

1922

1921

1920

1919

# Partition *in* Ireland: Partition *of* Ulster



1919 Peace Medal  
Courtesy of private collection

During 1919 -1922 events across Europe, Britain and Ireland created seismic shifts in society.

International peace negotiations following Armistice, families decimated by loss of loved ones, soldiers returning from battlefields, the Spanish flu epidemic, the suffrage movement and changing role of women, civil unrest, rising unemployment and technological change impacted on daily life.

The 1918 election had changed the political landscape of Ireland and in 1920 the Government of Ireland Act laid foundations for a new government structure. In May 1921 the temporary Partition of six northern counties established the new state of Northern Ireland and in December that year the Anglo-Irish Treaty brought to a formal end the Anglo-Irish War/Irish War of Independence.

**Partition in Ireland: Partition of Ulster** explores the period 1919 - 1922, connecting local stories to national and international events. Newspapers, diaries and museum collections record local experiences of, and responses to, these significant changes.

## Acknowledgements

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council wishes to thank the generosity of local people and other heritage organisations for their assistance with images and information including:

Bailieborough Historical Society  
Down County Museum  
Hugh Lane Gallery  
National Galleries Scotland  
Oireachtas  
The Scotti Rooms  
A Harper  
R Heslip  
S Mac Niocaill  
R McConkey  
H McGrattan  
J & R McMullan  
N McNeary  
P Thompson  
and to the many local families who have contributed to our museum collections.

# Commemoration

## Remembering the War Dead

### Partition in Ireland:

### Partition of Ulster



'The Cemetery Etaples 1919' by Sir John Lavery. A view across the cemetery tended by a group of women, possibly female staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in their brown uniforms.

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After the Armistice, the Imperial War Graves Commission, later called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was tasked with recording the details of the war dead. This included identifying thousands of war graves and also casualties who were registered with no known grave.

Approaches were sought through which to respectfully commemorate the dead. Architects such as Sir Edwin Lutyens were commissioned to design suitable memorials and cemeteries.

Rudyard Kipling became the literary advisor to the Imperial War Graves Commission. He chose the inscriptions; *Lest we Forget or Their Name Liveth for Evermore*.

His choice of words has become irrevocably linked with the Act of Remembrance.

The British Legion, later the Royal British Legion, brought together four national organisations of ex-servicemen that had been established after the First World War: The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, The Comrades of The Great War and The Officers' Association.

In 1919, Ireland's Memorial Records was commissioned by the Irish National War Committee. It contains the names of 49,435 individuals of Irish birth, ancestry or regimental association who were killed in the First World War. A copy can be found in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

In a divided Ireland the role of Irish men serving in the First World War became increasingly denied by competing narratives. It is only in recent years that it has begun to be addressed.

International symbol of Remembrance - The Flanders Field Remembrance Day Poppy.

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



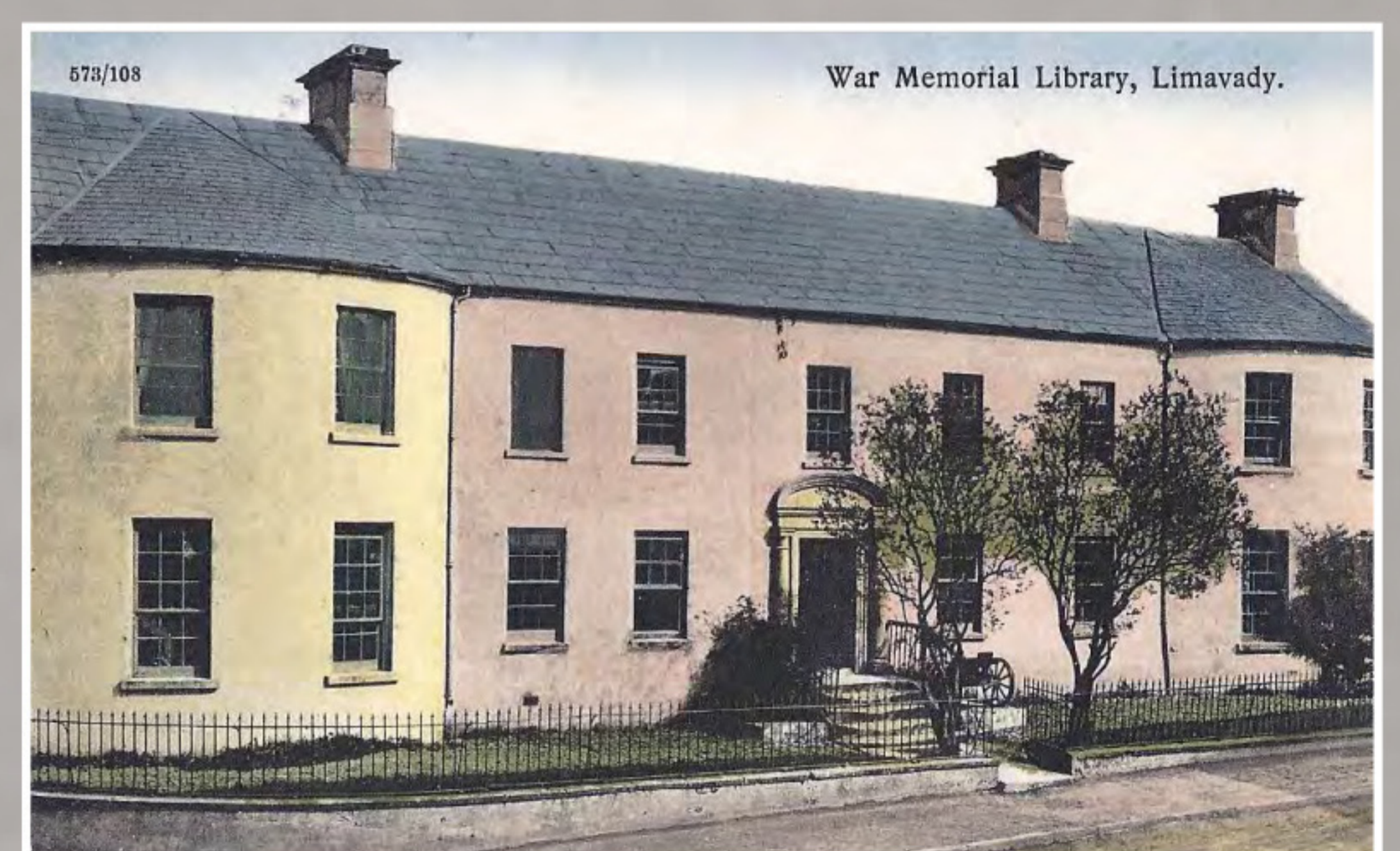
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle, March 6, 1920.



Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval, France.  
Courtesy of The Scotts Rooms.



Bushmills War Memorial.  
Courtesy of Raymond McMullan, Bushmills Historical Society.



Limavady War Memorial Library.  
Courtesy of Limavady Museum.



Coleraine War Memorial.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

*'The day is not, I hope, far distant when the memory of all those of our country who gave up their lives for Civilization as we interpret it and in obedience to what they believed to be their duty will be honoured and perpetuated in every town and village in Ireland'*.

Major General Oliver Stewart Wood Nugent,  
GOC 36th Ulster Division, Virginia, Co. Cavan, in 1923.

