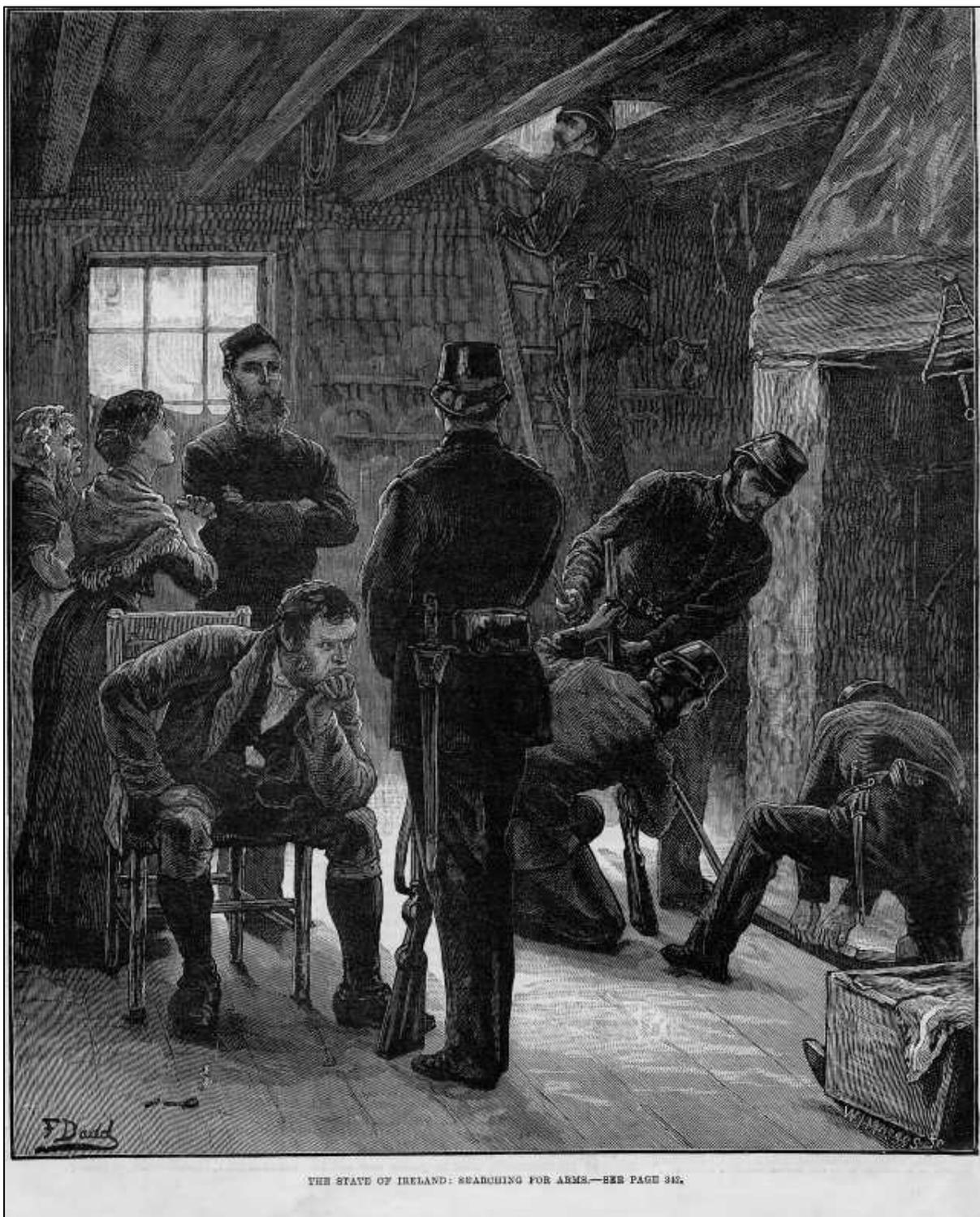
