

**TPF 1870 – 11**

**Paper 1870 – 11001**

Mr Weirs shepherd

Give his name?

He says he saw 4 fishers on Gallanach Bents each with a Gun and a dog.

Give the names of the Fishers & their residence in Coll

Give the place when he saw them precisely by name a distance from some prominent place.

Give the date and the hour.

Can he say that they were in search of game hares or Rabbits, & were they beating for them

Did he see them fire any shots and if so at what, - and did they Kill -

Mr Campbell Cornaig

says he saw 5 Fishermen pass his door with Guns and dogs, and one of them carried a dead hare

Get him to give the names of the Fishermen and their residences in Coll

**Paper 1870 – 11002**

The date on which he saw them

The name of the man who carried the hare.

whether he saw them shoot at hares or Rabbits or Game.

Mr John Campbell Cornaigs men saw them Poaching on Cornaig moor, and that they saw them with dead Grouse.

Get the names of the workmen.

Get the names of the Fishermen whom they saw Poaching, & their residence in Coll

Get the date, and the exact place at which they saw them, and how they were armed.

Did they see them shoot at anything - If so did they Kill and what they killed.

**Paper 1870 – 11003**

Get the names of the fishermen who had the dead grouse in their possession

The number of grouse each of them had.

the date on which they had the grouse

The place where they were seen when they had them in their possession, and the name of the witnesses who saw the grouse with them... Be careful in answering all the queries and that the witnesses speak with distinctness and certainty

Grouse

Rae the Keeper

says the Fishermen were poaching on Cornaig moor on 26 Feby.

Did he see them there.

The names of the Poachers & where they live in Coll

Whether they fired at game and if so what kind of Game.

Were they Beating for Game  
the particular spot of the Moor at which they were when he saw them.

**Paper 1870 – 11004**

Rae again saw 5 men on 1 March at Gallanach Loch armed with Guns & dog & that he saw one shot fired.

The names of the fisherman & where they live in Coll  
Did he identify and can he speak to them with certainty.  
the name of the Loch on Gallanach specify by name, the man who fired the shot.  
What was it that he fired at ?  
Did he Kill?  
were they searching for game? or for what

Return this paper with your answers

*written sideways across this page*

Report  
Poachers in Coll  
April 1870

**Paper 1870 – 11005**

*The letter is headed* CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, CAMPBELTOWN.  
21<sup>st</sup> March 1870

Dear Sir,

The enclosed Letter appears to me to contain a charge of threatening to shoot which you as Procurator Fiscal would do well to investigate. If on the other hand you think you cannot go into it, then I have to request that as my Agent you take immediate steps to have the parties punished for shooting Game without Game License - having Game in their custody in close time which is a Police offence which the Police should look after - or for poaching. You can judge in which ways you can most effectually get at the fellows to punish them

I hope you will succeed in teaching them a lesson as

**Paper 1870 – 11005**

as they are very troublesome customers, and give much annoyance, thinking they may do, on the west coast what they choose.

Yours truly  
John L Stewart

W<sup>m</sup> Sproat Esquire  
Writer  
Tobermory

**Paper 1870 – 11007**

Lagmore March 14<sup>th</sup> 1870

John L Stewart Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Sir

I was ferreting rabbits at Crosspoll for 3 days Feby 21<sup>st</sup> and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day M<sup>r</sup> Campbell Cornick sent word that the East country fishers who are stationed at Cornick was poaching. M<sup>r</sup> Weir's shepherd saw 4 fishers with guns & a dog among Gallanach bents he did not go near them. I went to Gallanach as soon as I got word On the 26<sup>th</sup> they were shooting on Cornick moor but I did not go near them as they were not on Gallanach. I told M<sup>r</sup> Campbell & D<sup>r</sup> Buchannan, M<sup>r</sup> Campbell told me that

one of Cornick men saw some grouse in their pockets. M<sup>r</sup> Campbell told me when he sent word about the poachers that 4 fishers passed his house with guns & a dog & carrying a hare he told me he knew 2 of them by name the other 2

**Paper 1870 -11008**

by their appearance he would not give me their names, March 1<sup>st</sup> about sunset I saw 5 men of the fishers 4 had guns & 1 dog beside a loch on Gallanach the loch that is nearest Cornick They fired one shot. I could not get near them they held up their guns to me and told me to keep back or they would fire at me. they went back by Cornick I did not hear more shots. I told M<sup>r</sup> Campbell and M<sup>r</sup> Baxter D<sup>r</sup> Buchannan and Tyree Constable. the constable told me to write him if they would poach again but they did not go out since, I was going to write M<sup>r</sup> Sproat but M<sup>r</sup> Campbell denies he could not know the poachers from among the rest, he says also the man that saw the grouse in their pockets tells lies, I gave M<sup>r</sup> Baxter the masters name & number of each boat as he is advised to write to the board of Fishery I am watching every day about Gallanach

Your obedient Servant

Mathew Rae

**Paper 1870 – 11009**

Breachach Coll 6th April 1870

Dear Sir,

Happening to be from home when your letter of the 23 Mar. arrived I could not answer it sooner.

With regard to the poachers I sent Mathew Rae the keeper with a copy of your querries *[sic]* to the different parties mentioned and the following is what they say.

Gallanach shepherd

Andrew Ferguson says I saw 4 fishermen one day in search of game they had 2 guns & 1 dog I do not remember the day of the month they were on Knock Bents

Another

**Paper 1870 - 11010**

Another day I saw three of them and 2 hares in their possession at the points below Gallanach house. they were on their way home I don't know their names nor what they are like. Did not see them fire a shot nor kill.

M<sup>r</sup> John Campbell Cornaig

Can give no names & did not see or hear them shoot says that it was dark when he saw them pass his door

M<sup>r</sup> Campbells Men

Neile McInnes says that he saw 3 fishermen one day on Cornaig Moor - one is William Taylor another James Watt. Taylor was carrying *[sic]* 2 hares they had guns. cannot give date They belong to Watts crew.

Alex<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kinnon Cornaig More saw 2 fishermen going to Cornaig Moor with a gun each & 1 dog does not know their names but thinks that he could know them again. did not see them shoot cannot give date.

Mathew Rae

says he heard shots on Cornaig Moor on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb but did not see them at that time therefore can not give names.

Again saw 5 men on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar on Gallanach hill at Lochnacluch near Cornaig March 4 of them had guns & 1 dog. Cannot give their names nor identify them Heard one

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one shot but cannot say that they killed

Truly yours  
John Baxter

William Sproat Esq'

**Paper 1870 – 11011**

Tyree 28 March 1870

Sir

I received your letter regarding Matthew Rae the Gamekeeper at Coll who complains of East Country fishermen pointing their guns at him

I was at Coll on the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month and heard Rae complain that such was done.

Rae was not near the parties he could not tell me their appearance whether they were old

**Paper 1870 – 11012**

or young neither could he tell me their names I offered to go with him if he expected they would come back but he said there was no use to go

Now there are five boats in Coll with their crews and it is not known which of them had the guns

I was in Coll on the 25 of this month also I saw Matthew Rae I asked him did the fishermen come on the ground since and he said they did not come back any more

There was no person with Rae when he saw them in the hill who would give evidence as a witness

I am Sir your obt servt  
Duncan Cameron  
Constable

To William Sproat Esqr  
P.F.

Tobermory