

BERNARD O'ROURKE PAPERS

P117

Introduction

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Introduction

Bernard O'Rourke was born on 3 November 1874 to Patrick and Anne [*née* McDonald] O'Rourke. His father owned a mill which Bernard inherited. In 1907 he married Clare Clinton and they lived at Gleneven, Inniskeen, County Monaghan. They had four daughters, May, Clare, Eileen and Monica, and three sons, Patrick (1917-78), Brian (b.1919) and Clinton (b.1923).

He played an active part in local and national politics: a member of Monaghan County Council, 1905-25 and 1929-45; a Justice of the Peace, 1904-16, a position from which he was removed by the Lord Chancellor in June 1916 almost immediately after his release from detention in the aftermath of the Rising; Chairman of the Carrickmacross Board of Guardians, 1915-17, 1919 and 1922; he was a magistrate in the Dail Courts and served as a member of the Free State Senate throughout its existence, 1923-38, and continued as a member of the reconstituted Seanad under the 1938 Constitution [*see P117/87(33)*].

The three episodes of his life mainly documented by this collection are his arrest and imprisonment in 1916; his removal from the Commission of the Peace almost immediately after his release, but allegedly for a quite separate reason; and his involvement in the collection of subscriptions to the Dail Eireann Loan, 1919-24.

O'Rourke was arrested at his home on 11 May 1916 on suspicion of involvement in the Easter Rising. He was not released until 28 May 1916 and the correspondence arising from his imprisonment on police allegations, the failure to bring any charges against him, his defence, and his daily expectation of imminent release, form the most complete part of the collection. There is a letter from Bernard to Clare O'Rourke for each day of his imprisonment, as well as some of her replies and related correspondence with other family members, friends, lawyers and politicians; and a number of letters and postcards received by O'Rourke on his release, including some from men who had been imprisoned with him in Richmond Barracks, Dublin.

O'Rourke's letters give a vivid personal account of the circumstances surrounding his imprisonment: his frustration throughout at the lack of any move to either bring charges against him or release him; the tedium of imprisonment; the gradually improving conditions; the camaraderie; the false hopes raised by unfounded rumours; but underlying all this, the sense of loss caused by the enforced separation from his wife and children, a feeling reinforced by Clare's own letters to him. Among this material one also gets a firm indication of the standing of O'Rourke in the community and the respect in which he was held both locally and more generally.

The process to remove him as a Justice of the Peace for County Monaghan began immediately after his release and was not based on any alleged involvement in the Rising but on an incident the previous February [see P117/51]. A Volunteer demonstration was arranged in Carrickmacross to celebrate the release from custody in Armagh Jail of three men who had served two months for refusing to post bail on charges arising out of a similar demonstration in the town the previous November. O'Rourke inadvertently became involved in the demonstration when the train on which the men were travelling was derailed at Inniskeen. O'Rourke was prevailed upon to drive them the final stage of their journey and on arriving with the men in Carrickmacross became caught up in the celebrations. A public statement from the bench was required by the Lord Chancellor's Office to dissociate himself from the events and when O'Rourke refused to comply he was removed from the Commission of the Peace [see P117/60-64].

The other main area of interest documented by the collection, though not as extensively, is the Dail Eireann Loan. On 19 June 1919 trustees were appointed for the purpose of administering the Dail Eireann National Loan. A prospectus was approved providing for the issue of 250,000 5% registered certificates. The certificates were issued in denominations ranging from £1 to £100 at an interest rate of 5% per annum, payable after the British evacuation of Ireland.

The material relating to the loan consists mainly of subscription lists and correspondence and gives an indication of the degree of local support for the scheme, and the mechanics of its administration.

