

EOIN MacNEILL ADDITIONAL PAPERS

LA1/M



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LA1/M Eoin MacNeill Additional Papers: content and structure

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A. LITERARY AND CULTURAL , 1904–25

- 1** 1904; 1924-25 Correspondence concerning matters of a general literary and cultural interest. **Includes** a request for MacNeill to review P.W. Joyce's *History of Gaelic Ireland to 1608* [17]; request for MacNeill to write an article in the Western Mail [20]; and requests for books on the 'Irish Question' [24-28].
- 31 items
- 2** 1922–25 Correspondence concerning Irish language and Gaelic culture. Topics covered include the Tailteann Games, the compulsory use of Irish in National Schools, and requests from people in the U.S. for assistance in learning Irish. **Includes** correspondence with J.J. Buckley, Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum, concerning two small flints and a Rathlin axe presented by MacNeill to the Museum [16–31]; correspondence with Hugh Kennedy, Chief Justice, concerning Irish judicial robes [35-39]; and a letter from Brian Kelly enclosing pages from a Gaelic manuscript by a writer who 'reveals an unusual literary gift' [44–57].
- 30 items

B. CONSTITUENCY WORK

I. Job applications, 1907–25

- 3** 1907; 1924–25 Correspondence concerning requests for assistance from applicants for positions in the judiciary or the courts, as a Commissioner for Oaths [10–17] or a Peace Commissioner [24–29].
Includes a copy of amendments to the Judicature (Ireland) Bill, 1907 [33].
29 items
- 4** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning requests for assistance from applicants for positions in the Dublin Metropolitan Police, the Army and the Garda Síochána.
Includes a letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice stating that 'the Minister for Justice is most strongly opposed to the acceptance by the Dublin Metropolitan Police Authorities of recruits who have resigned from the Garda Síochána, and vice versa' [50].
49 items
- 5** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning requests for assistance from applicants for positions in the Post Office.
Includes a letter from Lil Flynn, applicant for a vacancy in the Post Office in Killaloe, stating that 'at a meeting recently at which the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs met Bishop Fogarty ... the Bishop asked J.J. Walsh [the Minister] to give me the Post Office when it became vacant. He practically promised it' [25]. Letter to Ernest Blythe, Minister for Finance, saying that 'The Postmaster General tells me that "regulations" block men formerly in the I.R.A. from getting established posts under him' [69].
63 items

- 6 1924–25 Correspondence concerning requests for assistance from applicants for positions in schools and colleges.
Includes correspondence with the Private Secretary to the Minister for Defence concerning a teacher called Gertrude Rowland [Roland], alleged to have taught in Down and Antrim. The information is required 'without going to any authority outside the Saorstát ... I am very anxious to get it, but the Northern Education Authorities should not be asked for it under any circumstances. We want the information here for certain intelligence purposes' [3–4].

16 items
- 7 1923–25 Correspondence concerning requests for assistance from applicants for positions mainly in the Public Service, such as clerical officer, labourer or egg inspector. Many of the letters are written by or on behalf of ex-I.R.A. men.
Includes letter from Michael Tolan to MacNeill saying that 'If you had as much regard for the welfare of the country as you have for your salary, you would have "spunk" enough to resign, instead of waiting to be kicked out by the adverse Boundary decision, forthcoming, which you have promised to accept ...' [76]. Letter from S.M. Verhoeven, a Belgian, stating that his nationality is an obstacle to obtaining employment in Ireland [102–103].

150 items

II. Pensions and Compensation, 1923–25

- 8** 1923–25 Correspondence concerning applications for pensions, mainly from ex-R.I.C. or National Army men, under the Superannuation and Pensions Act, 1923, and the Army Pensions Act, 1923. Some claims were refused because applicants had insufficient proof of age [76–83, 89–94], or had resigned from the R.I.C. for reasons other than patriotic motive [49–61, 84–88].
Includes correspondence with Bulmer Hobson concerning the claim of Peter McLoughlin that his boat was used in the 1914 Howth gun-running [36–40]. Letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning the claim of Constable Hough [D.M.P.], stating that Hough's 'action is not merely highly unpatriotic, but calls for severe disciplinary action [112–114].
- 106 items
- 9** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning applications to the Compensation (Ireland) Commission for compensation for damage to property under the Property (Compensation) Act, 1923, or for seizure of goods. The majority of the claims are made by MacNeill's constituents in County Clare and refer to damage caused by Black and Tans or Royal Irish Constabulary.
- 110 items
- 10** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning applications to the Compensation (Personal Injuries) Commission for compensation for injuries incurred or for death of a family member. Claims, mainly from constituents of MacNeill, relate to attacks carried out by Crown forces.
- 85 items