Background image: Portstewart War Memorial.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

# Returned Officer Robert Sinclair Knox

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Robert Sinclair Knox, the son of William and Nancy (nee McAfee), was born on March 2nd 1881, at Drumaduan (near Seacon).

Prior to World War One, Knox worked for H.T. Barry in Coleraine, and was active in many local organisations including the Bann Rowing Club and the Boys' Brigade.

On the outbreak of war, Knox, now a company commander in the local Ulster Volunteer Force, was commissioned into the Ulster Division as a Captain in the 10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Robert Knox was one of only seven British Officers to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) four times during World War One. He was appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order for his services on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme on July 1st 1916. The first bar was awarded for conspicuous gallantry in the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, the second bar was awarded for his actions during the retreat of the Fifth Army in the spring of 1918 and the third during the final advance in Flanders.

After the war Lieutenant Colonel Knox resumed his activities in the local community and took an active interest in the welfare of local veterans. He became President of the Portstewart Branch of the British Legion and became the Chairman of Group 10 when it was formed in 1943. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Old Comrades Association of the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Robert Knox, a member of Coleraine Harbour Commissioners and Coleraine Chamber of Commerce, was appointed as Deputy Lieutenant of Co. Londonderry in 1938.

He died on January 25 1963 and is buried in Coleraine Cemetery.



Distinguished Service Order Medal and Bar.

Courtesy of MOD/MOD.



Robert Sinclair Knox.

Courtesy of Northern Constitution August 19, 1916.



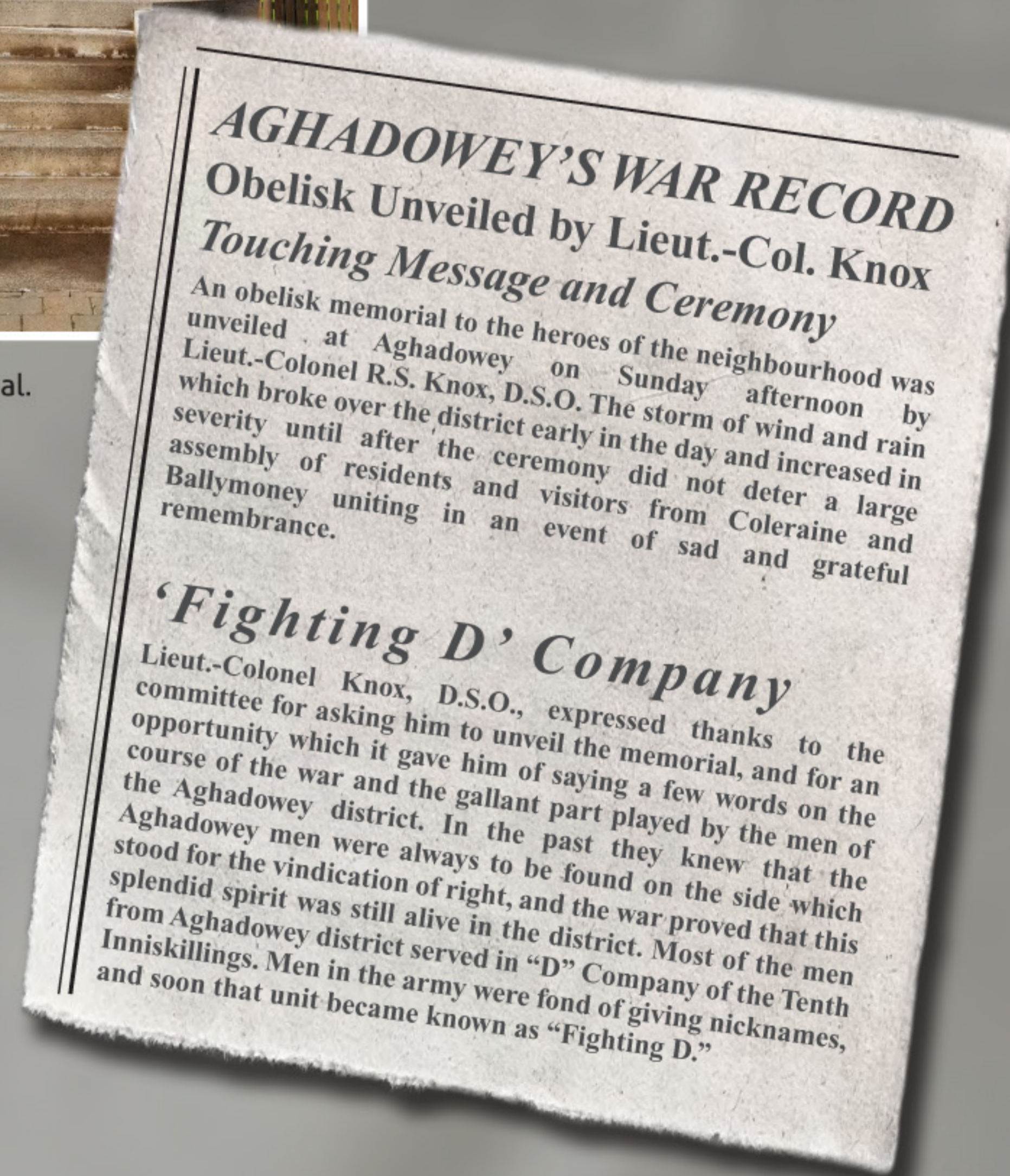
Robert Sinclair Knox and UVF Officers Coleraine, 3rd Battalion North Derry Regiment.

Courtesy of The Scotts Rooms, Coleraine.



Aghadowey War Memorial.

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



Courtesy of Northern Constitution, 19 November 1921.

# Women after World War One

## Molly McGinnis M.M.

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Mary Agnes McGinnis was born January 24, 1880, near Ballykelly. Molly, as she was known to family and friends, trained as a nurse at the City of Dublin Nursing Institute and joined the St John Ambulance in Dublin.

She enlisted in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) scheme on March 18, 1915 and served her probationary period at the Red Cross Hospital at Stanhope Hall in Horncastle, before transferring to the VAD Hospital at Newton Abbot. On January 22, 1916 Molly was transferred to St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Etaples, France, with the rank of Sister.

At around 10.30pm May 31, 1918, St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital was bombed for the second time. Molly was on duty that night and she was awarded the Military Medal 'for gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid'.

'St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital is finally disbanded and all the personnel disposed of from March 3 1919.' Lt Colonel C.J. Trimble notes in his diary.

Molly terminated her service after the end of the war and returned to Ireland, where she worked at Fitzwilliam Nursing Home and trained in midwifery. Her brother John was detained on the prison ship 'Argenta' June 19, 1922, later transferred to Larne Workhouse before his release August 10, 1923.

Molly was working as a private nurse when her brother Patrick became seriously ill and she requested leave to nurse him until his death in 1933 – a duty she performed for several family members over the years.

Molly remained in Dublin until the 1960s when she moved to a residential home in Belfast before returning to live at Carnamuff, with family. In early September 1966, Molly became ill with pneumonia and was admitted to the Roe Valley Hospital, where she passed away on September 30, 1966.



