

CLOGHANEELY IRISH COLLEGE.

The Irish College opens on the 11th July. Already a great number of students have signified their intention of being present during the whole or part of the first session. Some of these will visit the district for the first time. Others have been students at Cloghaneely when the College building was an ordinary dwellinghouse at Ardmore. In good weather the rain beside the river was the aula maxima with the canopy of heaven overhead. The lofty mountains of Errigal and Muckish could be seen in the distance. On the other side of the river the Cromlech—called in Irish "The Bed of Diarmuid and Gráinne"—served as a constant reminder of an early civilisation. A short walk from the College a reminder of Cotacite was to be found in the form of a holy well known as "Tobar Cholmáille" by the people of the neighbourhood. These scenic and historic associations combined with the joy-giving labour of learning the language of the Gael in such favourable circumstances, went to make the district around the old college a place of pleasant memories for the students of the earlier years.

In Glenties the new College building is situated. It is a little nearer the railway station and the church, but still in the centre of one of the most Irish-speaking districts in Ireland. There is no evidence of the decay of the language here, but, on the contrary, it seems—in military phrase—to have consolidated itself permanently.

The merits of Ulster Irish are not recognised sufficiently even by Ulstermen themselves. It contains an extensive and interesting literature well worthy of cultivation. It is regrettable that a good portion of it is as yet unedited and unpublished. Two foreign scholars, Professor Quigán, of Cambridge, and Mr. Alf Sommerfelt, of Christiania, Norway, have written much interesting and instructive matter on the phonology of Donegal Irish. Mr. Sommerfelt spent some time at Cloghaneely last year. He is coming—if weather and war conditions allow him—to spend another term at the Irish College this year. The strange how Norwegians can appreciate Irish even more than some of the Irish themselves.



Roger Casement at Coláiste Uladh, c.1906
(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh was its Ard-Oide (Principal) until 1917. Under her stewardship, the college became 'a Highroad to Irish' every summer. The college was not only attended by students and teachers but by those with an interest in the Irish language and culture. Some of its most notable students included Patrick Pearse, Roger Casement, Douglas Hyde, Lord Ashbourne, Carl Hardebeck and Seamus Ó Grianna (pen name 'Máire').



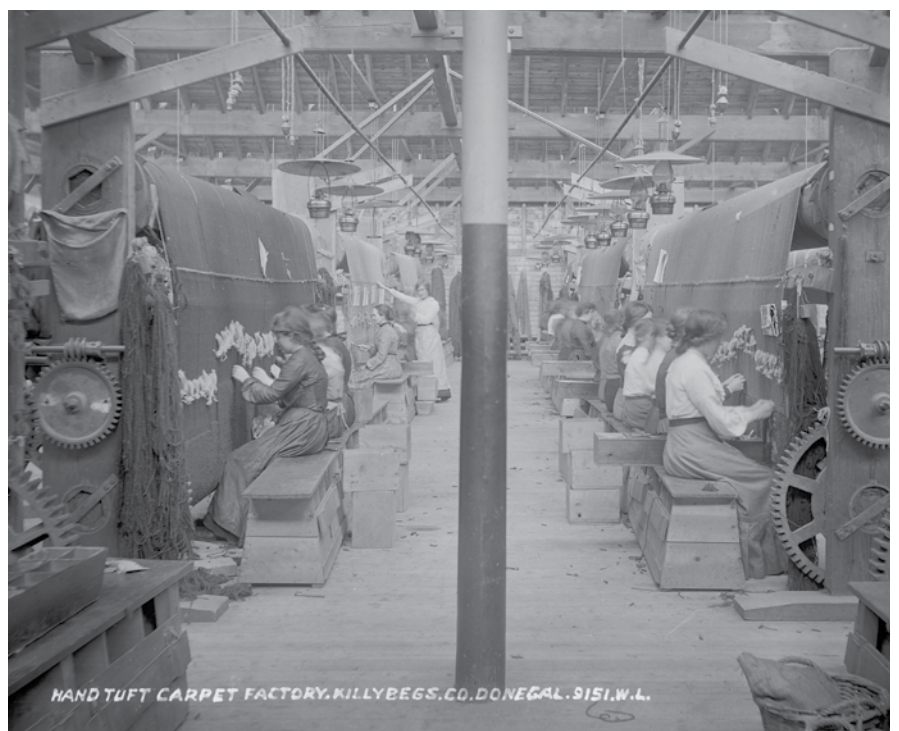
Women involved in the fishing industry, at Downings pier, c.1900s

(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

Women's Lives

Life for women, in County Donegal, in 1916, was different from today. Most people in Donegal resided in rural areas with many living in small, thatched, two or three-roomed houses with no running water, sanitation or electricity. More prosperous farmers lived in two-storey houses. Women worked on the farm. They often sold or bartered eggs for goods such as tea, sugar and flour. Milk was an important element of the family diet and was churned to make butter. Those living near the sea gathered seaweed (wrack) to supplement the family income. Women also often worked in the fishing industry, in activities such as gathering bait and gutting and curing fish (Bell and Watson, 2011).

Many families, particularly in west Donegal, gained additional income as



Women working in Killybegs Carpet Factory, c.1900s

(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

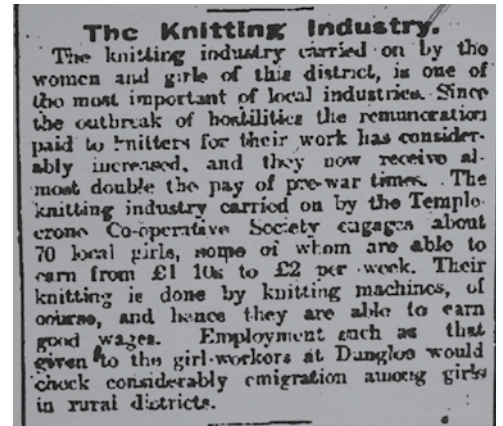
migrant labourers. Men travelled to neighbouring counties and Scotland as seasonal workers leaving women to work the farms and harvest the crops. Women also travelled to work, particularly in Scotland and England, as 'tattie hokers' (digging potatoes) or as 'gutters' (cleaning and gutting herrings).

Women also worked outside the home in a variety of employments including as teachers, domestic servants, shop assistants and in particular in the cottage industries as knitters, weavers, embroiderers and lace makers. Female workers at Morton's carpet factory in Killybegs earned an average of five shillings per week (Beattie, 2008). An advertisement for 'Female Typists in G.P.O. London and Revenue Departments' appeared in the *Derry Journal* on Friday, 7 January 1916.

