

C. H. 741.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS  
HEALTH ORGANISATION

---

STATISTICAL HANDBOOKS SERIES : No. 11

OFFICIAL VITAL STATISTICS  
OF  
IRELAND

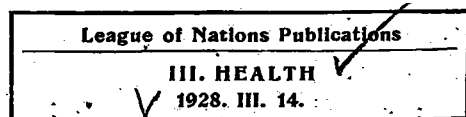
---

THE IRISH FREE STATE  
AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND

---

---

GENEVA, 1929



## PREFATORY NOTE

---

The Health Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations presents herewith the eleventh volume of a series of handbooks on the vital statistics of various countries. In doing so, it wishes to express its gratitude and thanks for the generous help given by the officials of the Irish Free State and of Northern Ireland, with whom much consultation and correspondence was necessary by the authors of the text.

This handbook was prepared, on the invitation of the Health Section, by Professor M. GREENWOOD and Major P. GRANVILLE EDGE, of London. The Section appreciates the interest and care with which the authors performed their work and wishes to thank them most cordially.

HEALTH SECTION  
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

*Geneva, April 1929.*

# CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
Preliminary Note . . . . .	3
Introduction . . . . .	9

## Part I. IRELAND.

1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE:	
Area . . . . .	13
Population . . . . .	13
Government . . . . .	13
Local Government . . . . .	14
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN IRELAND:	
The Public Health (Ireland) Act . . . . .	15
The Local Government Board . . . . .	15
3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS:	
Historical . . . . .	17
Compulsory Civil Registration . . . . .	20
4. THE POPULATION OF IRELAND:	
Historical . . . . .	22
The First Official Irish Census . . . . .	23
Census Procedure prior to 1922 . . . . .	25
Population Estimates . . . . .	27
Official Publications containing Information relating to the Population of Ireland . . . . .	28
5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN IRELAND:	
General . . . . .	35
6. THE REGISTRATION OF LIVE BIRTHS:	
General . . . . .	37
Procedure . . . . .	37
Persons Responsible for Declaration . . . . .	37

6. (Continued.)

	PAGE
Particulars required at Time of Declaration . . . . .	37
Registration before the Expiry of three Months . . . . .	39
Registration after three Months. . . . .	39
Limitation of Time allowed for Registration . . . . .	39
Births at Sea. . . . .	39
New-born Children found Exposed or Abandoned. . . . .	40
Irish Children born abroad. . . . .	40
Transferable Births. . . . .	40
Penalties . . . . .	41
Transmission of Data . . . . .	41
Official Publications containing Information relating to Live Births .	41
 7. STILL-BIRTHS IN IRELAND.	 45
 8. THE REGISTRATION OF DEATHS:	
General . . . . .	46
Responsibility for Declaration . . . . .	46
Period allowed for Declaration. . . . .	47
Extension of Period allowed for Declaration . . . . .	47
Particulars Required at the Time of Registration . . . . .	47
Deaths at Sea . . . . .	49
Inquests . . . . .	50
Deaths abroad . . . . .	52
The Medical Certificate of Cause of Death . . . . .	52
Transmission of Data . . . . .	54
Official Publications containing Information relating to Mortality in Ireland . . . . .	54
The Decennial Supplements. . . . .	60
 9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:	
General . . . . .	65
Responsibility for Notification. . . . .	65
Penalty for Failing to Notify. . . . .	67
Exposure of Infected Persons or Things . . . . .	67
Disinfection of Premises . . . . .	67
The Letting of Infected Premises. . . . .	67
Transport of Infected Persons . . . . .	68
Infection in Schools . . . . .	68
Vaccination . . . . .	68
Transmission of Data . . . . .	69
Official Publications containing Information relating to Infectious Diseases in Ireland . . . . .	69

Part II.

THE IRISH FREE STATE.

1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE:	
Area . . . . .	PAGE 73
Population . . . . .	73
Government . . . . .	73
,, Local . . . . .	74
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION . . . . .	76
3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS . . . . .	77
4. THE POPULATION OF THE IRISH FREE STATE:	
The Census . . . . .	78
Official Publications containing Information relating to the Popu- lation of the Irish Free State . . . . .	79
5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN THE IRISH FREE STATE:	
General . . . . .	83
Official Publications containing Information relating to Births and Deaths in the Irish Free State. . . . .	83
6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:	
General . . . . .	85
Transmission of Data in the Irish Free State . . . . .	85

Part III.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE:	
Area . . . . .	93
Population . . . . .	93
Government, Central . . . . .	94
,, Local . . . . .	94
2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION . . . . .	96
3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS . . . . .	97

4. THE POPULATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND:

	PAGE
The Census . . . . .	98
Official Publications containing Information relating to the Population in Northern Ireland . . . . .	100

5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND:

General . . . . .	103
Official Publications containing Information relating to Live Births in Northern Ireland. . . . .	103
Official Publications containing Information relating to Deaths in Northern Ireland . . . . .	105

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

General . . . . .	108
Official Publications containing Information relating to Infectious Diseases in Northern Ireland. . . . .	108

**Part IV.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	110
------------------------	-----

---

# OFFICIAL VITAL STATISTICS OF IRELAND

---

## The Irish Free State and Northern Ireland

---

### INTRODUCTION.

---

The need for a ready and reliable source of detailed and descriptive information on the official vital statistics of the various countries has long been keenly felt by statisticians and public health officers. The difficulties which are at once encountered when data from two or more countries are assembled for comparative purposes are familiar to all. When the Health Committee of the League of Nations decided to collect and publish currently data on the prevalence of the chief communicable diseases, important questions arose concerning the comparability of the data. Subsequently, in organising its programme of statistical work, it was planned as a special activity to prepare a series of handbooks describing the official vital statistics of the various countries.

Therefore it is the purpose of these volumes to present a review of the existing practice and procedure in the collection and publication of statistics on population, births, deaths and notifiable diseases, including not only methods of registration but also the current published reports. Effort has been made to include especially those facts the knowledge of which is important when comparisons are made of statistics from two or more countries. The statistics themselves are discussed chiefly with regard to the form and contents of the official reports in which they are presented.

It is realised that, even when meticulous care is exercised in preparing such handbooks as these, errors may not be entirely avoided, and the ultimate utility of the work can be judged best only by actual experience. Nevertheless, it is confidently hoped that they will prove useful and valuable as reference books on the details of method and procedure in the various national offices which collect and publish vital statistics.

---

**Part I.**

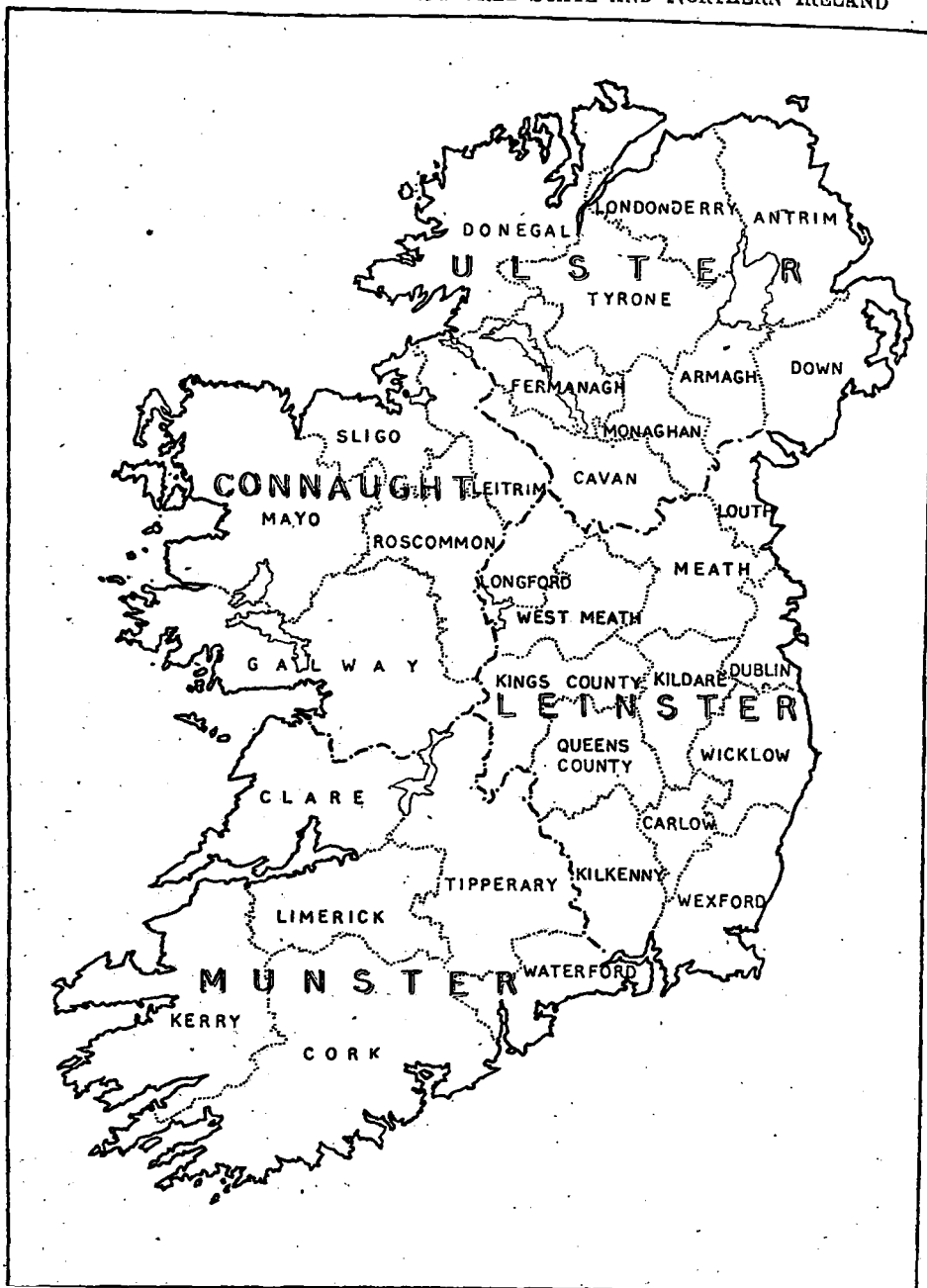
—

**IRELAND**

—



MAP OF IRELAND SHOWING PROVINCES AND COUNTIES  
BEFORE THE DIVISION INTO THE IRISH FREE STATE AND NORTHERN IRELAND



# IRELAND

## 1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

In view of the important constitutional and administrative changes introduced in Ireland since 1921, it has been deemed advisable to apply the descriptions which follow to:

*Part I.* Conditions applying to Ireland as a whole, *prior to 1922.*

*Part II.* Conditions applying separately to the Irish Free State, *since 1922.*

*Part III.* Conditions applying separately to Northern Ireland, *since 1922.*

The reader therefore is asked to bear these arrangements in mind when consulting the text. The information which follows refers to the period prior to 1922.

### AREA.

The area of the whole island, including the larger rivers, lakes, and tideways, was given as 29,854,722 statute acres, or approximately 32,586 English square miles.

### POPULATION.

According to the results of the census taken in April 1911, the population of Ireland, and of the constituent provinces, was as follows:

PROVINCE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Ulster . . . . .	770,862	810,834	1,581,696
Leinster. . . . .	582,967	579,077	1,162,044
Connaught . . . . .	312,089	298,895	610,984
Munster . . . . .	526,130	509,365	1,035,495
Total for Ireland . . . . .	2,192,048	2,198,171	4,390,219

### GOVERNMENT.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to 1921, all Ireland was a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The Sovereign is a constitutional and hereditary monarch, the legislative authority being, under the Constitution, vested in a Parliament of two Houses, the Lords and the Commons. The House of Lords numbered among its members certain Irish Peers, while the House of Commons consisted of members representing county, county borough, and university constituencies in the three divisions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> For further particulars, see *Statistical Handbooks Series, No. 3: "England and Wales"*.

The executive authority of the Government of Great Britain and Ireland, nominally vested in the Crown, was actually entrusted to a Committee of Ministers, known as the " Cabinet ", among whom was usually included the *Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*.

At the head of affairs in Ireland was the *Lord Lieutenant of Ireland*, the nominee of the Crown.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Prior to the passing of the *Local Government (Ireland) Act* in 1898, the principal administrative authority in each county was the *Grand Jury*; but, following the passing of the Act of 1898, provision was made for the election of County and Rural District Councils under certain prescribed conditions. The cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry and Waterford, having already representative councils, were named county boroughs and were independent of the county councils.

---

## 2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN IRELAND.

It is unnecessary in a work of this kind to attempt any quotation or collation of the large number of orders and regulations relating to questions of public health prior to the year 1878, or to try to explain their objects of the difficulties encountered in the administration of these measures. This must not be deemed to imply that the earlier public health measures failed to produce beneficial results; the contrary is the case, but it would be quite impossible within the limits at our disposal to describe satisfactorily, or place together with any degree of coherency, the many enactments which had been applied from time to time, to sanitary improvement in Ireland.

It will be sufficient for the purposes of a manual such as this to note that, prior to 1878, there did exist a mass of unconsolidated legislation relating to sanitary matters of one kind or another applicable to Ireland.

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) ACT.

In 1878, however, the Public Health (Ireland) Act, generally similar to the English Public Health Act of 1875, was passed, codifying all earlier sanitary measures in the one general Act, and modern health administration in Ireland may be assumed to date from that time, since present-day administration is governed mainly by the provisions of the Act of 1878, and the various amending Acts which followed from time to time (notably those of 1890, 1896 and 1907).

### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Under the system then provided for, the Local Government Board for Ireland was constituted the central controlling Sanitary Authority, while, for purposes of local sanitary administration, every part of Ireland was placed under a specific local authority, classified as *urban* or *rural* according to the administrative and social conditions of the locality, sanitary authorities being required; under the provisions of the Act, to maintain a prescribed staff of medical and other officers, such appointments being subject to the approval of the Board.

The Local Government Board for Ireland, and, under it, the several sanitary authorities throughout the country, were responsible for corporate action with respect to the following questions:

The provision of adequate sewerage and drainage systems.

The provision of adequate and clean water-supplies for drinking and domestic purposes.

The enforcement of the provision of sanitary conveniences in houses and other buildings.

The cleansing of streets and highways.

The prevention of nuisances constituting a danger to the public health.

Prevention and cure of disease; the causes, origin and distribution of disease.

Hygiene of houses, schools, hospitals, etc.

Supervision and regulation of dangerous and offensive trades, factories and workshops.

Supervision of the manufacture and sale of foods, drinks, and drugs with a view to assuring a standard of wholesomeness.

The prevention and spread of infectious diseases.

The collection, preparation and distribution of statistical returns of sickness and disease.

The preparation, distribution, and enforcement of regulations in the interests of public health.

---

### 3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS.

#### HISTORICAL.

At a time when England was scarcely more than a name to the rest of Europe, Ireland was already a land of schools and scholars. Three centuries before the Norman Conquest of England, the Irish had attained a well-established reputation for scholarship, while the fame of her schools was the means of attracting students from the most distant parts of the Continent. In spite of this, however, we can find no Irish name related to the collection of data of a statistical or semi-statistical nature. In early times, and even later, history provides but meagre and disappointing information which might throw light upon the history of the development of statistical science in Ireland, though the numerous *Annals* and other Irish chronicles provide national records of first-rate importance descriptive of the civil history and condition of the people from the very earliest times.<sup>1</sup>

Apart from the *Annals* to which brief reference has been made, perhaps the first and most extensive record of value after the date of the Norman Conquest was that which appeared in 1185 under the title of *Topographia Hibernia* from the pen of Giraldus CAMBRENSIS, the companion of Prince John during the Irish expedition undertaken in the reign of Henry II. This record of the state of Ireland during the closing years of the twelfth century, compiled by one of the ablest chroniclers of his time, who evidently drew largely from the information contained in existing *Annals*, though considered to be an accurate and careful description, is a chronicle in the Achenwallian conception of statistics, in that it presents a general account of contemporary affairs and of the condition of the people and country in a manner of more use to the statesman than to the student of statistics in the narrower sense of the term. The turbulent years covering the next two centuries seem to be characterised by a complete absence of either literature or reference of interest to the vital statistician. The *Annals of Ireland*,<sup>2</sup> by Friar John GLYN, of the Convent of Friars Minor, Kilkenny, though a document of first-rate historical importance, is strictly limited in scope to describing the course of mortality in certain Irish monasteries during the Black Death, 1348.

The next milestones are reached towards the close of the Tudor Period with the appearance, in 1596, of Edmund SPENSER'S *View of the State of Ireland*, and the estimate of the Irish population (700,000) made by Fynes MORYSON (1566-1630), secretary to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, who accompanied the expedition of Lord Mountjoy.

So far, the contributions we have quoted, though of historical importance, are of little statistical interest, and we may reasonably assume that it was not until the

<sup>1</sup> See the *Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters, from the Earliest Period to the Year 1616*. Edited from MSS. in the library of the Royal Irish Academy and of Trinity College, Dublin, with a Translation and Notes by John O'Donovan, LL.D., 5 volumes, Dublin, 1848-51.

<sup>2</sup> See *Journal of the Irish Archaeological Society*, Dublin, 1849.

Stuart Kings had succeeded to the throne of England that definite statistical foundations commenced to be laid in Ireland.

During the reign of James I, the then Attorney-General for Ireland, Sir John DAVIS, visited all the provinces of the country, publishing the results of his observations during these journeys in his *Discovery of the State of Ireland*, 1613. Four years later, we read of the appointment of the first Registrar-General, when one, Sir George KEARE, became Public Registrar of Births, Marriages and Burials in 1617, having as assistants to this office four provincial deputies in Dublin, Armagh, Cork and Galway. It seems to have been a curious appointment. KEARE was required to pay the Crown an annual sum of £20 for the privileges accruing from the office he held. Presumably, these privileges were contained in the fees he retained for the registrations effected. Under the system, clergymen were required to furnish the deputy-registrars in each area with certificates of the names of persons baptised, married or buried by them; for each such ceremony the clergyman received a fee of 6d., of which 5d. was remitted to the registrar. The system seems to have continued only for about three years, and, so far, no records have been discovered relating to this initial effort of Irish registration. About this time we find the first references to the "Irish Parish Registers". The date of the actual introduction of such records is not known, nor can the names and numbers of parishes maintaining such registers be definitely established, but the oldest parish register extant is that of St. John's, Dublin, which dates from 1619. Parish registers became more or less general following the instructions of the forty-sixth Canon of the Irish Church (1634)<sup>1</sup> which required that "every parish church and chapel within this realm shall be provided with one parchment book at the charge of the parish, wherein shall be written the day and year of every christening, wedding and burial". The system continued in practice until 1653, when an Act of "Barebone's Parliament" during the Commonwealth provided for the establishment of *civil* parish registers in substitution of those maintained by the clergy. This measure became effective in Ireland on December 1st, 1653, and continued until the Restoration, when the old system was resumed.

Almost simultaneously with the introduction of parish registers in Ireland commenced the practice of keeping Irish Bills of Mortality, though here again it is impossible to state with any degree of precision when this practice commenced. So far as the Dublin Bills are concerned, the earliest known reference to their existence appears in the city records of 1658, when the City Treasurer was authorised to pay one John Tadpole the sum of fifty shillings for his work in connection with the weekly bills of mortality for the city. As to the procedure followed in connection with this service, it was customary for a collector, licensed by

<sup>1</sup> Such registers related, of course, to the Established Church in Ireland. Registers were maintained by other religious denominations, commencing, however, at a later date. Registers of the Society of Friends date from 1650, but Roman Catholic registers were not general before the nineteenth century, despite the fact that Roman Catholics constituted the vast majority of the population, and that the injunction of the Council of Trent (1563) made the keeping of such records a law of the Catholic Church. The explanation is presumably the legal prescription of the Roman Catholic priesthood down to the later half of the eighteenth century.

the Archbishop of Dublin, to call at weekly intervals upon the parish clerks and obtain from them the numbers of baptisms and burials and causes of death. How the causes of death were established is not definitely known, but it is presumed that the system was similar to that followed in London by the employment of *Searchers*.<sup>1</sup> The Bills were printed and distributed at weekly, quarterly, and yearly intervals, for about a century and a-half, and appear to have passed out of existence about 1772.

It is curious to note that, in spite of the existence of Parish Registers and Bills of Mortality, no attempt seems to have been made to examine and analyse the contents of such records prior to 1683, when Sir William PERRY, whose attention to such matters had been stimulated by the interest aroused by the publication of Graunt's *Observations upon the London Bills of Mortality*,<sup>2</sup> published his tracts, *Observations upon the Dublin Bills of Mortality and the State of that City* and, in 1686, his *Further Observations on the Dublin Bills or Accompts of the Houses, Hearths, Baptisms and Burials in that City*. Petty quotes from a Dublin Bill of 1666, which is his earliest record.