Molly McGinnis Military Medal showing engraving on the edge. With kind permission R. Henderson. Image courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



Molly McGinnis Military Medal in presentation box. With kind permission R. Henderson. Image courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



Molly McGinnis in uniform wearing her Military Medal circa 1919. Courtesy R. Henderson.



St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital closing ceremony January 1919. Courtesy of St. John Ambulance Museum. Ref. 05/12/10/1.



Courtesy of Londonderry Sentinel August, 1918.

# Women & the War of Independence

## Cumann na mBan, County Antrim

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Cumann na mBan was a women's republican organisation dedicated to achieving Irish Independence. It became an auxiliary of the Irish Volunteers. Agnes MacNeill, wife of Professor Eoin MacNeill, Glenarm, was a founding member and Countess Markievicz was elected honorary president in 1916. Members were taught first aid, semaphore signalling, drilling and marching.

During the Anglo-Irish War/Irish War of Independence, Cumann na mBan provided support to the Irish Republican Army (IRA). They provided food, lodgings and often concealed armaments. As a result, those suspected of being Cumann na mBan members had their houses frequently raided. Under the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act August 1920, Cumann na mBan were on the list of banned organisations that included Sinn Féin.

In County Antrim, in 1919, brigades were founded at Dunloy and Loughguile. Members assisted with the attack on Ballycastle and Loughguile Royal Irish Constabulary barracks. Following the Truce in June 1921, Cumann na mBan volunteers assisted with the logistics of the IRA training camps located at Dunloy and Glenbush.

At a convention of Cumann na mBan in February 1922, northern county delegates rejected the Anglo-Irish Treaty. In April 1922, the Northern Ireland parliament declared Cumann na mBan an illegal organisation under the Civil Authorities Special Powers Act.

Cumann na mBan was also declared illegal by the Irish Free State in 1923.



Cumann na mBan War of Independence Medal.  
Courtesy of private collection.



Agnes MacNeill.  
Courtesy of Tierney MacNeill Collection Digital Library UCD.



Professor Eoin MacNeill.  
MacNeill represented the Irish Free State when the Boundary Commission began their work in 1924.  
Photographer W.D. Horgan, courtesy of NLI.



Courtesy of Londonderry Sentinel September 13th, 1919.

# People in Power

## Sir Richard Dawson Bates

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Sir Richard Dawson Bates was educated at Coleraine Academical Institution and became a solicitor by profession. In 1906 he was appointed secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council, which later became the Ulster Unionist Party.

He was decisively effective in managing resistance to the third Home Rule Bill and was active in the setting up of the Ulster Volunteer Force to provide military resistance to the implementation of Home Rule. Bates received an OBE in 1919 for his work with UVF Hospitals and UVF Patriotic Fund and was knighted in 1921.

In May 1921, Bates was elected to the Belfast parliament and appointed Minister of Home Affairs Northern Ireland, at a time when politics was in a period of turbulent transition. The introduction of the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act, 1922 gave the Minister of Home Affairs exceptional powers to use at his discretion and Bates remained in this position until 1943. Bates was awarded a Baronet in 1937.

Bates resided at Magherabouy House, Portrush, until 1947 and following his political career he retired briefly to Butleigh House, Somerset. After his death in 1949 he was buried in Ballywillan Cemetery, Portrush.



Sir Richard Dawson Bates.  
Courtesy of National Portrait Gallery.



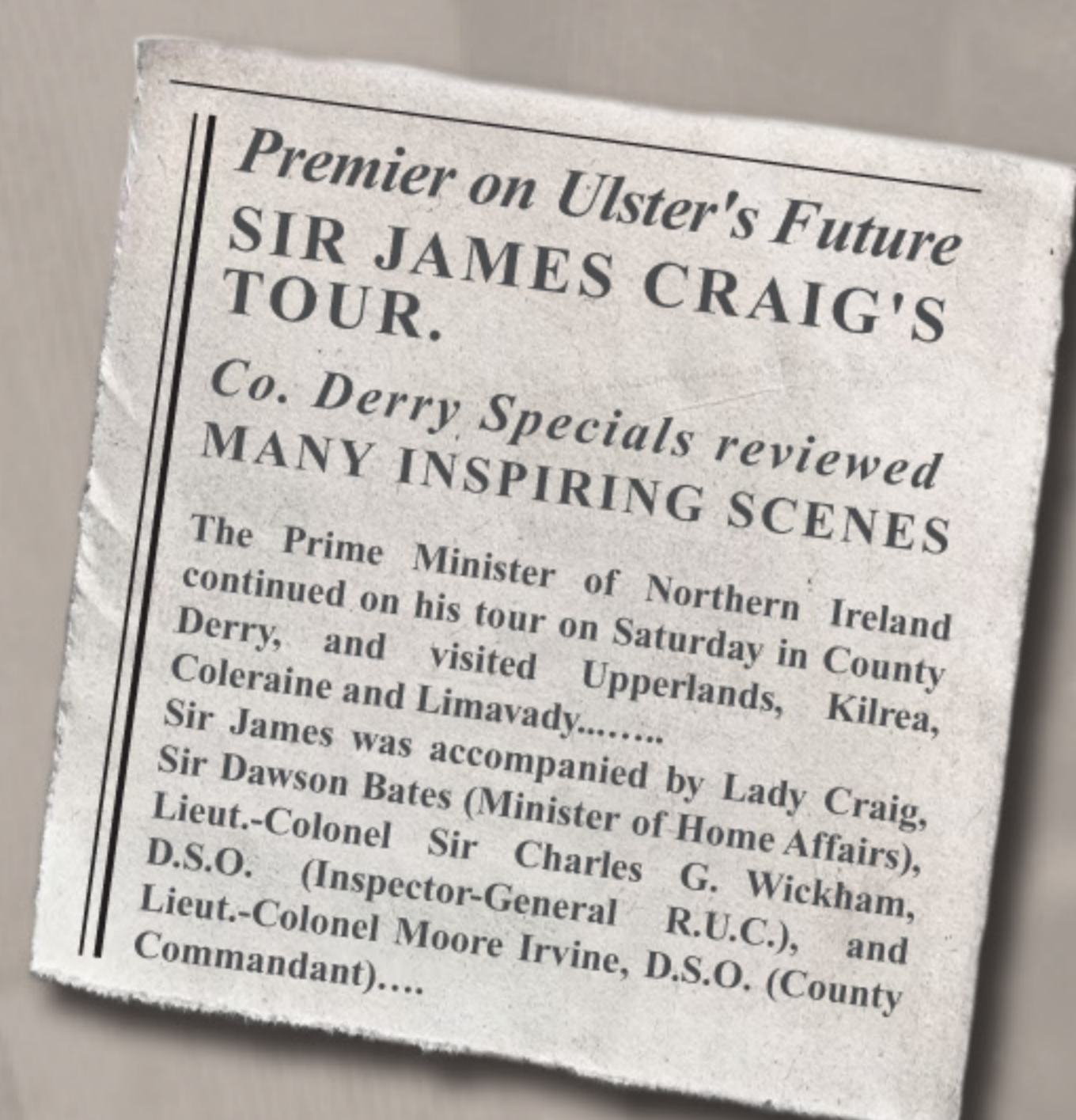
First Ulster Cabinet in 1921

From L to R:  
Sir Richard Dawson Bates,  
Minister for Home Affairs;  
Charles Stewart Henry Vane-Tempest-Stewart,  
7th Marquess of Londonderry,  
Secretary of State for Air;  
Sir James Craig, 1st Viscount Craigavon,  
Prime Minister of Northern Ireland;  
Hugh MacDowell Pollock, Minister of Finance;  
Sir Edward Mervyn Archdale,  
Minister of Agriculture and Commerce;  
John Miller Andrews, Minister of Labour.