Women played an important role in the war effort at home and on the front lines. They participated in recruiting and staffed volunteer hospitals. They worked on the front as nurses. Sister Catherine Black from Ramelton was sent to France in 1916 where she nursed shell-shocked soldiers. She wrote:

"...at night, the cheerful ward became a place of torment, with the occupants of every bed tossing and turning and moaning in the hell of memories let loose" (Black, 1939).

At home, in rural areas, women worked to gather sphagnum moss for surgical dressings which were in huge demand. In Dungloe, women could earn up to £2 per week knitting supplies for the war. Members of the St. Eunan's Cathedral Guilds Working Circles made garments for Irish Prisoners of War and the first instalment of Guild work was sent off in January 1916. (*Derry Journal*, 10 January 1916).



Newspaper article relating to the knitting industry, 1916 (Courtesy of Derry Journal)



Nurse Catherine Black from Ramelton at a camp during World War 1
(Black, C, 1939)



Woman at her spinning wheel at Malin Head c.1900s
(Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



Members of Cumann na mBan, Linda Kearns, Eithne Coyle and May Burke, Duckett's Grove, Carlow, 1921.
(Courtesy of University College Dublin Archives)

Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington founded the Irish Women's Franchise League in 1908 to campaign for the right to vote. By 1916, although women could vote and stand for all local elections, they could not vote or stand in general elections. Women were influential in cultural movements such as the Gaelic League. Ethna Carbery (pen name of Anna Johnston MacManus) and her friend Alice Milligan were actively involved in the Gaelic League, editing both the *Northern Patriot* and the *Shan Van Vocht* in the 1890s.

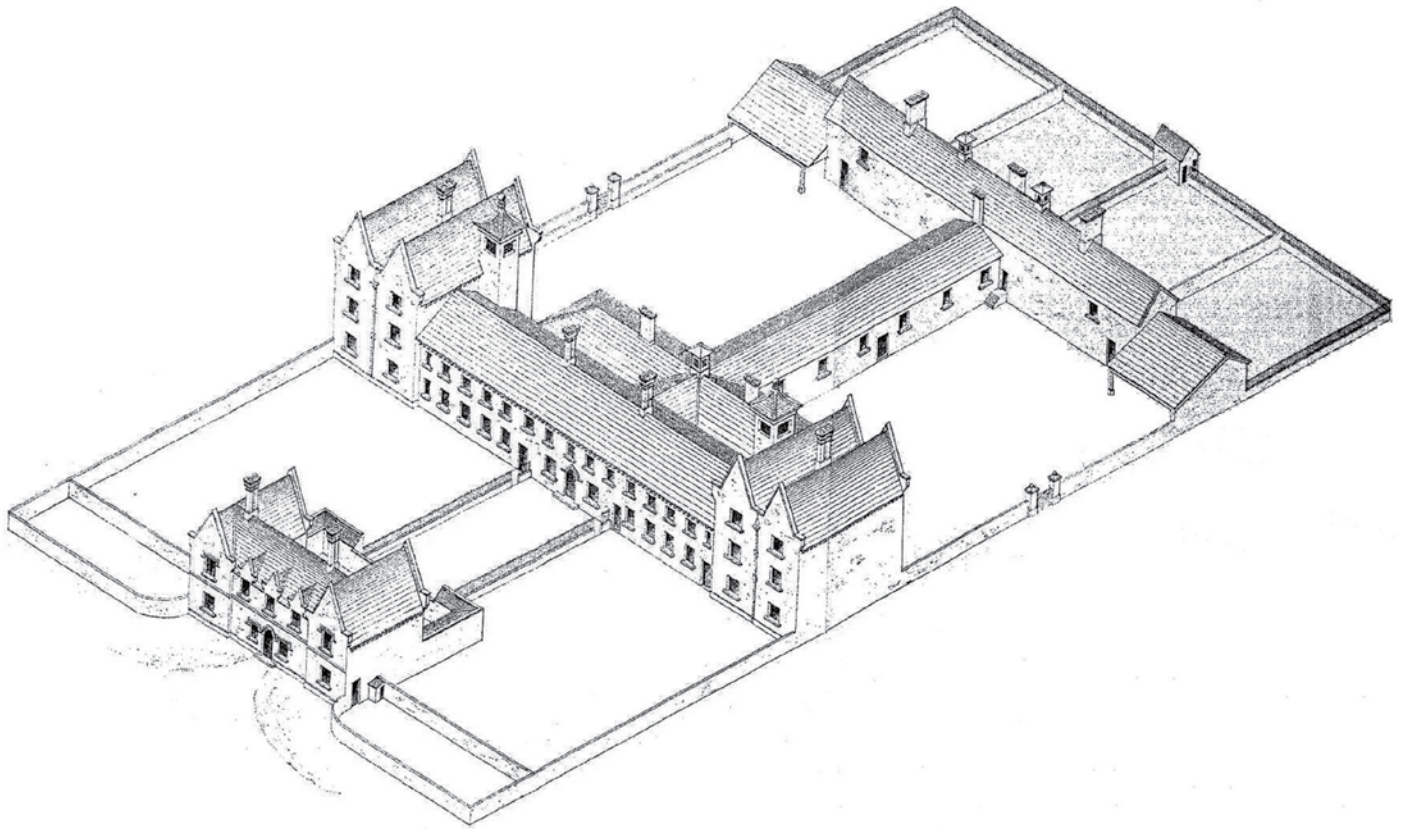
The impact of the Easter Rising on one Donegal woman was recorded in her memoirs. Alice Sweeney was married to John Sweeney, the owner of the hotel in Burtonport. He had remarried after the death of his first wife Margaret. Margaret and John's son, Joseph Sweeney (later Major General Joseph Sweeney) was involved in the Rising at the GPO in Dublin. Alice wrote:

"I just knew the Rising, that Joe had hinted about to me several months ago, was on...There were no daily papers for some days so the rumours were going high about the terrible things that were happening in Dublin, the streets were running in blood etc. etc. and looting of all kinds taking place." (Sweeney, 1986, p.74)

Cumann na mBan was founded in 1914 and played a crucial role in the politics of the time. Renowned Donegal woman Eithne Coyle joined the organisation in 1917. Many women became involved in the struggle for independence for the first time by joining Cumann na mBan. Some were in opposition to their families' politics. Alice recounts:

"Nearly all of my relations on my Mother's and Father's side were real "Shoneens" as the Loyalists were called So when the chance came I joined the Cumann na mBan." (Sweeney, 1986, p.76)

Although daily life for the majority of women did not change significantly in the years that followed the Easter Rising, women became eligible to vote and to hold positions in government. Countess Markievicz was elected to serve in the first Dáil and became one of the first women in the world to hold a cabinet position as Minister for Labour from 1919 - 1922.