Statistical development was, however, slow, and interest in statistical matters, apart from the records of baptisms and burials, seemed entirely lacking for over a century. No census of the population had ever been made, and what estimates existed were unreliable and merely conjectural. In this connection it is interesting to note that, in 1780, in *A Tour in Ireland*,<sup>3</sup> Arthur Young stated: "I cannot conclude this subject without earnestly recommending to the legislature of Ireland to order an actual enumeration of the whole people." Whether this recommendation was the stimulating factor in the next statistical essay we cannot say, but in 1798 a census of the Dublin population was ordered, every householder being required to affix to his door a list of the members of his family and his servants residing in the house on the day appointed for the counting. This operation was a police measure, introduced during the rebellion, and primarily intended to serve as a check upon the movements of strangers; its value as a census was appreciated by certain private citizens, who, of their own initiative, went round and recorded the results.<sup>4</sup> It was not, however, until 1813 that the first official census of the whole Irish population took place (see pp. 23 and 24 of the present manual).

With the mention of the county histories, chiefly of a statistical and agricultural character, which were undertaken under the auspices of the Royal Dublin Society about the beginning of the last century, we have briefly outlined the statistical history of Ireland, bringing the story down to the opening years of the nineteenth century. Before continuing our descriptions from the time of the introduction of compulsory civil registration, it is necessary to warn the reader that the system of registration by means of Parish Registers, to which we have referred, was both defective and unreliable. They were records, not of births and deaths, but of *baptisms and burials*,

<sup>1</sup> For further information on this point see *Statistical Handbooks Series*, No. 3: "England and Wales", pp. 53-54. League of Nations Publication. (C. H.).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 14, 46, 53.

<sup>3</sup> *A Tour in Ireland*, Part II, p. 61, Arthur YOUNG, 1780.

<sup>4</sup> *Essay on the Population of Dublin, 1798*, Rev. James WHITELAW, Dublin, 1805.



and the facts recorded referred only to the members of a particular religious denomination. Ecclesiastical registration of this kind, lacking, as it did, efficient supervision and strict enforcement of the regulations framed for its maintenance, proved far from successful, since entries were incomplete and but indifferently kept. It may therefore be stated that no properly kept registers of births and deaths were generally maintained prior to the establishment of compulsory Civil Registration.

#### COMPULSORY CIVIL REGISTRATION.

The Act for the registration of births and deaths,<sup>1</sup> and Roman Catholic marriages which became operative on January 1st, 1864, provided for the establishment of a General Register Office, the appointment of a Registrar-General, Superintendent Registrars' Districts, and of Registrars' Districts throughout the whole of Ireland. By virtue of the powers conferred upon him under the terms of this Act, the Registrar-General was authorised to frame regulations for the proper organisation and administration of the new service, such regulations being given statutory force.

The country was divided up for purposes of registration into:

(a) *Superintendent Registrars' Districts*, each in charge of a superintendent registrar. These areas coincided with the existing boundaries of the Poor Law Unions, and the superintendent registrars were generally the clerks to the Poor Law Unions in each particular area.

(b) *Registrars' Districts*, which were sub-districts of the superintendent registrars' districts, and, in general, co-extensive with the dispensary districts in each Poor Law Union area. Medical officers of dispensary districts were appointed registrars of births and deaths in these areas, except in such cases where such medical officer declined the appointment, when the Poor Law Guardians appointed the official.

Registration offices were established, registers, necessary stationery and other items were furnished to superintendent registrars and registrars some time before the Act came into operation, so that these officials might be enabled to discharge their duties efficiently and in a uniform manner.

With a view to securing uniformity in the registration of the *causes* of death throughout the country, each registrar and medical practitioner in Ireland was provided by the Registrar-General with a copy of the nomenclature of Dr. Farr as used at that time in the registration of deaths in England and Wales, while the Presidents of the King and Queen's College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Governor of the Apothecaries Hall of Ireland were approached with a view to obtaining their assistance in securing accurate and uniform records of causes of death.

Under Section 47 of the Act relating to the registration of births and deaths, each registrar was required to forward to the superintendent registrar of the area,

<sup>1</sup> The registration of marriages other than Roman Catholic had been in force since April 1st, 1845.

during the months of January, April, July and October, a certified copy of all entries made during the preceding quarter of the year; while, if no entries had been made during the period, a *nil* return was to be rendered. Superintendent registrars were responsible for the examination and verification of these local returns, and, in their turn, were required to forward them to the Registrar-General in Dublin. To facilitate the searching of records, the Registrar-General was required to prepare and maintain indexes of all such records, and was authorised to supply certified copies of entries to the public, on the payment of the prescribed fees.

---

#### 4. THE POPULATION OF IRELAND.

##### HISTORICAL.

The first attempt of any importance having reference to early estimates of the population of Ireland was that made by Sir William PETTY in 1672. Following the survey of Ireland for which he was responsible, particulars of which may be found in his *Political Anatomy of Ireland*, he based his calculations upon the number of hearths, or "smoaks" as he terms them, these data being obtained in all probability from the official returns of the revenue officers responsible for the collection of hearth money. Responsible authorities are agreed that the results of his survey attained such a high degree of accuracy as to make the printed report a standard work of reference, Petty's estimate of the population of Ireland at the time being 1,100,000 souls. In a later estimate, made in 1687, again calculated upon the number of hearths or "smoaks", Petty places the population at 1,300,000 (*vide Treatise on Ireland*<sup>1</sup>).

In 1695, a Captain South attempted to estimate the population of the country by basing his calculations on the poll-tax returns of three Irish counties and of the city of Dublin, from these data estimating an average for the remainder of the kingdom. This estimate, results of which were communicated to the Royal Society (*vide Phil. Soc. Trans.*, No. 261, Vol. 22), suggests that the population of Ireland at that date amounted to 1,034,102 persons.

Thirty-six years later — that is to say, in 1731 — the Irish House of Lords instituted a special enquiry, which required the magistrates, and clergy of the Established Church, to render returns of the number of inhabitants for each county. Having regard to the unsettled state of the country at the time, to the fact that there existed areas beyond the limits of control by either magistrates or clergy, and that there was lacking the power to enforce the demands that were made, the results of this enquiry, which estimated the population to number 2,010,221 souls, are not regarded by competent authorities as being absolutely dependable.

Other efforts to estimate the population, by means of the returns of the hearth-tax collectors, were made at various times subsequent to 1731 with the following results, though again it should be added that these data are not considered entirely reliable:

1754 . . . . .	2,372,634
1767 . . . . .	2,544,276
1777 . . . . .	2,690,556
1785 . . . . .	2,845,932

One of the most remarkable of these earlier efforts at calculation of the population of Ireland was that attempted by Mr. G. PARKER BUSHÉ, a Revenue Commissioner, who based his estimates upon the hearth-tax collectors' survey books for the year 1788.

<sup>1</sup> See HULL's edition of the *Economic Writings of Sir William Petty* (Cambridge, 1899), Vol. II, p. 555.

For full particulars of the ingenious methods applied by this investigator in the course of his enquiries, the reader is referred to his communication to the Royal Irish Academy.<sup>1</sup> Briefly, the method, applied in the first place to the county of Wexford, was in turn applied to every Irish county; but, in spite of all the care and assiduity which characterised the whole course of this enquiry, Bushe himself would not appear to have been satisfied with the accuracy of the results, for he remarks, regarding the records in the survey books:

“ The number of houses returned in the year 1788 is certainly far short of the truth, . . . if any of the supervisors have been guilty of collusion or negligence, the number of houses omitted (*i.e.*, in thirteen counties) is probably greater than 24,800.”

Having in mind the possibility of error on such a scale as this; Bushe considered “ the number of souls in the Kingdom must be computed at above 4,040,000 ”.

In 1792 appeared a further population estimate in the *Memoir of the Map of Ireland*, published by Dr. Daniel Augustus BEAUFORT in that year. Beaufort, having obtained for each of the Irish counties the number of houses, assumed an average of five or six persons per house and arrived at an estimate of 4,088,226 persons for the whole country. In the same year also (1792) there was laid before the Irish House of Commons a very detailed report of the number of hearths, prepared from the survey returns for the year 1791, and, on the basis of these returns, the Irish population was given as amounting to 4,026,612 persons.<sup>2</sup>

It will have been gathered from the foregoing remarks that the various estimates of the population had been calculated from the same basis, namely, by obtaining the number of houses as recorded in the hearth-tax returns, and then using as multiplier an arbitrarily selected probable average of persons per house. As these averages ranged between five and six and a-half persons in different calculations, it is no matter of surprise to find the variations in the numbers quoted by different calculations between 1792 and 1800.

#### THE FIRST OFFICIAL IRISH CENSUS.

In the opening years of the nineteenth century, the central authorities resolved that the uncertainty attaching to the population problem should be allowed to continue no longer, but that an actual enumeration on the lines of the first English census should be carried out in Ireland, and in July 1812 an Act providing “ for taking an account of the population of Ireland ”, etc., received the Royal assent.

Under the terms of this measure, the Grand Juries of the several Irish counties were charged with the supervision of all duties attached to the operation of the first official census enumeration, and were authorised to make adequate arrangements, and to appoint the necessary personnel, for the execution of the various tasks

<sup>1</sup> *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. III, 1789, pp. 145-155.

<sup>2</sup> See also the corrected estimate of Newenham: *An Enquiry into the Progress and Magnitude of the Population of Ireland*, THOS. NEWENHAM, London, 1805.

appertaining to the enquiry, which was to commence on the same day throughout the country, viz., May 1st, 1813. It was provided that, on that date, census agents should proceed from house to house, in their allotted areas, and "without interruption or wilful or negligent delay", continue their enquiries from day to day until their task was completed, obtaining the following particulars:

1. The number of inhabited houses;
2. The number of families;
3. The number of houses in course of building;
4. The number of uninhabited houses;
5. The number of families employed in and dependent upon agriculture;
6. The number of families employed in trade, manufactures and handicrafts;
7. The number of those not comprised in categories 5 or 6;
8. The number of souls (including children of every age) actually living within the area at the time of taking count, distinguishing males and females, exclusive of soldiers in the regular army or militia, seamen in the King's service or in registered vessels;
9. The number of inhabitants in each city, town or village within each district.

Although the provisions of the Act endeavoured to anticipate and legislate for all possible difficulties in order that the operation might prove successful and the results reliable, these precautions did not produce the desired effect, and, on the whole, the first experiment of census-taking failed. The causes of this failure to achieve the desired result were many. The Grand Jury system of control was inadequate for the efficient supervision of the complicated operation of census-taking, since it lacked both the organisation and staff competent to carry out the work. The appointment of census agents was mainly governed by personal influence, without regard to the abilities necessary to the task. The payment of agents was according to numbers enumerated, hence dishonest officials may have falsified their returns. The operation was not continued without interruption in all counties; from some areas no returns of any kind were rendered, whilst from others returns were unreliable. In the final results, it was ascertained that, of the returns relating to forty Irish counties, but ten were satisfactory, twenty-four were defective, and six counties made no returns whatsoever.

In spite of this disappointing result, a further effort was made two years later, the Act of 1815 vesting the superintending authority of census-taking in the county magistrates, and in 1821 the second Irish census was carried out. The organisation, though still defective, was a great improvement upon that of the first census, and, in spite of the difficulties attendant upon the absence of exact delimitation of some of the area boundaries, the operation produced such satisfactory results that this enumeration is regarded as the first complete and authoritative census. The results, which were published in 1823, declared the Irish population to number 6,801,827 persons.

The results of the next census, taken in 1831, which, after correction, stated that the population amounted to 7,767,401 souls, are not considered so reliable as those of the previous enumeration; but the census of 1841 was an important milestone in the history of Irish census-taking. A census Commission directed the operations, Ordnance Survey maps were used for the first time, and, with three exceptions, these enabled an accurate distribution of census areas to be made. The official enumerators, appointed from members of the Irish Constabulary, were reliable and understood exactly the nature of the duties for which they were responsible, and finally, a *household bulletin* was introduced, which was required to be completed by the head of each household. (Formerly, census particulars were entered by each enumerator by *viva voce* enquiry.) The results of this enumeration are considered completely dependable.

The census of 1851 and all succeeding censuses were carried out under the superintendence of a Census Commission, having the Registrar-General as Chief Commissioner, together with expert Assistant Commissioners. Upon these more recent enumerations, no comment is necessary, beyond calling the attention of the reader to the fact that, consequent on the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, extensive alterations of boundaries were made. Any comparison of data relating to particular areas before and after that date must be made with care.

#### CENSUS PROCEDURE PRIOR TO 1922.

The necessary preliminary to any enumeration of the population was the promulgation of a Census (Ireland) Act, which was usually passed during the summer months of the year preceding that in which the census was to take place. This Act announced the date on which the census was to be taken, provided for the appointment of a central controlling authority (the Census Commission), census agents, official schedules, regulations and other items necessary to the organisation and carrying out of the operation.

The country was divided up into *enumeration districts*, each of which was controlled by an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary, or by an officer of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, in the capacity of Census Superintendent. Enumeration districts were subdivided into census areas, each of these divisions being in the charge of a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary or Dublin Metropolitan Police, who acted as the local census enumerator for the area. Some days in advance of that fixed for the actual enumeration, census agents were required to visit all houses in the area for which they were responsible, leaving for each separate family living in the house one copy of the "Family Return" (Form A). At the census of 1911, this schedule required the following information of each person in a household:

1. Name and surname;
2. Relation to head of family;
3. Religious profession;
4. Education;
5. Age (last birthday) and sex;

6. Rank, profession or occupation;
7. Particulars as to marriage;
8. Where born;
9. Irish language;
10. If deaf and dumb; dumb only; blind; imbecile or idiot; or lunatic.

The above information was supplied by the head of each household, the enumerator being required in addition to enter the following particulars upon each " Family Return " :

1. County;
2. Poor Law Union;
3. District Electoral Division;
4. Barony;
5. Parish;
6. Townland;
7. City;
8. Parliamentary { division;  
                          borough;
9. Urban district;
10. Town or village;
11. Street, etc., with No. of House;
12. Name of head of family.

At the time of the visit, each enumerator was required to fill up two other forms relating to houses and buildings. Other schedules were provided for special purposes; as, for example, of ships and boats, sick persons, lunatics and idiots not in institutions; workhouse, hospital, school, barrack, and prison returns, etc., but their detailed description is unnecessary in this manual.

On the day following the census date, enumerators were required again to visit each house in the area for which they were responsible for the collection of the completed schedules, continuing at this duty from day to day until all returns had been collected within the area. During this time the enumerator was required to verify all entries, and to satisfy himself that returns had been properly made.

The operation completed, each enumerator was called upon to compile from the various schedules collected by him:

1. *An abstract* for each townland in a rural area, and for each street in an urban area, providing among other information particulars relating to the number of houses, inhabited, uninhabited and building; number of families; number of persons by sex; number of persons by sex and religion.

2. *An enumerator's summary*, which was a summary of all the abstracts.

3. *An enumerator's summary of houses*, classified by unit of area, number of houses, class of dwelling (e.g., first, second, third or fourth class) and number of families living in each.

These completed forms, together with all family returns, etc., were forwarded to the superintendent in each census district, by whom they were again examined prior to their transmission to the census office of the Registrar-General in Dublin, who was responsible for tabulation and publication of the results of each census. Particulars of the contents of the Irish Census Reports will be found in the pages immediately following.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATES.

The various estimates of the population contained in official reports have been calculated by the following methods for the years:

*1826-31.* By adopting the rates of increase of the male and female population between 1821 and 1831 as shown by the Irish Census Reports of those years.

*1832-41.* By adopting the rate of increase between the population of 1831 and 1841, according to the Irish Census Report of 1841.

*1842-46.* By taking the English average birth rate of 1 in 31, and death rate 1 in 45, and deducting the annual emigration from Ireland according to the returns received from the Emigration Commissioners.

*1847-51.* The English birth rate, as above, was used, deducting the number of deaths and the number of emigrants in each year, as given in the Irish Census Report of 1851; an allowance proportioned to the number of recorded deaths and the number of emigrants was made in each year for the excess of the number thus arrived at for 1851 over the actual population according to the census of that year.

*1852-71.* The English birth and death rates, as above, deducting the number of emigrants according to the returns obtained by the Registrar-General for Ireland, and allowing for excess over census numbers for 1861 and 1871 as explained for the last period.

*1872-1911.* By adding the births registered in each year to the estimated population for the previous year, deducting the deaths and the number of emigrants, and adjusting the results for the years 1872-81, 1882-91, 1892-1901, and 1902-11, to allow for the discrepancy between the number thus arrived at for 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1911 respectively, and the estimates based on the censuses taken in 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE POPULATION  
OF IRELAND.

*Census Reports.*

1824-31. Enumerations did not extend beyond a census of people and houses.  
The reports contain:

- Total population of each parish, tabulated by counties;
- Total population of each Irish county.

For each county, the following information is tabulated for each parish in each barony:

1. Total number of inhabited houses;
2. Total number of families;
3. Number of houses in course of building;
4. Number of houses uninhabited;
5. Number of families engaged in:
  - (a) Agriculture;
  - (b) Trade;
6. Manufactures and handicraft:
  - (c) All other families not included under (a) or (b);
7. Total persons, with distinction of sex;
8. Total males aged 20 years and over;
9. Agriculturists:
  - (a) Employing labourers;
  - (b) Not employing labourers;
  - (c) Number of labourers employed in agriculture;
10. Number of persons employed in:
  - (a) Manufactures, etc.;
  - (b) Retail trade, etc.;
  - (c) Capitalists, professions, etc.;
  - (d) Labourers, not agricultural;
  - (e) Other males 20 years of age (not servants);
11. Number of male servants:
  - (a) Under 20 years of age;
  - (b) Over 20 years of age;
12. Number of female servants;
13. Summary of males 20 years of age and over, tabulated by occupations.

The reports contain a summary of males aged 20 years and over, tabulated by

occupations for the cities of Cork, Dublin, Clonmel, Drogheda, Dundalk, Galway, Sligo and Wexford and for the boroughs of Ireland.

1841. The schedule required the following particulars: *Of persons*: the name, age, sex, relation to head of household, whether married or single and date of marriage, occupation, and degree of instruction, place of birth of every person enumerated, together with a return of absent members and a return of members of each family who had died since the previous census. *Of houses*: material of which built, inhabited or uninhabited; number of stories, rooms, front windows, number of distinct families in each house. *Of farms*: number of acres, arable, pasture, waste, head of live-stock. The results are analysed by the Census Commissioners in a comprehensive summary, while the following information is tabulated for each county, and barony, parish, or town:

1. Area in acres;
2. Number of persons tabulated by sex, and indicating also whether:
  - (a) Heads of families;
  - (b) Visitors;
  - (c) Servants;
  - (d) Total of each sex;
3. Number of houses, inhabited (tabulated by class of dwelling, *e.g.*, first, second, third, or fourth class) and uninhabited (built or building);
4. Number of families residing in first, second, third, or fourth class type of houses;
5. Number of families tabulated by:
  - (a) Occupations, *e.g.*, agriculture, trade, etc., other pursuits;
  - (b) Means, *e.g.*, vested means, profession, etc., direction of labour, working on own account, not specified;
6. Number of persons aged 15 years and over, classified as ministering to:
  - (a) *Physical wants*: food, clothing, lodging, etc., health, charity;
  - (b) *Moral wants*, *e.g.*, justice, education, religion;
  - (c) *Unclassified*;
  - (d) *Having no specified occupation* (all the above with distinction of sex);
7. Persons of 5 years and over, able to:
  - (a) Read and write;
  - (b) Read only;
  - (c) Neither read nor write, with distinction of sex;
8. Number of persons at each month of life from 0-12 months, and each year of life from 2-90 years, in rural and urban areas tabulated separately;

number of persons in quinquennial and decennial age periods, in all areas (all the above with distinction of sex);

9. Number of persons and degree of instruction, in age-groups 5-10, 11-15, 16-25, etc., with distinction of sex, in rural and urban areas;

10. Number of children attending school in rural and urban areas, at each year of life from 4-16 years, with distinction of sex, and whether primary or higher education school;

11. Number of persons in rural and urban areas, tabulated by age-groups 0-17, 18-25, 26-35, etc., civil state and sex;

12. Number of houses having one or more families residing in them, tabulated for rural and urban areas;

13. Table of occupations of persons over and under 15 years of age, indicating the total numbers employed in each class of occupation with distinction of sex;

14. Summaries of the above tables are given for each county and for the whole of Ireland;

15. Number of births in each year 1832-41, in each county, distinguishing births in rural and urban areas, with distinction of sex;

16. Number of marriages in each year 1832-41, and ages of contracting parties, tabulated for each province;

17. A report upon the number of deaths occurring in the ten years ending June 6th, 1841. This report comprises an extensive summary of the data available, giving for each county the number of deaths in rural and urban areas, hospitals and institutions in each year, for the period 1831-41, with distinction of sex, and tabulated by the following causes:

- (a) Epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases (16 titles);
- (b) Diseases of the nervous system (10 titles);
- (c) Diseases of respiratory and circulating system (12 titles);
- (d) Diseases of the digestive system (12 titles);
- (e) Diseases of the urinary system (7 titles);
- (f) Diseases of the generative organs (4 titles);
- (g) Diseases of the locomotive organs (4 titles);
- (h) Diseases of the tegumentary system (5 titles);
- (k) Diseases of unknown seat (14 titles);
- (l) Violent or sudden deaths (9 titles).