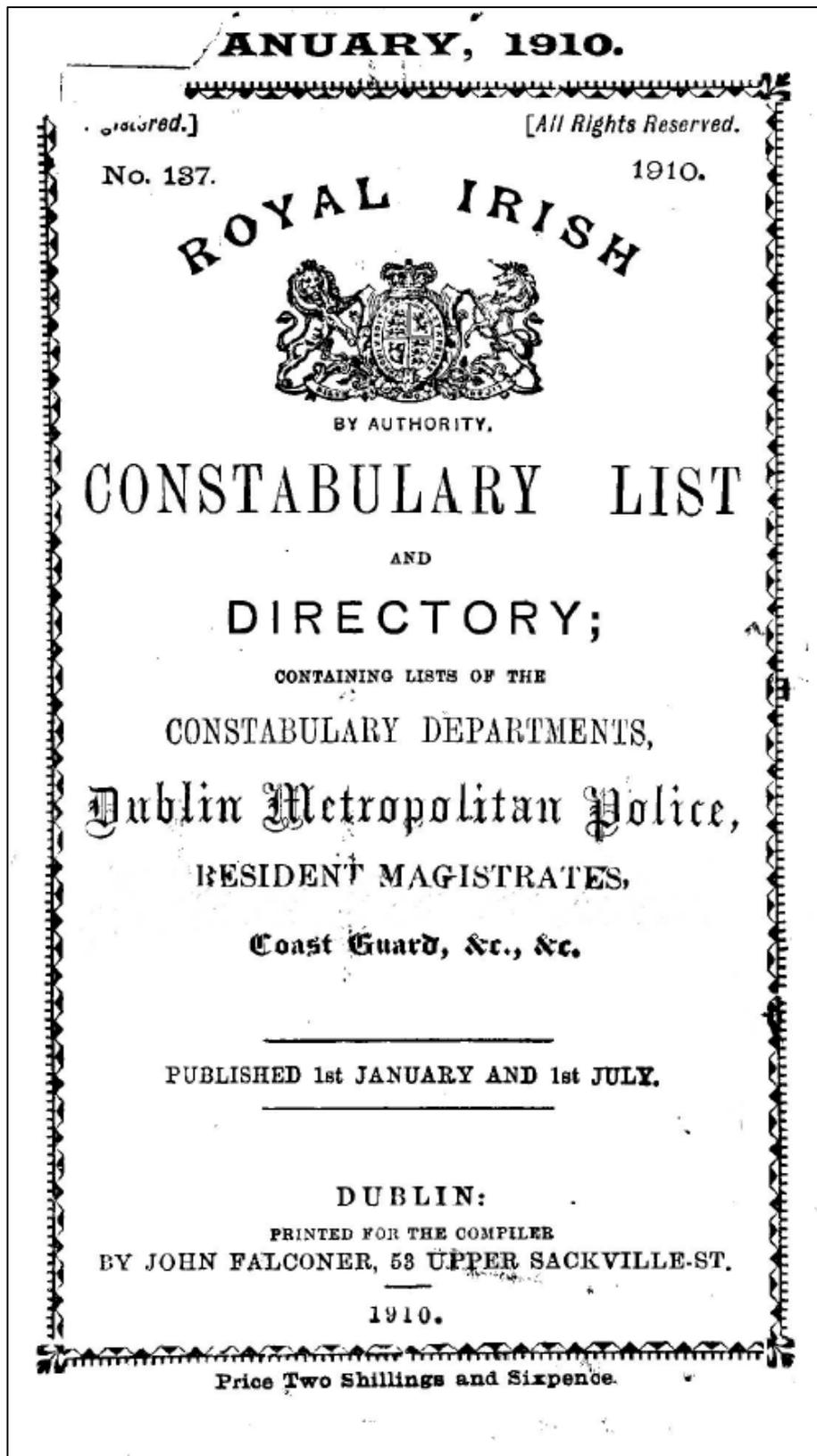