Poor Law Commissioners' plan of Ireland's workhouses
(Donegal County Archives)

Poverty and Health

In the early years of the 20th century poverty and disease were rife. Diseases which have now been eradicated in Ireland and across much of the world were still common in 1916, such as measles, diphtheria, typhoid, typhus fever, scarlatina (scarlet fever), enteric fever, whooping cough, tuberculosis (TB), also called consumption, and virulent strains of influenza. Smallpox had been largely eradicated due to vaccination.



Milford Workhouse Infirmary
(Courtesy of Irish Architectural Archive)

By law, local authorities had to take people who had infectious diseases immediately to local fever hospitals. The patients' homes were disinfected and some clothes and belongings were also destroyed. Hospitals and workhouses themselves were not immune from generating disease. In June 1916, scarlatina broke out in Stranorlar workhouse, due, according to the medical officer, to the presence of an "objectionable drain coming from the laundry." In Ballyshannon, between April and September, four cases of scarlatina and one of TB were mentioned in the Rural District Council's minutes. All patients were removed to the fever hospital. Also that June, according to the medical officer's report, whooping cough was "raging" in Mountcharles.

132	17	John O'Leary	Buncrobie	m	77	Single	do	"	Shelburne	June 16
6250	134	Anne Moore	Loughfad	F	13	Single	Child of J. Moore	"	Shelburne	May 17
6312	135	Kate Quinn	Straboy	F	57	do	O. A. P.	"	Shelburne	May 17
6314	136	Patrick McQuinn	Edinifagh	m	58	Married	Farmer	"	Shelburne	May 17
6344	137	John Cassidy	Teeelin	m	72	Single	O. A. P.	"	Herina	June 7
6347	138	Patrick McQuinn	Blawrock	m	30	do	Boatman - dealer	"	Shelburne	June 12
6361	139	Sam Sweeney	Coast	m	30	do	Labourer	"	Shelburne	June 20
6368	140	John Sweeney	Meamore Co	m	72	Married	Ex Farmer	"	Shelburne	June 23
Total of Money Columns,										

Extract from Glenties Workhouse Register, 1916. (Donegal County Archives)

County Donegal had eight workhouses, located in Ballyshannon, Donegal, Dunfanaghy, Letterkenny, Carndonagh, Glenties, Milford and Stranorlar. Managed by committees known as Boards of Guardians, the workhouses accommodated people who were unable to look after themselves or their families. The workhouses had been built in the early 1840s and were still open in 1916, although they were not as busy or as crowded as they had been in the 19th century. People, young and old, who became homeless, destitute or extremely ill and incapable, often had to enter a workhouse, for short or long periods of time. Children, 'orphaned and deserted', were often 'boarded out' (fostered) with families. Dunfanaghy workhouse calculated that the average cost of an inmate for a week in 1916 was five shillings and eight-and-a-half pence; for taking care of the patients in the infirmary it was six shillings and five pence.

Extract from Letterkenny Board of Guardians Minute Book, reporting on letter from Local Government Board stating that it will not sanction the appointment of Dr McGinley as he is now eligible to join the Army, 18 August 1916 (Donegal County Archives)

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The following Letters from the Local Government Board for Ireland, and others, were read by the Clerk, and directions given him to answer them respectively in the following effect (or Orders made on them respectively as follows):—

No 39236. dated 14 August 1916. with reference to the appointment of Medical Officer for the Letterkenny Dispensary District, and pointing out that Dr McGinley is now about 22 years and therefore within Military age limits and in that respect eligible for employment in the Army or Navy, and pointing out the great demand there is for Doctors for the Army, and stating the Local Board are not prepared to sanction Dr. McGinley's appointment, as doing so would encroach on the supply of Doctors who are urgently required for the case of the wounded.

Drawing attention again to their Circular letter of 26 November last and stating that they have decided as a matter of general policy that they will not sanction the permanent appointment filling up of vacancies in the Poor Law Medical Services during the period of the war.

The Guardians should therefore arrange for the discharge of the duties until the termination of the war by a doctor ineligible for military service, as the rate of the fixed salaries attached to the post.

Mr J. Sweeney proposed that inasmuch as Dr McGinley answered the advertisement issued by the Board, that the Guardians adhere to the appointment as made on last Board day, and stated that the other Candidate must also be of military age.

In 1916, admissions to workhouses in County Donegal included on 17 May, Rose McGrory, a widow, aged 32 from Glenties and her family of four children aged from 2 to 9 years old. She is described as a mendicant (beggar). This family was discharged the next day but was readmitted on 6 July and again discharged the next day. They stayed there again in August. Mary Doherty from Ballyshannon, aged 40, described as 'able bodied' and with a family of 7 children aged from 1 to 15 years old was admitted to Ballyshannon workhouse on 25 April.

The elderly were often admitted to a workhouse or fever hospital, and often died there. Mary Gallagher from Milford, aged 78, was admitted to Milford workhouse in February 1915, and died there on 11 April 1916. Franny Doherty from Derry, aged 76 was admitted to Carndonagh workhouse on 24 April, the first day of the Rising.

As there were no general hospitals in 1916, people who were sick, who had been injured or became disabled were treated in workhouse hospitals. Anne Moore, from Loughfad, aged 13, had TB when she arrived in Glenties workhouse on 6 April 1916. She was discharged on 1 May. Patrick Doherty, Blownrock, Letterkenny aged 30, a cattle dealer whose foot had been crushed in an accident, was treated at Glenties workhouse in June 1916.

While workhouse food in the 19th century tended to be lacking in any kind of variety or nourishment, by 1916 the diet had improved. For example, in Ballyshannon hospital, the patients' diet included milk, beef, bread, butter, pigs' cheek, eggs, cabbage, turnips, milk-tea, vegetable broth, lentil soup, Irish broth, cornflour and rice.

