

# Kerry 1916 from the Archives

## Reaction of Kerry Local Bodies to the 1916 Rising, Part II

Dingle RDC did not go so far as to condemn the Rising. At its meeting on 13 May, they passed a resolution of "regret":

*That we very much regret the recent events in the City of Dublin, and that we consider that some of the sentences imposed will not conduce to restore the country to its former peaceful state, and we appeal to the Parliamentary Party and all public men to use their influence to effect better conditions especially for the rank and file and their dependants.*

The clear implication of this was that Dingle RDC believed that the leadership of the Rebellion deserved less consideration than those that they led to fight.

At Killarney RDC on 6 May, a similar resolution was passed, also expressing regret at recent events, and a **deep conviction that the extreme sentences in some cases are not calculated to restore calm to our unfortunate country.**

Later in May (17<sup>th</sup>), Killarney RDC again "regrets" the arrest of their member Henry Spring, **the father of a helpless young family**, and calls for his immediate release. At the same meeting, they also ask that their local MPs take action to secure the release of all Kerry prisoners.

Killarney RDC's meeting on 3 June 1916 gives a first indication in Kerry that some form of partition may be under consideration. The Council resolved:

*That we strongly express our hope that our representatives will be no parties to the acceptance of self government that will not be sound in financial and all other respects, and that will not embrace the whole of Ireland in a really National Parliament.*

In common with other public bodies, Killarney RDC protested against Casement's execution, and the Government's action **in disregarding the influential petitions for the commutation of the death sentence.**

On the occasion of the next meeting after the execution, Dingle RDC passed the following resolution:

*That we adjourn this Board as a mark of sympathy to the late Roger Casement, who has been executed for the love of his country.*

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The following resolution was passed  
Proposed by Mr. P. McCarthy  
Seconded by Mr. M. Lyanville  
"That we adjourn this Board  
as a mark of sympathy to the late  
Roger Casement who has been executed  
for the love of his Country and that  
no further business be done."

Dingle Rural District Council, 19 August 1916

Killarney Rural District Council, 12 August 1916

PROPOSED by Mr. Henry Spring.

SECONDED by Mr. D. D. MacSweeney and unanimously

RESOLVED -- "That we join with the other Public bodies throughout the country in protesting against the action of the Government in carrying out the execution of Sir Roger Casement, and in disregarding the influential petitions for the commutation of the death sentence, and that as a tribute of respect to the memory of our illustrious countryman we adjourn all further business of this meeting."