

5/9/14

Bennetsbridge

At a general meeting of the above Volunteer corps, held after drill on Wednesday evening, the following resolution, proposed by Michael Westerman, hon. sec., and seconded by Edward O’Gorman, D.C., was passed unanimously:

“1. That we hereby place on record our emphatic repudiation of MacNeill and his factionist associates, whose arrogance and presumption, if tolerated, would mean the disbandment of the Volunteers, and the death-knell of Irish Freedom.

2. That we reiterate our unswerving confidence in the wisdom and sagacity of our trusted Leader, Mr. J. E. Redmond, and acknowledge him, and him alone, capable of directing the Volunteer movement and shaping the destiny of a united Ireland.”

Bennettsbridge Volunteers and General M’Calmont.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Committee of the above Corps, held on Tuesday, 1st September, a large number being present, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Patrick McDonald, D.C., President, and seconded by Mr. M.J. Westerman, Hon Sec., was unanimously passed:

“That this Committee hereby publicly protest against the action of the Sports Committee, or other body, in inviting General McCalmont, Mount Juliet, to act as joint judge in the drill competition in the various Corps of the Irish Volunteers at Thomastown Sports on 30th Ultimo, to which we were invited. Various persons have asked why we failed to attend this competition, and in order to make our position quite clear to the public, we desire to state that we declined to attend for the following reasons: Some months ago General M’Calmont gave his demesne in Co. Antrim for the use of the Ulster Volunteers, and, furthermore contributed generously to funds to resist Home Rule. In doing so, he proved his deep-rooted prejudice against the aspirations of more than three-fourths of his countrymen. Though he lives among Nationalists, he has done nothing, either by contributing to the National Volunteer funds, or lending his demesne for drilling purposes to show that he has changed or modified his attitude towards the Home Rule Cause.”