The workhouse system was formally abolished by the new Irish Free State government in 1923.

Ballyshannon Fever Hospital tended to sick and injured soldiers who had returned from war and were based at the nearby Finner Camp. In 1916 the hospital tended to 37 soldiers of the 12th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Included among the patients were two Corporals and two Lance Corporals while the rest were all Privates. Most were unmarried men in their teens or early twenties though one man was aged 47.

The Boards of Guardians also employed doctors to run local dispensaries (clinics) where poor people who were ill could be medically examined and medicines dispensed. In Letterkenny in 1916 the war became the central issue in a dispute over the appointment by the Letterkenny Board of Dr. J. P. McGinley as dispensary doctor. The Local Government Board objected to his appointment as it was felt he should have joined the war effort, and tried to impose a Dr. Walker instead. But the Board of Guardians held firm, and by November, Dr. McGinley was still in place.

The Donegal District Lunatic Asylum in 1916

The Donegal District Lunatic Asylum, later called St Conal's Hospital, Letterkenny, opened in 1866. In the early 20th century, people were admitted to asylums for a variety of reasons, including poverty, grief, domestic quarrels, mental anxiety, religious excitement, intemperance (alcoholism), sunstroke, land disputes, vagrancy and many more. Upon admission to the Asylum people were divided into three categories: Idiots, Lunatics and Vagrants.

During 1916, 134 people were admitted to Donegal District Lunatic Asylum. Of those, 86 were men and 48 women. The youngest admitted that year was a 13-year-old boy



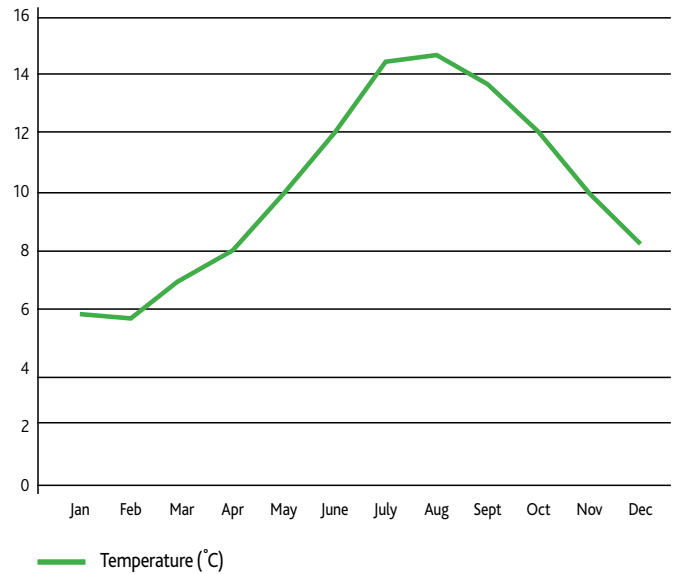
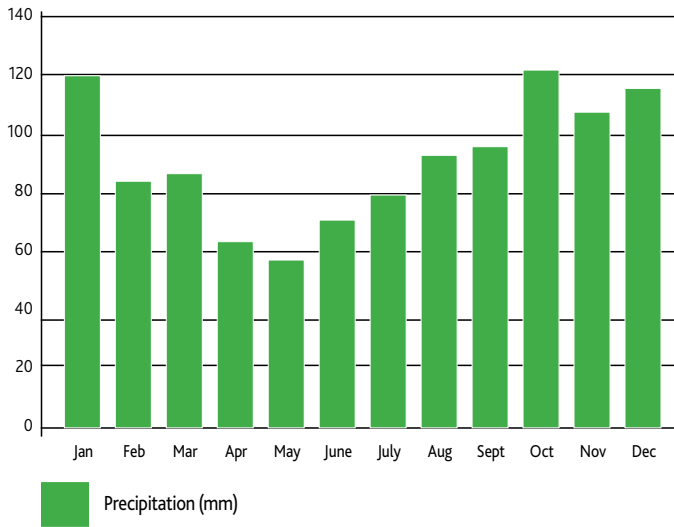
Stone steps at St Conal's Hospital
(Caroline Carr/Donagel County Museum)



Donegal District Lunatic Asylum (now St Conal's Hospital), c.1900s (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)

and the oldest was a 77-year-old man. Those admitted included shop assistants, labourers, farmers, housekeepers, clerks, domestic servants, dealers and shoemakers. Also admitted were a Royal Irish Constabulary policeman, a church verger, a solicitor, a hawker, a flax scutcher, a soldier, a sailor and an ex-soldier. One female patient was described as a 'married woman', another as a 'spinster'. Another woman aged in her 60s, who was a patient at the hospital for three months in 1916, is described as a 'lady of means'. Most people admitted were discharged within a year or two, but several spent decades there, including one man who entered the hospital in 1916 aged 23 and died there in 1965, aged 72. At least 27 of the 134 patients admitted in 1916 died in the hospital over the decades that followed.

While the War raged throughout 1916, only one man admitted that year was a serving soldier. He was aged 21 and was sent there by the British Army from Dykebar War Hospital in Paisley, Scotland. Clearly a casualty of war, he was stated to be suffering from depression due to 'stress of campaign.' He was discharged some months later in 1917.



Average Monthly Temperature & Precipitation for Malin Head, County Donegal

County Donegal's Weather and Climate

To be filled and returned to Dr. H. R. MILL, Director, BRITISH RAINFALL ORIENTATION, 60 CANNON SQUARE, LONDON, N.W. 1. (Copies of this form will be supplied with pleasure.)

RAINFALL IN 1916

At CONVOY
In the County of DONEGAL

(Diameter of Funnel) 5 in.
Height of Top Above Ground 1 in.
Above Sea Level 150 ft.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Number of Days with 91 or more recorded.
	Inches	Inches	Days	
JAN.	4.47	.64	19 ^h	27
FEB.	6.55	.90	15 ^h	28
MAR.	2.53	.44	25 ^h	18
APR.	6.20	1.03	24 ^h	21
MAY	7.62	1.23	5 ^h	24
JUNE	3.62	.72	26 ^h	17
JULY	4.07	1.95	24 ^h	16
AUG.	3.44	.81	25 ^h	16
SEPT.	1.90	.84	17 ^h	15
OCT.	9.00	.92	12 ^h	31
NOV.	6.12	.67	14 ^h	26
DEC.	4.20	.74	9 ^h	23
Total	59.15	1502		267

Signed W. H. Thompson
W. 41/1000, 1911-16. (Please fill in the other side also.)