The above information is further tabulated by sex and age, the age-groups being: each month of life from 0-12 months; each year of life from 2-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20 years, etc., to 90 years and over.

1851. The scope of the enquiry was extended, the *family return* requiring the following additional information of persons enumerated:

1. For children under one year, age in months;
2. Education, additional to degree of instruction, whether speaking Irish but not English, Irish and English, etc.;
3. Infirmities, if any.

On the return of persons who had died since the date of the last census, the time of death, *i.e.*, season of year (spring, summer, etc.) and year of death was required.

A number of additional schedules were used during this operation, by which it was endeavoured, for the first time, to ascertain on a single day of the year (*i.e.*, night of the census) the total number of persons in the country suffering from sickness and diseases of a temporary or permanent nature. Other returns enumerated the numbers of persons afflicted with lunacy or idiocy, sick in workhouses, hospitals, prisons and asylums and the diseases from which they suffered, etc. The results of this census were published as follows:

*Four volumes*, one for each of the provinces of Ulster, Leinster, Connaught, Munster; detailed information for each parish, townland and town of each barony within each county in each province, viz:

1. Area;
2. Population by sex at a series of census dates;
3. Number of houses (inhabited, uninhabited, building).

Similar information was tabulated for boroughs, county boroughs and Poor Law Unions within each county.

*One volume* relating to statistics of agriculture.

*One volume* analysing the returns of persons suffering from sickness or disease in private houses and institutions on the night of the census. From this report may be known the numbers of deaf and dumb, blind, lunatic or idiotic, lame and decrepit, sick in workhouses, hospitals, prisons and asylums, together with the diseases from which they were suffering. A nosological chart of diseases was added giving popular and local names and Irish terms.

*One volume* containing the number and ages of the people by provinces, counties, baronies and towns, degree of instruction, number of schools and pupils attending them, and the number of the Irish-speaking population tabulated by counties.

*Two volumes* containing information relating to the deaths of persons between 1841-51. The data are most exhaustively analysed, besides which there are valuable treatises on the history of epidemic pestilences, famines, etc., in Ireland. The deaths recorded during the period 1841-51 are tabulated on the manner described on p. 30 of the present manual.

*One volume* in which is contained the general report on the results of the census of 1851 and having reference to the area of the country, population, habitations and house accommodation, families and their pursuits, occupations of the people and degree of instruction. This information is tabulated by parishes, rural and urban districts, baronies and counties.

1861. The family return required the religious profession of each person enumerated, this being the only change made in the schedule. The arrangement of matter and publication of results followed the plans adopted at the previous census of 1851.

1871. No change was made in the family return. In publishing the final results, however, an effort was made to present the data on a plan as nearly uniform with that adopted by the English scheme, though, actually, identical tabular arrangement in all cases was unattainable for various national reasons. The classification of occupations followed in 1841, 1851, and 1861 was abandoned, and the English classification adopted.

1881. Further instructions appeared in various columns of the family return with a view to attaining a higher degree of accuracy in the replies to questions. An additional question to this return was headed "Irish Language" (formerly included under "Education") with the instruction:

"Write the word 'Irish' in the column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish *only* and the words 'Irish and English' opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column."

The tables of deaths and of absent members of the family were abandoned, the query "When married" was omitted, and to the column of infirmities, the addition of "Lunatics and idiots" was made.

1891. The family return was similar to that used in 1881, and the publication of results by counties and provinces, etc., corresponded with the plans adopted after the former censuses.

1901. No alteration was made in the *family return*, which was similar to that used in 1891. Enumerators were, however, required to take an account of the number of rooms occupied by each family and of the total number of persons in each family. The general report and the county books contain detailed information on the following points:

1. Area, houses, and population;
2. Ages (and sexes) of the people;
3. Civil state;
4. Occupations;
5. Birthplaces of the people;
6. Foreigners;

7. Infirmities;
8. Public institutions;
9. Religious professions;
10. Education;
11. Irish-speaking population;
12. Emigration;
13. Miscellaneous, *i.e.*, various summaries, territorial subdivisions, etc.

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths (Ireland)*. — The first number of the weekly return was published in 1864, and contained information relating to the city of Dublin. In the following year, the return embraced the Dublin Registration District, and the year after some of the principal country towns were introduced, and subsequently increased in number till 1913, when particulars for twenty-seven towns were collated<sup>1</sup>.

The text first described births, deaths at various ages and from different causes, with special reference to zymotic diseases. Subsequently, weekly and average death-rates, deaths in each district of the Dublin Registration District and, later, in the principal towns were described. Reference to deaths in English and Scottish towns was introduced in 1864 and 1865 respectively.

The tables are described in the following pages; in addition to these, meteorologic text and tables for the Phoenix Park were introduced in No. 22, 1864, and continued to 1914, when they were discontinued as distinct features. Four other stations were added in 1877 and continued in the text till 1880, when the particulars were embodied in Table VII. In 1880 a table of vital statistics for foreign towns was added and continued till 1916.

From 1916 to 1921, the following information relating to *population* was available:

1. Total population (sexes not distinguished) and density of persons per acre for each of the following areas:

- (a) Nineteen town districts;
- (b) Dublin Registration Area and its component parts;
- (c) For each of a number of urban districts;
- (d) London, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

2. Estimated population at the middle of the year for each of the registrars' districts in the Dublin Registration Area.

3. Census population in the cities of Belfast and Cork, and in the registrars' districts of these cities, without distinction of sex.

<sup>1</sup> In September 1866 the number of towns increased to 8; in 1880 to 18; in 1897 to 22; in 1913 to 27; in 1916 the number was reduced to 19 (*i.e.*, towns having a population of 10,000 or over).

*Quarterly Summary of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

A summary of the *weekly returns* (see p. 33) was first published at the end of the second quarter of 1864. Since the date of its first appearance its contents have varied from time to time, following the changes introduced in the weekly return of births and deaths at different periods. For the years prior to 1921, the information relating to population in the quarterly summaries was as follows:

1. Population estimated to the middle of the year, for each of the registrars' districts in the Dublin Registration Area;
2. Population according to results of the last census for each of a number of urban districts, for the cities of Belfast and Cork, and for each of the urban districts of these cities.

*Yearly Summary of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

In the fifty-second weekly return of 1864 a summary for the year was included. In 1867, this yearly summary was issued for the first time as a separate publication and continued so until 1921.

*Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births, and Deaths.*

The first number of this return, which furnished information for the country as a whole, appeared in 1864 and related to the first quarter of that year. Changes in subject-matter were effected from time to time, but for the years prior to 1921 the information relating to the population in Ireland was generally as follows:

1. Total population, according to the results of the last census, tabulated for the Dublin Registration Area, and for urban districts in each of the four provinces.
  2. This information is further tabulated for:
    - (a) Ireland;
    - (b) Each of the four provinces;
    - (c) Administrative counties in each province;
    - (d) Superintendent registrars' districts;
    - (e) Registrars' districts.
  3. Total population of Ireland estimated to the middle of each year for a series of years, with distinction of sex.
-

## 5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN IRELAND.

### GENERAL.

Civil registration of births and deaths in Ireland was established under the terms of the Act of 1863, which became operative on January 1st, 1864. For the purposes of registration, the country was divided up into (a) *Superintendent Registrars' districts* — these areas were created for purposes of administrative convenience, in general coinciding with the areas of the existing Poor Law Union — and (b) *Registrars' districts*, which were made to correspond, generally speaking, with the dispensary districts within the Poor Law Union areas. These registration areas in 1864 comprised 163 *Superintendent Registrars' districts* and 770 *Registrars' districts* for the whole of the country.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and to ensure general compliance with the new enactments, the Registrar-General was required to prepare and publish instructions for the information of Boards of Guardians in the several Poor Law Unions. This notice, a copy of which is reproduced below, was also brought before magistrates, the clergy, the medical profession, and editors of newspapers in order to obtain the widest possible publicity.

*Notice by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.  
Registration of Births and Deaths, 26 Vic.cap. 2.  
Districts.*

"*Registration Districts.* — On and after the first day of January, 1864, each Dispensary District of a Poor Law Union will be a Registrar's District, for the Registration of Births and Deaths, until the same shall be subdivided by the Registrar-General, in case it be found necessary for public convenience to make any subdivision. In the event of any alteration being made in a district, such alteration shall be published by the Registrar-General within the union in which the district is situated, and elsewhere, as may be deemed expedient. The several Dispensary Districts which comprise a Poor Law Union will form a Superintendent Registrar's District, except in such cases as the boundaries may be altered by the Registrar-General with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant, of which due notice will be given."

It was provided that the medical officer of each dispensary district should be the registrar of births and deaths within his area, but, in the event of a medical officer declining to assume this office, the Guardians of the Poor Law Union in the area were authorised to appoint to the post a fit and proper person, having such qualification as the Registrar-General may declare to be necessary. Of the 756

---

<sup>1</sup> In 1920, there were upwards of three thousand local registration officials.



registrars of births and deaths originally appointed, 704 were medical officers of dispensary districts, and 52 were appointed by the Poor Law Guardians.

It will be seen that the organisation was analogous with that of England and Wales, namely, a headquarters staff and local registration officials under the direction of a Registrar-General.

The Registration Act of 1863 having been proved deficient in some respects, an amending Act was passed in 1880 which had the effect of introducing important changes. These are commented upon where necessary, while particulars of the regulations governing the registration of births and deaths, and of the official schedules employed in these operations are described in the following pages.

---

## 6. THE REGISTRATION OF LIVE BIRTHS.

### GENERAL.

Although every endeavour was made to ensure a complete and accurate registration of births from the date of the introduction of compulsory registration of these facts, under the Act of 1863 the reports of the Registrar-General in the earlier years of civil registration deplore the fact that an unknown number of births escaped registration, notwithstanding all efforts to induce a general compliance with the regulations. Later amendments to the original Act endeavoured to remove these defects.

### PROCEDURE.

The regulations under the above Act required that notice of the occurrence of a birth must be made to the registrar of the district *within twenty-one days after birth* (under the Births and Deaths Act, 1880, the period was extended to *42 days*), when the informant was obliged to supply the several particulars required by the Act relating to the registration of births.

### PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECLARATION.

The responsibility for declaration of the occurrence of a birth on and after January 1st, 1864, was imposed upon the parents or parent of the child, and, in their absence or default, upon the occupier of the house or tenement in which to his knowledge the child was born, or upon the nurse or other person present at the birth of such child. In addition to the above, the amending Act of 1880 added "the guardian or person having charge of the child".

### PARTICULARS REQUIRED AT TIME OF DECLARATION.

The Act prescribes that the informant of the occurrence of a birth shall provide the registrar with the following particulars:

1. Date and place of birth;
2. The name of the child<sup>1</sup> (if any);
3. Sex;
4. The name, surname and dwelling-place of the father;
5. The name, surname and maiden surname of the mother;
6. The rank, profession or occupation of the father.

The certified copy of the register required to be forwarded to the Registrar-General at the close of each quarter is in the following form:

<sup>1</sup> The name given in baptism may be registered within six calendar months after the registration of the birth by the parent or guardian of such child. Parents of children not recognising the sacrament of baptism may also register the name given to a child within six months after registration. The period was extended to *twelve months* by the Act of 1880.

BIRTHS Registered in the District of ..... in the Union of ..... in the Count. .... of .....

No.	Date and Place of Birth.	Name (if any).	Sex.	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father.	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence, of informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth, and Date.
(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)	(10.)	(11.)

I, ..... \*Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District of ..... in the Union of ..... in the Count. .... of ..... do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. .... in the Registrar's Book of Births within the said District. Witness my hand this ..... day of ..... 19.....

\* Should the Copy be certified by the Assistant or Interim Registrar, or Assistant or Interim Superintendent Registrar, please insert word "Assistant" or "Interim" as the case may be.

..... \*Registrar.

I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true copy. Witness my hand this ..... day of ..... 19.....

..... \*Superintendent Registrar.

[Births S.]

#### REGISTRATION BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS.

If, owing to default of the responsible parties, a birth had not been registered within twenty-one days (or six weeks by the Act of 1880), the registrar could, at any time after the expiration of that period but before the expiry of three months after birth call upon the parties concerned to comply with the statutory requirements failing which, a penalty of forty shillings was incurred.

#### REGISTRATION AFTER THREE MONTHS.

When the birth of a child had not been registered within three months after birth, the responsible parties could, *within six months* (or twelve months by the Act of 1880) after the birth of the child, make a statutory declaration in writing of the particulars required before the superintendent registrar, or, under the 1880 Act, before a justice of the peace. Registration was then effected in the ordinary way on payment of certain fees.

#### LIMITATION OF TIME ALLOWED FOR REGISTRATION.

Under the Act of 1863, after the expiration of six months following the birth of any child, no registration could be effected by any registrar. These conditions were amended by the Act of 1880. The latter measure made possible the registration of a birth *after twelve months*, provided the necessary statutory declaration was made, and the written authority of the Registrar-General obtained.

#### BIRTHS AT SEA.

Section 39 of the Civil Registration Act of 1863 provided that:

“ If any child of an *Irish* parent be born at sea after the 31st of December 1863, on board of a *British* vessel, the captain or commanding officer of such vessel shall forthwith make a Minute in the log-book or otherwise of the several particulars hereby required to be registered touching the birth of such child, so far as the same may be known, and of the name of the vessel in which the birth took place, and shall, on the arrival of such vessel in any port of the United Kingdom, or by an earlier opportunity, send a certified copy of such Minute through the Post Office to the Registrar-General in Dublin, who shall file the same, and shall cause a true and correct copy thereof, verified by his own signature, to be entered in the book to be kept for that purpose in the General Register Office, to be called the ‘ Marine Register Book of Births ’.”

The following particulars were required:

Year..... Birth of a child at sea, on board of..... (name of vessel).						
Date and place of birth.	Name (if any)	Sex	Name and surname and dwelling-place of father.	Name, surname and maiden name of mother.	Rank or profession of father.	Signature of Captain or Commanding Officer of vessel.

The required Minute is to be made without delay in the ship's log, and the copy<sup>1</sup> of the Minute forwarded to the Registrar-General at Dublin must be certified in the following manner:

" I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Minute made in the log of ..... (name of vessel) on the..... day of..... year.....

" Witness my hand, this..... day of..... year.....

(Signed).....

Captain (or Commanding Officer)  
of..... (name of vessel) "

#### NEW-BORN CHILDREN FOUND EXPOSED OR ABANDONED.

Particulars of the discovery of a newly born child in such circumstances must be notified without delay by the person finding such child to the registrar of the district.

#### IRISH CHILDREN BORN ABROAD.

Information relating to the birth of a child of *Irish* parents in any foreign country might be notified to the British Consul of the country in which the birth took place. The particulars of such birth were forwarded to the Registrar-General at Dublin, who entered them in "The Foreign Register" kept for such purposes.

#### TRANSFERABLE BIRTHS.

Births were referred to areas of occurrence, *i.e.*, to the localities in which they were registered, no correction being made for births occurring in institutions, etc. Since 1923, births have been assigned to the areas of normal residence of the mother.

<sup>1</sup> The above procedure was amended under the provisions of the English Registration Act of 1874, such copies being thenceforward transmitted to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen who supplied the Registrar-General in Ireland with certified returns of such births. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, continued this procedure, as amended, and prescribed a new schedule of particulars.

#### PENALTIES.

Responsible persons failing to comply with the statutes relating to the registration of births are liable to the following penalties:

(a) Failure to notify within twenty-one days, twenty shillings (after 1880, six weeks and forty shillings);

(b) Failure to attend personally and give information to the Registrar within three months (after 1880, twelve months), forty shillings;

(c) Knowingly causing the registration of a birth in any other way than is required by the Act, after three months, except in the case of a child born at sea or abroad, five pounds (after 1880, ten pounds);

(d) Giving false information to a Registrar (after 1880), ten pounds.

#### TRANSMISSION OF DATA.

Under Section 47 of the Act relating to the registration of births and deaths, each registrar was required to forward to the superintendent registrar of the area, during the months of January, April, July and October, a certified copy of all entries made during the preceding quarter of the year; while, if no entries had been made during the period, a *nil* return was to be rendered. Superintendent Registrars were responsible for the examination and verification of these local returns, and were required by Section 48 to forward at quarterly intervals all certified copies of records received by them to the Registrar-General in Dublin.

To facilitate the searching of records, the Registrar-General was required to prepare and maintain an index of all such records, and was authorised to supply certified copies of entries to members of the public on the payment of prescribed fees.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO LIVE BIRTHS.

##### *Annual Reports of the Registrar-General in Ireland, 1864-74.*

The first annual report, relating to the year 1864, was published in 1869 and contains the following information:

1. A general summary of natality data and comparison of data by areas.
2. Total births, including illegitimate births, total illegitimate births and excess of births over deaths during the year, with distinction of sex, tabulated for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) North-eastern division;
- (c) North-western division;
- (d) Eastern division;

- (e) North midland division;
- (f) South midland division;
- (g) Western division;
- (h) South-eastern division;
- (i) South-western division;

These territorial divisions are further subdivided into.

- (a) Superintendent registrars' districts;
- (b) Registrars' districts.

3. Total births, both sexes together, and males and females separately, tabulated for each quarter of the year, for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the eight territorial divisions;
- (c) Each superintendent registrar's district;
- (d) Each Registration Province and County;<sup>1</sup>
- (e) Each registrar's district.

1875. In addition to the above information, birth rates in provinces and counties were added.

1885. This report contained, for the first time, information relating to administrative counties and their component parts.

1899. The report for 1899 contained a diagram showing for each of the years 1880-99 the birth rate per thousand of the population in Ireland. This feature was retained, representing the Irish birth rate for the twenty years preceding the year of issue of the report, until 1915.

1908-1921. Total multiple births were added to the existing information, with no distinction of sex.

Total births in each quarter of the year for a series of years.

#### *The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

First published in 1864. For further particulars relating to changes affecting the scope of this return from time to time, see p. 33 of the present manual. The information relating to *births* in Ireland and the principal changes in the *contents* of this publication are as follows:

- 1864. Total births registered;
- 1880. Birth rates added;
- 1881. Information restricted to urban sanitary districts.

---

<sup>1</sup> Registration counties comprised groups of superintendent registrars' districts whose boundaries, in some cases, extend to two or more counties.

For the years preceding 1922, the following information was generally available:

1. Total births and birth rates per thousand persons, in each of the following areas:

- (a) Principal town districts;
- (b) Dublin Registration Area (with distinction of sex);
- (c) For each of a number of urban districts;

2. Comparative table of births in each of the preceding thirteen weeks, with average births in the corresponding week of the previous ten years, for the Dublin Registration Area, and for Belfast city.

3. Number of births during the week in the cities of Belfast and Cork, and in each of the registrars' districts in these cities.

*Quarterly Summary of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

Publication commenced at the end of the second quarter of 1864, since which year changes in the contents are noticeable from time to time. Later issues, to the year 1921, contained the following information relating to *births* in Ireland:

1. Total births registered during the quarter tabulated for the Dublin Registration Area and a number of the principal urban districts; annual birth rate for each of these areas;

2. Total births registered during the quarter, tabulated for the cities of Belfast and Cork, and for each of the registrar's districts in these cities.

*Yearly Summaries of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

This publication first appeared as a part of the fifty-second weekly return in 1864; in 1867 it was issued as a separate publication.

*The Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths.*

The first number appeared in 1864 and related to the first quarter of that year. Various changes were introduced from time to time, these being commented upon in p. 33 of the present manual. During the years preceding 1922, the following information relating to births was available:

1. Annual birth rates for Ireland, each province and each county: Number of births during each quarterly period, annually for a series of years.

2. Total births registered during the quarter, birth rates tabulated for the Dublin Registration Area and for each of the provincial urban districts of Ireland.



3. Total births registered during the quarter and averages for the same quarter of the year in the last decennial period, tabulated for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the four provinces;
- (c) Each county and superintendent registrar's district.