The Bernard O'Rourke Papers complement a number of other collections in UCD Archives Department. The papers of Peter Paul Galligan, TD for West Cavan, contain material relating to the internments in Lewes Prison in 1916. The papers of Sean MacEntee contain documents relating to his own imprisonment, eminently compatible with the O'Rourke material, consisting as they do largely of letters to his wife as well as papers relating to his defence. It is interesting to note in this context that O'Rourke appears to have acted as MacEntee's agent in the 1921 general election [*see P117/68*]; and that MacEntee's name appears first on the list of Dail Eireann Loan collectors for Monaghan South [*see P117/75*]. The papers of Eoin MacNeill to whom O'Rourke refers as a fellow prisoner in Richmond Barracks [*see P117/11*] also contain material relating to his imprisonment and courtmartial.

The Bernard O'Rourke Papers were deposited in the UCD Archives Department by Clinton and Emily O'Rourke in September 1993.

C McQ/SH

April 1996

A PRISON CORRESPONDENCE, 1916

I Bernard O'Rourke to his wife Clare

1 11 May 1916 From The Prison, Dundalk. O'Rourke describes his quarters as 'fairly comfortable' and has arranged with his cousin Charlie to get food sent in. He is only allowed one letter a day and asks Clare to write to Charlie to tell him that he does not know the nature of the charges against him. He mentions his mother's reaction to his arrest and hopes that neither she nor Clare, nor 'the little ones' have been upset. He asks Clare to write to him, but to only include 'family affairs as all other news will be cut out'. He wishes [his brother] Pat O'Rourke to run the business and gives Clare some instructions for Pat and Charlie about getting corn, prices to charge for meal, and bank books. O'Rourke says all he wants is 'a smoke' which is forbidden, 'unless allowed by Doctor Gill'. He would prefer the daily papers to the novel he has been given. In a post-script he asks for his sister Minnie Patey's address in Dublin so that he might get her to send him food should he be sent there.

Annotated by the prison authorities: 'This prisoner has been removed from here since this letter was written'.

4pp

2 12 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin, says he is 'fairly comfortable', and shares the room with thirty-five other men. He still does not know what he is charged with, but says there are 'hundreds' like him. He asks Clare to write to Minnie to send him in some food, and to get Pat to get her meat for Sunday. Mr Edward Phelan from Dundalk has agreed to act as his solicitor and he has arranged an interview with him, after which he will have Phelan call to Clare to inform her of anything he knows. he urges her to write to him with news of Gleneven, though he must restrict his own writing due to lack of supplies of paper.

2pp

3 [13 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin, but on paper headed 'YMCA with HM Forces on Active Service' given to him by a sentry. O'Rourke describes his conditions; his fellow prisoners, 'the finest men alive'; their routine, saying the rosary singing and dancing, to pass the time, so there is 'not a dull moment'. He feels encouraged by the day's papers, has been told the charges against him, regards it as very little and expects to be released in a few days. He sends his love to everyone at home and says he has never felt better in his life and would not have liked to have missed the fun.

2pp

4 [14 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. O'Rourke explains how he heard mass. He lists his visitors; Charlie, [James] Lardner [MP, his solicitor] and H H Asquith [Prime Minister]. Lardner who came directly from London and who has taken on O'Rourke's case 'freely' says there is nothing against him and he hopes to have him released 'early in the week'. He also lists people who, according to Charlie, have taken an interest in his case; Thomas McArdle, Lord Fingall, Matt Clinton and Sir Henry Bellingham all of whose 'interference' Charlie regards as unbeneficial. 'If I am to be punished I would prefer to put up with it rather than have all these people trying to get favours for me'. He complains of not having received any letters and advises Clare to keep her letters short, and containing no 'outside' news, as otherwise they will not get passed by the censor.

4pp

5 [15 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. O'Rourke acknowledges receipt of Clare's letters. Their food has improved in variety from their previous diet of bully beef, dog biscuits and a form of tea, and they are all in 'the best of health and spirits', though they would like some furniture and a pillow as they sleep on the floor. 'We had a fine concert here last night. Nearly all the chaps are singers and we got the light on to 10 o'clock'. He sent a postcard to Minnie asking for some things he needs, but he hasn't heard from her. If he does everything will be fine. He would like more writing paper and to get **The Democrat** as they

get all the Dublin papers. He does not recommend that Clare comes to visit him because of the long hours of standing in wait. 'I have heard nothing further about my case only that an officer on Saturday night late called me out and asked me some particulars about myself - he said they got a wire about me. This must be from Asquith'.