©National Portrait Gallery



'Coleraine Academical Institution' by J.W. Carey.  
Watercolour from illuminated address presented to J.W.C. Canning.



Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle December 9th, 1922.



Bates grave in Ballywillan Presbyterian Church, Portrush.  
Courtesy of The Scott's Rooms.

# The Conservative Connection

## Andrew Bonar Law

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Andrew Bonar Law was a Conservative MP and a frequent visitor to the area as his father, a Scottish clergyman, retired to Maddybenny, Portrush.

Bonar Law supported the Coalition Government under Lloyd George but also led the Conservative opposition to the Government's plan to implement Home Rule in Ireland. He declared his support of the Ulster Unionists in 1912 at the Balmoral meeting and affirmed that he could: *'imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I should not be prepared to support them.'*

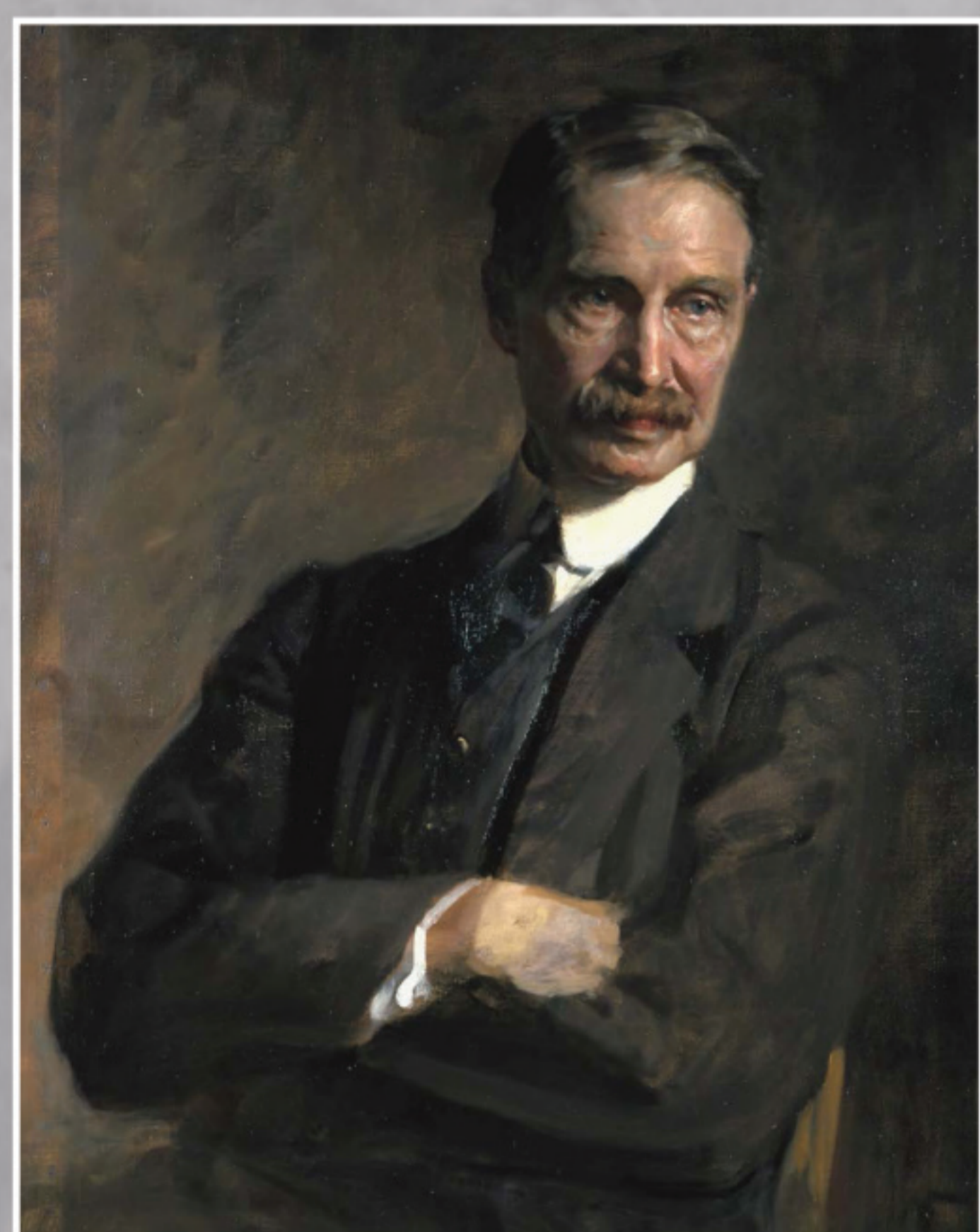
The loss of two of his sons during World War One impacted on his health and he resigned as leader of the Conservatives in March 1921. He was succeeded by Austen Chamberlain who was in favour of continuing to support the Coalition Government.

Bonar Law became concerned at the direction of his former party and re-emerged into politics in October 1922. He championed an independent Conservatism and delivered a rousing speech at the Carlton Club, forcing the resignation of Chamberlain. Added to this, a series of scandals involving Lloyd George ended the Coalition Government, Lloyd George stepped down. In 1922, the King invited Bonar Law to form a new administration. With Bonar Law as Prime Minister, the new Northern Ireland administration were guaranteed of his support at a crucial time.