Figure 14 - Searching for Arms. From *Illustrated London News*, 1881.

(Source: Mayo County Library Historical Newspaper Illustrations.)

## Appendices

### Appendix I – Royal Irish Constabulary List and Directory Cover (1910)

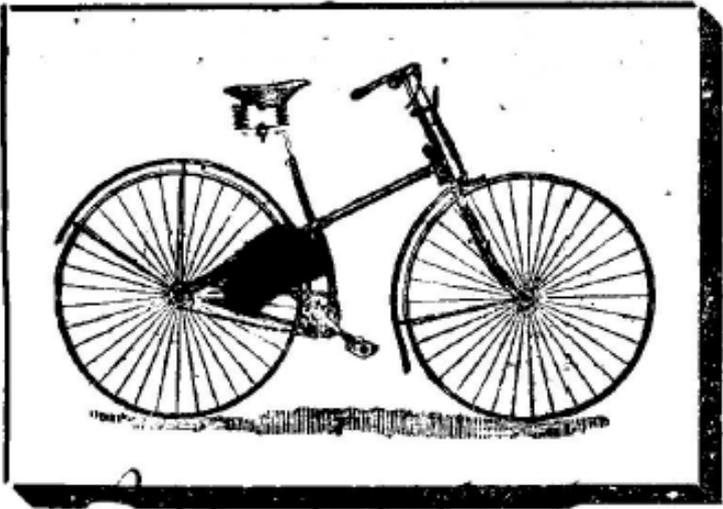


Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

The Royal Irish Constabulary in County Mayo, 1889-1910

Appendix II – Advertisement in RIC List and Directory (1889)

**THE  
SPECIAL R.I.C. CYCLES.**



**THE R.I.C. SAFETY BICYCLE,**

With ball-bearings, bright parts plated. Built by  
HUMBER & Co., Limited.

PRICE £10 10s. 0d.

*Terms of Payment—*

**£2 WITH ORDER AND £1 PER MONTH.**

---

Ordinary Bicycles for Learners sent to the country  
on Hire at 2s. 6d. per week:

---

REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS BY SKILLED MECHANICS:

---

*the Lists Post Free.*

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**BROTHERS,**  
UPPER **STEPHEN STREET,**  
**DUBLIN.**

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

The Royal Irish Constabulary in County Mayo, 1889-1910

*Appendix III – Riot Act***RIOT ACT:**

**Extract from the 27th George III., chap. 15, for the prevention of Tumultuous Risings and Assemblies, to the number of *Twelve* or more. Proclamation to be made in the following terms—viz.:**

**“ Our Sovereign Lady the Queen chargeth and commandeth all Persons being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the Twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of King George the Third to prevent Tumultuous Risings and Assemblies. God Save the Queen.”**

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

Appendix IV – RIC Officers in County Mayo in 1889 (above) and 1910 (below)

<b>86</b>	<b>OFFICERS BY COUNTIES.</b>	<b>[PART I.]</b>
<b>COUNTY OF MAYO.</b>		
<b>COUNTY INSPECTOR.</b>		
Milling, Oliver, Westport (a).		
<b>DISTRICT INSPECTORS.</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. M'Dermot, Henry Roderick (1st) Castlebar.</li> <li>2. Babbage, H. Whitmore (1st) Westport.‡</li> <li>3. Ball, Townley (2nd), Ballaghaderreen</li> <li>4. Pattisson, Pierre B. (2nd) Newport (Mayo)</li> <li>5. Phillips, Richard (2nd) Belmullet.‡</li> <li>6. MacGee, Michael (2nd) Claremorris.‡</li> <li>7. Rafter, Charles H. (2nd) Ballinrobe.</li> <li>8. Sullivan, Robert Tevers (2nd) Ballaghaderreen.</li> <li>9. Kieser, John Frederic (2nd) Ballina.‡</li> <li>10. Allen, Richard (3rd) Swinford.</li> </ol>		
<p>(a) The County Inspector resides at Westport as a temporary arrangement.</p>		

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

<b>COUNTY OF MAYO.</b>	
<b>COUNTY INSPECTOR.</b>	
Rainsford, Ross Carthy, Castlebar.	
<b>DISTRICT INSPECTORS.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MacCarthy, Thomas St. George (1st), Newport (Mayo).</li> <li>2. Lowndes, Hugh Massy (1st), Westport.‡</li> <li>3. Craig, George F. W. (1st), Castlebar.</li> <li>4. Shier, Hugh (2nd), Ballina.‡</li> <li>5. M'Ginley, William J. (2nd), Swinford.</li> <li>6. Conran, Edward J. (2nd), Ballinrobe.</li> <li>7. Egan, Michael J. (3rd), Claremorris.‡</li> <li>8. Sheehy, Thomas (3rd), Belmullet.‡</li> </ol>	

