

County Louth Recruiting Committee Letters, 1916

Repository Code: IE LHA

Collection Reference Code: PP00022/

Title: County Louth Recruiting Committee Letters

Dates: 1916

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent: 2 items

Name of Creator(s): County Louth Recruiting Committee

Admin/Biographical History: Members of the County Louth Recruiting Committee included Thomas Callan Macardle, chairman and owner of Macardle Moore and Company Limited, Dundalk, Henry C Backhouse of the Backhouse and Company grocery business and Samuel John Cocks, general manager of the Dundalk and Newry Steam Packet Company. TC Macardle was the chairman of the Recruiting Committee. Macardle was later knighted for his support to the war effort through being a supplier of grain and ale.

Recruiting committees were established in several counties nationwide from 1915 onwards in an effort to increase involvement in the ongoing Great War, since volunteerism was promised to be an effective replacement for conscription when the Irish Parliamentary Party succeeded in preventing its implementation. The committees held recruitment meetings in the hopes of showing that the implementation of conscription wasn't necessary in Ireland. It is estimated that up to 3,000 from Co Louth participated in the war¹. The names and addresses of men who served in the army or navy during World War I were published at the time in *Tempest's Annual* and in the *Drogheda Advertiser*.

Archival History: This collection was deposited in Louth County Archives Service in April 2001 by the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society.

Scope and Context: This collection contains two items pertaining to the County Louth Recruiting Committee in January 1916 during the Great War. Both of the

¹ Donal Hall, *The Unreturned Army: County Louth Dead in the Great War 1914-1918* (Dundalk, 2005), p15

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items involve the committee's plans to approach employers about the possible recruitment of their employees.

- Subject Index:** First World War; Great War; World War I
- Appraisal and Destruction:** Retain permanently.
- Accruals:** No further accruals are currently expected.
- System of Arrangement:** No arrangement required.
- Conditions of Access:** Open Access, by appointment
- Conditions Governing
Reproduction:** Items may be subject to copyright. Contact Louth County Archives staff regarding copying; copying fees apply.
- Language/Script of Material:** English
- Physical Characteristics:** Paper. Good condition.
- Technical Requirements:** Careful handling required.
- Finding Aids:** Descriptive list can be found on on-line catalogue available at <http://www.louthcoco.ie>
- Existence & Location of Originals:** Louth County Archives Service
- Existence & Location of Copies:** Some digitised documents may occasionally be found on <http://www.louthcoco.ie>
- Related Material:**
Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00201/ SS Dundalk Disaster Fund Correspondence, 1914 – 1930
- Publications:**
- Donal Hall, The Unreturned Army: County Louth Dead in the Great War 1914-1918 (Dundalk, 2005), p15
 - Drogheda Advertiser, 1916
 - Tempest's Annual (Dundalk, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919)
- Repository Home Page:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>
- Source Material:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

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Date of Description: Ultan Moran, revised August 2017 by Cillian Fearon and Lorraine A McCann, Louth County Archives Service

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Descriptive List

PP00022/1

(1) Printed circular letter issued from the Co Louth Recruiting Committee to employers in Dundalk regarding the recruitment of employees to Irish Regiments. It refers to a meeting of employers where it was resolved to request all employers to ask their employees of military age to enlist in the Irish Regiments currently fighting in the Great War in Europe. It refers to an enclosed copy circular proposed to be dispersed to employees in Dundalk on 1st of February. The letter requests employers to advise the committee if they will distribute the circulars to their employees and the number of circulars they require. The letter is addressed from TC Macardle, the chairman of Co Louth Recruiting Committee, HC Backhouse and SJ Cocks. (1p)

(2) Attached is copy of the circular given to employees by their employers at the request of the Co Louth Recruiting Committee. In it, the actions of the Irish Parliamentary Party in preventing the extension of conscription to Ireland are mentioned, thus precipitating a request to voluntarily enlist in the war. It clarifies 'it is left to each man's conscience as to whether he will respond to this urgent National call or not'. (1p)

19 Jan 1916

Level: item

2 items