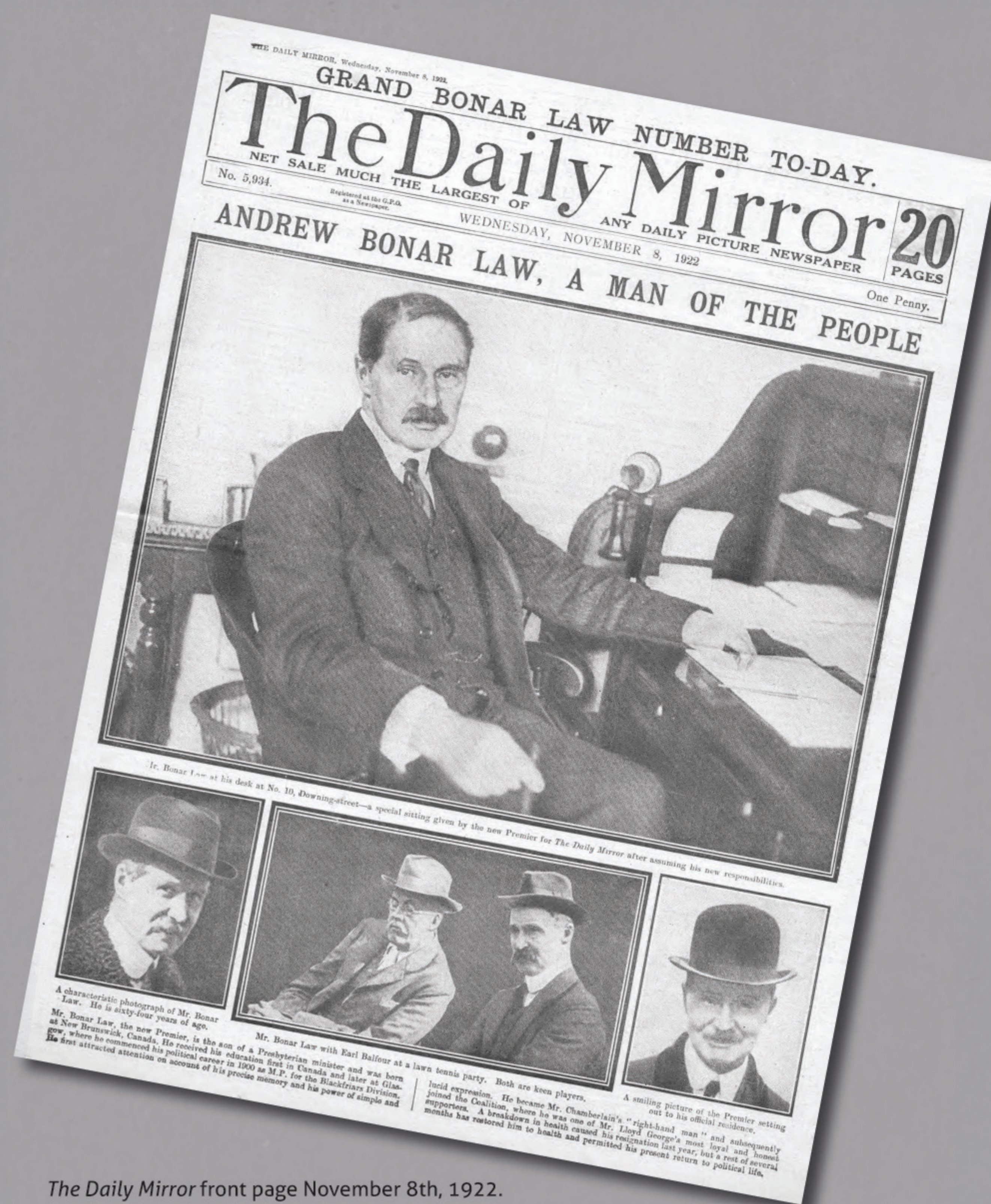
Bonar Law's father is buried in Portrush and his family are remembered in two stained glass memorial windows in Ballywillan Presbyterian Church, Portrush.



'Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, June 28th, 1919' by William Orpen. 5th from the left in the middle row is President Woodrow Wilson (United States) then M Georges Clemenceau (France); Mr D Lloyd George and Mr A Bonar Law.  
© IWM (Art. IWM ART 2856).



Andrew Bonar Law by James Guthrie.  
Courtesy of National Galleries Scotland.  
Presented by W.G. Gardiner and Sir Frederick C. Gardiner 1930.



The Daily Mirror front page November 8th, 1922.  
Courtesy John Frost Newspapers/Alamy Stock.



Courtesy of Northern Constitution December 2nd, 1922.



Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle December 16th, 1922.

# 'first lady elected Chair of an Urban Council in Ireland'

## Miss C. E. Hamilton

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

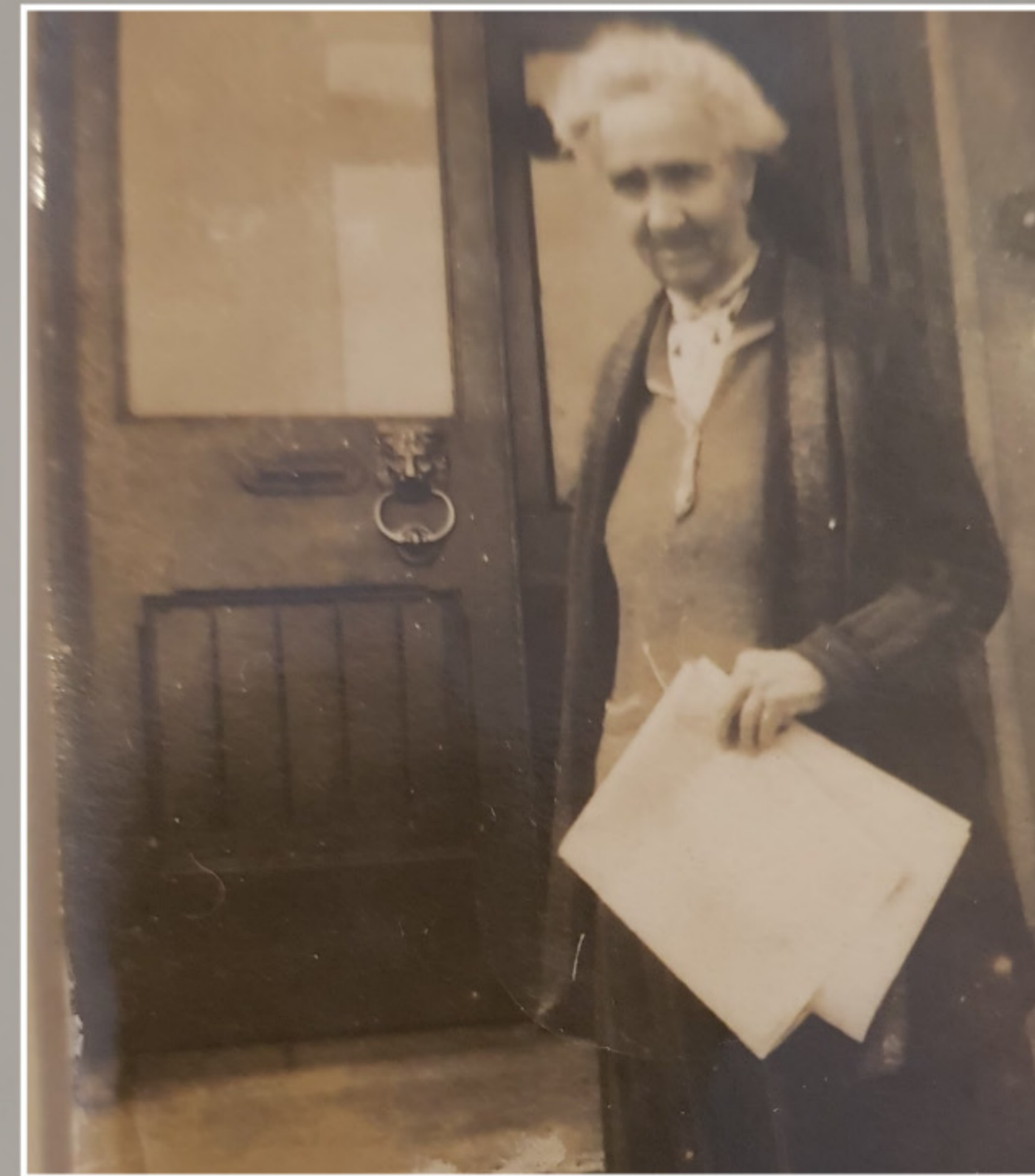
Miss Hamilton had been living in Portrush since 1898 and served on Portrush Urban District Council from 1907. She would serve five terms as Chair before her retirement in 1924 due to ill health.