Ireland experiences a temperate maritime climate. Our temperatures are moderated by the influence of the Atlantic Ocean and, in particular, the warmer waters of the North Atlantic Drift / Gulf Stream that keeps our temperatures warmer in winter (especially in coastal areas) than would normally be the case in the mid-latitudes. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Wind speed and direction and the amount of precipitation we receive is influenced by the low-pressure systems and accompanying frontal systems that track along the path of the jet stream. The jet stream indicates the location of strong upper-level winds in our atmosphere and represents the polar front which is the boundary between cool, dry air to the north and warm, moist air to the south. Western and northern areas of the country, in particular mountainous areas, experience more rainfall than the more sheltered areas to the south and east.

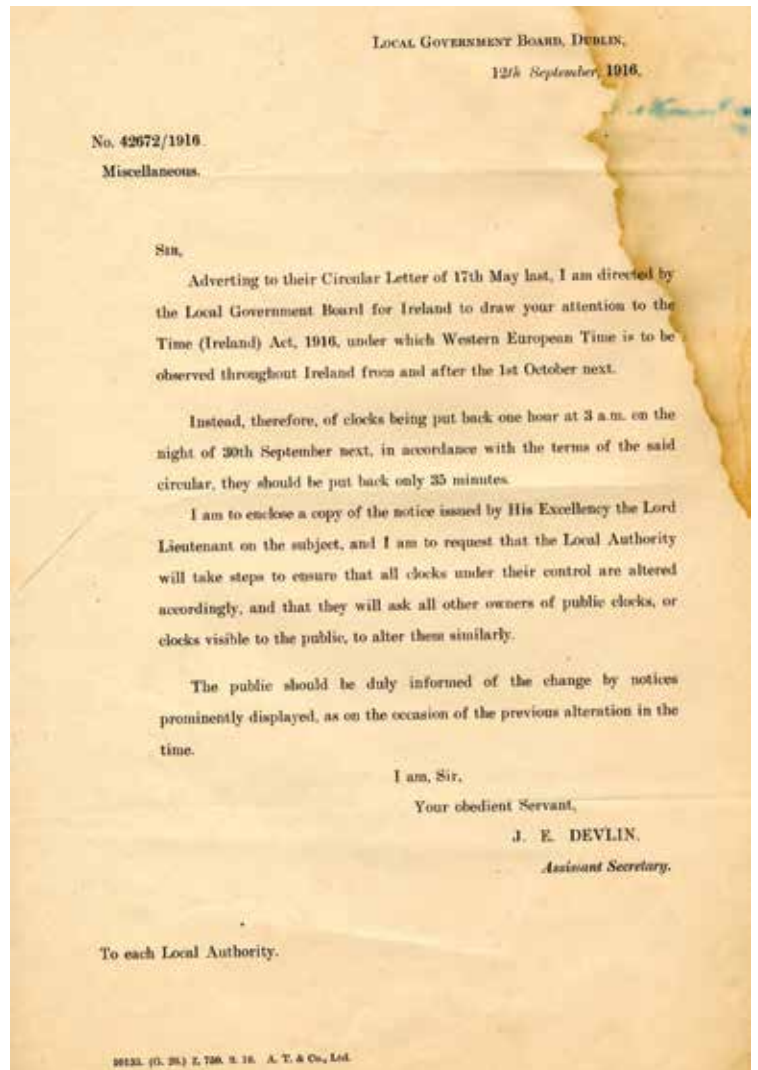
Anecdotal accounts of the weather during the Easter Rising in Dublin suggest that the weather was good as indicated by the term 'Rebellion Weather' attributed to writer Liam O'Flaherty. April is often the driest month across the country. The Monthly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office for April 1916 suggests that temperatures across Ireland were below normal and that rainfall was above normal. Indeed a synoptic weather map produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows an occluded front over Ireland on Easter Monday, 24 April, 1916 at 1 p.m. Greenwich Mean Time. The greatest daily rainfall amounts for April 1916 recorded at stations in Convoys, Dunfanaghy, Horn Head and Letterkenny were on Easter Monday, 24 April.

DID YOU KNOW.....

... that Daylight Saving Time, also known as Summer Time was first introduced in 1916? It was hoped that bringing the clock forward in early summer would increase general well-being and would also result in savings, due to less need for artificial light. The Summer Time Act was passed in 1916 and the scheme was first implemented in Ireland and Britain on 21 May, when the clock went forward for the first time.

Not everyone was in favour of the idea. Whilst Buncrana Urban District Council supported the Act, Letterkenny Rural District Council was sceptical, stating on 1 December, months after the scheme had been piloted:

“The Summer Time Act was a farce and had not been recognised excepting that premises were obliged to open and close their places of business an hour earlier and trains and schools changed their hours which by doing so in the case of schools was most inconvenient for children who had a distance to go to school.”



Circular from Local Government Board to local authorities regarding the Time (Ireland) Act, 12 September 1916 (Donegal County Archives)

... that Ireland was operating on a different time zone to Britain before the daylight saving scheme was implemented? Under the Definition of Time Act, 1880, the legal time for Ireland was Dublin Mean Time which was the local mean time at Dunsink Observatory outside Dublin. This was approximately 25 minutes and 21 seconds behind GMT. With war continuing unabated abroad and in the shock of the aftermath of the Easter Rising, the British Government decided to end the time difference between Ireland and Britain. It was felt this would have positive implications for telegraphic communications, railway, bus and boat timetables, and administration in general. The Time (Ireland) Act, 1916 provided that Irish time would be the same as British time, from 2:00 a.m. Dublin Mean Time on Sunday, 1 October 1916. Like the Summer Time Act, it was not without its critics, often for nationalist reasons; Countess Markievicz was a staunch opponent for example (Irish Horological Craft Forum).

... that Joseph McLaughlin (1867-1926), originally from Burt, was elected to the 65th U.S. Congress for the state of Pennsylvania in November 1916, twenty-seven years after he left County Donegal?

... that Ireland was exempted from the Military Service Act (1916) that introduced conscription in the United Kingdom for the first time in January 1916?

DID YOU KNOW.....

... that weather observations normally taken at Trinity College Dublin were suspended on Easter Monday, 24 April, and were not resumed until Thursday, 18 May 1916 "owing to the disturbances"?

