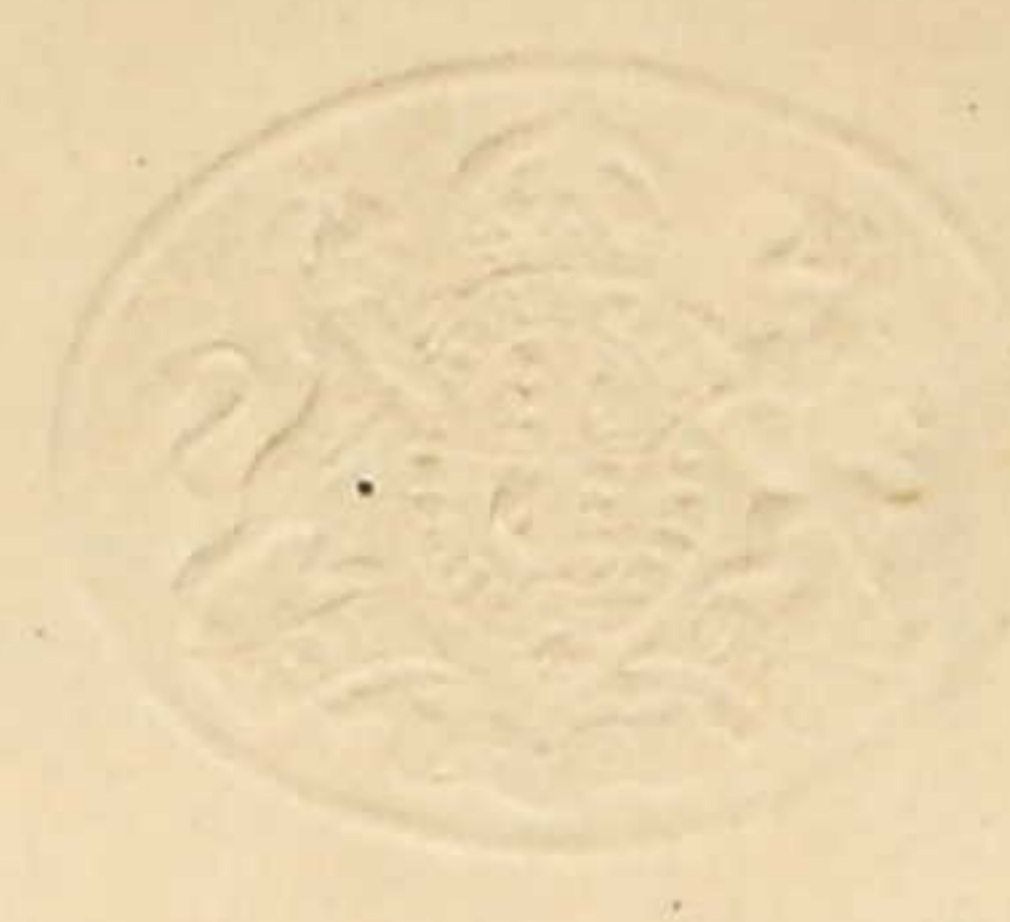


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W.3.

W A R D, Peter Joseph.

'FREEMANS' 28-11-21.

Returning to Donegal after completing his sentence in Belfast Gaol, Mr. Liam P. O'Duffy, managing clerk for Mr. P. J. Ward, T.D., solicitor, was publicly welcomed. He was sentenced by courtmartial to twelve months' imprisonment, the charge being that he acted as Registrar of a Republican District Court in Donegal Town.

Speeches on Ratification
by
WARD. P.J.

'FREEMAN'S'
9-1-22.

A FEW REASONS

Why a Donegal Deputy Supported the Treaty

Mr. P. J. Ward (Donegal) said he would give a few reasons why he was about to vote for the approval of the Treaty, and by doing so he would explain to his constituents the reason for his action. He was in the same position as Deputy O'Rourke, and he would make no apology whatever to any man for his action. He did not believe that what was in the Treaty meant the ultimate end of what he and the others set out to fight for. He had formed his own opinions on the matter and his opinions had not been formed for him.

When he stood for election he stood for complete independence, and the placards, "Vote for Ward and Independence," were

still on the walls of Tirconnell. All the time they had only the one thing before them. The fight for the Republic was going on still and could go on in the future. The Comhairle Ceanntair in his constituency had asked, by 17 votes to 3, that the Treaty should be ratified under protest, and they stated that they could see no alternative.

GOT NO REPLY.

Proceeding, Mr. Ward was understood to say that he had asked the President what he meant by association with the British Commonwealth of Nations in his letter to Lloyd George and he did not receive any reply. Even if the President's document were accepted he held that it would not make a lasting peace, and that there would be no lasting peace until they were absolutely separated from England and the British Empire. He would not take the responsibility of rejecting the Treaty. He did not want to see the people of the country disunited, and he thought he was avoiding that by voting for this Treaty. He was doing what his constituents desired. The deputy at this point dropped his voice so much that it is only possible to surmise exactly what he said. It apparently was this: He stood where he always stood. He voted under protest. He did not like the Treaty, and if he voted for it he did so under protest. But he considered that the people of the country were in favour of the Treaty.

Tyconnell, Sr

WARD. Peter. Joseph. Killibegs, Co. Donegal.

Age, about 30. (1921).

Occupation. Solicitor.

Elected Sinn Fein M.P. for Donegal, May 1921.

Prior to May 1921 Election, was a Member of "Fisheries" and "Industries" Committees, Dail Eireann.

Voted for Treaty on Sat 7-1-22

Commandant, South Donegal Brigade, I.R.A. (25-8-20)

Receiver and distributor of An t'Oglac. (Sig. in Book 13-3-20)

Attended I.R.A. Convention, January 1920.

Member of the Arbitration Committee and present at the Meeting held on the 28th October 1919. ("O" 7075)

In 1919 addressed many Sinn Fein Meetings.

Attempted to hold meetings at Andara in contravention of C.M.A.'s Orders. Meeting held 31-8-19 was dispersed by the Military.

Arrested 30-3-20 and imprisoned at Belfast.

Deported to Wormwood Scrubbs.

Released 7-5-20 after "Hunger Strike" for 18 days.

Made Election Speeches at Belfast on 17th and 22nd May 1921.

Purchased a trawler named "Manifold" for Gun-running in 1920. This trawler was sold to a Dublin Firm when WARD was interned. (IX/0143 10-10-21)

An order was issued for his arrest in November 1920 but he went "on the run" and did not re-appear until after the Truce 11-7-21.

Police report (oct 1921) that he has not been active since the Truce.

Mentioned in note from A. Stack to De Valera 15-6-21. (P.F. 31. Vol.II. pp.6.7. No.13).

Arranged ambushes at Mount Charles and Glenties. (I.F.99/5/7(1) 30-3-21).

Name occurs in notes found in Mrs Kent's house. (P.F.1290(2)).

Corresponds with Michael Collins. (P.F.2263 Vol.II. Ep.53/4435 p.14.

P.T.O.

Met J. Dolan and Deputy Chief of Staff to discuss the transfer of certain Companies from South Donegal Brigade to a new North Leitrim Brigade.

Photo No. 5696.

Commandant of Training Camp at Tullaghan, Londonderry Area.
Believed to Officer of 1st Battalion, S. Donegal Brigade.
(IX/0288 dated 26-10-21).

Commandant, 4th Battalion, 1st Northern Division. (15th Inf Bde
Cards).
Commandant, West Donegal Brigade. (15th Inf. Bde Cards).

Nominated Treaty Candidate for Donegal. (Ext. "Irish Times" 2-6-22)

Returned unopposed for above constituency