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

## Appendix V – RIC Head Constables in County Mayo in 1889

PART I.] HEAD CONSTABLES BY COUNTIES.		59
<b>COUNTY OF LOUTH.</b>		
Names.	Date of Appointment to present Rank.	Stations.
1 Egan, Patrick .	1 Oct. 1880	Dundalk
2 Kent, James .	21 Oct. 1883	Ardee
3 Sandes, William .	1 Mar. 1889	Drogheda
4 Cull, James .	1 June, 1889	Collon
<b>COUNTY OF MAYO.</b>		
1 Connors, Michael .	1 Feb. 1882	Swinford
2 Preston, James (a) .	6 Dec 1882	Westport
3 Murray, James .	1 Apr. 1883	Claremorris
4 Cryan, Robert .	1 Dec. 1883	Castlebar
5 Higgins, Benjamin .	1 Sept. 1884	Belmullet
6 Johnston, John .	1 June, 1885	Achill Sound
7 Kirby, John .	1 Nov. 1885	Westport
8 Mathews, Arthur .	1 Apr. 1887	Newport, Mayo
9 Brady, Henry .	1 Jan. 1888	Ballaghaderreen
10 Sullivan, John .	1 Dec. 1888	Ballinrobe
11 Leviston, Thomas .	1 Mar, 1889	Ballina
<b>COUNTY OF MEATH.</b>		
1 O'Brien, Patrick .	1 Feb, 1882	Trim
2 Griffin, John P. .	1 Dec. 1884	Kells
3 Flanagan, Bernard.	18 Dec. 1885	Dunshaughlin
4 Carty, Patrick .	1 Mar. 1886	Navan
5 Chadwick, Wm. .	1 July, 1886	Slane
6 Magee, John T. .	16 Aug. 1887	Athboy
<b>COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.</b>		
1 Montgomery, G. H.	1 June* 1884	Monaghan
2 Morris, Joseph .	1 June, 1887	Carrickmacross
3 M. Mahon, Richd.	1 Apr. 1888	Clones
<b>QUEEN'S COUNTY.</b>		
1 Elders, William .	15 May, 1882	Abbeyleix
2 Brennan, John .	1 Nov. 1882	Ballylinan
3 Rice, William .	1 May, 1885	Mountrath
4 Kelly, Denis .	1 Apr. 1886	Maryborough
(a) On special duty.		

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

## Appendix VI - RIC Head Constables in County Mayo in 1910

HEAD CONSTABLES BY COUNTIES.			71
COUNTY OF LOUTH.			
Names.	Date of Appointment to present Rank.		Stations.
1 Magee, James T. .	11 Mar.,	1897	Drogheda
2 Myles, James .	1 Aug.,	1904	Dundalk
COUNTY OF MAYO.			
1 Cassidy, William .	1 Aug.,	1901	Westport
2 Hicks, Richard .	1 Jan.,	1905	Castlebar
3 Croghan, Bernard .	16 Dec.,	1905	Claremorris
4 O'Toole, John .	1 May,	1906	Newport, Mayo
5 O'Connor, Bernard .	1 Sept.,	1906	Ballinrobe
6 Carlos, Charles .	1 May,	1908	Ballina
7 Gargan, Stephen .	1 Nov.,	1908	Swinford
8 Hourihan, Michael .	21 Oct.,	1909	Belmullet

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

## Appendix VII – RIC Rates of Pay in 1889

[ 72 ]

**RATES OF PAY OF THE SEVERAL GRADES IN THE  
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.**

	<b>£</b>	<b>s.</b>	<b>d.</b>
Town Inspector of Belfast .. .. .	600	0	0
Five County Inspectors on Good Service Pay ..	500	0	0
Thirty-one County Inspectors £350 per annum, by £20 per annum, to .. .. .	450	0	0
1st District Inspector, during first three years ..	225	0	0
Do. do. during subsequent three years ..	250	0	0
Do. do. during subsequent six years ..	275	0	0
Do. do. during remainder of service in the Class .. .. .	300	0	0
Do. do. On Good Service Pay ..	330	0	0
2nd District Inspector, during first five years ..	165	0	0
Do. do. during remainder of Service in the Class .. .. .	180	0	0
3rd District Inspector .. .. .	125	0	0
(“ Good Service Pay ” of £12 per annum is granted to 23 District Inspectors of the 2nd or 3rd Class, in addition to above rates.)			
Head-Constable Major at Depot .. .. .	104	0	0
Head-Constables, 6 years service in that rank and over	104	0	0
Do. 3 to 6 years service .. .. .	97	10	0
Do. Under 3 years service .. .. .	91	0	0
Sergeants—4 years service in that rank and over ..	80	12	0
Do. Under 4 years service .. .. .	75	8	0
Acting-Sergeants .. .. .	72	16	0
Constables—20 years service and over .. .. .	70	4	0
Do. 15 to 20 years service .. .. .	67	12	0
Do. 12 to 15 years service .. .. .	65	0	0
Do. 9 to 12 years service .. .. .	62	8	0
Do. 7 to 9 years service .. .. .	59	16	0
Do. 4 to 7 years service .. .. .	57	4	0
Do. 6 months to 4 years service .. .. .	54	12	0
Do. Under 6 months service .. .. .	39	0	0

*Men serving in Belfast and Londonderry.*

An allowance of 2/- per week per man is granted to Sergeants and Constables of every grade stationed in Belfast and Londonderry, to meet the extra expense of Lodging and Living.