4pp

6 16 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. O'Rourke acknowledges receipt of Clare's letters of Friday and Saturday. Minnie called to him and brought everything he needed, the solicitors Phelan and Lardner also visited. On having seen the depositions Lardner said there was nothing against O'Rourke and is pushing the military authorities to dismiss of his case.

'We are all in the best of spirits. We have not a dull moment any day. I saw some of the Carrick and Dundalk chaps yesterday. They are all A1. There are over 1000 prisoners in this block and I did not meet any of them but said they never had such a holiday in their life'.

3pp

7 [17 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Acknowledges receipt of CLare's letter of Monday and explains that he must write early in the day to allow for the delay in the letters going out through the censor. They are more comfortable now, having received tables, seats, plates and cutlery, towels and blankets, and 'all the fellows say they won't leave here at all'. He himself will be sorry leaving them, 'they are such a lot of fine Irishmen'. He sees little of the Carrick men. He was amused at Clare's account of 'the new play of the little ones' and looks forward to seeing it when he returns home.

'I am very glad to hear all in Inniskeen have taken the pledge. I hope they will keep it. If this mission stops the barbarous custom of drink at funerals it will be the greatest blessing ever came to the parish.

McMahon of Ardee got 3 years imprisonment. The fellows here are quite jealous of him as they look on it as a great honour to get so much. In fact any man that does not get some time is in the eyes of all the prisoners here a disgrace...

I am pleased indeed that you have all these visitors. It shows that it is not such a terrible crime after all in being the wife of a potential rebel'.

4pp

8 [18 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Acknowledges receipt of Clare's letters since her letter posted on Monday, and comments on the necessity to write early so that he ensures same-day postage.

'Nothing fresh about my trial. I thought Lardner would be able to get my case taken out of its turn but so far he has not succeeded. There is no fear of their giving me any time as they released a number of young men yesterday that were drilling on the week of the Rising. but they had to stand their trial. They say the court was very nice with them although it was proven that they were drilling and marching after the start of the rebellion'.

4pp

9 19 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Acknowledges receipt of Clare's letter and portrait of their daughters, a letter from his cousin Fr Stephen and stockings from both herself and Minnie. He describes their diet in the prison in detail and says they are giving their leftovers to the English soldiers and are better off than if they were at the Gresham. he explains the delays involved in getting in parcels, but that there are now no restrictions on the number of letters they can receive though they are still checked. He mentions Mrs [Monica] Glendon's recovery.

There is a rumour in the prison of a great number of prisoners being deported that night to England. 'All in this room are afraid to go, as they much prefer to remain in Ireland. I sincerely hope they won't send me but I would not be surprised if they did. They are in a hopeless muddle here with all the prisoners on their hands and sent many to England and released them in a few days after landing'.

4pp

10 [20 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. O'Rourke refers to his letter to Clare of the previous day where he mentioned a message he had received from Major Crean that his release has been agreed, though the order had not yet come.

'I am anxiously waiting all day for my release without result'. He tells Clare not to get uneasy if he doesn't arrive home, as due to the delay he may not arrive until Monday

The rumoured deportation occurred. 'Things are much the same with us here, only that about 400 men were deported from this barracks last night including all the Carrick prisoners and 7 of the jolliest fellows we had in this room...

...I have had a visit from Lardner who informs me that there is no truth in the report or message I got yesterday that I was to be released today. I am very sorry I can't be with you for tomorrow but I must put up with my confinement for the present'.

4pp

11 [21 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. O'Rourke expresses his disappointment that 'red tape' is delaying his release. He has asked Minnie to call into Major Crean for an explanation for the false message that he was to be released.

'The reason you don't get my letter regularly is that they are delayed here by the censor, but you may not have this delay now as the censor's have less to do now since the 400 prisoners were deported on Friday. Since writing the above I have heard mass. The priest says it out in the open square opposite our window and all the prisoners can see it from their room. There seems to be only one Catholic lady prisoner here and she was beside the altar with an armed sentry. John McNeil [Eoin MacNeill] is in the next block to us. He was taken here last night and will be tried on Monday'.