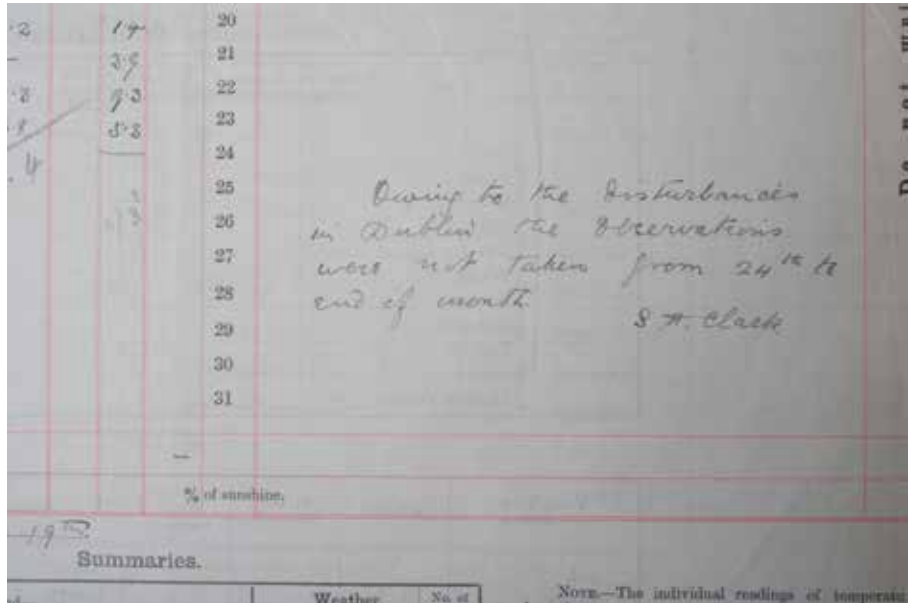
... that in 1916, 58 cars and 18 motor cycles were registered in County Donegal's Motor Tax register? The vast majority of the cars were Fords.

... that during the summer of 1916, soccer teams in Northwest Donegal included Glenties United, Killybegs Emeralds, Maghera Shamrocks, Kincasslagh Rovers, Keadue Rovers, Kincasslagh Hibernians, Gweedore Guilds, Falcarragh, Creeslough and Milford?

... that on the Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway route from Letterkenny to Burtonport fares cost: First Class: 8 shillings and 4 pence; Second Class: 6 shillings and 3 pence; Third Class: 4 shillings and 2 pence?

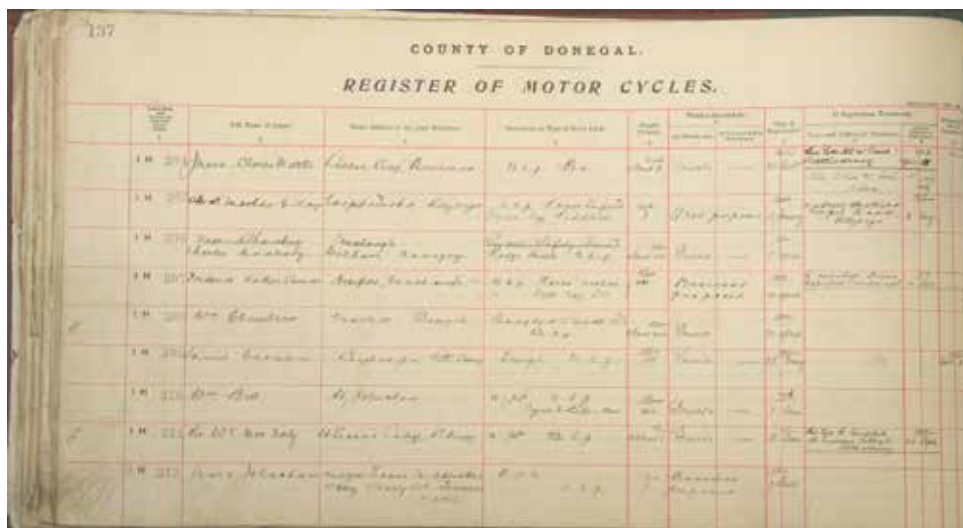
... that smoking in railway carriages (except in the carriages or compartments provided for that purpose) or inside the stations was strictly forbidden?

... that children under three years could travel free on the railway?



© Met Éireann. Ref: MÉ/MO/16/4

Remarks made by weather observer at Trinity College Dublin in April 1916



Extract from Donegal County Council Motor Tax register, 1916 (Donegal County Archives)

... that the types of motor cycles in 1916 ranged from Royal Ruby and Douglas to Triumph and B.S.A.? Among those who registered their motorcycles was a Reverend William MacNeely (later Bishop of Raphoe) from St Eunan's College, Letterkenny, on 2 June 1916 (an AJS motorcycle). In January of that year a Royal Enfield Cycle was purchased for trade purposes by Alexander Morton of Carpet Works, Killybegs and registered to an Andrew Struthers, Carpet Hand, Killybegs.

Donegal People in 1916: Selected Bibliographies



(Black, C., 1939)

Catherine Black (1878 – 1949)

Catherine Black was born in Ardeen House, Ramelton, in 1878 and trained to be a nurse in the Royal London Hospital. At the outbreak of war in 1914 Catherine volunteered for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She served first in the Cambridge Hospital in Aldershot. Catherine was sent to France in the autumn of 1916 to take up her post at No.7 General Hospital at St Omer. Her experiences in France during the war years, attending the wounded and dying in Casualty Clearing Stations, are recorded in her autobiography *King's Nurse - Beggar's Nurse* and emphasise the cruelty and barbarity of the War (Black, 1939). Catherine worked as King George V's private nurse from 1928 until his death in 1936. Catherine Black died on Friday 7 October 1949 in London.



(Donegal County Archives)

Patrick MacGill (1889 – 1963)

Patrick MacGill, the renowned County Donegal author of books such as *The Children of the Dead End* and *Glenmornan* served in the London Irish Rifles during World War I. MacGill wrote accounts based on his own experiences of the War: *The Amateur Army* 1915, *The Red Horizon* 1916 and *The Great Push* 1916.

The Great Push, published in 1916, is an account of the major British offensive at Loos in 1915. MacGill was a stretcher-bearer and the scenes of battle, which he witnessed, had a profound effect on him. He wrote:

"I had a clear personal impression of man's ingenuity for destruction when my eyes looked on the German front line where our dead lay in peace with their fallen enemies on the parapet."