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

The Royal Irish Constabulary in County Mayo, 1889-1910

## Appendix VIII – RIC Rates of Pay in 1910

[ 188 ]

**RATES OF PAY OF THE SEVERAL GRADES IN THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.**

	£	s.
Commissioner of Police and Town Inspector of Belfast	600	0
Five County Inspectors on Good Service Pay ..	500	0
Thirty-one County Inspectors £350 per annum, by £20 per annum, to .. ..	450	0
Barrackmaster .. .. .	400	0
1st District Inspector, during first three years ..	225	0
Do. do. during subsequent three years	250	0
Do. do. during subsequent six years ..	275	0
Do. do. during remainder of service in the Class .. ..	300	0
Do. do. On Good Service Pay ..	330	0
2nd District Inspector, during first five years ..	165	0
Do. do. during remainder of Service in the Class .. ..	180	0
3rd District Inspector .. .. .	125	0
(“ Good Service Pay ” of £12 per annum is granted to 23 District Inspectors of the 2nd or 3rd Class, in addition to above rates.)		
Head-Constable Major at Depot .. ..	104	0
Head Constables, 5 years' service in that rank and over	104	0
Do. Under 5 years' service .. ..	97	10
Sergeants—4 years' service in that rank and over ..	83	0
Do. Under 4 years' service .. ..	78	0
Acting-Sergeants .. .. .	75	8
Constables—25 years' service and over .. ..	72	16
Do. 15 to 25 years' service .. ..	70	4
Do. 13 to 15 years' service .. ..	67	12
Do. 11 to 13 years' service .. ..	65	0
Do. 7 to 11 years' service .. ..	62	8
Do. 4 to 7 years' service .. ..	57	4
Do. 6 months to 4 years' service .. ..	54	12
Do. Under 6 months' service .. ..	39	0
<i>Men serving in Belfast and Londonderry Cities.</i>		
An allowance of 2/- per week per man is granted to Sergeant and Constables of every grade stationed in Belfast and Londonderry, to meet the extra expense of Lodging and Living.		
NOTE.—By the Constabulary (Ireland) Act, 1908, alterations are made regarding Rates of Pay, dating from the 21st December, 1908, particulars of which will be given in a forthcoming Circular from Head Quarters.		

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

## Appendix IX – RIC Stations in County Mayo in 1889

[ 74 ]	[ PART I. ]
<b>CONSTABULARY STATIONS,</b>	
<b>ALPHABETICALLY, BY COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS.</b>	
The Head Quarters' Station of each District is No. 1.	
* <i>General Sessions.</i>	† <i>Petty Sessions.</i>
B <i>Stations where boats are placed.</i>	‡ <i>Fairs.</i>
P <i>Protection Post.</i>	
T <i>Temporary Stations.</i>	
(For List of Hut Stations, see p. 147—and Protection Posts, see p. 149.)	