4pp

12 [22 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Acknowledges receipt of clothes and other personal effects.

'I am in want for nothing only to get out of this... The boys here are in bad spirits today as there is a rumour that 100 are to be deported tomorrow and each one thinks he will have to go. They are quite satisfied with the conditions here but on the other side the prisoners are put in cells. No one likes that. I see all they have to say about me at the local councils. I did not think I was such an important man in the county'.

4pp

13 [23 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Writing early so that he can get Minnie to post the letter.

'There are dozens of men here with more influence than I have and they can do nothing. John Dillon has worked for all he is worth for 7 chaps from his town and they were deported on Friday. Some are far worse cases than me. One man Chas Hughes [from] Westport has an extensive drapery and boot store. He and four of his assistants were arrested. The assistants are all deported and he went in to hospital from here last night with a bad leg he has. He says his business will be ruined as his wife does not know it well enough and she can get no one who does. He used to cry here when he got a letter from his wife'.

4pp

14 [24 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Incomplete and partially censored. 'You need not be uneasy about me as I am getting on all right and have plenty of everything. They have made no charges against me so far... There was a notice put up in the room last night informing us that "there was no necessity for engaging solicitors until we were charged with something." This indicates that they don't intend to make any specific charge against most of them here'.

2pp

15 [25 May 1916] From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'Nothing fresh about my case since I wrote you yesterday. I got all your letters up to the one you wrote on Tuesday and I am glad to hear you and all the little ones are in good health and spirits. They changed us over to [Room] 1.4. last night which is on the same landing as I.5. There is only 12 of us here and we are quite comfortable. All very nice chaps. We have Stack and Collins who were arrested on Good Friday near Tralee close to where Casement landed...
... This is an extraordinary place one never gets tired of it. I would not wish for a nicer place to spend a holiday. The only drawback is that I can't have you and the little ones near me'.

4pp

16 26 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'The reason you did not get all my letter of Tuesday is that I made reference to the prisoners who were deported that day. The censor probably cut out the whole page [see P117/14]...
... I had a letter from Father Stephen [Glendon] last night in which he enclosed a communication from Sir John Maxwell stating "that the information obtained about this gentleman is not such that he can immediately sanction his release but that he does not propose to bring him to trial before a court martial". The meaning of this is that they can bring no charge whatever against me...
... They are probably not making any further local enquiries about me as the police know very well I was at my business all the week of the rising'.

4pp

17 27 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'I had Lardner in to see me last night. He had an interview with Col[onel] Byrne on my behalf before he called on me. They have no charges whatever against me and they are satisfied with my statement as to my movements during Easter Week... The only thing that prevents me being released this week is that the police have made secret reports that I have been in the movement but they are unable to connect me in any way with it. It is all "belief" and "surmise". No definite evidence'.

4pp

II Clare to Bernard O'Rourke

- 18 [12 May 1916] From Gleneven, Inniskeen, County Monaghan, mainly concerning family and business affairs and the expectation of his immediate release. 'I need not tell you we all miss you every minute of the day but I am not worrying about you now as I know you will be home in a day or so'.
- 4pp
- 19 [13 May 1916] From Gleneven. All his friends are enquiring when he will be home. 'I don't have so many enquiries as they do in the office and shop. They are simply "smothered" there with enquiries because everyone was astounded at your arrest and all are as much at sea as we ourselves are as to why you were arrested. Some of your Unionist friends - and you have many - say they are making a bad mistake by arresting men like you... Mr Quinn had a nice letter from Sir Horace Plunkett about you during the week. I never knew you had so many aristocratic friends'.
- 2pp
- 20 [16 May 1916] From Gleneven. 'It must be rather hard on you who led so much of your life outdoors to be inside on these sunny warm days. I look for your coming after every train passes'. Arranges to have sent anything he needs, including newspapers and laundry, and includes family and local news.
- 4pp
- 21 [May 1916] Mainly concerning family affairs with news of friends. 'Peter and Pat Carny came in last night at $\frac{1}{2}$ ten on our clock. Pat is always a late visitor and does not believe at all in the new time - so when we are ready to go to bed Pat strolls in and says it's only $\frac{1}{2}$ nine. He thinks "that the farmers will lose with the new time as the fields won't be dry enough to start at 7..."'. Incomplete, opening pages missing.
- 4pp