During World War One, Miss Hamilton assisted the war effort by promoting voluntary recruitment and looking after the interests of serving men from Portrush.

According to the *Coleraine Chronicle* May 8, 1920 'several years before she was mainly responsible for Portrush Town Hall becoming a municipal property'.

In April 1924, on her retirement from Portrush Urban District Council, she was presented with an illuminated address which records that 'Three years before she became Commissioner of the Peace for County Antrim. By the way in which you have discharged the duties of that office you have justified not only your own appointment but the admission of women to a position that, until recently, had been confined to men'.

For 26 years Miss Hamilton also served as a member of the Ballymoney Board of Guardians, where she also served as President.



Miss C. E. Hamilton.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



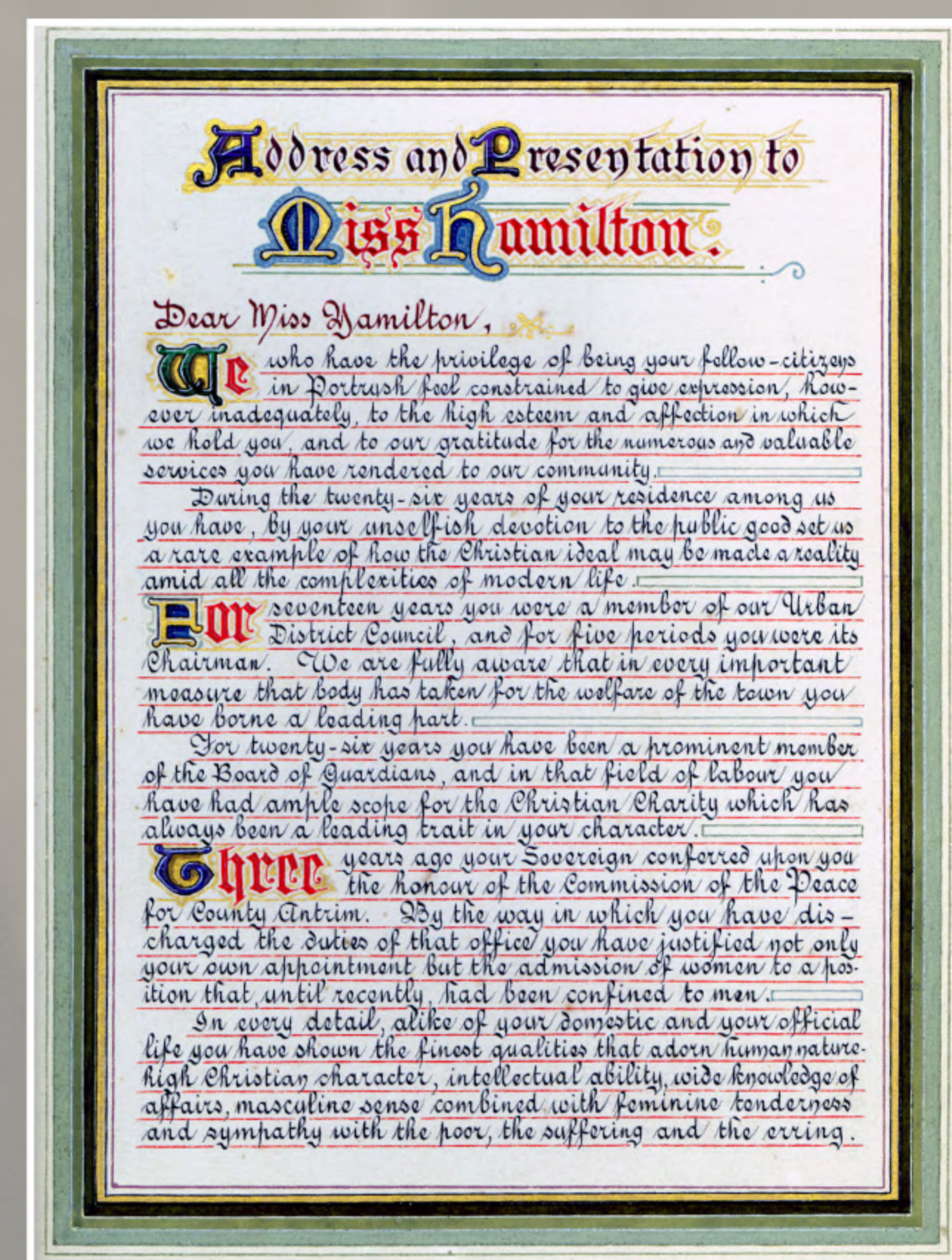
Portrush Town Hall.



Seal of Ballymoney Board of Guardians.  
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle May 8th, 1920.



Pages from the illuminated address presented to Miss Hamilton on her retirement.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



# Complex situations

## Head Constable Thomas Frazer

### Royal Irish Constabulary

Partition  
in Ireland:

Partition  
of Ulster

Thomas Frazer joined the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in 1888. He was first stationed in County Clare, Belfast and later Carrickfergus. In 1906 he moved to Portrush where he remained until 1918.

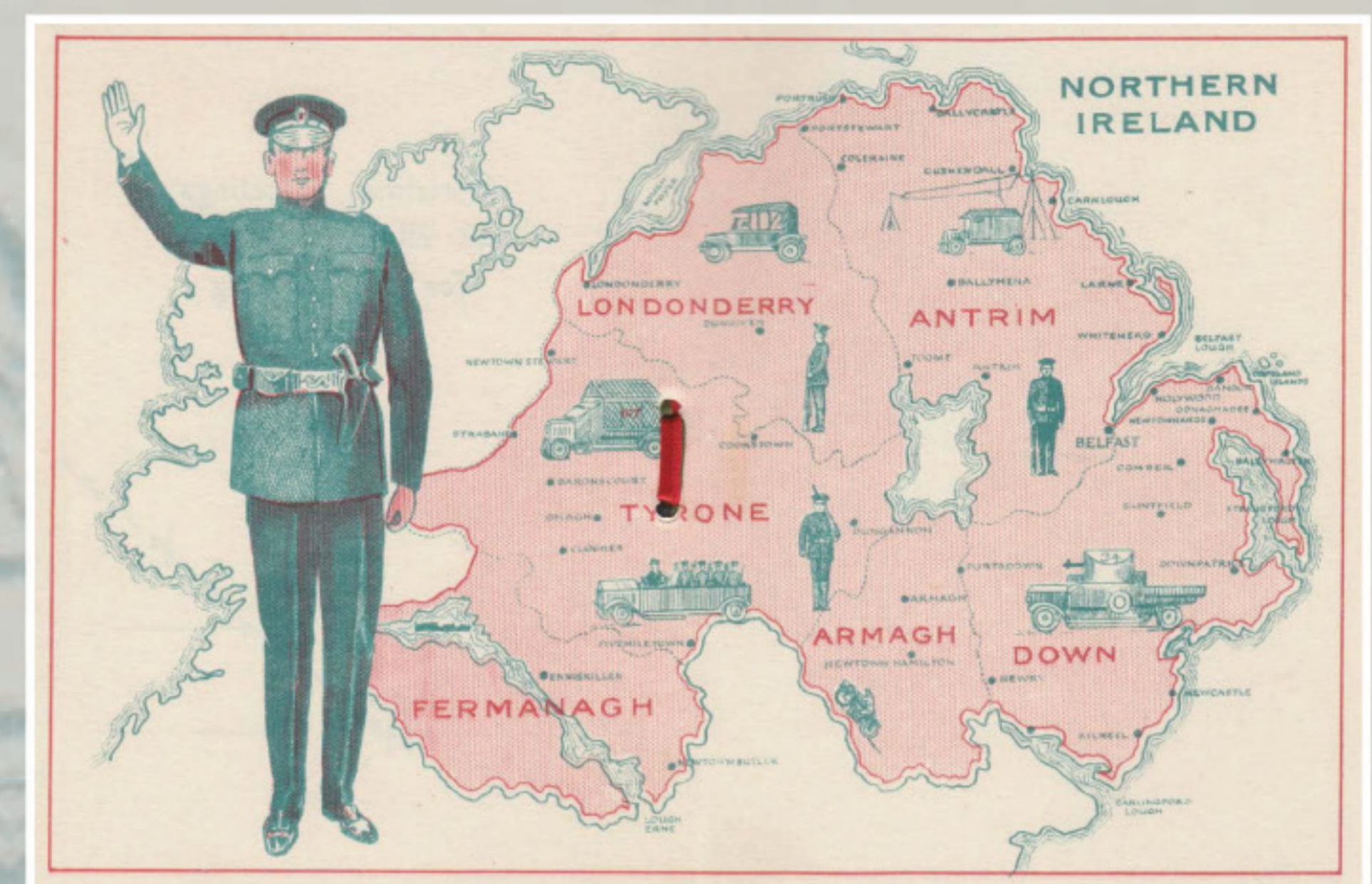
Frazer was promoted to Head Constable and transferred to Bailieborough, Co. Cavan, in March 1918. During the War of Independence the RIC barracks in Bailieborough was constantly under threat of attack. Local businesses were intimidated not to trade with the RIC or with their family members. These were turbulent times for a domestic police force as they became subject to a campaign of military and civil resistance.

