

*Cork Examiner* - 16 February 1916.

Ballingeary Arrest. Dear Sir – An incident recently occurred in Ballingeary which if it has an element of tragedy, has also a large element of comedy. An Englishman (Professor Chevasse) wearing the Irish kilt, and refusing to speak but the Irish language, was arrested by an Irish policeman wearing the English uniform, and ignorant of the Irish language, lest he might injure the realms of England. To add to the humour of the situation, the Irish soldiers are helping England in her battles to preserve the rights of small nationalities, including their language, whilst an Englishman in his campaign to preserve the Irish language is fined by a bench of Irish magistrates. To prevent such an incident from occurring again, I am writing to ask the Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary to send at least one Irish speaking policeman to Ballingeary. This is the more necessary as during the season of the Irish College in July and August at Ballingeary the students are supposed to speak nothing but Irish, and in doing this they may get into trouble if there is no policeman there who knows the Irish language. This incident moreover would lead one to think that a movement should be set on foot to make knowledge of the Irish language compulsory for candidates for the Royal Irish Constabulary. –

Yours truly, James O'Leary, P.P., Ballingeary