The immediacy of his experiences led to the huge success of MacGill's war novels. In October 1915, he was gassed in action and wounded in the right arm. As a result he was sent back to Britain where it is believed he undertook work for the Intelligence Department of the War Office. After the War, MacGill continued to write. In 1930 he moved with his family to the USA and he died in Massachusetts in 1963.

Peadar O'Donnell (1893 – 1986)

(Donegal County Archives)

Peadar O'Donnell was born in 1893 in Meenmore, Dungloe, and completed his teaching training at St. Patrick's Teaching College in Drumcondra. He secured the headship of a two-teacher school in Derryhenny outside Dungloe. His early family education had imbued him with a strong social conscience and socialist beliefs. O'Donnell continuously lobbied the Education Office for improvements to the school building. In 1916 with some friends, O'Donnell demolished the dilapidated building, thereby forcing the authorities to fund the construction of a new school.

In July 1916 he took over the post as headmaster of Number One National School on Arranmore Island. His membership of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) saw the beginnings of his famous trade unionism and he was elected as County Secretary the following year. It was in 1916, while on Arranmore, that he began to write, setting time aside each day. Peadar O'Donnell's most famous works include *The Big Windows*, *Proud Island* and *Islanders*.

Séamus Ó Grianna (1889 - 1969)

(Courtesy of Áislann Rann na Feirste)

Renowned Donegal author Séamus Ó Grianna was born in 1889 in Ranafast. He gained a teaching certificate at Coláiste Uladh before entering St Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra, in 1912.

In 1916 he was appointed headmaster of the national school in Leitir Catha in the Donegal Gaeltacht. It was here that he decided to become a writer in the Irish language, a decision influenced by both the Gaelic League and Irish Nationalism. His most famous work is *Caisleáin Óir*.

Turlough MacSweeney (1831 – 1916)

Turlough MacSweeney
"The Donegal Piper"

Turlough MacSweeney was born in Glenfin, but his family moved to a thatched cottage at Luinnaigh, Gweedore, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was known both as 'The Donegal Piper' and as 'An Píobaire Mór' (the big piper), on account of his great physical stature. Such was his reputation as a piper that he travelled to Chicago and played at the World Exhibition where he won the world championship. Turlough MacSweeney died in 1916. His obituary in *The Catholic Press*, 7 September 1916 stated, "...he was acknowledged to be a peerless performer of the bagpipes...".

Paddy 'The Cope' Gallagher (1873 - 1966)



(Courtesy of UCD Archives)

Paddy 'The Cope' Gallagher (Patrick Gallagher) was in his early forties in 1916. Ten years earlier, backed by his wife Sally and the 12 half-crowns of his neighbours in the hills of Cleendra outside Dungloe, he had started the Templecrone Cooperative & Agricultural Society ('The Cope'). From Sally's small kitchen, high up on a hillside near Crohy Head, the Cope had expanded by 1916 to premises in Dungloe, Maghery, Lettermacaward and Meenbanad. Turnover had grown at an astonishing rate from £381 in 1906, to £34,731 in 1916, equivalent to over €5m today. The war in Europe was an ill wind that had brought opportunities for the Cope: there was huge demand for socks, gloves, balaclavas and other clothing from the British Army. The Cope, like many businesses in Ireland, had contracts with the War Office –

indeed, the Indian Army had placed a massive order with the Cope via the War Office in 1916. To meet demand, Paddy commandeered the Cope Hall, awarded to the town of Dungloe by the Pembroke Trust as an educational, social and entertainment centre in 1910. Here he created a Knitting Factory which employed in excess of 150 women as well as many more outworkers.

In 1916 Paddy 'The Cope' was in Dungloe managing the rapid expansion of the cooperative business he founded. A passionate nationalist, and defiantly non-secular, he saw good in everyone, whether nationalist or unionist. He met Erskine Childers and Roger Casement in London on a visit there, became close friends with Sir Horace Plunkett (founder of the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society) and author AE (George Russell) and met Patrick Pearse when he spoke in Dungloe in 1914.



(Courtesy of Mac Gabhann family)

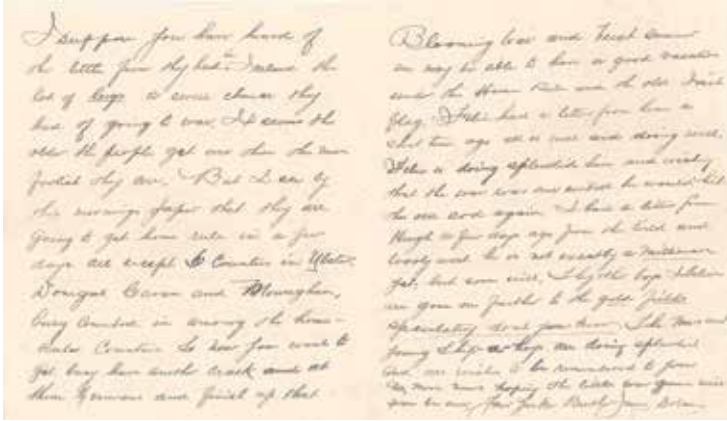
Micí Mac Gabhann (1865 - 1948)

Micí Mac Gabhann was born in 1865 in Derryconnor, Cloughaneely. The eldest in a family of eight, he was hired out at the Letterkenny hiring fair to work on farms in the Laggan in east Donegal. He spent time as a seasonal labourer in Scotland before he emigrated to North America where he made his fortune in the Klondike gold mines; his story is recounted in *Rotha Mór an tSaoil* or *The Hard Road to Klondike*.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, he returned to west Donegal to raise his family. Micí returned home and bought a farm at Cashel, Gortahork, from Sir John Nicholas Dick. It was in this two-storey, second-class house surrounded by an array of farm buildings that Micí and his family were living in 1916. With the establishment of Coláiste Uladh in Cloughaneely, Micí Mac Gabhann met and entertained some of the leading figures of the day such as Patrick Pearse, Roger Casement and Eoin MacNeill (Mac Gabhann, 1958).

DEALING WITH DOCUMENTS

Dealing with Documents



Extract from letter from James Dolan, New York, to his brother William, 6 June 1916 (Donegal County Archives).

What are Archives?

Archives are documents that contain important information about our past. They include items like letters, diaries, photographs, accounts of meetings, maps, plans and sound or video recordings. They are primary sources because they are created at the time an event occurred and contain first-hand accounts from the people who lived through the actual events. These items have been preserved because they contain unique and important information that we can use to recreate and better understand our past.