22 [May 1916] Mainly concerning family and business affairs and the lack of any case against him. 'All the very many nice things alone that everyone is saying about you would take days to tell and as for letters I'm seriously thinking of sending to the papers "Mrs O'Rourke returns thanks for the many kind letters and telegrams etc. etc." ...In fact I could count 50 people - well known decent people who saw you before, during and after Easter Week - but of course nothing like that will be necessary - when they reach your lot you will we know get home to us'. Incomplete, opening pages missing.

2pp

III Bernard O'Rourke to his cousin, Fr Stephen Glendon

23 19 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'I am getting on all right here and the best of everything for the past few days, but the first few days we were here the food and accommodation was very bad. They have very slight charges against me... I must say I never spent a more enjoyable holiday in my life'. Includes family news from Clare.

3pp

24 24 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'I am still here with not much prospect of release... The military authorities are in a muddle. They have not a staff yet to deal with all these prisoners and it will be 12 months before they are through with them. Most of the people here like myself had no connection whatever with the recent trouble... I am getting tired of this place and I would be very glad to hear I was getting home'.

3pp

25 26 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin. 'I am just after having an interview with Mr Lardner BL... he says they can't bring any charges against me but the police reports require to be investigated. It seems they hint I am a sort of dangerous man working under the surface although not publicly connected with any disloyal organisation...

I may say that only for my influence in the parish of Inniskeen there would have been a strong corps of Sinn Feinners in it. Several attempts were made to start this and I worked for all I know to keep them out. This is the thanks I get now'.

2pp

IV Clare O'Rourke to Fr Stephen Glendon

26 18 May 1916 From Gleneven. Apologises for the delay in writing. 'I have not a minute to call my own. I have visitors galore and as for letters - they are nearly beyond count'. She describes, from Bernard's letters, the great improvement in his prison conditions and events in the prison. 'He had a visit from Asquith on Saturday. 'He had a long chat with him and asked Barney many questions - his views on Home Rule question etc. and thanked him when coming away remarking he was sorry he (B) had to be detained there'. She has written to John Dillon about Bernard's case. Describes the children's new play based on their father's arrest and imprisonment.

4pp

27 [22 May 1916] From Gleneven. Passes on further news from Bernard's letters, the false news of his release and the deportation to England of the Carrickmacross men.

'The Carrick men were all sent to England with the exception of Barney and a man named Burke. This man according to rumours we hear was connected with the Irish Volunteers and I heard too among other things there was a Republican flag found in Burke's house - but we hear so many strange tales we don't know if half of them are true. I hope by keeping Barney back (who as we all know had far too much of his own business on hand to bother with Irish Volunteers or be mixed up with the unhappy "rising") along with Burke does not mean that they are both to be treated alike'.

4pp

- 28 [26 May 1916] From Gleneven. Passes on further news from Bernard's letters and discusses the weakness of the case against him. 'Thank God he was never mixed up in any of those organisations which has brought about the trouble. People were very proud of him the time he spoke up against the police and the whole country agreed with what he said as to their brutality etc. That is the only thing they can now bring against him'. Mentions the contents of letters from Bernard's solicitors concerning meetings with the authorities concerning his release.

8pp

V Bernard O'Rourke to other family members

- 29 16 May 1916 From Richmond Barracks, Dublin to Charlie [Glendon, his cousin and manager of the Dundalk mill] mainly concerning the business and the price of meal. Describes prison conditions and visits by his solicitor and H H Asquith. 'I gave Asquith a bit of advice about how to rule Ireland and the cause of all this trouble which I think will have an effect on him'.