III. Other Constituency Work, 1919–25

- 11** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning the high rate of unemployment in the country and the need for relief work to mitigate distress.
Includes memorandum on 'The feasibility of starting the manufacture of pottery in Dublin' [1–5]. Copy of a motion from Clare County Council stating that 'hundreds of bread winners who are able and willing to work have been for long periods unemployed thereby reducing both themselves and their families to the danger of starvation' [6]. Copies of motions passed by the County Council calling for Unemployment Benefit Grant to be made available for relief work [41, 67].
54 items
- 12** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning applications for employment under relief work schemes carried out under the aegis of the Land Commission, and for the tenancy of untenanted lands in the Clare-Limerick area.
84 items
- 13** 1924–25 Correspondence regarding the quality of the postal services in MacNeill's constituency.
Includes correspondence with George Gallery concerning the closure of post offices at Droomindoora and Garantoohy [23–29]. Correspondence with P. Lehane concerning postal services to Kilrush [30–39]. Correspondence with J.J. Daly concerning postal facilities in Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna and Miltown Malbay [40–51].
52 items

- 14** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning the livelihood of fishermen in the Shannon area and the development of the Shannon electrification scheme including applications for employment under the scheme.
Includes copy of a resolution passed by Ennis Urban District Council welcoming the scheme 'as in our opinion it will help in a great way to bring prosperity to the country and will be the means of giving much-needed employment to the unemployed' [38]. Copy of a resolution passed by the Limerick Board of Conservators referring to 'the jeopardy to the great Shannon salmon industry arising from the scheme if adopted in its present form' [40].
- 43 items
- 2 files of correspondence of a general nature concerning matters such as income tax; the provision of venison to schools from deer in the Phoenix Park; the payment of duty on whiskey; motor tax for medical practitioners; and requests for autographs.
- 15** 1919–24 **Includes** correspondence relating to the case of Lieutenant James Larkin, charged with the murder of an anti-Treaty prisoner, Thomas Prenderville, with copies of the inquisition and depositions taken at the inquest on Prenderville [32–48]. Correspondence with the Ministry of Defence and Mr Timothy O'Leary concerning the case of John O'Leary, sentenced to 10 years penal servitude by a military tribunal for murder and unlawful possession of arms [96–112].
- 102 items
- 16** 1924–25 **Includes** correspondence with Lieutenant T. Kelly concerning a car accident in which MacNeill was involved [26–29]. Letter from the German-Irish Trading Company to 'His Excellency, The Minister for Education' concerning their representative who will arrive in Ireland 'purporting to arrange business connections between our two countries ... He is also prepared to assist you in matters of propaganda for your glorious country' [33]. Letter from two former members of Roger Casement's Irish Brigade who wish to find a home in Germany as this is the 'one possible way to prevent any future danger of victimisation for merely loving our native land and as followers of our noble Irish Chief, Roger Casement' [109–113].
- 99 items

C. POLITICAL, 1910–25

- 17** 1910; 1924–25 Correspondence concerning aspects of MacNeill's political career, meetings of Cumann na nGaedheal and visits by MacNeill to his constituency. **Includes** requests for support in the 1925 Senate election. Copy of a motion from the County Cavan Executive Committee of Cumann na nGaedheal calling for 'a strong united party to uphold the Treaty ... further delay in bringing about this happy result is the greatest disservice to the State, and tends to further disunion amongst supporters of the Treaty' [18]. Private and confidential letter from the Pembroke Ratepayers' Association asking MacNeill to be a candidate in the 1911 urban district elections [29].
28 items
- 18** 1923–25 Correspondence concerning Ireland's position in international affairs with particular reference to the League of Nations. **Includes** a request from MacNeill to the Department of External Affairs to translate into French a passage on the subject of a European 'superstate' in which he says 'that the existence of the League of Nations offers a prospect of substituting international peace and goodwill for the existing rivalry of states' [1–6]. Letter from E.J. Phelan, Geneva, concerning the Irish Free State's international status. 'I warned the Delegation to the Assembly that step by step we would be hemmed in and our status whittled down. It has now happened and our inertia is allowing our status to be undermined if not destroyed [10–14].
13 items
- 19** 1924–25 Correspondence concerning the Boundary Commission. **Includes** copy of a resolution adopted by Derry Nationalists, viewing 'with grave alarm the alleged forecasts of the Report of the Boundary Commission which are being repeatedly published in the anti-Irish press' [2]. Correspondence with Charles O'Neill concerning the appointment of Catholic magistrates in Derry City. O'Neill denies that this is proof of satisfaction among Nationalists with the Belfast government. Warns that 'letters are often tampered with going through the post' [5–7]. Letter from Seosamh Dolain enclosing a copy of an article from the Catholic Herald suggesting that Armagh should be the federal capital of Ireland [8–10].
13 items

