

Town Hall, where they made bombs during the night. No attack was made on the barracks at Athenry, where the police had been reinforced. On the following morning they moved out about two miles to a farm belonging to the Department of Agriculture, where they remained for the night. On Thursday, April 27th, having torn up the railway line, cut the telegraph wires, and commandeered foodstuffs, they marched to Moyvore. Here the combined strength of the rebel forces from the East and West Ridings totalled about a thousand.

On Friday, April 28th, military went out from Galway to Athenry, and closed in upon the rebel encampment from the north. To the south the police of the district, reinforced by two hundred extra men from Belfast, were concentrated at Loughrea. By this time extensive desertions from the rebel force had begun, and, as it seemed likely that an encounter could be avoided, efforts were made to induce them to disperse. To these efforts a local priest lent his good offices. A contest for the decision ensued between him and Mellows, who was strongly in favour of resistance. Finally the priest prevailed, and the rebels disbanded. Subsequently some five hundred arrests were made, and the majority of the men arrested were deported to England. Twelve of the men most prominent in the Galway rising were tried by Field General Court-martial and sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. Mellows, after remaining in hiding for some time, finally succeeded in making good his escape from Ireland.

In the neighbouring County of Clare, the default of a rising was directly traceable to the interception of the Casement expedition. In this county the active Volunteers numbered about four hundred; but Clare had a bad re-

cord for agrarian crime, and the County Inspector, in his evidence before the Royal Commission on the Rebellion, gave it as his opinion that sympathy with the seditious movement was so extensive that, in the event of a rising, the number of insurgents would have been swollen to at least twelve hundred. The Clare Volunteers, who conducted themselves during the year before the Rebellion in a most aggressive fashion, and excited the people by marching under arms, were well drilled, and, in some cases, uniformed. They practised shooting with miniature rifles. With these and with shot guns they were well provided, but they were quite inadequately armed in respect of rifles, the total number of which in the county was estimated by the police at no more than about thirty-five. Immediately before the rising there was great activity on the part of the Volunteer organisers in Clare. On Easter Sunday the Volunteers massed in considerable numbers along the banks of the Shannon in the evident anticipation of the landing of arms from the Kerry side of the river. The arms, of course, did not arrive, with the result that there was no actual rising in Clare. The County, however, especially in the neighbourhood of Ennis, and the district about the railway between that place and the City of Limerick, remained during the week in such a disturbed condition that measures were taken to put Limerick in a state of defence against attack from the Clare side. All the approaches to Limerick were patrolled by military and police, and the bridges leading into the city from Clare were fortified with barricades and implacements for machine guns to resist attack. This state of tension in the City of Limerick—no disturbance occurred in the county, where the Volunteer strength was small—continued throughout the

week until the surrender in Dublin. After that surrender an extensive search for arms was made by the police in the County Clare, with small result, except at Listowel, where the Volunteers gave up their arms in a body.

Similarly in County Kerry the miscarriage of the Casement expedition effectively prevented an actual outbreak. The history of the seditious movement in Kerry is worth tracing in some detail, in the first place because it supplied an epitome of the development of events in Ireland generally, and in the next place because German connection with it was here definite and unmistakable. Sir Morgan O'Connell, a descendant of Daniel O'Connell, "the Liberator," and a popular landowner, with a long association with the county, gave evidence on these points before the Royal Commission. In August, 1914, on the outbreak of war, the County of Kerry was absolutely peaceful. A good number of National Volunteers were carrying out drills and route marches, mostly on Sundays. These bodies were always well conducted on the roads, and considerate for other traffic. The vast majority of Kerry men were in complete sympathy with Great Britain in the war. Considerable numbers in the towns of the county enlisted in the Army, and these included many Volunteers. The Volunteers generally assisted recruiting, in many cases marching with their bands to the local railway stations to send off reservists and recruits. At this time there was not many arms in the county. These conditions persisted as late as May 1915, when the Band of the Irish Guards visited Killarney for recruiting purposes, and met with an excellent reception.

In that month, however, a sweeping change occurred in the situation. The Irish Volunteer

headquarters in Dublin decided to capture Kerry, and realised that in the state of the county a spectacular method was necessary to achieve this object. It had already been carrying on propagandist work on a limited scale, and with little success. Now it organised a monster demonstration to be held in Killarney on May 23rd. The holding of the meeting was advertised throughout the county, and John MacNeill was billed to deliver a speech and enlist recruits for the "Army of Ireland." The meeting was to be held immediately after some Gaelic Athletic Sports, which were the ostensible object of the gathering. The police warned the Irish Government of the purpose of the demonstration, and stated that it was plainly anti-recruiting and seditious. Sir Morgan O'Connell on May 22nd—the Saturday previous to the Sunday meeting—telegraphed to the Lord Lieutenant: "A meeting under auspices of *Sinn Fein* party is to be held here to-morrow, calling itself a football match, but with the perfectly open and avowed intention of being turned into an anti-recruiting meeting. Will Your Excellency do anything to stop this?" He received a reply to the effect that "Lord Lieutenant was not advised to prevent the meeting from taking place." He also telegraphed to the Central Recruiting Committee, which had been in constant correspondence with him about recruiting in Kerry, that, if this meeting were held, recruiting in Kerry would be killed. The meeting was, nevertheless, held, and John MacNeill delivered at it a strong speech for the Volunteers. There were five special trains at cheap fares to Killarney, bringing thousands of country people to hear the speech, as well as some five hundred armed Volunteers, who paraded the streets, while the countryside for ten miles round flocked into the town.