

Talcaragh,
Co. Donegal,

28th. December, 1915.

To The Officer Commanding
3rd. Battalion Royal Inniskillings Fusiliers,
at Londonderry,

Sir,

I have to request that my son, ^{28,127,} No. 541,
Private James O'Doherty, Company 5, be discharged from
military service on the following grounds:—

- 1^o. He has joined without my knowledge or consent,
acting on a boyish freak of which he already repents.
- 2^o. He is under the Regulation military age of 18 years,
as shown by the accompanying Birth Certificate. (Enclosure 1).
- 3^o. Though on a casual examination he may appear to
be medically fit, he is really not so, as he has always been
subject to a weakness of the ankles of the right foot
owing to a hurt received in infancy. On any severe
exertion, such as a football game, a long walk, or even
a prolonged spell of standing, this weakness shows
itself in swelling, stiffness, slight discolouration, and
pain of the ankles. It will, I am certain, quite unfit
him for the severer exercises of military drill, route
marching, &c.

4^o. His teaching help is indispensable to me for
the successful carrying out of my school work,
especially at this season of the year when country
schools hereabouts are overcrowded with an inrush
of

of children who are engaged at farm-work during the other seasons.

5. On his appointment as Monitor he signed an Agreement whereby he bound himself to fit himself thoroughly for and to follow the occupation of Teacher, thus placing himself in the relation of Apprentice to the Commissioners of National Education for a period of three years, only a half year of which has yet elapsed. Draft form of Agreement herewith. (Enclosure 2).

6. He is my only son at home, with the exception of a child of three years of age; and as such his help is absolutely necessary to me in farm-work and other subsidiary means for the maintenance of my family.

I trust that, on proper consideration of the foregoing facts, the Authorities will allow the lad to return to his civilian life and duties.

I am,
Sir,

Yours respectfully,
Anthony J. O'Doherty.

We, the undersigned, who are personally acquainted with Mr. O'Doherty, can vouch for the truth of the foregoing statements.

John Boyle Parish Priest.
John Murray Coll. Curate.
Mr W Fadden J.P.
John McDonald. Phys. Surgeon
H. O'Donnell, P.A. J.E.D.

John Kennedy Catholic Curate

M. Colgan J.P.

W. G. Anderson M.A. J.C.D.

P. McGuire J.P.