



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA GALWAY | GAILLIMH

19 20 22



The two Royal Irish Constabulary members are probably supervising cleaning-up operations after a fair at Ahascragh, Co. Galway. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
Is dóigh go bhfuil an bheirt chomhaltaí de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i mbun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar ghlánadh suas i ndiaidh aonach in Áth Eascrach, Co. na Gaillimhe. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

The Royal Irish Constabulary, 1822~1922



The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was founded by an act of the British Parliament in 1822. For organisational purposes, Galway was divided into two districts, East and West, commanded by two County Inspectors who reported to the RIC Commissioner in Dublin Castle. The

religion of the ordinary ranks of the force tended to reflect that of the wider community; however, at senior level, the force was overwhelmingly non-Catholic throughout its history.

From its foundation, the force faced particular challenges in Galway due to the persistence of land hunger among the poor, who organised themselves in secret societies and resorted to cattle driving and violent disputes over land; as a result, County Galway had the highest concentration of police in the entire country.

The *Connacht Tribune* declared in an editorial in March 1915:

The second main factor after drunkenness that leads to unrest in the County is the delay in the agrarian settlement of certain districts. Unfortunately, this leads to evils by no means directly connected with the land problem, for there is no disguising the fact that instances have occurred where reckless irresponsible men have made so-called agrarian emancipation the cloak for acts of outrage that bring disgrace and shame upon the whole community.

Mediating in disputes over land would remain a challenge for the police for many decades. In 1914, the District Inspector for East Galway informed Dublin Castle that “land hunger is very keen around Athenry and the forces of disorder there are thoroughly organised and quite unscrupulous”.

Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, 1822~1922



Bunaíodh Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC) le hacht Pharlaimint na Breataine sa bhliain 1822 agus chun críocha eagraíochtúla, roinneadh Gaillimh ina dhá dhúiche, Thoir agus Thiar, faoi cheannas bheirt Chigirí Contae a thuiriscigh chuig Coimisinéir an RIC i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath. Muintir an phobail i gcoitinne a bhí sna céimeanna ísle go hiondúil, ach ag leibhéal na sinsearachta, fíorbheagán Caitliceach a bhí ann ó thús deireadh an fhórsa.