PART I.]		COUNTIES AND BY DISTRICTS.		87	
COUNTY OF MAYO.—62 STATIONS, 7 HUTS, 4 T. and 2 P.					
Stations.	Distance from Hd. Qtrs. of		Stations.	Distance from Hd. Qtrs. of	
	Co.	Distr.		Co.	Distr.
1 Castlebar*†‡	..	..	4 Gcesalia	50	12
2 Balla†‡	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	5 Glencalry	48	21
3 Ballyglass†‡	11	..	6 Mullaghroe, T.	58	10
4 Ballyhean	5	..	7 Rosspport, B.	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
5 Ballyvary	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	1 Claremorris*†‡	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
6 Belcarra	6	..	2 Annfield, T.	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
7 Deergrove	5	..	3 Ballindine†‡	22	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 Glen Island	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	4 Drymills, T.	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
9 Kinnury	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	5 Hollymount †‡	26	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 Turlough	4	..	6 Knock	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
1 Ballaghadereen†‡	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	7 Murneen, Hut	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
2 Ballyhaunis†‡	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	1 Newport†‡ B.	12	..
3 Carracastle	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 Achill Sound†‡	32	20
4 Doocastle, (Hut)	34	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 Ballycroy†‡ B	32	20
5 Kilkelly	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	4 Brockagh	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 Kilmovee	29	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 Coolnabinnia	17	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
1 Ballina,*†‡	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	6 Doogort	41	33
2 Ardnaree, J. S.	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	7 Keel	43	31
3 Ballycastle†‡	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 Knockloughra, Hut	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 Bonuiconlon	27	6	9 Mulranny	23	11
5 Crossmolina†‡	26	8	1 Swinford*†‡	18	..
6 Farmhill,	30	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 Bohola	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 Killala	33 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 Charlestown	29	11
8 N. T. Cloghans, B.	20	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 Foxford†‡	15	8
1 Ballinrobe*†‡	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	..	5 Kiltmogh†‡	16 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 Brownstown, T.	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 Nephin	17	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 Cappaduff†‡	17	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 Pontoon, B	10	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
4 Cong	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 Westport*†‡	11	..
5 Kilmain†‡	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 Do. Quay	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
6 Partry	12	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 Ayle	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
7 Shruel	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 Cuilmore	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 Belmullet†‡ B	48	..	5 Erriff Bridge, T.	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
2 Bangor	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 Louisburgh†‡	25	14
3 Corick	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 Murrisk	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

## Appendix X – RIC Stations in County Mayo in 1910

CONSTABULARY STATIONS, ALPHABETICALLY, BY COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS		
The Head Quarters' Station of each District is No. 1.		
* General Sessions.	† Petty Sessions.	‡ Fairs
B Stations where boats are placed.		
H Hut Stations. T Temporary Stations.		
(For List of Protection Posts, see p. 152.)		

114 CONSTABULARY STATIONS BY COUNTY OF MAYO.—66 STATIONS and 2 P.					
Stations.	Distance from Hd. Qtrs. of		Stations.	Distance from Hd. Qtrs. of	
	Co.	Distr.		Co.	Distr.
1 Castlebar*†‡	..	..	1 Claremorris*†‡	17½	..
2 Balla†‡	8½	..	2 Ballindine†‡	22	4½
3 Ballyglass†	11	..	3 Ballyhaunis†‡	29½	12
4 Ballyhean†	5	..	4 Cloontumper H.	25¼	8
5 Ballyvary†	7	..	5 Hollymount†‡	18½	8½
6 Belcarra	6	..	6 Knock	25	7½
7 Deergrove	5½	..			
8 Glen Island	8½	..			
9 Kinnury	12½	..	1 Newport†† B.	11½	..
10 Turlough†	4	..	2 Achill Sound†‡	32	20
			3 Ballycroy†‡	32	20
1 Ballina*†‡	22¼	..	4 Brockagh	10¾	5½
2 Ardnaree†	22½	¼	5 Coolnabinnia	17	13¾
3 Ballycastle†‡	40¼	17	6 Doogort	41½	29½
4 Bonniconlon	26	5½	7 Glenhest	16½	8½
5 Crossmolina†‡	19½	7¾	8 Keel	41¼	29¼
6 Farmhill	30	11	9 Mulranny†	23	11
7 Killala†‡	32½	8½			
8 Nephin	11½	16			
9 N.T. Cloghans, B.	20	5¼	1 Swinford*†‡	18	..
			2 Bohola	12½	5¼
1 Ballinrobe*†‡	18¼	..	3 Carracastle	28¾	11
2 Cappaduff†	17	13¼	4 Charlestown †‡(a)	25	7
3 Cong†	27	7	5 Foxford†† B.	15	8
4 Cross West H.†	27	6¼	6 Kilkelly†‡	22½	7
5 Derrypark	25	18½	7 Kilmovee	29	13½
6 Kilmain†‡	25½	5½	8 Kiltimagh†‡	16	7½
7 Partry	11	6¼	9 Rooskey H.	31½	13½
8 Shrule†	30	10			
1 Belmullet*†‡	47½	..	1 Westport*†‡	11	..
2 Bangor†	35½	12	2 Do. Quay	12¼	1¼
3 Corick	27½	20	3 Ayle	8½	5
4 Geesalia	45½	11	4 Carrowkennedy H.	19¼	8¼
5 Glencalry	48	21	5 Cuilmore	21½	10½
6 Inniskea H.	72	24	6 Louisburgh†‡	24	13
7 Mullaghroe	56½	9	7 Murrisk	16½	5½
8 Rosspport	50½	14			

(a) The Petty Sessions held at Charlestown is the Court for Lowpark P. S. District.