- 20** 1923–25 Correspondence concerning matters of a general political nature including letters from local interest groups welcoming or objecting to various Bills introduced by the Free State Government such as the Combined Purchase Bill [27], the Dairy Purchase Bill [33–35], the Railways Bill [42–44] and the Town Tenants Bill [45–46]. **Includes** a copy of a resolution passed by Clare County Council, that 'Passports and Visas should be abolished as we consider them a hindrance to the travelling public in coming to our country' [11]. Letters from W.T. Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council, concerning a Cumann na nGaedheal meeting in Ennis [17], the Education estimates [18] and the School Attendance Bill [20]. Letter from the President's Office concerning literature 'which it was suggested might be of use for propaganda purposes during the Elections' and which had gone missing [28–29]. Letter from J.J. Walsh, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, apologising for associating MacNeill's name with a promise by a Government Minister that if the hunger strikes were called off all prisoners would be released, and the subsequent withdrawal of anti-Treatyites from the Tailteann Games because of a failure to honour the promise [41].

44 items

D. POLICY AREAS, 1902–25

- 21** 1902–06; 1922–25 **Temperance reform:** correspondence and other documents relating to the temperance movement and the licensing laws.
Includes letters objecting to or praising the terms of the Licensing Bill 1924 [17–22]. Letter from V.R. Allen opposing the use of tax on alcohol to run the country, fearing that 'Arthur Guinness & Co. have already got a grip on the National Government' [23–31]. Copy of a motion from the Enniscorthy Gaelic League praising St Patrick's Anti-Treaty League as 'calculated to put an effective check on intemperance, to curtail our extravagant expenditure on drink and to reduce our self-imposed yearly tribute to the English Exchequer' [39].
31 items
- 22** 1905–15 **Catholic organisations:** material relating to the Catholic Boys' Brigade and the Catholic Defence Society.
Includes a copy of the report of St Joseph's Catholic Boys' Brigade for the year ending 30 April 1906, enunciating the aims of the Brigade 'To crush vice and evil habits among boys; to instruct them thoroughly in the Catholic doctrine; ... to promote their moral, physical and temporal well-being, and to give them habits of strict sobriety' [2–6]. Circular letter from P.J. Lawrence, Honorary Secretary, Catholic Defence Society, seeking support for the Society [7–10].
5 items
- 23** 1913; 1924–25 **Education:** correspondence and related material concerning general educational practices and policies.
Includes correspondence with Alfred P. Graves including a copy of an article by Graves, *Forty two years of English elementary school* education [1–19]. Letter to W.T. Cosgrave concerning school accommodation [29–32]. Correspondence with J. Rice Murphy concerning use of wireless telegraphy as an educational medium [27–28].
20 items

- 24** 1924–25 **Agriculture:** memoranda and reports on various aspects of Irish agriculture including general agricultural conditions in County Clare [1–2], dry spraying of potatoes [3–8], the operation of the Agricultural Credit Scheme [9–11], liver fluke disease in County Clare [12–13] and dairy shorthorn cattle [16–30].
- 8 items

E. INVITATIONS, 1923–25

- 25** 1923 Invitations to MacNeill to attend various meetings, lectures and social events during his stay in London for the 1923 Imperial Conference, with copy replies. **Includes** a list of the invitations [1] and an invitation to attend an afternoon party at Buckingham Palace [29].
- 44 items
- 26** 1923–25 Invitations to MacNeill to attend various meetings, lectures and social events, with copy replies. Many of the invitations relate to meetings of college societies. **Includes** an invitation from the Governor-General to attend a garden party at the Vice-Regal Lodge [77].
- 123 items