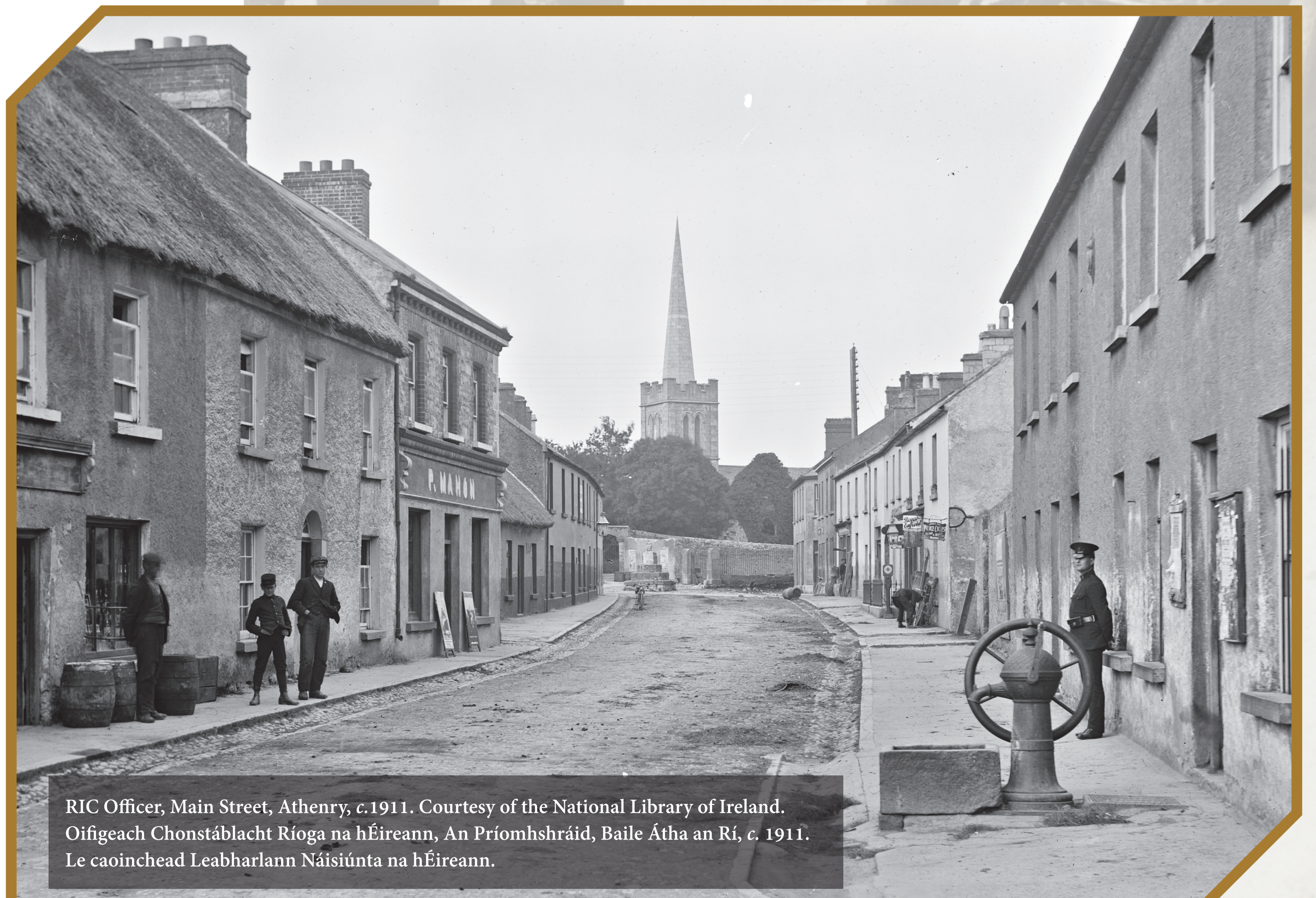
Ó bunaíodh an fórsa, bhí dúshlán ar leith roimhe i nGaillimh mar gheall go raibh saint chun talún de shíor ar cheann de na clocha is mó ar an bpaidrín i measc bhochtáin na Gaillimhe. Fadhbanna a thagtaí aníos arís is arís eile iad cumainn rúnda, seoladh eallaigh agus

babhtaí aighnis foréigneacha arbh é an talamh ba bhun leo; is é seo an chúis a raibh an méid is mó póilíní i gContae na Gaillimhe i gcomparáid le háit ar bith eile sa tír.

Dúradh an méid seo a leanas in eagarfhocal sa *Connacht Tribune* i Márta 1915:

The second main factor after drunkenness that leads to unrest in the County is the delay in the agrarian settlement of certain districts. Unfortunately, this leads to evils by no means directly connected with the land problem, for there is no disguising the fact that instances have occurred where reckless irresponsible men have made so-called agrarian emancipation the cloak for acts of outrage that bring disgrace and shame upon the whole community.

Bheadh sé fós ina dhúshlán ag na póilíní idirghabháil a dhéanamh i gcásanna aighnis faoi chúrsaí talún go ceann na ndeicéanna de bhlianta eile. Chuir an Cigire Dúiche i nGaillimh Thoir in iúl do lucht Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1914 go raibh saint chun talún an-choitianta timpeall Bhaile Átha an Rí agus go raibh fórsaí na hainrialach ann an-eagraithe agus go hiomlán gan scrupall.



RIC Officer, Main Street, Athenry, c.1911. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
Oifigeach Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, An Príomhshráid, Baile Átha an Rí, c. 1911.
Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.



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100 Years of Keeping People Safe

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