3pp

- 30 [18 May 1916] Postcard from Richmond Barracks, Dublin to Mrs [Minnie] Patey, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin, asking her to bring in small change if visiting the next day.

1 item

Vi Letters to Clare O'Rourke

a From Edward Phelan and James Lardner MP, Solicitors

- 31 18 May 1916 From Edward Phelan, Carrickmacross, mainly concerning visiting times and procedures at Richmond Barracks and advising her against going because of the very long delays frequently faced by visitors.

1p

VII Letters to Fr Stephen Glendon concerning O'Rourke

- 36 13 May 1916 From Major General J B
Friend, Headquarters, Irish
Command, Parkgate, Dublin
replying at the direction of General Sir John Maxwell
to Fr Glendon's letter. Sir John has already given
instructions that the prisoners in Cork Jail be
allowed to see their priests and attend Sunday Mass.
Enquiries are also being made about Bernard O'Rourke
and any allegations against him would be investigated
as soon as possible.
- 2pp
- 37 14 May 1916 From Captain [Johnston],
Richmond Barracks, Dublin, to Rev
H S Glendon OP, St Mary's Priory,
Cork, informing him that Bernard O'Rourke is in
Richmond Detention Barracks.
- 1p
- 38 15 May 1916 From Patrick O'Rourke, The
Mills, Inniskeen, giving
details of Bernard's
arrest. 'They did not get any papers or anything else
in the house, only a bandoleer belonging to Redmond's
Volunteers and an old single barrel gun belonging to
me. So they took them with them'.
- 4pp
- 39 17 May 1916 From Joseph Devlin [MP for
West Belfast], House of
Commons, confirming that he
has 'communicated with the War Office Authorities'
regarding Bernard O'Rourke's case.
- 1p
- 40 18 May 1916 From [Minnie Patey], Vernon
Avenue, Clontarf, giving
news of Bernard who she has
visited. 'I was there yesterday morning at 9 o'clock to
take my place in the queue and I saw B. at 3.15. You
would pity all the poor women and babies standing all
the time'.
- 4pp

B RELEASE FROM PRISON

I Correspondence between Bernard O'Rourke and
Fr Stephen Glendon

49 [28 May 1916] Note from Bernard at his sister Minnie's home, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, informing Fr Stephen that he has just been released and will travel home on the evening train; and thanking him for all he has done in the matter.

1p

50 29 May 1916 Telegram from Fr Stephen congratulating Bernard on his release.

1 item

II Other letters to O'Rourke

51 29 May 1916 From James Lardner, 4 Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin. He has heard of O'Rourke's release and had been hoping to see him as he passed through Dublin. Refers to the possibility of O'Rourke's commission [as a magistrate] being cancelled as a result of his presence at a public meeting at which magistrates actions were criticised [see P117/28 and P117/60 - 63].

'May I suggest to you that you should give the fullest explanation of your presence and of your views in reference to the incident. Incidents which at the time did not carry any great importance, in the light of recent events, as you will fully apprehend, bear a much more serious aspect in the eyes of the authorities'.

1p

52 30 May 1916 From Patrick Duffy, Grocer, Castleblayney, congratulating him on his release. 'I hope the men of South Monaghan may soon get an opportunity of appreciating your services and manly spirit'.

1p

58 23 October 1916 From C Hughes, Frongoch Camp, Wales, thanking him for his letter. Mentions the few ex-Richmond Barracks prisoners still with him and those transferred to Reading Jail. He has appeared twice before the Advisory Committee in London but has neither been charged nor released. The men are in great spirits but expect a severe winter.

2pp

59 6 June 1917 Postcard from M McBride, giving his new address as Fairford, Gloucester.

1 item

**C REMOVAL OF O'ROURKE FROM THE
COMMISSION OF THE PEACE**

60 26 February 1916 Photocopy of a report from the Dundalk Democrat of an Irish Volunteers demonstration in Carrickmacross to celebrate the release from Armagh Jail of three local men imprisoned for two months for refusing to give bail in connection with charges arising from a meeting in the town the previous November. The report includes details of the men being delayed on their way by train to the homecoming demonstration; and their being taken by car by Bernard O'Rourke on the final part of their journey.