4. Total births registered during the quarter in each registrar's district, arranged by counties and superintendent registrars' districts. •

#### *Irish Census Reports.*

In the Irish Census Reports for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 will be found the results of attempts made to obtain the number of births for each of the ten years preceding the census date. From the census returns were taken the numbers then alive at every year of age, for the last ten years, and to these were added the number of persons whose ages at death showed them to have been born in the same year. The information relating to persons who died in the decennium was taken from the returns supplied by the head of each household, such returns recording particulars of the members of such families who had died since the last census enumeration. Such records, however, in the absence of a uniform system of registration prior to 1864, were dependent upon the recollection of individuals for the various particulars relating to the occurrence of such events in their families during the decade, and on these grounds cannot be regarded as accurate.

The tables of births, constructed on these bases, provide the following information:

Estimated births, showing numbers of each sex born in each year during the decade, distinguishing urban and rural areas, and tabulated for:

- (a) Provinces;
- (b) Counties;
- (c) Towns.

The practice was discontinued after 1871, more accurate records being compiled and published in the *Decennial Supplements*, the first of which related to the period 1871-80.

---

## 7. STILL-BIRTHS IN IRELAND.

The *Registration of Births and Deaths Act of 1863* did not specifically provide for the registration of still-born children as such, the Act merely requiring the registration of the birth "of any child in Ireland on and after the first day of January 1864". The Registration Act of 1880 provided for the registration of *live births*, while the regulations for registrars of births, deaths and marriages, issued by the Registrar-General in Ireland in December 1880, referred to still-born children in the following manner.

"The registrar must not register still-born children either in his birth or death book; but, if a child is born alive and dies immediately or soon after birth, both the birth and death must be registered separately in the proper form. This applies to entries on coroners' certificates as well as to other entries."

In view of these regulations, it would appear that there did not, and does not, exist any rule calling upon medical practitioners to certify still-born as such in order to authorise the burial of such bodies, yet the regulations governing the registration of deaths may require the person causing the body to be buried to notify the local registrar of such circumstance.

---

## 8. THE REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.

### GENERAL.

An Act for the registration of births and deaths in Ireland, passed in 1863, made the registration of deaths compulsory throughout Ireland on and after January 1st, 1864.

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECLARATION.

Under the provisions of the Act of 1863, the following persons became legally responsible for the notification of the occurrence of a death to the registrar of the district in which death occurred:

(a) A person present at the time of death, or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased, or, in default of such persons,

(b) The occupier of the dwelling or tenement in which death occurred, or some other person residing in the house in which death occurred. If death did not occur in a house, then notification must be made,

(c) By any person present at the time of death or having knowledge of the circumstances relating to such death.

Under the Act of 1880, the persons required to give information as to a death to the registrar of the district in which the death occurred, and sign the register in his presence, are the following:

In the case of death occurring in a house,

(1) The nearest relatives of the deceased present at the death, or in attendance during the last illness. In case of their inability or default,

(2) Every other relative of the deceased in the same (registrar's) district. In default of any relatives,

(3) (a) Each person present at the death, (b) the occupier of the house in which the death occurred. In default of all the above-mentioned,

(4) (a) Each inmate of the house in which the death occurred; and (b) the person causing the body to be buried.

In case of a death occurring *not* in a house, or of a dead body found exposed,

1. Every relative of deceased having a knowledge of the particulars. In case of their default,

2. (a) Every person present at the death, and (b) any person finding the body, and (c) any person taking charge of the body, and (d) the person causing the body to be buried.

#### PERIOD ALLOWED FOR DECLARATION.

By the Act of 1863, registration had to be effected by responsible declarants *within seven days* after the occurrence of death; if written notice, accompanied by a medical certificate, were forwarded to the registrar, the particulars relating to the deceased person could be registered at any time within fourteen days. The period was changed to *five days* under the Act of 1880. If, however, a written notice of the occurrence of a death, accompanied by a medical certificate of the cause of death, be sent to the registrar by an informant, the registration of the death need not be effected *within the five days*, but must, notwithstanding such notice, be effected *within fourteen days* next after the day of death.

#### EXTENSION OF PERIOD ALLOWED FOR DECLARATION.

Section 13 of the Act of 1880 provided that, when, from the fault of the persons required to give information of a death in respect of which no inquest has been held, the death had not been registered, the registrar should, at some time after fourteen days, but within twelve months from such death, by notice in writing, require any such person to attend personally at his office, or other suitable place appointed by him within the district, at an appointed time.

#### PARTICULARS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

The informant is required to supply the registrar with the following particulars at the time of registration:

1. Date and place of death;
2. Name and surname of the deceased;
3. Sex;
4. Civil state;
5. Age;
6. Rank, profession or occupation;
7. Certified cause of death and duration of illness.

Each entry in the register of deaths is signed by the informant and by the registrar. This record, of which a certified copy is required to be forwarded to the Registrar-General at the end of each quarter, is in the following form:

DEATHS Registered in the District of ..... in the Union of ..... in the County of .....

No.	Date and Place of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Condition.	Age last Birthday.	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Certified Cause of Death, and Duration of Illness.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
(1.)	(2.)	(3.)	(4.)	(5.)	(6.)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)	(10.)	(11.)

I, ..... \*Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District of ..... in the Union of ..... in the County of ..... do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. .... in the Registrar's Book of Deaths within the said District. Witness my hand this ..... day of ..... 19.....

\* Should the Copy be certified by the Assistant or Interim Registrar, or Assistant or Interim Superintendent Registrar, please insert word "Assistant" or "Interim" as the case may be.

..... \*Registrar.

I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true Copy. Witness my hand this ..... day of ..... 19.....

[Deaths S.]

..... \*Superintendent Registrar.

DEATHS AT SEA.

Section 40 of the Act of 1863 relating to the registration of deaths required that:

“ If any of Her Majesty's *Irish* subjects shall die at sea on board of a *British* vessel after the 31st day of December, 1863, the captain or commanding officer of the vessel on board of which such death shall have happened shall forthwith make a *Minute* in the log-book or otherwise of the several particulars herein required to be inserted in the register touching such death, so far as the same may be known, and of the name of the vessel wherein such death took place, and shall, on the arrival of such vessel in any port of the United Kingdom, or by any earlier opportunity, send a certified copy of such *Minute* through the *Post Office* to the Registrar-General in *Dublin*, who shall file the same, and shall cause a true and correct copy thereof to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose in the general register office, to be called the *Marine Register Book of Deaths*, and the Registrar-General shall keep such book with the other registers according to the provision of this Act. ”

The following particulars were required to be entered in the register:

Year..... Death at sea, on board of..... (name of vessel).							
Date and place of death.	Name and surname	Sex.	Civil state.	Age.	Rank, profession or occupation.	Cause of death and duration of illness.	Signature of Captain or Commanding Officer of vessel.

The entry in the ship's log must be made without delay, and a copy of the *Minute* so made, when forwarded to the Registrar-General, must be certified in the following manner:

“ I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the *Minute* made in the log of..... (name of vessel) on the..... day of..... year.....

“ Witness my hand, this..... day of..... year.....

(Signed).....

“ (Captain or Commanding Officer of vessel.) ”

The above provisions were superseded by those contained in the English Registration Act of 1874, which required that returns of deaths at sea should be forwarded

to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen, who was required, in his turn, to forward certified copies of such deaths, where the deceased were *Irish* subjects, to the Registrar-General in Dublin. This procedure was continued under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, which prescribed a new schedule of particulars.

INQUESTS.

If an inquest is held upon any dead body, the jury enquired as to the particulars concerning the death, these particulars being recorded on the Coroner's certificate of the finding of the jury, which is forwarded to the registrar in the following form:

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACTS (IRELAND), 1863 to 1880.

**Coroner's Certificate of Finding of Jury.**

To be sent to the Registrar *within five days* after the Finding of the Jury is given.

No. of Entry in Register  
Book of Deaths.  
To be filled in by  
Registrar.

Book No.....

Entry No.....

To the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the District of.....in the Superintendent  
Registrar's District of.....

Pursuant to the Act, 43 & 44 Vic., cap. 13, intituled " An Act to amend the Law in Ireland relating to the Registration of Births and Deaths."

I HEREBY CERTIFY that at an Inquest held by me on the.....day of.....19....., at.....  
in the.....of.....on the body of.....  
of\*.....then and there lying dead, the Jury found as follows:—

Col.	Date and Place of Death † 1	Name and Surnames of Deceased. 2	Sex. 3	Condition as to Marriage. 4	Age. 5	Rank, Profession, or Occupation. 6
Cause of Death and Duration of Illness—(Finding of the Jury.) Col. 7. ‡						

Witness my hand this.....day of.....19.....

\* Here state the last residence of the deceased person.  
† If date of Death is unknown, please give date of finding of body, and how long apparently dead, and if Place of Death is unknown, please state where body was found.  
‡ In every case of Violent Death the Verdict should state whether the Death was "Accidental," "Suicidal," or "Homicidal." It is very desirable to have both the "Primary" and the "Secondary" Causes of Death stated in every case in which the information can be obtained.

Signature.....

Coroner for.....

Residence.....



### DEATHS ABROAD.

Particulars relating to the deaths of natives of Ireland abroad are notified in the first instance to the Consul or other agent accredited to the country in which death took place. These particulars are forwarded to the Registrar-General in *Dublin* within twelve months, and entries of such particulars made in "The Foreign Register" maintained by the Registrar-General for this purpose.

### THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

Certification of cause of death was made obligatory under the terms of the Act of 1863, every medical practitioner being required to supply the registrar of deaths, *within seven days* after the death of the person attended by him, with a certificate in the following form, setting forth the cause of death and duration of the last illness.

"To the Registrar of the District of..... in the Union of..... in the County of.....

"I hereby certify, that I attended..... who was apparently aged or was stated to be aged..... years; that I last saw him (or her) on the..... day of..... 18....; that he (or she) died on the..... day of 18...., at.....; that the cause of his (or her) death was.....; and that the disease had continued.....

"Witness my hand this..... day of..... One thousand eight hundred and.....

(Signed).....

"Profession..... Residence....."

The Act of 1880 repealed this provision, and in its place required the medical practitioner to hand the certificate of the cause of death to one of the persons qualified to give information of the death, instead of to the registrar. A change in the form of medical certificate was made in 1876, but after January 1st, 1881, the blank forms provided for this service, and supplied to all duly qualified medical practitioners, are as follows:

**\*\* The Person who registers the Death MUST BRING THIS CERTIFICATE TO THE REGISTRAR (if not already sent).**

**BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT (IRELAND), 1880.**

# MEDICAL CERTIFICATE of the CAUSE of DEATH.

[To be signed and given by the Medical Attendant to some person by the Act required to give information concerning the Death to the Registrar of the District in which the Death occurred, and to no other person.]

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended.....  
 whose age was stated to be.....; that I last saw h..... on the..... day  
 of..... 19.....; that he died<sup>1</sup>..... on the..... day  
 of..... 19....., at<sup>2</sup>.....; and that to the best  
 of my knowledge and belief the cause of h..... death and duration of h..... illness were as hereunder written.

<sup>1</sup> Should the Medical Attendant not feel justified in taking upon himself the responsibility of certifying the fact of Death, he may here insert the words, "as I am informed".

<sup>2</sup> In case the death occurred in a Public Institution, the person filling the Certificate is requested to state also the particulars as under.

<sup>3</sup> The duration of each form of Disease or Symptom is reckoned from its commencement until death occurs.

Cause of Death.	Duration of Disease <sup>3</sup> .			
	Years	Months	Days	Hours
(a) Primary.....				
(b) Secondary.....				

Witness my hand, this..... day of..... 19.....

<sup>2</sup> Former stated Residence of deceased.  
 .....

Signature .....

Registered Qualification.....

Residence .....

N. B. — This Certificate is intended solely for the use of the Registrar. The person to whom it is given by the Medical Attendant must deliver it or cause it to be delivered to the Registrar within five days of its receipt, and in default of such delivery is liable to a penalty not exceeding £2.

Entered at No. ...., in Register of Deaths, District of..... Union of.....  
 ....., Registrar.  
 ...Date

188

### TRANSMISSION OF DATA.

Four times during the year (January, April, July, and October), each registrar is required to make true copies of all the entries of deaths registered during the preceding quarter, such copies being made on the special forms furnished for this purpose by the Registrar-General.

These copies are literal transcripts of the entries in the register, reproducing even the inaccuracies which occurred in the original entries: if no death has been registered during the quarterly period a *nil* return must be rendered. The above returns are delivered to the superintendent registrar of the area by a specified date, whereupon the superintendent registrar is required to examine such copies comparing them with the entries in the registers, certifying correct records as true copies (see p. 48). All such true copies are then forwarded to the Registrar-General.

To facilitate the searching of records, an index is maintained by the Registrar-General, who is authorised to supply certified copies of entries to members of the public on payment of the prescribed fees.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO MORTALITY IN IRELAND.

#### *Annual Reports of the Registrar-General in Ireland.*

The first volume relates to the year 1864.

Each volume contains a review of the mortality experience for the year under review, both for the country as a whole and for each of the principal administrative areas therein. The tabular information is as follows:

1864-74. Total deaths registered in each of the four quarters of the year, with distinction of sex, tabulated for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Eight administrative divisions;
- (c) Each superintendent registrar's district.

The area and population of each of these areas [(a), (b), (c)] are presented also.

Total deaths registered in each of the four quarters of the year, with distinction of sex, for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the four provinces;
- (c) Each county.

Area and population of each area are also given.

Total deaths in each of the eight administrative divisions and in each superintendent registrar's district, tabulated by sex, and age, the age-groups being:

- (a) Each year of life 0-5 years;

- (b) At quinquennial age periods to 25 years;
- (c) Thereafter at decennial age periods to 95 years and over.

This information is also tabulated for each of the four provinces, and for each county.

Total deaths according to cause of death, the nomenclature adopted being that of Dr. Farr used in England and Wales, and comprising five principal groups, 26 subdivisions or "orders", and 114 separate causes of death.

This information is tabulated for:

- (a) Ireland, by age, sex and cause;
- (b) For each of the eight divisions, by sex and cause only.

A supplementary table of causes of death by age and sex is also given, in extension of the first table of 114 causes, since the latter includes groups of diseases. By means of the supplementary tables, correction can be made for such diseases as mumps, rickets, etc. This is tabulated by age, sex, and causes for *Ireland* only.

Annual rate of mortality from all causes, and total death (absolute numbers) from certain specified causes, tabulated for:

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the eight Divisions of the country;
- (c) Each superintendent registrar's district;
- (d) Each of the four provinces;
- (e) Each registration county.<sup>1</sup>

An appendix provides a comprehensive analysis of the course of mortality during the year and observations on the assigned causes of death.

**1875-80.** In the report of 1875, and in subsequent reports, the introductory summary contained the following additional information:

(a) The number of deaths and their proportion to the population; mortality rates in divisions, provinces and counties; deaths in each of the four quarters of the year, annually for a series of years;

(b) Total deaths ascribed to (1) zymotic diseases, (2) constitutional diseases, (3) local diseases, (4) developmental diseases, (5) violence. These data give the annual averages for a series of years for Ireland and for each of the eight administrative divisions of the country.

The main tabular information contained in the reports of 1875 and after followed the plan originally introduced in the first report for 1864.

**1881-1901.** In the introductory summary the commentary on causes of death (see (b) above), comprised the following groups of causes of death:

1. Febrile or zymotic diseases;

<sup>1</sup> See footnote, p. 42.

2. Parasitic diseases;
3. Dietetic diseases;
4. Constitutional diseases;
5. Developmental diseases;
6. Local diseases;
7. Violence.

1883. An additional feature was introduced in this year, namely, the presentation of data relating to deaths from certain zymotic and other specified causes in the registrars' districts in which the principal urban sanitary districts (population 10,000 or over) were situated, showing, further, the circumstances as to residence at time of death.

1902. Commencing with this year, the classification of causes of death was made according to the official nomenclature of diseases (1896), adopted, with slight modifications, after consultation with the Registrars-General of England and Wales and Scotland. The introductory summary examined the causes of death under:

1. All causes;
2. General diseases;
3. Local diseases;
4. Ill-defined and not specified diseases;
5. Violence.

Other new features in the summary included:

- (a) An analysis of deaths from cancer, by sex, age and site;
- (b) Deaths due to poison, by sex, age, nature of poison and whether death was the result of accident or suicide. These features continued to appear in subsequent annual reports.

1903. The introductory summary contained an examination of the deaths of Irish women caused by, or associated with, pregnancy. This feature was continued in subsequent annual reports.

1904. The introductory summary included an analysis of deaths due to tuberculosis, this feature being continued in subsequent annual reports.

1906. To the introductory summary was added, and continued in subsequent annual reports, an analysis of infant mortality in Ireland.

1908. Deaths due to cerebro-spinal fever and occupational mortality were discussed in the introductory summary. The examination of occupational mortality was continued in subsequent annual reports.

1910. Commencing with this year, causes of death were classified according to the "International List of Causes of Death".

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

First published in 1864. A description of this publication and of the various changes which have been introduced from time to time is presented on p. 33 of the present volume. Up to 1921, the principal contents of this Return relating to *Mortality* were as follows:

1. Total deaths and death rate per thousand persons, in each of the following areas:

- (a) Nineteen town districts;
- (b) Dublin Registration Area and its component parts;
- (c) For each of a number of urban districts;
- (d) For London, Edinburgh, Glasgow.

The information is tabulated for the above divisions to indicate the number of deaths:

1. Of children under one year of age;
2. Of persons aged 65 years and over;
3. By causes, *e.g.*, enteric, typhus, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, whooping-cough, diphtheria, dysentery, influenza, tuberculosis (pulmonary; other forms), cancer, diseases of the respiratory system (*e.g.*, pneumonia, other), diarrhoea and enteritis; under two years; two years and over; violence.
4. Inquest cases; number of deaths in public institutions; number of uncertified deaths.

2. Total deaths during the week in the Dublin registration area, tabulated by cause of death and age, the age-groups being:

0-1 month	5-10 years	25-35 years
1 month and under 1 year	10-15 "	35-45 "
1-2 years	15-20 "	45-55 "
2-5 "	20-25 "	55-65, etc., to 75 years.

3. Total deaths during the week in the Dublin registration area and in each registrar's district in that area, and further indicating:

1. Mortality rate, "all causes";
2. Mortality rate, "certain epidemic diseases";
3. Total deaths at ages 0-1, 1-2, 2-5, 5-15, 12-25, 25-45, 45-65, 65 and over;
4. Total deaths by certain causes (see 1 (3) above);
5. Inquest cases, etc. (see 1 (4) above).

4. Total weekly deaths and death rates tabulated for five general occupational groups, and eighteen subdivisions of these groups, by age and cause (see 1 (3) and 1 (4) above).

*Quarterly Summary of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

A summary of the weekly returns was first published at the end of the second quarter of 1864. It was embodied in the twenty-sixth weekly return, contained information for the preceding twenty-six weeks, and consisted of text only, describing births, deaths, deaths from different causes and at various ages in the city of Dublin. In later years, the text was extended to refer to diseases more particularly, especially epidemic diseases and tuberculosis, and to the mortality in different districts.

The summary for the second quarter of 1865 embraced the Dublin Registration District. That for the third quarter of 1865 was the first to appear as a separate publication.

In 1875, the summaries embraced the eight principal towns, and the first table was introduced; this table was a summary of that showing births, deaths, and deaths from various causes in each of the eight towns (subsequently, in 1876, numbered Table V in the weekly return).

Summaries of other tables were added later, as follows:

In 1876, third quarter, Dublin Registration District by registrars' districts, Table III in weekly return.

In 1880, second quarter, Dublin Registration District by occupations, Table VIII in weekly return.

In 1885, cases of disease in hospitals, Table I in weekly return.

In 1892, Belfast and Cork, by registrars' districts, Table VIII in weekly return.

In addition, occasional tables were inserted at times of unusual epidemics, such as in 1901, the cerebro-spinal meningitis epidemic in Dublin, and in 1907, the cerebro-spinal meningitis epidemic in Belfast. In 1901, the number of burials of still-borns in the Dublin cemeteries was published.

*Yearly Summaries of the Weekly Returns.*

In the fifty-second weekly return of 1864 a summary, consisting chiefly of text, was published, giving information relating to births and deaths in the city of Dublin during the preceding fifty-two weeks. It described births, deaths in institutions, from different causes, with prominent reference to zymotic diseases, and at different ages, and also contained two tables — one showing deaths from different causes, by quarters, and the other deaths at various ages, by quarters.

In 1865, the summary embraced the Dublin Registration District, and was embodied in the fourth quarterly summary. A column was added for the previous year; in each subsequent year a further column was added, till the figures for ten years were presented for comparison.

The yearly summary was issued as a separate publication in 1867.

In 1875, the summary included the eight towns, and thereafter was expanded simultaneously with the quarterly summary till 1901, when it contained eight tables, and when a summary of notifications of infectious diseases was further added.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths.*

The quarterly return furnishes particulars of marriages, births and deaths registered in the entire country.