In 1920 Head Constable Frazer returned to County Antrim and was stationed in Ballymoney where he remained until his retirement in 1921. Under the terms of the Anglo Irish Treaty the RIC was disbanded in 1922 and two separate police forces created; the Civic Guards in the Irish Free State and the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland.

Head Constable Frazer's second son Edmund went on to join the Royal Ulster Constabulary.



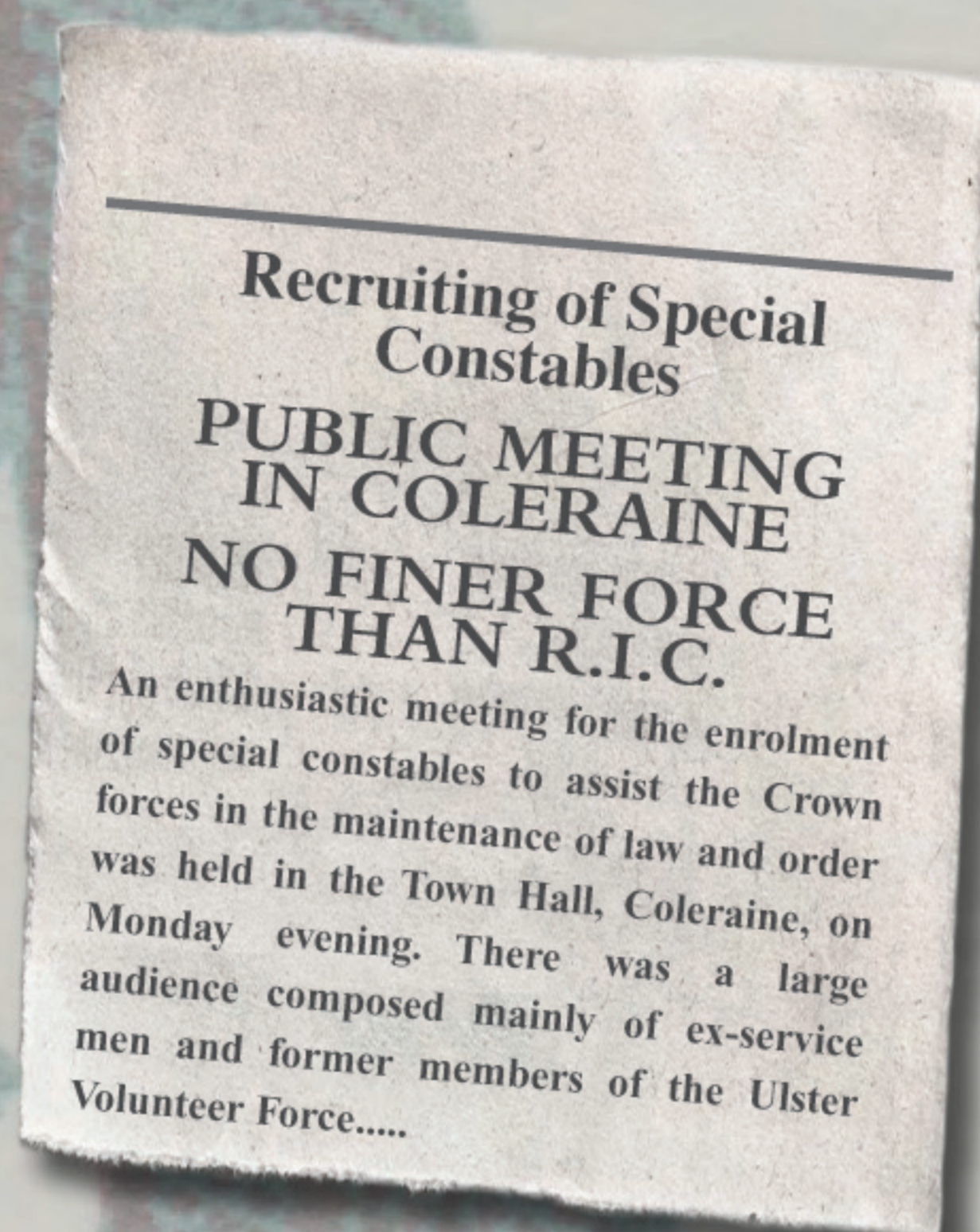
February 18, 1922 photograph showing a section of 'A' COY., 4th Btn., 3rd Meath Brigade as they take possession of the former Royal Irish Constabulary barracks in Bailieborough.  
Courtesy Leslie McKeague, Bailieborough A Pictorial Past, (May 2010).