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

## Appendix XI - RIC Hut Stations in County Mayo in 1889

LIST OF HUT STATIONS.			149
County.	District.	Hut Station, with distance from Head Quarters of District.	
Louth Mayo	Drogheda	Ballybunion, 9	
	Ballaghaderreen	Doocastle, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Ballinrobe	Cappaduff, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	do	Neale, 4	
	Claremorris	Annfield, 11	
	do	Cloontumper, 8	
	do	Murneen, 5	
	Newport	Knockloughra, 5	
	Swinford	Carrowmore, 4	
	Slane	Glassallen, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Meath	Carrickmacross	Dromod, 15	
Monaghan	Castlerea	Lecarrow, 10	
Roscommon	Cashel	Suir Castle, 8	
Tipperary, S.R.	Dundrum	Rossmore, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Waterford	Portlaw	Rathgormac, 10	
Westmeath	Ballynacargy	Baskin-Low, 13	
LIST OF PROTECTION POSTS ON 15th JUNE, 1889.			
County.	Districts Alphabetically arranged.	Protection Post, with distance from Head Quarters of District.	
<i>Armagh</i>	.. Lurgan ..	Derrytagh South, 6	
<i>Camden</i>	.. Ballyjamesduff ..	Dungimmon, 7	
	.. Swanlinbar ..	Glan Lodge, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
<i>Clare</i>	.. Ballyvaughan ..	Glencolumbkille, 15	
	.. Ennis ..	Barnageeha, 6	
	do ..	Carhoo, 7	
	do ..	Clonawee, 3	
	do ..	Edenvale, 2	
	do ..	Laurel Vale, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	do ..	Newpark, 2	
	.. Ennistymon ..	Ballymaskea-Beg, 12	
	do ..	Caherrush, 11	
	do ..	Garrynagry, 13	
	do ..	Miltown House, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	.. Kildysart ..	Boolydoolan, 3	
	do ..	Deer Island, 5	
	.. Killaloe ..	Ballycorban, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	do ..	Knockdonagh, 14	
	do ..	Raheen, 9	
	.. Kiltrush ..	Cloonmore, 13	
	do ..	Furoor Upper, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	.. Sixmilebiridge ..	Clenagh, 11	
	do ..	Deerpark, 13	
	do ..	Gortatogher, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	do ..	Kilkishen House, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	.. Tulla ..	Glandree, 8	

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

## Appendix XII – RIC Protection Posts in County Mayo in 1910

PROTECTION POSTS.			153
County	Districts Alphabetically arranged.	Protection Post, with distance from Head Quarters of District.	
<i>Longford</i> ..	Longford ..	Curry, 3½	
	do ..	Killeen, 3½	
	do ..	Knappogue, 6½	
	do ..	Lismore, 2½	
	Ballymahon ..	Bawn 10½	
	Granard ..	Graffogue, 4	
<i>Mayo</i> ..	Ballina ..	Crannagh H., 4	
	Newport ..	Valley, 28	
<i>Meath</i> ..	Navan ..	Staholmog, 11	
<i>Queens</i> ..	Abbeyleix ..	Ballylehane, 13	
<i>Roscommon</i> ...	Roscommon ...	Cloonfad, 32	
	Strokestown ...	Ardkeenagh, 6½	
	do ...	Brierfield, 8½	
	do ..	Toulagee, 12½	
<i>Tipperary, S.R.</i>	Cashel ...	Graiguenoe House, 8	
	Killenaule ...	Graigueman, 13	
	do ...	Ballyphilip, 4	
	do ..	Mortlestown, 2	
<i>Waterford</i> ..	Waterford ..	Ballymoat, 9	
<i>Westmeath</i> ...	Athlone ...	Ballinlassy, 8½	
	Castlepollard ...	Ballinalack, 15½	
	do ...	Curraun, 16	
	Mullingar ...	Rochfort, 4½	

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

## Appendix XIII – RIC Cadet Entry Requirements (1889)

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Royal Irish Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle,  
1st December, 1888.