The first number was published in 1864, and related to the first quarter of that year. It contained, in text, a description of the divisions (geographical) of the country, with a brief summary of population, births and deaths, and an extensive transcription of registrars' notes describing the notable sanitary features of a number of districts; and, in tabular form, abstracts of area, population, density of population, and number of births and deaths registered in each division and superintendent registrar's district.

The number of marriages registered appeared in the second number, and related to the previous quarter. Thereafter the marriages registered in the country were published each quarter, but always related to the quarter previous to that for which the remainder on the return was published. Meteorology was also introduced in the second number, the weather each month being described in detail.

In No. 4, the abstracts showed the number of births and deaths registered during each quarter of the year, and also gave a summary for the year. In this number, also, emigration was first introduced, the number of emigrants during the year being shown.

In 1865, the text was extended to describe marriages in further detail, by religions, etc., and births and deaths by districts, and to include sections relating to the prices of provisions, pauperism, and the health of the people. Notes on topography were also added.

In 1873, the abstracts were extended to include each registrar's district, and the particulars presented were also amplified to show deaths under one year, at 60 years and over, deaths from the different zymotic diseases, inquest cases, and deaths in institutions. A table of the estimated population of Ireland from 1801 was also inserted.

A table showing for each urban sanitary district in the country particulars of births and deaths similar to those shown in the abstracts was commenced in 1881.

In 1882, the registration divisions of the country were abandoned and provinces and counties proper substituted in the abstracts. In the same year the abstracts included a section dealing with vaccinations. (In 1906, this section was reduced to a single column showing the number of successful primary vaccinations registered; but from 1907 to 1920 a supplement to the quarterly return devoted to vaccinations was published each year.)

In 1884, a column for deaths from violence was added to the abstracts, and in 1905 columns for deaths from tuberculosis and cancer were inserted.

A table of notifications of infectious diseases in rural districts and urban districts appeared in 1921, and concurrently with this a summary of the weekly return table of similar notifications was presented.

Registrars' districts were discontinued from the abstracts in 1921.



### THE DECENNIAL SUPPLEMENTS.

In each of the Irish census reports for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 there appeared, in addition to the actual results of the census, special summaries relating to the *births*, *marriages* and *deaths* during the preceding ten years. But the information contained in these surveys was necessarily imperfect, since the compilation of such records was, in the absence of any uniform registration system prior to 1864, mainly dependent upon the memories of the persons responsible for the supply of the data. For example, the *tables of births* so compiled, and claiming to show the numbers of each sex born in each year of the decade, were constructed by adding the numbers alive at the date of census, at every year of age for the last ten years, to the numbers whose ages at death showed them to have been born in the same year; while the *tables of deaths* were compiled from the returns required from every head of a family (and from hospitals, asylums, etc.) showing all deaths which had occurred in the family or institution in the last ten years. It is obvious that these records, dependent upon the voluntary information supplied by various people, and derivable from the recollections of persons as to the occurrence of such events during the previous decades, can in no way be considered dependable, since, apart from the question of memory, they could take no account of the number of families who had disappeared from a neighbourhood, some by emigration, others by death.

With the establishment of a system of compulsory civil registration, however, dependable decennial summaries were rendered possible, though the first publication in the new series of *decennial supplements* was not made until after the census of 1881, since, at the time of the 1871 census, registration records for a complete decade were not available. Four volumes, covering the decades 1871-80, 1881-90, 1891-1900, and 1901-10 have been published by the Registrar-General in Ireland, these reports containing the following information.

#### *Decennial Supplements 1871-90.*

Estimated population for each of the years 1801-90; the number of births, marriages and deaths registered; the number of emigrants returned by census enumerators; birth, marriage, death, and emigration rates per thousand estimated population.

Marriages, births and deaths registered in each registration province and county during the decade, average annual rates per thousand population, number of births per marriage and proportion of total births which were illegitimate.

*Births.* Number and proportion to the population.

Annual average birth rate in each of the registration divisions and provinces.

Annual percentage of illegitimate births to total births in each of the eight registration divisions.

Number of births registered in each quarter of the decade with average quarterly numbers for that period, and annual rates per thousand mean population.

Rates of births to marriages, number of illegitimate births, proportion of illegitimate births in every hundred births, and annual average birth rates for superintendent registrars' districts and towns having a population of 10,000 or over.

*Deaths.* Number and proportion to the population. Number of deaths registered during each quarter of the decade, average quarterly numbers for that period, and annual death rates per thousand of the mean population.

Distribution of mortality by province, divisions and registration counties.

Total deaths and average annual death rates in the decade classified by sixteen causes in superintendent registrars' districts and towns having a population of 10,000 or over.

A summary of deaths during the decade ascribed to the principal zymotic diseases, *e.g.* :

- Smallpox,
- Measles,
- Scarlatina,
- Diphtheria,
- Whooping-cough,
- Alcoholism,
- Fevers (typhus, enteric, simple and ill-defined),
- Erysipelas,
- Puerperal fever,
- Influenza,
- Bowel affections,
- Other miasmatic diseases.

Number of deaths due to principal zymotic diseases registered during each of the ten years, total number for that period, and average annual mortality rates, tabulated for each of the eight registration divisions.

The mortality due to the undermentioned causes during the decade is also discussed :

- Dropsy,
- Cancer,
- Diseases of the nervous system,
- Diseases of the circulatory system,
- Diseases of the respiratory system, and influence of weather upon these diseases,
- Diseases of the digestive organs,
- Diseases of the urinary organs,
- Diseases of the reproductive organs,
- Diseases of the organs of locomotion,
- Diseases of the integumentary system,
- Developmental diseases,
- Deaths due to violence.

Average annual number of deaths in Ireland by sex at each of twelve age-periods per 10,000 living at the same ages.

Registration, food prices, and weather conditions are discussed.

Estimated population annually for a series of years.

Ages of the population for a series of census years (not in the first decennial supplement).

The special tables contained in the supplement provide the following information :

Marriages, births and deaths registered in Ireland in the decade, births by sex and legitimacy, deaths by sex, and excess of births over deaths, tabulated for

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the eight registration divisions;
- (c) Each province;
- (d) Each county;
- (e) Each superintendent registrar's district.

Births and deaths registered in each of the ten years, tabulated by sex, for

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each province;
- (c) Each registration county.

Deaths at different ages registered in the ten years, tabulated by sex, for

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Provinces;
- (c) Registration counties.

The age-periods are as follows:

- (a) Each year of life to 5 years;
- (b) At five-yearly age-periods 5-25 years;
- (c) At ten-yearly age-periods 25-95 years.

Causes of death at different periods of life (see above), tabulated for each sex, and the following classification of causes of death:

- (a) 5 main classes;
- (b) 25 subdivisions or "orders";
- (c) 114 separate causes.

This information is again presented, with distinction of sex, but not by ages, for

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the eight registration divisions.

Average annual death rate per thousand persons, and deaths from sixteen specified causes, tabulated for

- (a) Ireland;
- (b) Each of the eight registration divisions;
- (c) Each superintendent registrar's district;

- (d) Each province;
- (e) Each county.

All subsequent decennial supplements followed closely the plan of presentation and information provided in the first of these summaries (1871-80), the principal changes introduced from time to time being as follows :

*Decennial Supplement 1891-1900.*

(a) Deaths from sixteen specified causes were further tabulated to show the circumstances as to residence at the time of death.

(b) Diagrams showing the mortality rates of enteric fever, diphtheria, and pneumonia in Ireland, England and Scotland respectively, in each of the thirty years 1871-1900, and for influenza 1889-1900.

*Decennial Supplement 1901-10.*

The diagrams introduced in the previous supplement were omitted, but causes of death were more minutely analysed in the introductory survey of this issue.

*Irish Census Reports.*

In the Irish census reports for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 will be found the results of the special enquiries relating to mortality in each of the ten years preceding the census year, and entitled "Reports and Tables on Deaths". The data were collected by means of returns compiled by the head of each household at the time of census enumeration, and contained particulars of all deaths which had occurred in the family during the last ten years. Similar returns were compiled by hospitals, asylums, etc. Such returns could not be complete, for, apart from the fact that the information was, in the absence of a uniform registration system prior to 1864, dependent upon the recollections of individuals as to the date and circumstances (*e.g.*, cause of death, etc.) of such events in their families during the decade, they lacked information of families which had entirely disappeared in the interim. However, the data have been analysed, and the results appear in the census reports quoted above, providing the following information :

I. *Expectation of life for each sex at each year of life calculated for*

1. (a) urban districts; (b) rural districts; (c) city of Dublin.
2. Mortality tables for : (a) Ireland, (b) urban districts, (c) rural districts, for each sex, at five-yearly age-periods 0-25 and ten-yearly age-periods 25-95 years;
3. A comprehensive analysis of the mortality data.

II. *For the city of Dublin :*

1. Number of deaths by age and sex, locality, average age at death;

2. Number of deaths, by locality, sex, and cause of death;
3. Number of deaths by sex, occupation, and cause of death;
4. Number of deaths by sex, occupation and age;
5. Number of weekly burials, classified by age and sex, and meteorological tables for the same periods.

III. *For each province and for various counties or towns in each province.*

1. Number of deaths each year, by sex, and cause of death;
2. Number of deaths during the decade, by age, sex and cause of death (each month of life to one year ; each year of life to five years; at five-yearly age-periods 5-90 years).
3. A general summary of (2) for urban and rural districts in the area.

IV. *A general summary for Ireland, indicating number of deaths by sex and cause of death, for each year during the decade.*

V. *Supplementary tables for each province :*

1. Of deaths upon which inquests were held, indicating :
  - (a) Number of deaths in each county, by sex, and cause of death for the decade;
  - (b) Number of deaths by sex and cause of death for each year in the decade;
  - (c) Number of deaths by sex and cause of death in each month of the year;
2. A summary of (1) for the whole of Ireland.

VI. *Tables giving the number of deaths occurring in*

1. Infirmaries;
2. General hospitals;
3. Fever hospitals;
4. Lunatic asylums;
5. Lying-in hospitals,

tabulated by sex and cause of death for each county. (In the case of lunatic asylums, deaths are tabulated by age, in addition to sex and cause.)

VII. *A general summary of deaths in hospitals and institutions in Ireland, tabulated by age, sex and cause.*

---

## 9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### GENERAL.

The various sanitary measures which were placed upon the Statute Book at various dates in the latter half of the nineteenth century contained important provisions relating to the control of outbreaks of contagious, infectious, or epidemic diseases;<sup>1</sup> but the collection of data relating to such diseases (other than the statistics of deaths) began only after the introduction of compulsory notification of certain specified diseases under the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889. This Act was " adoptive ", in that it left entirely to the option of each urban and rural sanitary authority whether they would apply the enactment to their particular areas.

By 1895, only nine sanitary authorities<sup>2</sup> (five urban, four rural), representing an aggregate population of 651,478, had adopted this measure<sup>3</sup>, which made the following diseases compulsorily notifiable:

- Smallpox,
- Cholera,
- Diphtheria,
- Membranous croup,
- Relapsing fever,
- Scarlet fever,
- Scarlatina,
- Typhus,
- Typhoid fever,
- Puerperal fever.

Each local authority was empowered to apply the provisions of the Act to any other infectious disease not mentioned in the original list. When this was done, the order could be permanent or temporary; if adopted as a temporary measure, the period of its enforcement had to be specified.

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOTIFICATION.

The regulations governing the notification of infectious diseases provide that, where an inmate of any building used for human habitation is suffering from an infectious disease, then unless the building is a hospital for the treatment of persons

<sup>1</sup> Cf. " The Sanitary Act 1866 ", Sections 22-24, 28-30, etc.; " The Public Health (Ireland) Act 1874 ", Sections 50, 59-60; " The Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 ", Sections 137-156, etc.

<sup>2</sup> These were:

Urban: Belfast, Clonmel, Cork, Dublin, Lurgan;

Rural: Ballinasloe, Clonmel, Dungarvan, Lismore.

<sup>3</sup> By March 31st, 1919, the provisions of the Act had been adopted in 162 rural and 92 urban districts in Ireland.

suffering from an infectious disease, the following persons become responsible, in the order mentioned, for the notification of the case to the medical officer of health in the area:

- (a) The head of the family to which the patient belongs or, in his default,
- (b) The nearest relatives of the patient, or, in default of such relatives,
- (c) Any person in charge of, or in attendance upon, the patient, or, in default of any such person,
- (d) The occupier of the building.

In addition, every medical practitioner attending such a patient must immediately, on becoming aware that the patient is suffering from an infectious disease, notify the medical officer of health of the area of the case, stating the name of the patient, where domiciled, and the name of the infectious disease from which he is suffering. For each such certificate, medical practitioners receive from the local sanitary authority a fee of two shillings and sixpence if the case occurs in the course of private practice, and one shilling if the case occurs in the practice of a medical officer to any public body or institution.

The above provisions relate not only to inmates of buildings, but are applicable also to every ship, vessel, boat, tent, van, shed or similar structure used for human habitation.

The form of certificate employed in reporting cases of infectious diseases is as follows:

.....(\*.....) District.  
 .....Dispensary District.

\* Here insert whether Urban  
 or Rural.

**REPORT on the occurrence of a case of Infectious Disease in compliance with the requirements of Article 15 (6) of the Local Government Board's Sanitary Order of May 3rd, 1900.**

Date.	Name of Patient.	Age.	Address.	Nature of Infectious Disease.	Probable Source of Infection.	<sup>1</sup> Steps taken to prevent the spread of the Disease.

<sup>1</sup> Under this heading the Medical Officer of Health should be careful to state whether the patient has been properly isolated or removed to hospital under the provisions of Section 141 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878.

Date.....  
 .....Medical Officer of Health.  
 .....(Postal Address).

#### PENALTY FOR FAILING TO NOTIFY.

Any person responsible under the regulations for the presentation of a notice or certificate, and failing to do so, is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding forty shillings, subject to the exception that, where a person is not required to give notice in the first instance, but only in default of some other person, he will not be liable to a penalty provided he can satisfy the court that he had reasonable cause to suppose that the notice has been duly given.

#### EXPOSURE OF INFECTED PERSONS OR THINGS.

Any person responsible for the exposure or conveyance without proper precautions of the body of any person who has died from a dangerous infectious disorder, or who is suffering from such a disorder, and any person who "wakes"<sup>1</sup> or permits to be "waked" in any house, room, or place over which he has control the body of any person who has died of any dangerous infectious disease, is liable to a fine of five pounds. No person, while suffering from a dangerous infectious disease, may enter any public conveyance under severe penalty.

#### DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Individuals are required to take proper precautions for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and every local sanitary authority may enforce the cleansing and disinfection of premises, the disinfection or destruction of bedding, clothing and other articles which have been exposed to any dangerous infection, and provide compensation for the same. The sanitary authority may also provide for the conveyance of infected articles to places appointed for the disinfection of such articles free of charge.

#### THE LETTING OF INFECTED PREMISES.

Any person<sup>2</sup> who knowingly lets a house, room or part of a house in which a person or persons suffering from a dangerous infectious disease had been lodged, without having the premises and all articles liable to retain infection disinfected to the satisfaction of a legally qualified medical practitioner (as testified by a certificate signed by him), is liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.

Any person letting for hire any house or part of a house, and any person hiring or negotiating for the hire of any house or part of a house, who on being questioned as to the fact of there being, or within three months previously having been, a case of a dangerous infectious disease therein, knowingly makes a false answer to such question, is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, or imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding one month.

<sup>1</sup> "An all-night watch by the body of the dead before burial." — *Century Dictionary*.

<sup>2</sup> "For the purposes of this regulation, the keeper of a school or inn will be deemed to let for hire part of a house to any person admitted as a guest to such school or inn."



### TRANSPORT OF INFECTED PERSONS.

Each local sanitary authority is required to provide a suitable vehicle or vehicles for the conveyance of persons suffering from an infectious disease to hospital or other place of isolation. Such vehicles must be properly disinfected after use. Any person suffering from an infectious disease, and lodged in a room occupied by other persons not suffering from the disorder, may, on the order of a Justice of the Peace, be compulsorily removed from such premises to a hospital provided within the sanitary district.

### INFECTION IN SCHOOLS.

There is no precise regulation requiring the closing of schools during times of epidemic disease, but Section 146 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act stipulated that:

“ Any person who shall knowingly or negligently send a child to school who, within the space of three months, has been suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder, or who has been resident in any house in which such dangerous infectious disorder shall have existed, within the space of six weeks, without a certificate from some duly qualified medical practitioner that such child is free from disease and infection, and unless his or her clothes have been properly disinfected, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings. ”

### VACCINATION.

Vaccination has been compulsory in Ireland since 1863, the most important provisions relating to this question being contained in the Vaccination Acts of 1863, 1868 and 1879. As a large proportion of the dispensary medical officers are also the registrars of births and deaths in their respective areas, they are therefore aware of the number of births registered, and the proportion of children remaining unvaccinated, and it is their duty to prepare quarterly returns of the names of the defaulters for the local authority of the area. The Vaccination Amendment Act of 1879 requires every child to be vaccinated before it is three months old, though the operation may be postponed on the presentation of a medical certificate to the effect that the child is not in a fit state to be vaccinated. At the time of registration of the birth of a child, the registrar hands to the parent or person having the custody of the child a notice in the following form:

#### *Notice of the Requirement of Vaccination.*

To the father, or mother, or other person having the custody of the child herein named.

Union of.....  
No. .... in the Register of Births.

Schedule C. Notice requiring child to  
be vaccinated.

I, the undersigned, hereby give you notice, and require you to have.....  
vaccinated within three months after birth, pursuant to the provisions and direction of the

Act of the 26th and 27th Victoria, cap 52, and 42nd and 43rd Victoria, cap 70.  
As witness my hand, this..... day of the.. 19....

Signature.....

Registrar of Births and Deaths for the..... District.

There has not been, in Ireland, any material difficulty in enforcing compliance with the vaccination laws, and it was rarely necessary to summon defaulters.

#### TRANSMISSION OF DATA.

A weekly return of all cases of infectious disease notified during the week under review was forwarded both to the Central Health Authority and to the Registrar-General in Dublin by the responsible sanitary officer in certain urban areas. These returns were rendered upon special forms provided for the purpose.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN IRELAND.

##### *The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

This publication first appeared in 1864, but information relating to infectious diseases was not presented before 1900, when the numbers of cases of infectious diseases in the various registrars' districts of the city of Dublin were recorded.

Information relating to other areas was added from time to time, *e.g.*, Belfast in 1903, and Cork, Londonderry, Limerick, and Waterford in 1914.

The information available prior to 1922 was as follows:

1. Number of cases of certain infectious diseases notified during the week, and for each of the three preceding weeks, in the Dublin Registration Area, urban districts of Dublin, cities of Belfast<sup>1</sup>, Cork, Londonderry<sup>1</sup>, Limerick and Waterford;
2. Number of cases of certain infectious diseases notified during the week tabulated for each of the sanitary districts of Dublin;
3. Number of cases of enteric fever, typhus, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and pneumonia treated in Dublin hospitals during the week, indicating, (a) number admitted, (b) number discharged, (c) died, (d) under treatment for each disease.

<sup>1</sup> The cities of Belfast and Londonderry were eliminated in 1922.