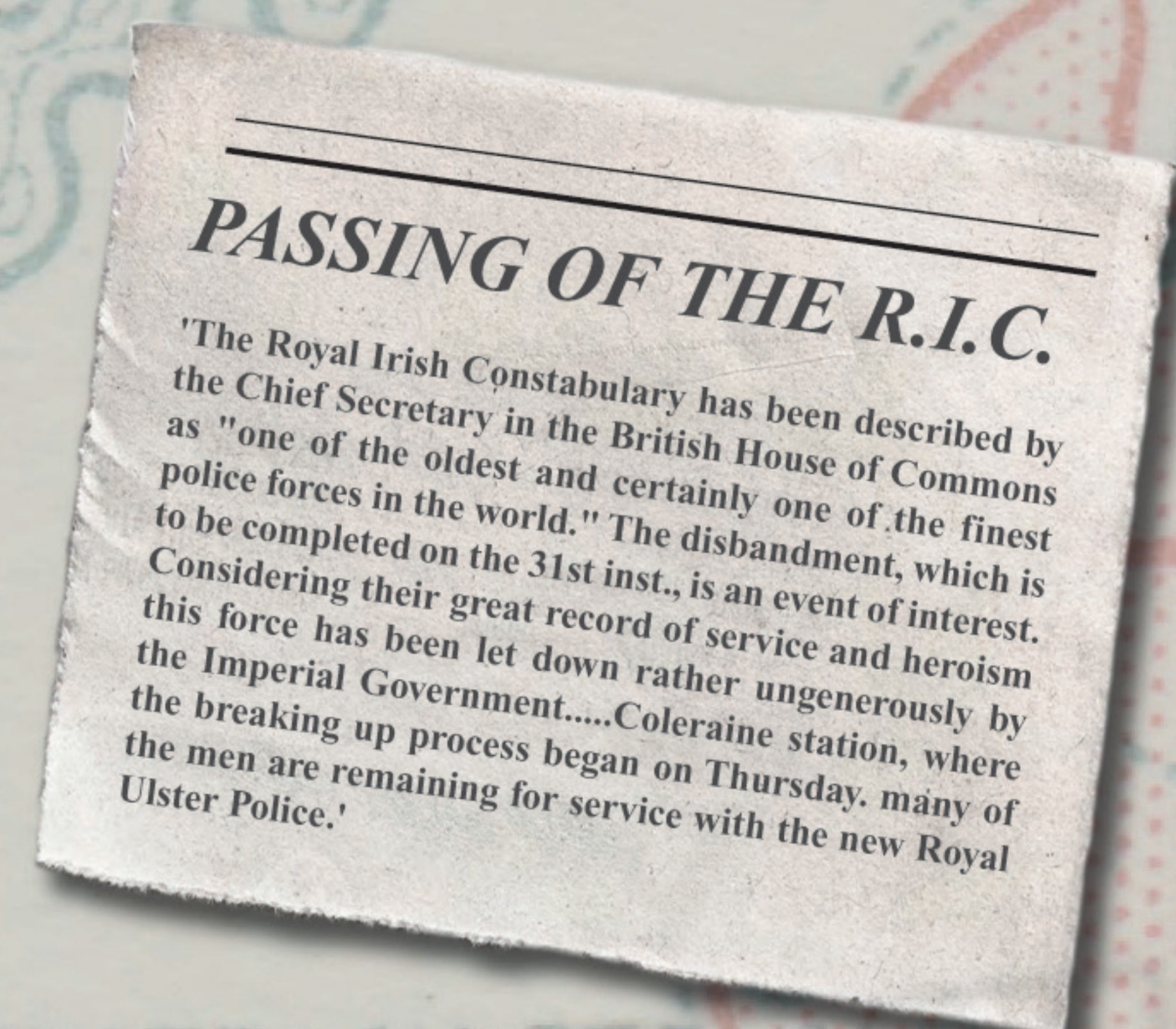
Inside double page illustration from Royal Ulster and Special Constabulary Christmas card. Date unknown.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



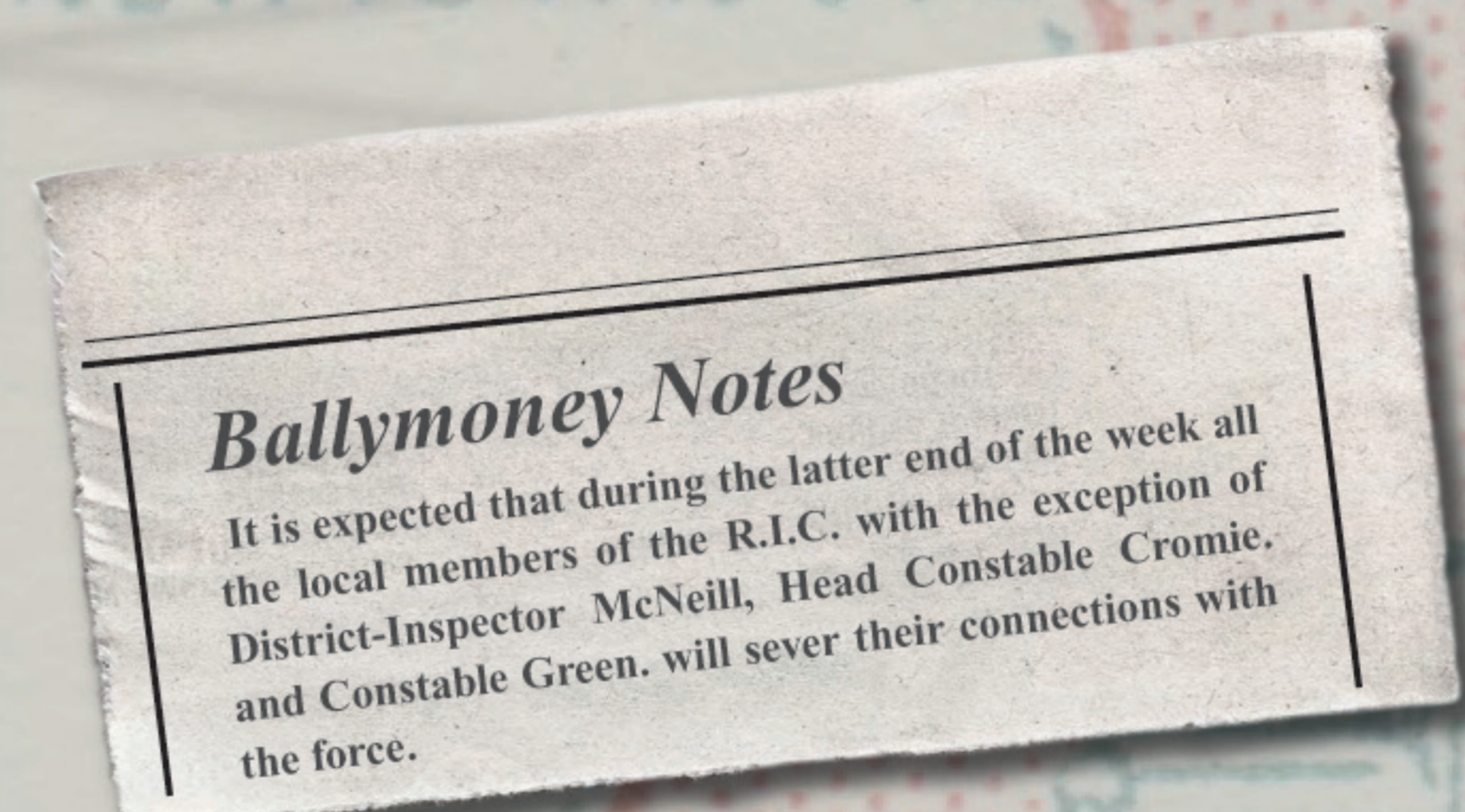
Royal Irish Constabulary Badge.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.



Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle December 11th, 1920.



Courtesy of Northern Constitution May 20 1922.



Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle May 27 1922.