## REGULATIONS

*Under which Gentlemen are to be admitted as Cadets of Royal Irish Constabulary.*

I. The Candidate for a Cadetship in the Royal Irish Constabulary will be required to be at least 5 feet 5 inches in height, and to pass the Medical Examination of the Surgeon of the Force. He must be in good health, and free from any physical defect of body, impediment of speech, defect of sight or hearing, and also from any disposition to constitutional or hereditary disease, or weakness of any kind and must be in all respects well developed.

II. The Candidate must be unmarried, and between the ages of 21 and 26 years.\* If a Candidate can show specially qualifying service as an Officer in the Army, Navy, or in a Police Force, he may be admitted up to the age of 28.

III. The Candidate will be required to produce a certified copy of the registry of his birth, or some other satisfactory proof of his age—and a certificate of his moral character from the Clergyman of his Church in the parish in which he resides, or from two Magistrates of the County.

IV. Every gentleman on being *nominated* for a Cadetship, will receive intimation of the day on which he ought to present himself at Dublin, to go through a competitive examination with other Candidates for the appointment. The Examination will be conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners.

The Candidate who is placed *first* by the Civil Service Commissioners, will, on his nomination being confirmed by the Lord Lieutenant, be ordered to the Depot. But, previously to his entering on his course of instruction there, some person on his behalf must become answerable to the Commandant of the Depot, that such Cadet, in addition to his regulated pay, shall receive a sum at the rate of £50 per annum, until his appointment to the office of District Inspector.

V. The following will be the subjects of Examination, and the maximum number of marks for each subject:—

Arithmetic . . . . .	150	Elementary Principles of Law	
Separate Addition . . . . .	50	— as treated in Stephen's	
Orthography . . . . .	150	Commentaries on the Laws	
Handwriting . . . . .	150	of England (10th edition)	
Intelligence in Dictation . . . . .	100	vol. I. Introduction; Book	
English Composition, including Epistolary Correspondence . . . . .	200	I.; Book II. introductory chapter entitled, "as to property in general:" vol.	
Précis . . . . .	150	IV. Book VI—chapters 1	
Geography, especially that of the British Isles . . . . .	150	to 12 omitting sections I.	
British History . . . . .	200	to VIII. of chapter VII. . . . .	150
Latin or French (Candidate permitted the option) . . . . .	200	Law of Evidence—Digest of the Law of Evidence, by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, . . . . .	150
		<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>1,800</b>

\* The Sons of Constabulary Officers, whose names are on the Inspector-General's list of Candidates, are permitted to enter at the age of 19.

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

## CADET REGULATIONS.

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VI. The Cadet will be borne on the strength of the Reserve, as a Sergeant, but will be allowed to occupy the Quarters, wear the undress uniform, and perform the duties, of an Officer.

VII. The Cadets will be appointed to the rank of District Inspector, as vacancies offer, according to their standing, proficiency and conduct.

VIII. But, Cadets being only in a state of probation, will not be considered as permanently attached to the Force, until they attain the rank of District-Inspector, and they are clearly to understand, that if in the interim, His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant should be pleased to dispense with their services in consequence either of unfavourable reports received of their conduct or proficiency while at the Depot, or of their character and position previous to their joining it, they are not to expect or require any reason to be assigned for their removal from the establishment, on which account it will not be *obligatory* on a Cadet to purchase uniform, or to incur any other expense consequent on his belonging to the Force.

By Command of the Lord Lieutenant

A. REED, *Inspector-General*

Source: The RIC Collection (2011a)

*Appendix XIV - Entry Requirements for Candidates (1910)***ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.****QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES.**

Candidates before they can be admitted to the Force will be subjected to an examination in Reading, Writing, and in the first four simple rules of Arithmetic; they must be of good character for honesty, sobriety, and fidelity; of superior activity, 5 feet 9 inches in height; unmarried; between 19 and 27 years of age, and sound in health. A Candidate of 5 feet 11 inches in height must have a chest measurement of at least 37 inches. Sons of Members of the Force, or sons of Royal Irish Constabulary Pensioners, will be admitted at 18 years of age if they are of good physique and 5 feet 8 inches in height. The chest measurement must not in any case be less than 36 inches.

When a Candidate arrives at the age of 27 years his name will be removed from the Register of Candidates. This fact is to be notified to him on the first examination at the County Headquarters.

Source: The RIC Collection (2011b)

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