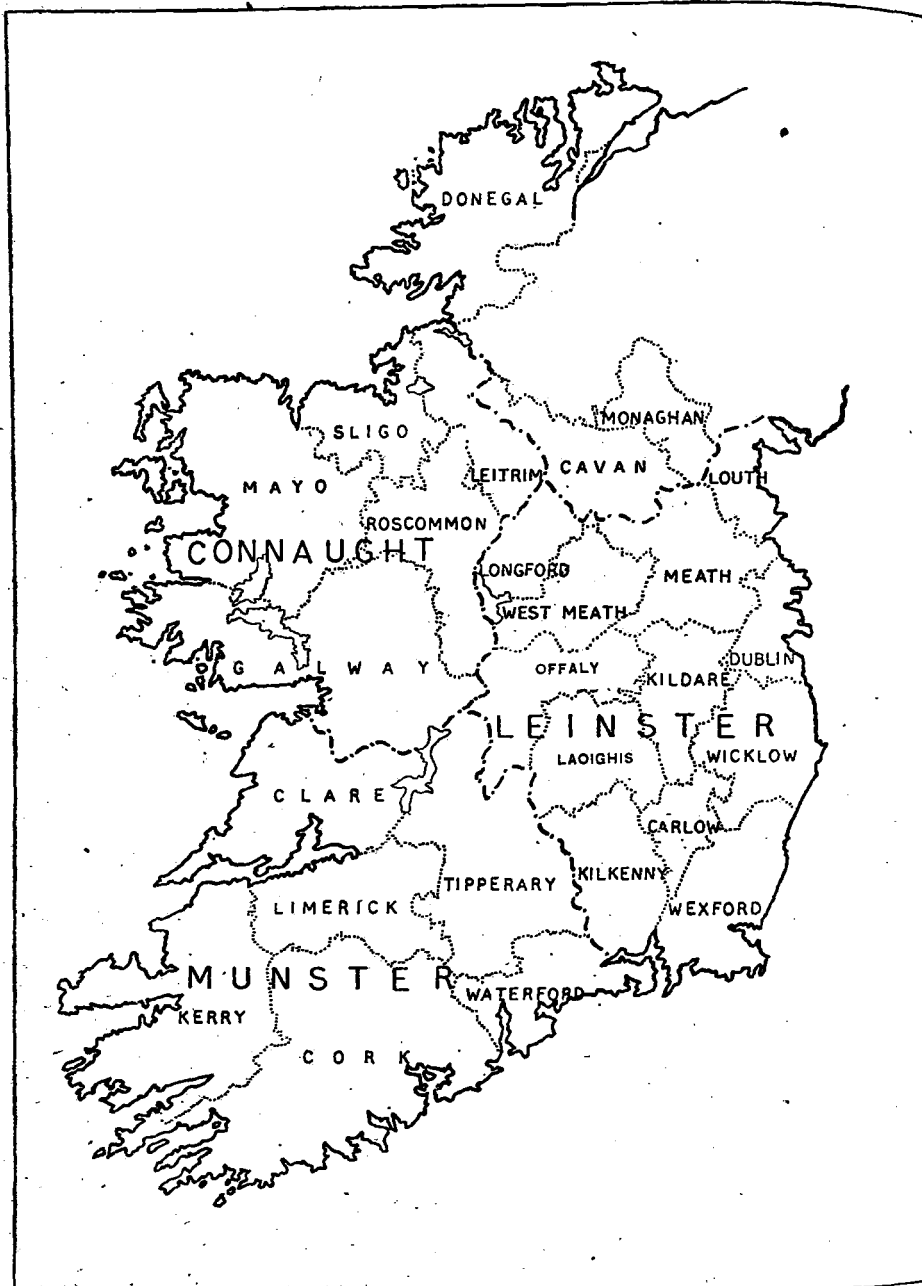
**Part II.**

---

**THE IRISH FREE STATE**

---

A MAP OF IRELAND, SHOWING THE PROVINCES AND COUNTIES OF  
THE IRISH FREE STATE



# The Irish Free State (Saorstát Eireann)

## I. INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The following section, relating to the Irish Free State, should be studied in conjunction with Part I, which describes in detail official vital statistics and organisation in Ireland prior to 1922. Neglect of this advice cannot fail to prove both unprofitable and misleading, since the present system is a continuation of that in use prior to 1922.

### AREA.

The area of Irish territory now known as "The Irish Free State" and of the provinces comprising the Free State, according to the Census of 1926 are as follows:

	ACRES
Province of Leinster. . . . .	4,851,136
Part of province of Ulster (counties of <i>Cavan</i> , <i>Donegal</i> and <i>Monaghan</i> ). . . . .	1,979,720
Province of Connaught. . . . .	4,230,822
Province of Munster. . . . .	5,982,803
	<u>17,024,481 *</u>

### POPULATION.

According to the census results of April 18th, 1926, the total population of the Irish Free State was stated to be as follows:

PROVINCES	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Munster . . . . .	493,628	476,274	969,902
Connaught . . . . .	284,453	268,454	552,907
Leinster. . . . .	573,900	575,192	1,149,092
Ulster (see above) . . . . .	154,908	145,183	300,091
Population of Free State. . . . .	<u>1,506,889</u>	<u>1,465,103</u>	<u>2,971,992</u>

### GOVERNMENT.

On the ratification of the Treaty of December 6th, 1921, the Irish Free State became "a co-equal member of the Community of Nations forming the British Commonwealth of Nations" (Article 1 of the Constitution). These States were declared by the Imperial Conference 1926 to be equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by

\* Exclusive of the areas of the larger lakes, rivers, and tideways.

a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The Constitution of the Irish Free State was enacted by an Act of Dáil Eireann on October 25th, 1922, and became effective on December 6th, 1922, the legislative authority being vested in the Oireachtas, which consists of the King, a Chamber of Deputies (Dáil Eireann) and a Senate (Seanad Eireann). The Governor-General is the representative of the King, and is appointed by His Majesty on the advice of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State.

*The Chamber of Deputies (Dáil Eireann).* The number of members of this chamber is regulated upon a population basis, and at present comprises 153 members elected by male and female voters in the various constituencies aged 21 years and over.

*The Senate (Seanad Eireann).* To be eligible for election to the Senate, persons must be aged 35 years or over, be eligible for election to the Dáil, and be otherwise qualified, in that they have rendered the nation honourable or valuable public service. There are at present sixty Senators. The normal term of office is to extend to twelve years. The executive authority of government is entrusted to a Council, comprising a President and other Ministers. Of these, the President is nominated by the Dáil; other members of the Council are nominated by the President, such nominations requiring the approval of the Dáil. So we have:

- (a) The Governor-General (see above) representing the Crown;
- (b) An Executive Council of Ministers, viz.:

The President;  
The Vice-President and Minister for Finance;  
The Minister for External Affairs;  
" " " Defence;  
" " " Justice;  
" " " Industry and Commerce;  
" " " Education;  
" " " Agriculture;  
" " " Local Government and Public Health;  
" " " Lands and Fisheries;  
" " " Posts and Telegraphs.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The powers and duties of local bodies in connection with local government administration are under the supervision and direction of the Department of Local Government and Public Health. But present-day organisation is the result of slow development and of many changes from earlier times. Beyond remarking that the existing authorities concerned with local administration are those of the county

councils and the urban and rural authorities, it is not our intention to attempt any description of the details of local government affairs, but to confine our attention to brief descriptions of the several areas, reminding the reader that the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 introduced important changes in territorial boundaries for the purpose of facilitating local government, so that comparisons with earlier data relating to particular areas should be made with the greatest caution.

*The Townlands.* These are the units of territory, the smallest areas referred to in statistical publications, and the units from which all other larger divisions of territory are built up.

*The Baronies.* These ancient Irish areas are composed of groups of townlands.

*The Counties.* These larger territorial divisions are composed of groups of baronies.

*The Provinces.* Comprising groups of counties.

In addition to the areas described above, the country is further divided for special purposes into:

1. District electoral divisions (formerly Poor Law areas);
2. Registrars' districts, which embrace groups of district electoral divisions;
3. Superintendent registrars' districts, generally co-extensive with the boundaries of the Poor Law Unions<sup>1</sup>;
4. County electoral divisions, *i.e.*, each comprising a number of district electoral divisions;
5. County districts, subdivided into urban and rural areas;
6. Parliamentary divisions;
7. Ecclesiastical dioceses.

For vital statistical purposes, the units of particular importance are the townland, barony, county, province and the registration areas (*e.g.*, 2 and 3 above), to which reference has already been made.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Each of these areas was not in all cases situated wholly in one county.

<sup>2</sup> Data are not always tabulated for each of these divisions separately; the various classifications are referred to in the summarised contents of official publications, which appear in the following pages.

## 2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

With the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, the powers formerly exercised under the various sanitary measures applicable to Ireland were eventually transferred to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health, who became responsible for the general administration of all measures relating to public health throughout the country. The new administration provided for a complete unification and consolidation of all health services and vital statistics. From the point of view of medical statistics, under the new organisation the office and activities of the General Register Office, formerly an independent unit, came under the control of, and in direct liaison with, the central health authority of the country.

The Department of Local Government and Public Health as constituted by the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924, comprises the administration and business generally of public services in connection with local government, including matters relating to public health, relief of the poor, care of the insane (including insane criminals), health insurance, registration of births, deaths and marriages, vital statistics, and all powers, duties and functions in connection with the same: it includes, in particular, the business, powers, duties and functions of the branches and officers of the public service specified in the third part of the schedule to the Act, viz.:

1. The Local Government Board for Ireland, including appeals under the Old Age Pensions Act;
2. The inspectors of lunatic asylums in Ireland;
3. National Health Insurance Commission;
4. The Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages in Ireland;
5. Roads Department (formerly Ministry of Transport);
6. General Nursing Council and Central Midwives Board, etc.

The Local Government Act 1925 brought about a fundamental change in the local sanitary administration of rural areas, apart from County Dublin, by concentrating the functions of the former rural district councils as sanitary authorities in the hands of a single sanitary authority, viz., the Board of Health in each county. The effect of this change has been to replace 157 rural councils by 28 boards of health. Briefly, the present health organisation of the Irish Free State comprises:

1. A central controlling authority;
  2. Seventy urban sanitary authorities;
  3. Twenty-six boards of health (exclusive of Dublin);
  4. Five Rural District Councils (Co. Dublin).
-



### 3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS.

Under the provisions of the Adaptation of Enactments (Births, Deaths and Marriages) Order 1923, certain changes and amendments in the terms of former measures relating to the registration of births, deaths and marriages, necessary to the changed conditions of government, were provided for. For all practical purposes, however, these adaptations left unaffected the system controlling the registration of vital facts, and the registration authorities continued their activities along lines similar to those prevailing under the former system of administration, while the Registration Acts of 1863 and 1880 were adopted and became applicable throughout the Irish Free State. Under the terms of the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924, the department of the Registrar-General became a branch of the Department of Local Government and Public Health, while, under the Statistics Act 1926, the Minister of Industry and Commerce became responsible for the statistics of population (*i.e.*, the census). A short outline of the statistical history of Ireland, together with a detailed description of the system applied to the registration of births and deaths is presented in Part I, pp. 17-21 of the present volume, to which the reader is referred, as repetition of these sections is unnecessary.

---

#### 4. THE POPULATION OF THE IRISH FREE STATE.

##### THE CENSUS.

Among the many changes introduced by the central authorities after the establishment of the Irish Free State was the centralisation in 1923 of all economic statistics in a statistical branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce. Following this reorganisation of service, the *Acht Staitistiochta* (Statistics Act 1926) was promulgated on March 18th, 1926, and provided the Minister for Industry and Commerce with comprehensive and compulsory powers for the collection and compilation of all classes of economic and other statistics, among which were included statistics of the population of the country. Under the authority of this Act, the Statistics (Census of Population) Order (*Ant Ordú Staitistiochta, Moráireamh Nan Daoine*), dated March 22nd, 1926, made by the Minister, provided for the enumeration of the population on Sunday, April 18th, 1926, and specified in detail the nature of the information which was to be obtained of each person during the operation, and the persons, or classes of persons, by whom returns were to be made. The Order provided that the census enumerators throughout the country should be members of the *Gárda Síochána* (Civic Guard), which body of men had succeeded the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police, who had at former censuses been responsible for these duties. The system of organisation throughout was substantially the same as that which had been followed on previous census occasions, for full particulars of which the reader is referred to p. 25 of the present volume. Forms and instructions to householders and other responsible parties were printed for the first time in both Irish and English.

The family returns required the following particulars:

1. Name and christian name;
2. Relationship to head of household;
3. Age;
4. Sex;
5. Marriage or orphanhood;
6. Birthplace;
7. Irish language;
8. Religion;
9. Personal occupation;
10. Industry;
11. Unemployment;
12. Dependency;
13. Fertility of marriage;
14. Area of agricultural holdings.

This form required a signed declaration by both the head of the household and the responsible enumerator for the area when the schedule had been correctly filled up.

Completed returns were forwarded to the statistics branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce, where they were further examined and final tabulations and calculations made.

The preliminary report of the results of this census was published during August 1926. It is the intention of the authorities to publish the final results in volumes, each of which will contain detailed information for the country as a whole, on one or more particular subjects, and not, as formerly, by the issue of county volumes. Three of these volumes have already appeared; a summary of their contents and of those of the Preliminary Report are given in the following pages.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION  
RELATING TO THE POPULATION OF THE IRISH FREE STATE.

*Census of the Population of the Irish Free State 1926.*

*Preliminary Report.* This small volume contains a summary of the preliminary results of the census, and in the first part of the text, examines and discusses the following data:

1. Number of thousands of persons living in types of towns of specified population groups, "country districts of the Irish Free State", 1841-1926;
2. Percentage changes by types of district (*i.e.*, according to population groups), 1841-61, 1861-1926, 1841-1926;
3. Population of Ireland, the Irish Free State, and of Northern Ireland, at a series of census years, with intercensal increases or decreases per cent, 1821-1926;
4. Comparisons of the rates of change in the population of different countries, average annual increase or decrease per thousand population, and persons per square mile in each;
5. Average annual births, deaths and net emigration for each of the intercensal periods 1871-1926;
6. Number of persons, natives of European countries, living overseas, expressed as percentages of the population of their mother countries;
7. Number of females per thousand males in Ireland, the Irish Free State, Northern Ireland and in each Province, 1821-1926;
8. Male and female populations, and the number of females per thousand males, in different types of localities in the Irish Free State, 1926;
9. Changes in provincial populations in the Irish Free State, 1821-1926;
10. Rates of change of population, and rates of net emigration, in the provinces and counties of the Irish Free State, 1901-11, 1911-26;

11. Percentage changes in the population of the county boroughs and urban districts in the Irish Free State, 1911-26.

The tabular matter in this volume provides the following information:

1. Total population of the Irish Free State and the provinces therein at each census period 1821-1926, tabulated by sex, giving proportion of females per thousand males;

2. Total population at each census period since 1841 in the Irish Free State, tabulated by county and town populations in each type of district in each province (that is, by population groups);

3. Total population in 1911 and 1926 in the Irish Free State, in each province and in urban and rural districts, tabulated by sex, with actual and percentage increase or decrease of population in each;

4. Total population at each census period since 1841 of cities and towns which had a population of over 1,500 in 1926.

VOLUME I. — Population, area and valuation of each district electoral division and each larger unit of area.

1. Population of Irish Free State provinces and counties at each Census from 1821 to 1926.

2. Births, marriages and deaths during each intercensal period from 1871 to 1926 for the Irish Free State and provinces. Actual figures and rates.

3. Births, marriages and deaths during the latest intercensal period for superintendent registrar's districts. Actual numbers and rates.

4. Population in 1926 of each town of 200 inhabitants and over.

5. Population in 1911 and 1926 (male and female), area and valuation of the following units of area: — Oireachtas constituencies; county and borough electoral areas; boroughs, urban districts and other towns possessing local government; rural districts; dispensary, registrar's and superintendent registrar's districts; district electoral divisions and towns (down to the smallest cluster of 20 houses or more).

VOLUME II. — Occupations of males and females in each province, county, county borough, urban and rural district.

Figures are given in full detail for the Irish Free State and for each province, county and county borough. Broader classifications are used for smaller areas. A detailed classification of farming occupations (by size of farms) is given for rural districts.

VOLUME III. — Part. I. — *Religions.*

1. Males and Females in each religion in the Irish Free State, provinces and counties at each Census 1861 to 1926. Intercensal percentage changes and proportionate distributions.

2. Population by religions in rural and town areas in the Irish Free State and provinces. Intercensal percentage changes 1911-1926 and proportionate distribution in 1926.

3. Contrast between types of towns.
4. Number of persons of each religion in each city and town of 1,500 population and over in 1926.
5. Number of persons of each religion in each Dail constituency, urban and rural districts and district electoral division in 1926.
6. Ages of persons of each religion in the Irish Free State and counties in 1926.
7. Occupations of persons of each religion in the Irish Free State. County and provincial figures for farming occupations (by size of farms).

Part II. — *Birthplaces.*

1. Detailed birthplaces of males and females and total persons residing in the Irish Free State in 1926.
2. Birthplaces of the population of Irish Free State provinces and counties at each Census from 1841 to 1926.
3. Birthplaces of persons by types of towns, towns of 1,500 population or more, urban and rural districts in 1926.
4. Birthplaces table indicating migration within Irish Free State of males and females born in each county.
5. Ages of males and females by birthplaces in the Irish Free State provinces and counties and in town and rural areas in each province.
6. Occupations of males and females by birthplaces in the Irish Free State. County and provincial figures for farmers (by size of farms).

*The Publications of the Registrar-General.*

The reader is referred to pp. 33, 34 of the present volume for the earlier history and former contents of these publications. With the establishment of the Irish Free State the following changes were introduced:

*Annual Reports of the Registrar-General.*

The following information is given relating to the Irish Free State:

1. Estimated population at the middle of the year;
2. Estimated population at the middle of each year for a series of years, with distinction of sex;
3. Population according to the results of the last census, tabulated for each province, county, and county borough in the Irish Free State;
4. The population of the Irish Free State at each of a series of censuses, tabulated by sex; further by sex, and at quinquennial age-periods, according to the results of the 1911 census.

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

From 1922, the weekly return related to twelve principal towns in the Irish Free State, seven of the towns formerly dealt with in it being included in Northern

Ireland. The number of towns was further reduced in 1927 to eleven, owing to the fact that the population of one of them (Clonmel) fell to below 10,000. For comparative purposes, particulars of the cities of Belfast and Londonderry are shown.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Summary of Weekly Returns.*

In 1922, the quarterly summary was embodied in the quarterly return (see below) and related only to the Irish Free State.

*The Registrar-General's Yearly Summary of the Weekly Returns.*

In 1922, the yearly summary was embodied in the fourth quarterly return for that year, but remaining a distinct entity and relating only to the *Irish Free State*. The table showing particulars for the urban districts, formerly appearing in the quarterly return, was placed in the yearly summary.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths.*

In 1922, the quarterly return related only to the Irish Free State, the quarterly summaries of the weekly returns being amalgamated with this return.

---

## 5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN THE IRISH FREE STATE.

### GENERAL.

Upon the establishment of the Irish Free State, legislative measures were introduced to provide for the adoption of the Registration Acts of 1863 and 1880, and for the continuance of the functions and powers of the department of the Registrar-General, and of the whole system which had been established for registration services since the introduction of compulsory civil registration in 1864. For all practical purposes, the present system is identical with that which functioned prior to 1922. For details of the system, procedure, regulations and official schedules employed, the reader is referred to pp. 35-41 of the present volume.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE IRISH FREE STATE.

##### *The Annual Reports of the Registrar-General.*

In 1922, there was some slight change in the title of the annual report, which for the future became known as the "Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Saorstát Eireann" (i.e., the Irish Free State). The contents of the volume followed the plan adopted in issues prior to 1922, but in general was restricted to the supply of information relating to the Irish Free State.

1923. Until this year, births and deaths were referred to areas in which birth or death occurred; that is, to the localities in which they were registered, no correction being made for births or deaths occurring in hospitals, institutions, etc. In 1923 commenced the practice of allocating births and deaths occurring in institutions and elsewhere to the areas of normal residence of the mother or deceased person respectively.

Additional information provides particulars of deaths by causes for each county and county borough in the Irish Free State, tabulated by sex, age and place of occurrence.

##### *The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

In 1922, by the establishment of Northern Ireland, which contained seven of the principal towns, the weekly return related to only twelve of the towns in the Irish Free State. For comparative purposes, particulars of Belfast and Londonderry were shown.

##### *The Registrar-General's Quarterly Summary of the Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths.*

In 1922, the quarterly summary was assimilated with the quarterly return, and related only to the Irish Free State; the occupation mortality table for Dublin Registration Area was discontinued.

*The Registrar-General's Yearly Summaries of the Weekly  
Returns of Births and Deaths.*

In 1922 the yearly summary was embodied in the fourth quarterly return of that year, but remained a distinct entity; it related only to the Irish Free State. The table showing particulars for the urban districts of the whole country, formerly appearing in the quarterly return, was now placed with the yearly summary, and the particulars relating to the twelve towns which already appeared therein were not now shown in a separate table. The occupation table was discontinued.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths.*

In 1922, the quarterly return was confined to presenting information relating to the Irish Free State. The quarterly summaries of the weekly returns were amalgamated with the return (see description of the quarterly summary). In the fourth quarterly return of the same year, the yearly summary of the weekly returns was also embodied, but as a distinct section; the annual urban table was transferred to this section (see description of yearly summary). Reference to emigration was discontinued.



### 6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### GENERAL.

Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1925 provided that the undermentioned measures should be effective throughout the Irish Free State from and after the passing of the Act:

1. Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889;
2. Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890;
3. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, Part III;
4. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, Parts IV and V;
5. Tuberculosis Prevention (Ireland) Act 1908, Part I.

The procedure followed in the notification of infectious diseases has been described in some detail in pp. 65-69 of the present volume.

#### TRANSMISSION OF DATA IN THE IRISH FREE STATE.

Weekly returns of all notifications of infectious disease are forwarded to the Department of Local Government and Public Health, the following schedules being provided by that service:

.....District (here insert whether urban or rural).  
 .....Dispensary District.