Working with historical documents

Care must be taken when researching information using archives. These records offer only one side of a story or one person's account of a particular occasion. Other people might have selected different aspects to record or have given different opinions on what was happening. It is sometimes useful to combine archives from two different sides to draw up an accurate account of what really occurred. For example, in order to find out exactly what took place in Dublin in Easter Week an historian might need to read accounts given by some of the 1916 Rising leaders but also official Government reports on the events of that week. History books, journal articles and documentaries which use archives to give an account of an event are classed as secondary sources.

Some archives are handwritten and depending on the type of paper, pen and skill of the author they can often be difficult to read. If you are having difficulty with a word you should see if you can match up some of the letters with letters in words you have already worked out. A magnifying glass can often be very useful in helping to identify words or letters.

Your education pack – a note for students

The archives chosen for your education pack come from Donegal County Archives, as well as other museums, libraries and archive services. Most families have some archival documents – does yours? What are they? Are there any from 1916?

We have selected a number of documents for you to examine. We have chosen these carefully to allow you to experience a range of different types of sources and also to help you get different perspectives on events. We hope these will help you to understand and imagine the way people lived and the important events of one hundred years ago. You will find a number of questions and exercises on the back of each facsimile.

While exploring the documents in this pack, you should try to:

- identify the type of document you are looking at – is it a letter, report, minutes of a meeting, or a photograph?
- consider why the document was produced, who was intended to see or read it.
- establish the most important facts and information contained in the document.
- think critically about the information the document is giving – how accurate is it, do you think the author is trying to convince the reader of something, what could the author be leaving out?

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Abbreviations in the text

A/Coy. S. Maj.	Acting Company Sergeant Major
Btn.	Battalion – a military unit
CDB	Congested Districts Board
DCA	Donegal County Archives
GPO	General Post Office
ICA	Irish Citizen Army
IRB	Irish Republican Brotherhood
ITGWU	Irish Transport and General Workers Union
POW	Prisoner of war
Pte.	Private – a rank in the army
RDC	Rural District Council
RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
NA, UK	National Archives, UK
NLI	National Library of Ireland
UDC	Urban District Council

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 Family of John Clinton O'Boyce
 Mulhern family

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Irish Capuchin Provincial Archives
Máire Mhic Pháidín, Ionad a' Phobail, Machaire Rabhartaigh
Met Éireann
Military Archives
Mulhern family private collection
National Library of Ireland
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of barren and stony hillocks. I travelled all about the country of the Gospels, and visited every place I have described." Listening to him as he outlines something of the developments of "The Brook Kerith" you cannot but feel how profoundly his subject has impressed and taken possession of him. "It has no theological significance, of course, and I hope nobody will be so foolish as to try to read

any into it," he says. "It is purely a work of imagination, with its interest centred on the greatest figure that ever walked the earth." This romance, novel, story—one scarcely knows how to class it—being off his hands, Mr. Moore is now busy again with the revision of all his other books for the collected edition of his works which Mr Heinemann is publishing.

THE BOOKMAN GALLERY.

PATRICK MACGILL.

"Do you expect an Irishman to cook bully beef when his regiment is going over the top?" asked Felan, the company cook, who, according to regulations would not cross in the charge. "For shame!"

"We rose, all of us, shook him warmly by the hand, and wished him luck."

IT was the night before the charge of the London Irish at Loos. It is good to read these words put into the mouth of an Irishman by a representative Irishman to-day. The new war-sketches of Mr. Patrick MacGill have rapidly followed the first volume, named "The Red Horizon." The one before me is entirely given to the great fight at Loos. The narrative is very powerful and dramatic, and the rapid incidents in the turmoil of battle are massed with fine intensive effect. But I had in mind when "The Great Push" appeared to write of the author and of all he stands for in Ireland at this hour. And we will turn at once to his Irishmen, and to Felan, who was company cook that week of the great advance:

"Rifleman Felan, my mate, went up the ladder of the assembly trench with a lighted cigarette in his mouth. Out on the open his first feeling was one of disappointment; the charge was as dull as a church parade to start with. Felan, although orders were given to the contrary, expected a wild, whooping, forward rush, but the men stepped out soberly with the pious decision of ancient ladies going to church. In front the bilious yellow gas receded like a curtain . . ."

The Irishman disappeared into the opening formed by the caprice of the breeze in the gas-cloud, and beheld the parapet of the German trench. He was quite solitary, the mist hid him from view of his comrades, and none would have witnessed his turn-back. But his regiment was "going over the top," and he would go forward. "A big, bearded German faced him, adjusting the range of his rifle." Felan

adjusted his. Before he knew the result of his shot he was out of the battle. A stretcher-bearer picked him up, and left him in a shell-hole all the tormented day till he was found by the narrator.

Felan, first described in "The Red Horizon," was "an Irishman with a brogue that could be cut with a knife," who sang on the first night before the trenches, when the London Irish boys tasted "first blood" in France. Felan was no trained artist, but he knew how to carry his audience with him. "It's a song about the time Irelan' was fighting for freedom, and it's called 'The Rising of the Moon.' A great song entirely it is, and I cannot do it justice," he said then.

Now, before the great charge at Loos:

"Well, what will I sing?" Felan asked.

"Any damned thing," said Bill.

"The 'Trumpeter,' and we'll all help," said Kore.

Felan leant against the wall, thrust his head back, closed his eyes, stuck the thumb of his right hand into a buttonhole of his tunic and began his song.

"His voice, rather hoarse but very pleasant, faltered a little at first, but was gradually permeated by a note of deepest feeling, and a strange passion surged through the melody. Felan was pouring his soul into the song:

"Trumpeter, what are you sounding now?

Is it the call I'm seeking?
Lucky for you if you hear it at all,

For my trumpet's but faintly speaking—

I'm calling 'em home.
Come home! Come home!
Tread light o'er the dead in the valley,

Who are lying around
Face down to the ground,
And they can't hear—"

We have to look on a forbidding picture. Realistic Art and War never met more grimly than in that fight when the rifleman-narrator, framed to be a vivid painter of battle-shambles, found himself stretcher-bearer on the battlefield. As narrative the work is masterly. There is no tedious



Mr. Patrick MacGill.

* 2s. 6d. (Herbert Jenkins).

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC.
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

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