1 item

61 1 June 1916 Letter from Gerald Horan [Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper and Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor], Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke.

'The attention of the Lord Chancellor has been called to your action on the 21 February last in conveying in your motor car from Inniskeen to Carrickmacross three men who had been liberated from prison, and in attending with them at a procession and meeting at the latter place, where their prosecution and conviction were denounced '.

An explanation is required for conduct considered improper for someone holding a Commission of the Peace.

1p

62 20 June 1916 Letter from Gerald Horan, Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke, referring to a letter from O'Rourke which contained neither recognition of impropriety in conveying three released prisoners in his motor car, or regret at conduct 'most unbecoming to your position as a magistrate'. The Lord Chancellor requires a statement by O'Rourke from the bench dissociating himself from the demonstration and regretting his action which was due to inadvertence.

1p

63 23 June 1916 Letter from James Lardner, Leinster Street, Merrion Square, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke, enclosing a draft reply to Horan's letter of 20 June and advising against the public expression of regret requested by the Lord Chancellor. The draft reply explains the circumstances behind his conveying the released prisoners from Inniskeen to Carrickmacross after their train had been derailed. [See also P117/51]

3pp

64 29 June 1916 Letter from Gerald Horan, Lord Chancellor's Secretary's Office, Four Courts, Dublin, to Bernard O'Rourke acknowledging receipt of a letter of 26 June. Since O'Rourke has declined to make the required public statement of regret, the Lord Chancellor 'deems it his duty to remove you from the Commission of the Peace for the County of Monaghan'. A Writ of Supersedeas exonerating O'Rourke from further acting in that office is enclosed.

2pp

D PRISON CORRESPONDENCE, 1920

65 25 October 1920 From Belfast Prison to Clare. Reassures her that he has everything he needs, both food and personal effects, and that he is quite comfortable. Mentions fellow prisoners including Denis McCullough. 'I can get home anytime if I give bail to appear later at trial but I have refused to give bail'.

2pp

66 3 November 1920 From Belfast Prison to May [his daughter at school]. 'I have come down here to this famous spa for a course of treatment. The waters are not so objectionable as those of Harrowgate...' Mentions family matters and describes general prison conditions. 'I don't find the time going in. I am away from home a fortnight on Saturday and think it is only a couple of days'.

2pp

E MATERIAL RELATING TO THE DAIL EIREANN LOAN IN SOUTH MONAGHAN, 1919-24

67 October 1919- Handwritten list of sub-
 January 1920 scriptions [collected by Bernard O'Rourke?] to the Dail Eireann Loan in Monaghan South. Name and amount subscribed are included with town or townland occasionally given. Included is an additional undated list of subscriptions 'from Corrigan'.

9pp

68 December 1919- Typescript list of sub-
 September 1920 sscribers to the Dail Eireann Loan in Monaghan South. List includes a subscription number, subscribers' names and addresses with the amount of the loan applied for and paid by each applicant. Includes a one page summary of subscriptions including the names of organisers. Dates given are those of the collection period. The list and summarised account are stamped by the Dail Eireann Finance Department on 28 August 1924.

28pp

H PERSONAL MATERIAL

88 3 November 1874 Photocopy of a certified copy of Bernard O'Rourke's entry in the Register of Births. Certified copy given 9 September 1901.

1p

89 Christmas 1945 Letter from [Fr] Stephen [Glendon] to Bernard O'Rourke. While sorting through old papers he has come across 'some correspondence about your arrest and imprisonment for your country's cause in 1916. It occurs to me you may like to look over them and keep some of them as a souvenir, so I am sending them to you herewith' [P117/23-28, 36-41].
Comments on the burning of the mill and hopes it will soon be back in full swing. 'I don't see the Sunburst packets in the shops even now so I suppose you are not able to supply your customers yet'. Offers season's greetings.

2pp

F MATERIAL RELATING TO ELECTIONS

- 74 22 June 1918 Telegram from McGuinness, Cootehill, County Cavan to Bernard O'Rourke, announcing the election result as 'Griffith 3795, O'Hanlon 22581'.