Report on the occurrence of a case of infectious disease in compliance with the requirements of Article 15 (6) of the Local Government Board's Sanitary Order of May 3rd, 1900.

Date.	Name of patient	Age.	Address.	Nature of infectious disease.	Probable source of infection.	Steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Under this heading the Medical Officer of Health should be careful to state whether the patient has been properly isolated or removed to hospital under the provisions of Section 141 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878.

Date.....

.....  
Medical Officer of Health.

.....  
(Postal Address)

SAORSTÁT EIREANN

SPECIAL REPORT OF CASE OF TYPHUS FEVER

.....District

Name and Address of Patient.	Sex	Age.
Whether removed to hospital . . . . .		
Other preventive measures, including disposal of infected bedding and clothing. . . . .		
Sanitary condition of house. . . . .		
Number of rooms in house. . . . .		
Number of inmates of house . . . . .		
Verminous condition of inmates. . . . .		
Cattle housed in dwelling . . . . .		
Any recent history of: (a) Contact with previous case. . . . . (b) Deaths from influenza, pneumonia or ill-defined fever . . . . . (c) Attendance at wake. . . . . (d) Purchase of second-hand clothing. . . . .		
Any further observations. . . . .		

(Signed).....  
Medical Officer of Health.

Date.....

The Department of Local Government and Public Health,  
Custom House,  
DUBLIN.

SAORSTÁT EIREANN

REPORT OF CASE OF SMALLPOX

.....District

Name and Address of Patient.	Sex.	Age.	Date of first appearance of rash.	Date of first attendance.
Whether removed to hospital; if so, name. . . . .				
Other preventive measures . . . . .				
Contacts: (a) Number . . . . . (b) Whether protected by recent vaccination. (c) Arrangements of control . . . . .				
Character and condition of home. . . . .				
Occupation and workplace of patient. . . . .				
Probable source of infection . . . . .				
Recent movements of patient. . . . .				
Type of disease . . . . .	Discrete. Confluent, Hæmorrhagic <sup>1</sup> .			
Evidence of vaccination, number of marks, if any . . . . .				
Any further observations. . . . .				

<sup>1</sup> Delete as necessary.

(Signed).....  
Medical Officer of Health.

Date.....

To the Department of Local Government and Public Health,  
Custom House,  
DUBLIN.

**SAORSTÁT EIREANN**  
(Irish Free State).

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

**RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE REPORTED DURING  
WEEK ENDED THE.....19.....**

District.	Cerebro-spinal meningitis.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Diphtheria.	Scarlatina.	Other diseases.

Department of Local Government and Public Health.  
DUBLIN.

Weekly returns of cases of infectious disease occurring in towns referred to in the weekly return are also forwarded to the Registrar-General, the following forms being used for this purpose:

**NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN  
FOR THE WEEK ENDED.....19.....**

Districts.	Enteric or typhoid fever.	Typhus.	Pyrexia or continued fever.	Smallpox.
North City, No. 1 East . . . .				
"      1 West . . . .				
"      2 . . . .				
"      3 . . . .				
Clontarf and Howth, No. 1 (part of) . . . .				
Coolock and Drumcondra (part of) . . . .				
Finglas and Glasnevin (part of).				
South City, No. 1 . . . .				
"      2 . . . .				
"      3 . . . .				
"      4 . . . .				
New Kilmainham . . . .				
Total . . . .				

Scarlet fever.....  
 Diphtheria.....  
 Membranous croup.....  
 Erysipelas.....  
 Puerperal fever.....  
 Dysentery.....  
 Malaria.....  
 Ophthalmia neonatorum.....  
 Acute primary pneumonia.....  
 Acute influenzal pneumonia.....  
 Cerebro-spinal fever.....  
 Acute poliomyelitis.....  
 Encephalitis lethargica.....  
 Varicella.....  
 Tuberculosis.....  
 Total.....

URBAN DISTRICT OF.....

Sir,

I beg to inform you that the following cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the week ended Saturday, the..... day of..... 19.....

	Enteric or typhoid fever.	Typhus.	Pyrexia or continued fever.	Relapsing fever.	Smallpox.	Measles <sup>1</sup> .
Number of cases notified during the week ended the..... day of..... 19.....						

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

*(Signed)*.....

Executive Sanitary Officer

The Registrar-General,  
 Charlemont House.

.....Date.

<sup>1</sup> Diseases continue in separate columns as follows:

Scarlet fever,  
 Bubonic plague,  
 Puerperal fever,  
 Malaria,  
 Trench fever,  
 Tuberculosis,  
 Whooping-cough,

Erysipelas,  
 Diarrhoeal diseases,  
 Acute primary pneumonia,  
 Acute influenzal pneumonia,  
 Diphtheria,  
 Rubella or epidemic rose,  
 Rash,

Cerebro-spinal fever,  
 Membranous croup,  
 Varicella,  
 Dysentery,  
 Acute poliomyelitis.

And total number of cases of infectious diseases.

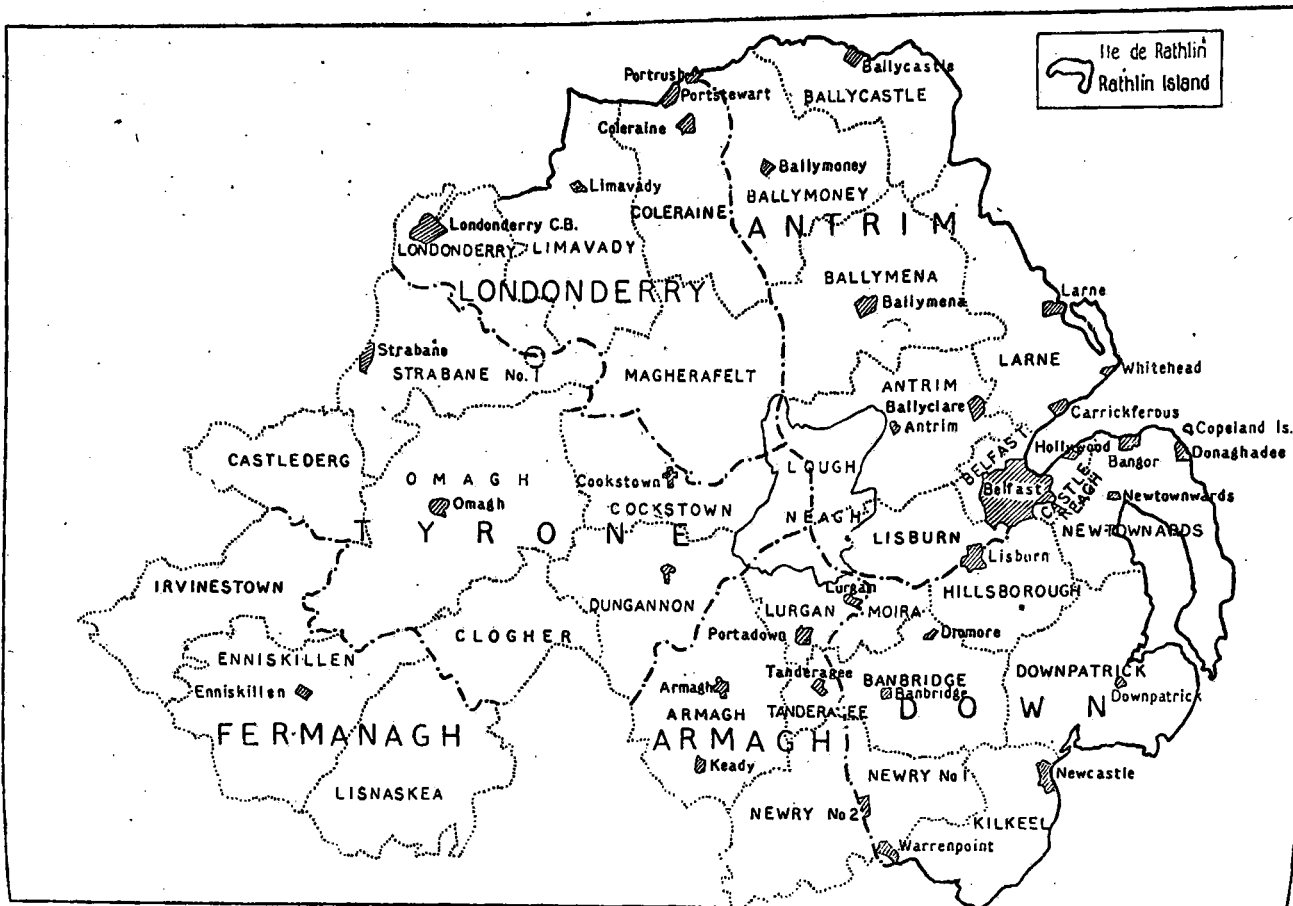
**Part III.**

---

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

---

MAP OF NORTHERN IRELAND SHOWING THE SIX COUNTIES  
AND TWO COUNTY BOROUGHS OF BELFAST AND LONDONDERRY



LEGEND:

Counties: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rural Districts: .....  
 Urban Districts: Shaded areas

# Northern Ireland

## 1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The following section relating to Northern Ireland should be studied in conjunction with Part I, which describes in detail official vital statistics and organisation in Ireland prior to 1922. Neglect of this advice may lead to misunderstanding since the present system is a continuation of that in use prior to 1922.

### AREA.

Northern Ireland comprises the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone, and the county boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry, the area of the whole territory (including the larger rivers, lakes, and tideways) and of its component parts being as follows:

	ACRES.
Antrim County . . . . .	702,856
Armagh County . . . . .	312,773
Down County . . . . .	608,861
Fermanagh County . . . . .	420,211
Londonderry County . . . . .	512,494
Tyrone County . . . . .	779,563
Belfast County Borough . . . . .	14,797
Londonderry County Borough . . . . .	2,199
Total area . . . . .	3,353,754 (5,240 sq. miles)

### POPULATION.

A census of the population of Northern Ireland was taken on April 18th-19th, 1926, the following results appearing in the "County Reports on the Census of Northern Ireland 1926":

AREA.	MALES.	FEMALES.	PERSONS.
Antrim County . . . . .	92,596	99,047	191,643
Armagh County . . . . .	53,609	56,461	110,070
Down County . . . . .	101,202	108,026	209,228
Fermanagh County . . . . .	30,102	27,882	57,984
Londonderry County . . . . .	47,119	47,415	94,534
Tyrone County . . . . .	67,136	65,656	132,792
Belfast County Borough . . . . .	195,539	219,612	415,151
Londonderry County Borough . . . . .	20,785	24,374	45,159
Total population . . . . .	608,088	648,473	1,256,561



### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

Under the Government of Ireland Act 1920 (later amended in accordance with the terms of the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Act 1922), a separate Parliament and executive Government were established in Northern Ireland, the legislative authority being vested in a Parliament, comprising the King, the Senate of Northern Ireland and the House of Commons of Northern Ireland, this Parliament having specially defined powers relating to its legislative authority within the territory. In addition, Northern Ireland is represented in the Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by thirteen members returned from Northern Ireland constituencies.

The executive power is vested in the King, being exercised by the Governor, to whom, as the representative of the Crown, such powers are delegated, and to the Ministers of the various departmental services of the Government, who form the Cabinet of Northern Ireland. This Cabinet comprises:

1. The Prime Minister;
2. The Minister of Finance;
3. „ „ Home Affairs;
4. „ „ Labour;
5. „ „ Education;
6. „ „ Agriculture;
7. „ „ Commerce.

The two Chambers comprising the Legislature of Northern Ireland are:

(a) *The Senate*, consisting of twenty-six members. Of these, the Lord Mayors of Belfast and Londonderry are, by virtue of their public offices, *ex-officio* members of the Senate, the remaining twenty-four being elected by the House of Commons. Elected Senators hold office for eight years, one-half of the elected members retiring at the end of every fourth year;

(b) *The House of Commons* consisting of fifty-two members. The law governing the qualification of Parliamentary electors for the Parliament of Northern Ireland is, save in two particulars, similar to the corresponding law relating to electors for the Parliament of the United Kingdom. These two particulars are: (1) Peers are not disqualified as such for being registered as electors, and (2) no person is entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector in respect of a residence qualification unless he or she has been a resident in the United Kingdom for the whole of the three years ending on the last day of the qualifying period.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Although the Government of Ireland Act 1920 provided for the establishment of a separate Government in Northern Ireland, its provisions did not disturb existing

local government institutions, which were organised on the system introduced by the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. Under this system, for purposes of local government, Northern Ireland comprises six administrative counties, two county boroughs (e.g., Belfast and Londonderry), one Municipal borough (i.e., Bangor), thirty-one urban districts, and thirty-two rural districts, each of these areas being administered by popularly elected local councils, viz.:

(a) *County councils*, one for each of the administrative counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone. To such councils is entrusted the administrative and financial control of the county as a whole, including such matters as public health, the maintenance of infirmaries and fever hospitals, etc., and the establishment of a County Board of Health.

(b) *County borough councils*, one for each of the county boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry. These possess the same powers and authority within their areas as do the county councils, of which they are entirely independent.

(c) *Municipal Borough Council*, one for the municipal borough of Bangor. This council constitutes the rating and sanitary authority in the municipal borough.

(d) *Urban District Councils*, one for each of the thirty-one towns constituting urban areas within Northern Ireland. Such councils constitute the rating authority in the urban district, and are also the sanitary authorities within these areas (Section 32 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898).

(e) *Rural District Councils*, one for each of the thirty-two rural areas of the province. These councils constitute the sanitary authority in each rural area (Section 32 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898).

In addition to the above authorities, mention must be made of the Boards of Guardians in the twenty-seven Poor Law Union areas. These are responsible for the provision and upkeep of local register offices, for the preservation of records, and for the payments of certain fees to the registration officers, who, in the majority of cases, are officers of the board in other capacities.

These boards of guardians comprise the rural district councillors, together with representatives of the electoral divisions of any urban areas falling within the boundaries of the Poor Law Union.

---

## 2. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

There is no independent Ministry of Health in Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Home Affairs constituting the central administrative authority, responsible for the administration of services concerned with poor relief, public health, housing, roads, lunatic asylums, poisons, drugs, vivisection and other miscellaneous matters. Local health services are, under the supervision of the central authority, administered by the urban and rural district councils. Certain special health responsibilities fall within the jurisdiction of the county, and county borough, councils. The National Health Insurance Acts are administered by the Ministry of Labour. Briefly, the present health organisation of Northern Ireland comprises:

1. A central authority (Ministry of Home Affairs);
2. Two county borough councils;
3. One borough (non-county) council;
4. Six county councils;
5. Thirty-one urban district councils; and
6. Thirty-two rural district councils.

The Public Health Code comprises the Public Health Act 1878, the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889, the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1899, and the various amending sanitary Acts and regulations which have been promulgated from time to time since those dates. We have already made reference to these sanitary measures (see pp. 15-16, 65-69) and repetition is unnecessary, since the original powers conferred upon the various controlling authorities, and the duties for which they were responsible prior to the establishment of a separate Government in Northern Ireland, were assumed, and continued to be exercised in a similar manner, by the newly created authorities in the province.

Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the Administration of Local Government Services.

First volume (covering the period December 1st, 1921 to March 31st, 1923), published in October, 1924, since published annually.

This publication gives information regarding the number of sick in Workhouse Infirmaries and Fever Hospitals, the number of persons attended in their own homes by Dispensary Medical Officers, the number of deaths in Workhouses (including Workhouse Infirmaries), the number of cases of infectious disease notified, and notes on the administration of Public Health Services generally.

### 3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, STATISTICS.

With the establishment of a separate Government in Northern Ireland, steps were taken to provide for the transfer of the responsibility for the administration of services formerly carried out by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Dublin to an authority in Northern Ireland. Under the terms of the notification of the Lord Lieutenant, June 7th, 1921, the Minister of Finance was made primarily responsible for these duties. The Ministries of Northern Ireland Act 1921 enacted that the department of the Registrar-General should be merged in the Ministry of Finance, while the transfer to the Government of Northern Ireland of the functions and powers formerly exercised by the Registrar-General in Dublin was effected on January 1st, 1922, by an Order in Council dated November 9th, 1921. For the earlier history of the development of vital statistical services in Ireland, the reader is referred to pp. 17-21, 35-54 of the present volume.

---

#### 4. THE POPULATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

##### THE CENSUS.

The preliminary to the enumeration of the population in 1926 was the promulgation of the Census Act (Northern Ireland) of November 10th, 1925, which provided for the enumeration of the population in the area on Sunday, April 18th, 1926. The central authority controlling this operation was the Ministry of Finance, and, within that Ministry, the department of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Northern Ireland was required to make all necessary arrangements for the carrying out of this operation.

The country was divided into census districts, each of which comprised a constabulary district controlled by officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The census districts were further subdivided into enumeration areas, each of these smaller divisions being placed in the charge of a sergeant or constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The actual operation was most carefully organised and the delivery and collection of the schedules prescribed by the Census Act was clearly defined in the regulations issued by the Registrar-General for this purpose. It was arranged that the distribution and collection of schedules should be spread over a limited period of time, with definite duties allocated to particular days within that period, as may be seen from the following detailed instructions which were issued for the operation:

Monday, April 12th. Enumerators to deliver schedules during the week beginning at this date.

Saturday, April 17th. Enumerators to complete the delivery of all schedules on or before this date.

Sunday, April 18th. *The Census Day.* Every person alive in Northern Ireland at midnight to be enumerated.

Monday, April 19th. Enumerators to collect schedules from all hotels, clubs, boarding-houses, lodging-houses and vessels on this date; and thereafter to continue the collection from all other premises.

Saturday, April 24th. Collection of schedules in county boroughs and urban districts to be completed on or before this date.

Wednesday, April 28th. Collection of schedules in rural districts to be completed on or before this date.

Saturday, May 8th. Superintendents to collect from enumerators their schedules, enumeration books, and census material on or before this date.

Monday, June 7th. Superintendents to forward to the census office by this date their final instalments of schedule volumes, enumeration books, and census material.

The census schedule<sup>1</sup> required in respect of each person alive at midnight on the night of Sunday, April 18th, whether a member of the family, visitor, boarder or servant, in the household or establishment, the following information:

1. Name and surname;
2. Relation to the head of the household;
3. Age (in years and months);
4. Sex;
5. Marital Condition in respect of persons aged 16 years and over, and Orphanhood in respect of children aged under 16 years (stating "both alive", if both parents were alive, or "father dead", "mother dead", "both dead", as the case may be);
6. Place of birth (for Northern Ireland, county, town or townland; elsewhere, name of country);
7. Nationality, also (in respect of foreign-born persons) whether resident or a visitor in Northern Ireland;
8. Religion;
9. School, indicating kind of school at which education was being received;
10. Personal occupation, *e.g.*, precise branch of manufacture, trade, service, etc.; retired persons were required to state former occupation, followed by the word "retired"; apprentice or learner, indicated by the appropriate word;
11. Employer's name and business, *e.g.*, name and business of employer; if unemployed, name and business of last employer, adding "out of work"; if employing others, "employer"; if working on own account "own account"; domestic servants, "private";
12. Whether entitled to benefit under National Insurance Acts;
13. Infirmities, if any.

On the conclusion of the operation, enumerators were required to prepare in a prescribed fashion a summary of the results of the census in the area for which they were responsible, but it is unnecessary to specify the nature of these summaries in detail.

Completed forms, together with all household schedules, were required to be forwarded to the Registrar-General, who was responsible for the preparation of abstracts and reports on the total census results. Particulars of the contents of the results of the first census of Northern Ireland will be found below.

<sup>1</sup> Particulars were also required in respect of married men, widowers and widows, the number and ages of all living children and step-children under 16 years of age, whether enumerated on the same schedule or not, *i. e.*, whether residing as a member of that household or elsewhere.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION  
RELATING TO THE POPULATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

*The Preliminary Report of the Census of Northern Ireland 1926.*

This publication comprises a summary analysis of the preliminary results of the census by the Registrar-General, who discusses the population and variations in administrative areas within the territory; the distribution of the population in urban and rural areas; density of population, habitable buildings and accommodation; proportion of females to males, etc.

The tabular matter contained in the report is as follows: Population in Northern Ireland according to the results of each census 1841-1926. Increase or decrease of population since preceding census (absolute numbers and percentages), all with distinction of sex. Number of females per thousand males at each census date.

Population in Northern Ireland, according to the results of each census 1841-1926; increase or decrease of population 1911-26, tabulated by counties, without distinction of sex.

Population and acreage in Northern Ireland according to the censuses of 1911 and 1926, tabulated for counties, county boroughs, urban and rural districts; sex distinction; intercensal variations, persons only.

Population according to the censuses of 1901, 1911 and 1926, tabulated by counties, county boroughs, urban and rural districts, and wards of county boroughs, arranged according to rates of variation in the period 1911 to 1926 (persons only).

