

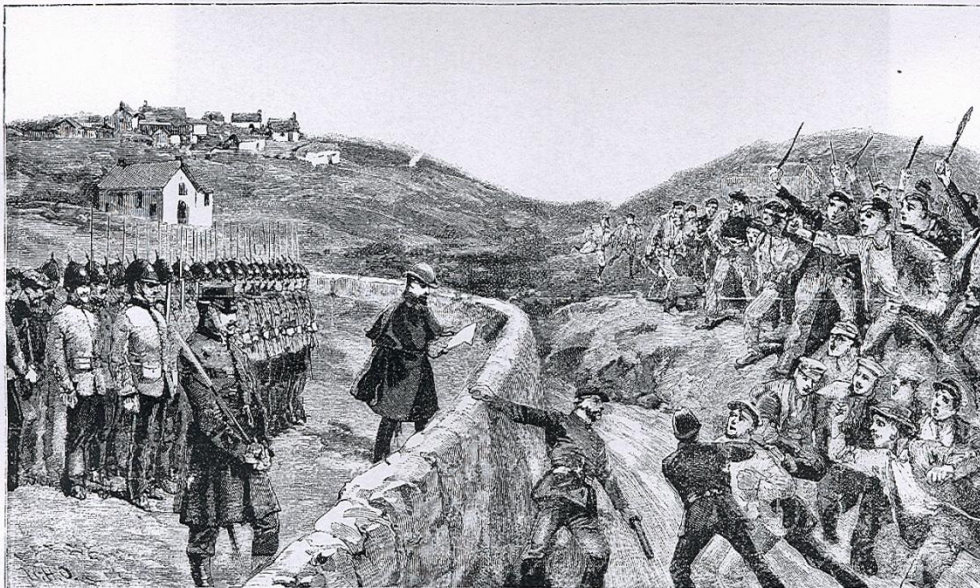
# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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READING THE RIOT ACT AT AIGNISH FARM, NEAR STORNOWAY.



POLICE AND MARINES SEIZING THE RIOTOUS CROFTERS.  
CROFTERS OF LEWIS, IN THE HEBRIDES.

### **The Crofters of Lewis**

Some account of the situation of Lewis, the largest island of the Western or Outer Hebrides and of the disturbances and resistance to the law along its 'crofters' or small tenant farmers, was given in December with Sketches by our Special Artist. The Sheriffs of Ross-shire and the neighbouring counties of Scotland have been unable, in several of the islands, to enforce the legal decrees of the Courts, without the aid of military and naval forces to support the police. At the farm of Aignish, four miles from Stornoway, in Lewis, on Monday, Jan 9, a thousand men riotously assembled to expel the tenant, Mr Samuel Newall, who had been denounced by their 'Land League' for holding tract of pasture. They had destroyed his fences in the night, and they came to drive away his sheep, threatening also to burn his farm buildings. They marched in regular array, preceded by musicians and flag-bearers, to the scene of action. A force of the Royal Scots, Marines, and police came up with the rioters who refused to disperse. Sheriff Fraser thereupon read the Riot Act, but the rioters several times came into conflict with the police and military. A number of them were wounded but none fatally. Mr John Ross, Procurator Fiscal, struck with a heavy stick and badly wounded; and the officer in command of the Royal Scots and several policemen were wounded severely. Eleven of the rioters were arrested and brought into Stornoway under heavy escort: but most of them remained on Aignish farm, took Mr Newall's entire stock, and drove them to the extreme points of Knock district, there to stray and be lost. The Commission of Inquiry, consisting of Mr McNeill, of the Board of Supervisors in Edinburgh, and Sheriff Fraser, of Stornoway, has begun its labours.