1 item
- 75 13 May 1921 Handwritten receipt from William H Swan to Bernard O'Rourke, acknowledging the deposit of £150 lodged with the nomination of Sean MacEntee for election as member of parliament for County Monaghan.

1 item
- 76 Undated telegram from Owen, Monaghan, to Bernard O'Rourke, Carrickmacross announcing the result of a [local] election as 'O'Rourke 344, Kelly 244'.

1 item

G PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRINTED MATTER

I Photographs

- 77 [c.1918/19] Eamon de Valera addressing an outdoor meeting in a field. de Valera in profile on the platform, to his right facing the camera but partially obscured is Ernest Blythe, MP for Monaghan.
Black and white, tinted 13 x 4½ cms
- 78 [c.1919] Crowd photograph of a Cumann na mBan/Sinn Fein meeting [in Castleblayney, County Monaghan]. Platform party facing the camera; uniformed Cumann na mBan officer addressing the crowd [see also P117/85]

II Pamphlets and Printed Matter

- 79 28 October 1915 Department of Recruiting,
Ireland. Recruiting pamphlet
consisting of patriotic
messages from the Lord Lieutenant and the Chief of
Staff, details of pay and allowances, and an enlistment
form to be completed and returned.
- 3pp
- 80 [1916] Songs of Freedom. Easter,
1916.
Contains the words of 4
songs: 'Before the Battle' and 'After the Battle' by
P H Pearse; and 'The Call' and 'Our Faith' by Countess
De Markievicz (The Irish Joan of Arc).
- 4pp
- 81 [1916] To your places, Slaves.
A Striking Pronouncement on
the Easter Insurrection by
Rev Fr Yorke, San Francisco.
'At the solemn moment when Ireland, a strong man,
armed, entered the clangorous halls of war, and with
drawn sword demanded that nationhood which seven
centuries of tyranny have been unable to destroy, one
would think that every American remembering the rock
from which he was hewn and the pit from which he was
digged, would feel a thrill of sympathy with men and
women who believe that liberty was worth winning even
at the price of blood'.
- 4pp
- 82 [1917] Patrick H Pearse. A sketch
of his Life by 'Colin'.
With a short sketch of his
life and extracts from and commentary on his
writings.
- 16pp
- 83 [1917] Ireland, England and The
War. 'The accompanying
leaflet was dropped from a
German aeroplane into the English lines in France.
As the matter is of very important and very general
historic interest, it is hoped that its presentation
in pamphlet form will be of use'. Propagandist
argument against Irish involvement in the war.
- 12pp

84 [1919] Colour cartoon of Ireland, in the form of a uniformed Volunteer, being introduced to the Versailles Conference table by Uncle Sam. Other participants at the conference table are represented by stylised figures such as John Bull.

12 x 8 cms

85 [c.1919/20] Photographic copy of a poster announcing a monster Saint Patrick's Day demonstration in Castleblayney, under the auspices of South Monaghan Cumann na mBan, to be addressed by Mrs Sheehy Skeffington and Mrs Wyse Power.

50 x 40 cms

86 [c.1923] Leaflet No 9 issued by the North Eastern Boundary Bureau concerning the numerical strength of Catholics in border areas and calling for the retention of these areas in the Free State.

25 x 16 cms

III Newscuttings

87 [1914-] File of press cuttings, April-June 1916 from the Dundalk Democrat, relating overwhelmingly to events in the period around the Easter Rising. Includes reports of public bodies such as Monaghan County Council, Carrickmacross Rural Council and Carrickmacross Board of Guardians, expressing regret at Bernard O'Rourke's arrest and subsequent relief at his release, with a lengthy report from the Dundalk Examiner consisting of an interview with him (3 June 1916). Other material includes general editorial comment on the Rising, the treatment of prisoners and the courtmartial and execution of the leaders. A much later cutting (26 April 1978) contains an article on the Senate with a photograph of seven senators, including Bernard O'Rourke, with President Douglas Hyde in 1938.

33 items