Population per acre, habitable dwellings and accommodation, according to the results of the census 1926, tabulated for counties, county boroughs, urban and rural districts, and wards of county boroughs.

Number of habitable buildings, 1911 and 1926, classified by total, inhabited and uninhabited buildings for each county. Similar information is presented for Northern Ireland as a whole at each census date, 1841-1926.

Number of families (consisting of one, two, three, etc., persons) dwelling in tenements of one room, classified by wards of county boroughs for:

(a) Families which include persons of different sex aged 15 and over who are not husband and wife.

(b) Families which do not include such persons.

Numbers of tenements of one room (occupied by families of one, two, three, etc., persons), 1911 and 1926, classified by wards of county boroughs.

Numbers of persons aged 70 years and over, 1861-1926, tabulated by counties.

*Census Reports for Each County and Belfast County Borough.*

These volumes contain final figures of population and housing for the smaller administrative areas, including townlands; and tables dealing with ages and marital condition of the people, education, occupations, industries, birthplaces, religious professions, orphanhood, and persons suffering from infirmities, together with

statistical notes on some of the more outstanding features disclosed by the tables. Each volume contains a section devoted to definitions and explanations of the terms used in the reports.

The tabular matter contained in the county reports is as follows:

Area of county in 1926 showing acreage under crops, etc.

Population of county by sex at each of the censuses 1821-1926.

Area, population (by sex), houses (inhabited, uninhabited, and building), accommodation (number of private families, population in private families, rooms occupied, and rooms per person), and rateable valuation for 1926, together with total population and houses for 1911, tabulated by county, urban districts, rural districts, county and district electoral divisions, townlands, poor law unions, dispensary districts, and wards of county boroughs.

Private families, size, rooms occupied, population living therein, and density of occupation; and inhabited private houses and rooms therein, tabulated by urban and rural districts and wards of county boroughs.

Inhabited institutions and buildings other than private houses; total population and inmates thereof by sex for each urban and rural district and wards of county boroughs.

Persons attending various kinds of educational establishments by sex and age for each county and regional education area.

Occupations by sex, occupational status, and national health insurance for each county and county aggregate of urban and rural areas, and by sex, marital condition, and age for Belfast County Borough.

Industries by sex for each county.

Birthplaces by sex for each county.

Religious professions by sex for each urban and rural district and wards of county boroughs.

Orphanhood of children under 16 by sex and age for each county.

Persons suffering from infirmities (deaf and dumb, dumb only, blind, crippled, and mentally afflicted) by sex, marital condition, and age, and numbers of such persons in institutions and asylums, for each county.

#### *General Census Report for Northern Ireland.*

This report will cover in more detail the statistics shown in the county volumes, and contain in addition a report on the administrative work of taking the census and tables showing:

- (i) the occupational distribution of persons engaged in each of 51 groups of industries;
- (ii) the distribution of the foreign-born population by nationality, age, marital condition, and occupation;
- (iii) the distribution of families of dependent children under 16, by age, sex, marital condition, and occupation of parent;



- (iv) fertility rates for married persons;
- (v) the occupational distribution of persons suffering from infirmities.

The report will also contain a copy of the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1925, the householder's schedule used for the census enquiry, and the instructions issued to census enumerators and superintendents of enumeration.

*Annual Reports of Registrar-General in Northern Ireland.*

The first of these reports relates to the year 1922 (for contents of former annual reports see pp. 33-34 of this manual). Each report contains a detailed analysis of the figures relating to the movement of population during the period under review, the tabular information being as follows:

1. Area and population according to the results of the last census, this information being tabulated for Northern Ireland, counties and superintendent registrar's districts;
2. Population in Northern Ireland according to the results of a series of censuses, with distinction of sex. Estimated population at the middle of each year for a series of years, with distinction of sex;
3. Population according to the results of the last census classified by sex and age (at each year of life to five years, thereafter in five-yearly age periods).

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

This leaflet refers only to the principal towns in Northern Ireland. The total population of each town is given, and the population of each registrar's district in the county borough of Belfast; while, for comparative purposes, the population of Dublin, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow are included.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland.*

These returns include tables showing:

1. Population according to the results of the last census for each county borough and urban district, and for the aggregate of all rural districts. Similar information for the County Borough of Belfast, and for each registrar's district within that area;
  2. Area and population of Northern Ireland, each county and superintendent registrar's district, and for the Irish Free State.
-

## 5. VITAL REGISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

### GENERAL.

Prior to January 1st, 1922, the Acts relating to births, deaths and marriages in Ireland were administered by the Registrar-General, Dublin, who annually submitted a report. The passing of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 (10 and 11 Geo. V, c. 67) was followed by a notification of the Lord Lieutenant dated June 7th, 1921, which assigned to the Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland the responsibility for the administration in Northern Ireland of the services formerly administered by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Dublin. The Ministries of Northern Ireland Act 1921 enacted that the Registrar-General's department should be merged in the Ministry, and also provided that the Minister might authorise the use of a special designation by any officer to whom specified powers or duties were assigned under the Act. In pursuance of this provision, the powers and duties of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Northern Ireland were formally assigned to the present Registrar-General by the Minister of Finance under a Minute of Appointment dated April 8th, 1922.

The transfer to the Government of Northern Ireland of the functions formerly exercised by the Registrar-General, Dublin, was effected on January 1st, 1922, by Order in Council dated November 9th, 1921.

The abstracts of marriages, births and deaths now submitted have been prepared for presentation to Parliament pursuant to the provisions of statutes governing the systems of registration. The Registrar-General's report draws attention to the salient features of the abstracts, includes figures relating to other parts of the British Isles and to previous years for purposes of comparison, and also includes information relating to migration, the weather and vaccination. Continuity with the annual reports and abstracts previously issued by the Registrar-General for Ireland has been preserved (see Part I of this manual), and, in so far as has been found practicable, provision has been made for developments by means of which it will be possible, ultimately, to obtain statistics of greater value. The system of registration of births, marriages, and deaths is based upon the Acts of 1863 and 1880, and is a continuation of the system already described on pp. 37, 54 of the present volume. Certificates of births and deaths are identical with those prescribed for use in Ireland prior to 1922 (see pp. 38, 48), and their reproduction in this section is unnecessary.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS\* CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO LIVE BIRTHS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

*Annual Reports of the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland, 1922-26.*

1922-23. The first report of the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland is that for 1922, which contains the following information relating to live births:

1. A general summary giving the total births (no distinction of sex) registered in the country as a whole during the year under review, with comparative figures for the previous ten years, and corresponding birth rates per 1,000 of the population estimated to the middle of each year.

2. Births by sex, for the country as a whole; proportion of male to female births for the year under review and for each of the previous five years; births by legitimacy; proportion of male to female births by legitimacy; births registered in each quarter of the year. For each administrative county, the percentage of illegitimate births in total births for the year under review and the preceding year;

3. Multiple births: The number and percentage of twin and triplet births for the country as a whole for the year under review;

4. Births (including illegitimate births), illegitimate births, distinguishing sex in each case, and excess of births over deaths for each poor law union, administrative county, and for Northern Ireland for the year under review.

5. Births by sex registered during each quarter of the year under review in each administrative county.

1923. In this year further information was added showing births by sex and legitimacy and the percentage of illegitimate births to total births in Northern Ireland in the year under review and for each of the previous ten years.

1924-26. In addition to the information given under 1922 (4), births in Northern Ireland were (since 1924) also shown under the areas containing the normal residence of the parents. Numbers of inward and outward transfers to and from the areas in question were also shown. Also in the report for 1924, urban and rural sanitary districts were introduced for the first time, being substituted for the poor law unions hitherto used as the smallest divisions of the country for which statistics of births were presented. An index to poor law unions has been included, by which it is possible to calculate the number of births in the several unions from the figures given for urban and rural districts.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns of Marriages, Births  
and Deaths in Northern Ireland.*

Total births registered in Northern Ireland during the quarterly period; annual birth rates. This information is presented for each county borough and urban district, and for the aggregate of all rural districts. Similar information is presented for the county borough of Belfast, and for each registrar's district in that city.

Total births registered in Northern Ireland during the quarterly period, tabulated by counties and superintendent registrars' districts.

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

This leaflet refers only to the principal towns in Northern Ireland, and to the cities of Dublin, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Total births and birth rates are recorded for each of these areas.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO DEATHS  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

*Annual Reports of the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland, 1922-26.*

1922-23. The first report of the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland, that for 1922, contains the following information relating to deaths:

1. A general summary giving the total deaths (no distinction of sex) registered in Northern Ireland during the year under review, with comparative figures for each of the previous ten years; corresponding death rates per thousand of the population estimated to the middle of each year.

2. Deaths by sex and corresponding death rates for the year under review for Northern Ireland; deaths registered in each quarter, together with annual death rates, calculated on the basis of quarterly mortality data.

3. Causes of death. Deaths in Northern Ireland tabulated by causes in the Abridged International List, males and females together for the year under review and for each of the previous ten years; corresponding death rates. Notes on the deaths from the principal causes:

(a) *Tuberculosis*. Numbers of deaths and death rates from tuberculosi*s* (all forms) in Northern Ireland during the year under review, and in each of the previous ten years (males and females separately).

Numbers of deaths and death rates from tuberculosis in each of the administrative counties for year under review.

(b) *Cancer*. The number of deaths from cancer in Northern Ireland tabulated by sites affected and by age and sex for the year under review.

(c) *Pregnancy and childbirth*. Detailed figures of deaths from principal puerperal diseases by ages of mothers for the year under review; summary of the foregoing and comparative figures for each of the previous ten years.

(d) *Infant Mortality*. Rates from principal causes at certain age periods within the first year of life, for Northern Ireland, for the year under review (males and females separately). Summarised figures for each of the previous ten years. Rates from the principal causes at certain age-groups, for males and females in the aggregate, of the localities containing seven of the principal towns.

Infant mortality rates, all causes, males and females together, for seven of the principal towns and for the administrative counties, for the year under review and for each of the previous five years.

(e) Deaths by sex and excess of births over deaths during the year under review in Northern Ireland, counties and poor law unions.

(f) Deaths registered in each quarter of the year under review in Northern Ireland, the counties (males and females respectively).

(g) Deaths at different ages, distinguishing males and females in Northern Ireland, in the counties. The age-grouping used is by single years to 5 years, and thence by quinquennial age-groups to 95 and upwards.

(h) Deaths in Northern Ireland during the year under review, by sex and age, for each of the causes in the Detailed International List. Age-grouping similar to that noted under (g) with further subdivisions under one year.

(i) Deaths in institutions, deaths from each of the causes in the Abridged International List (males and females together), tabulated for Northern Ireland, the counties, and poor law unions for the year under review.

1923. In this year further information was added showing for Northern Ireland, in the year under review, the proportion of deaths from the principal causes (*i.e.*, those in the Abridged International List) per thousand of the total deaths at certain age-periods.

1924-26. In addition to the information given under 1922 (e), deaths in Northern Ireland were (since 1924) also shown under the areas of normal residence of the deceased. Numbers of inward and outward transfers to and from the areas in question were also shown. Also in the report for 1924, urban and rural sanitary districts were introduced for the first time, being substituted for the poor law unions hitherto used as the smallest divisions of the country for which statistics of deaths were presented. An index to poor law unions is included by which it is possible to compute the numbers of deaths in the several unions from the figures given for urban and rural districts.

In 1924, the infant mortality rates from the principal causes at certain age-groups, males and females separately, in the aggregate of urban districts and the aggregate of rural districts, were substituted for the infant mortality rates previously given for seven of the principal towns and the administrative counties.

The information noted under 1922 (i) has been modified as follows: The particulars regarding deaths in institutions for areas smaller than the county have been discontinued since 1924. Deaths by causes are now shown for each sex and for urban and rural districts, instead of for poor law unions as formerly.

Since 1924, a table has been given showing for Northern Ireland for the year under review the number of deaths of illegitimate children by ages under each principal cause of death.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths  
in Northern Ireland.*

Total deaths registered in Northern Ireland during the quarterly period, tabulated by principal epidemic and other causes, inquest cases, deaths in public institutions, uncertified deaths, for each county borough and urban district, and all rural districts

(grouped). Similar information is presented for the county borough of Belfast, and for each registrar's district in that city.

Total deaths registered in Northern Ireland during the quarterly period, tabulated by the principal epidemic and other causes, inquest cases, deaths in public institutions, uncertified deaths, for each county and superintendent registrar's district.

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

This leaflet is limited to recording information relating to the principal towns in Northern Ireland and to the cities of Dublin, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Total deaths registered during the week in each of these areas are presented, tabulated by the principal epidemic and other causes, inquest cases, deaths in public institutions and uncertified deaths.

---

## 6. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### GENERAL.

The various legislative measures governing the notification of infectious diseases and the procedure followed in Northern Ireland are substantially the same as those formerly applying to Ireland as a whole, a detailed description of which has already been presented in pp. 65-69 of the present manual. The general control and supervision of these services in Northern Ireland are exercised by the Department of Public Health, which forms a branch of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889<sup>1</sup> has been adopted in all districts in Northern Ireland with one exception. Medical practitioners are required to notify the principal executive medical officer for the area of all cases of infectious disease which come under their notice; weekly returns of all such cases are notified to the central health authority by the medical officers concerned.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

##### *The Ulster Year-Book.*

The information contained in this publication is based upon the various official departmental reports; the information relating to infectious diseases include the following: Number of cases of specified infectious disease notified during the year; number of deaths due to the principal epidemic diseases during the year, and mortality rates ascribed to each cause. Number of deaths due to the principal epidemic diseases during the year, number of deaths due to all causes (absolute numbers and mortality rates), this information being tabulated for:

- (a) County boroughs and urban districts (grouped);
- (b) Rural districts (grouped); and
- (c) Northern Ireland.

Number of successful primary vaccinations effected annually for a series of years; number of births and percentage of vaccinations to births.

##### *Annual Report of the Registrar-General in Northern Ireland.*

First published 1922. For contents of annual reports to 1922, see p. 69.

Infant mortality rates, deaths due to common infectious diseases in Northern Ireland:

- (a) Annually for a series of years;

<sup>1</sup> See p. 65.

(b) For the year under review, tabulated by sex and age (five age-periods 0-1 year). The latter information is further tabulated for the seven principal towns (grouped).

Total deaths from the principal infectious diseases tabulated for Northern Ireland, counties and superintendent registrar's districts. Certain changes in tabulation of data were introduced in this publication in 1924.

*The Registrar-General's Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births and Deaths  
in Northern Ireland.*

Total deaths in Northern Ireland due to the principal epidemic diseases for the quarterly period under review, and for a series of previous quarters.

Total deaths registered in each county borough and urban district and in all rural districts (grouped) in Northern Ireland during the quarter under review, and due to the principal infectious diseases; similar information is presented for the county borough of Belfast, and for each registrar's district in that city.

Total cases of infectious diseases notified in Northern Ireland for the quarterly period. These data are presented by specific diseases for county boroughs, urban and rural districts.

Total deaths registered during the quarter, tabulated for each of the principal infectious diseases for Northern Ireland, counties and superintendent registrars' districts.

*The Registrar-General's Weekly Return of Births and Deaths.*

This leaflet refers only to the principal towns in Northern Ireland. Deaths registered during the week are recorded by specific infectious diseases for certain county boroughs, towns, registrars' districts and also for Dublin, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

---



BIBLIOGRAPHY.

GENERAL.

- Memoir of a Map of Ireland, etc.* Daniel Augustus BEAUFORT. 1792.
- Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland.* 3 volumes. William S. MASON. 1814-19.
- A Tour in Ireland.* 2 volumes. Arthur YOUNG. London, 1780.
- The History of Parish Registers.* J. S. BURN. London, 1829.
- The Ancient and Present State of the County and City of Cork.* Charles SMITH, M.D. Dublin. Second edition, 1774.
- Topographia Hibernia.* Geraldus CAMBRENSIS. (Rolls Edition, 1875.)
- The Annals of Ireland.* Friar John CLYN, Irish Archæological Society. Dublin, 1849.
- Facts and Figures about Ireland, 1841-90.* T. W. GRIMSHAW. 1893.
- The Medical Profession in the Three Kingdoms in 1887.* THOS. LAFFAN. 1888.
- Facts about Ireland.* Alex B. MACDOWELL. 1888.
- Condition of the People of Ireland.* Thos. Campbell FOSTER. 1846. (*Times* reprints.)
- The Economic Writings of Sir William Petty.* Edited by C. M. HULL. 2 volumes. Cambridge, 1899.
- The Irish before the Conquest.* Lady FERGUSON. Third edition. Dublin, 1903.
- A Literary History of Ireland.* Douglas HYDE. London, 1910.
- The Evolution of States.* J. M. ROBERTSON. London, 1912.
- New Observations on City, Town and County Bills of Mortality.* THOS. SHORT, M.D. London, 1750.
- The History of Ireland.* S. GWYNN. London, 1923.
- The Provinces of Ireland.* 2 volumes. G. FLETCHER. Cambridge, 1921-22.
- Modern Ireland.* T. W. ROLLESTON.
- Medical Relief in Ireland.* *Journal of Royal Statistical Society.* Vol. VI. p. 317.
- The Public General Acts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.* H.M. Stationery Office, London.
- Ireland in the last Fifty Years (1866-1918).* E. BARKER. London, 1919.
- Ireland from the Earliest Times to the Present Day.* E. DUNLOP. 1922.
- The Local Government of the United Kingdom.* J. J. CLARKE. Second edition. London, 1924.

- Local Government in Many Lands.* G. Montagu HARRIS. London, 1926.
- Annual Reports of the Registrar-General in Ireland.* H.M. Stationery Office.
- Reports of the Dublin Statistical Society.*
- Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths in the Dublin Registration Area.* H.M. Stationery Office.
- Journal of Royal Statistical Society.* London. Volumes I, III, VI, VII, XV, XLIV, XLV.
- Census Reports: Ireland.* H.M. Stationery Office.
- An Essay towards ascertaining the Population of Ireland.* G. Parker BUSHE, *Trans. Royal Irish Academy.* Vol. III, 1789, pp. 145-155.
- An Essay on the Population of Dublin, being the Result of an Actual Survey taken in 1798 with Great Care and Precision.* Rev. Jas. WHITELAW. Dublin, 1805.
- Observations by W. H. Hardinge on the Earliest Known Manuscript Returns of the People of Ireland.* *Trans. Royal Irish Academy,* Vol. XXIV, 1874.
- Ancient Irish Deeds and Writings chiefly relating to Landed Property from the Twelfth to the Seventeenth Century.* Jas. HARDMAN, *Trans. Royal Irish Academy,* Vol. XV, pp. 3 et seq.
- An Enquiry into the Progress and Magnitude of the Population of Ireland.* THOS. NEWENHAM. London, 1805.
- A View of the National, Political and Commercial Circumstances of Ireland.* THOS. NEWENHAM. London, 1809.
- An Economic History of Ireland.* D. A. CHART. Dublin, 1920.
- Statistical Survey of the County of Down.* Rev. JOHN BOURDIEU, Dublin Society Manuals, 1802.

(Similar reports were published under the auspices of the Dublin Society for the counties of:

Armagh,	Kilkenny,	Queen's County,
Cavan,	King's County,	Sligo,
Clare,	Leitrim,	Tyrone,
Cork,	Londonderry,	Wexford,
Donegal,	Mayo,	Wicklow.)
Dublin,	Meath,	
Kildare,	Monaghan,	

- An Account of Ireland, Statistical and Political.* Edw. WAKEFIELD. London, 1812.
- Regulations for Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages.* H.M. Stationery Office, Dublin. Reprint, 1914.

IRISH FREE STATE.

- Detailed Annual Reports of the Registrar-General for Saorstát Eireann.* Stationery Office, Dublin.
- Weekly and Quarterly Returns of the Registrar-General.* Stationery Office, Dublin.
- Reports of the Department of Local Government Board and Public Health. First Report, 1922-25.* Stationery Office, Dublin, 1927.
- Statistics Act, 1926.* Stationery Office, Dublin.
- The Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1926.* Stationery Office, Dublin.
- Census of Population of Irish Free State, 1926.* Preliminary Report. Stationery Office, Dublin.
- The Irish Constitution Explained.* Darrell Figgis. Dublin, 1922.
- The Irish Free State.* A. C. WHITE. London, 1923.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

- Annual Reports of the Registrar-General in Northern Ireland.* H. M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Quarterly Returns of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland.* H. M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland.* H. M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1925.* H. M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Handbook of the Ulster Question.* Stationery Office, Dublin.
- Ulster Year-Book.* H. M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Annual Reports on the Administration of Local Government Services.* H.M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Preliminary Report on the Census of Northern Ireland, 1926.* H.M. Stationery Office, Belfast.
- Census Reports for each County of Northern Ireland and Belfast County Borough, 1926.* H.M. Stationery Office, Belfast.