

Republican Urban Councillor. The wages of a Republican would appear to be the portion of his kin.

Hunchback Boy.—Mrs. King, of Ironton, Ohio, talked in Bantry with the mother of a hunchback youth who had been killed in his home a few nights before (August, 1920). The woman had two sons, one a Volunteer, who was "on the run."

"There were no lights at night on the streets of Bantry, and the 'Black-and-Tans' or the R.I.C.—they are disguised so that one could not tell to which body they belonged—they knocked at the door. She answered the knock with a candle in her hand. The soldiers knocked the candle from her, using an electric light to light them up the stairs. The Volunteer boy was not at home. The little hunchback boy ran from his own room into his brother's room. The mother rushed up the stairs after them, and was in sight of the tragedy when it occurred. 'My boy's hands were raised in prayer,' she said. 'They shot him through his uplifted hands.'"

Having accomplished such a murder, the soldiers or police disappeared. Their individual identity was not established; and they were under no necessity to justify the killing. Their motive can be inferred only from the character and political connections of the intended victim. But cases have been presented to us in which specific individuals of Republican affiliations, having been sought and found by the Imperial forces, were slain not in their homes but while in custody. The case of Patrick Lynch, of Hospital, would appear to indicate that the killing of an untried prisoner in Ireland may require and evoke an explanation.

Le de Fuga

"Shot trying to Escape".—Lord Mayor O'Callaghan testified that "this practice of shooting men while prisoners and then alleging that they were shot in an effort to escape" had become much more frequent since the coroners' inquests had been done away with by British authority.

Buckley Brothers.—A case to point is that of the Buckley brothers, two young Republicans of Midleton, County Cork, arrested together on August 27, 1920. Mrs. Michael Mohan, of Corona, New York, testified that she saw them removed from the barracks in Midleton, handcuffed, in a lorry, accompanied by soldiers. When they reached Cork in that lorry both brothers had been shot and one of them was dying. Here is the sworn deposition of the surviving brother, as presented to the Commission by Lord Mayor O'Callaghan:

"On Friday morning, August 27, 1920, at the hour of 1 a.m., I was awakened by very loud knocking at the door. My brother Sean and myself were sleeping in the one room; we got up and dressed, then came downstairs. My father had come down before us and had the door opened. Two policemen, one of whom was Constable Clancy, of Midleton police barracks, and a Cameron officer, entered. About twenty-five Cameron soldiers who accompanied them surrounded the house outside.

"A thorough search of the house was proceeded with for about an hour and ten minutes by the officers and a sergeant of the Camerons. The officer then placed my brother and myself under arrest, without charging us with any offence. We were taken on foot by the entire party to the military headquarters at Midleton, which is occupied by Camerons. We were handcuffed there and left in the guardroom until evening, when we were removed about 6 p.m. During the interval we were at the military barracks the handcuffs were kept on us for ten hours, but our treatment otherwise while in the barracks was quite normal.

"At 6 p.m. we were placed in a military motor-lorry in charge of a Cameron officer, and about ten Cameron soldiers, and the lorry proceeded along the main road leading to Cork. We were both handcuffed separately and were sitting on the floor of the lorry. I was at the rear of the lorry and my brother Sean was at the front, both of us facing in the direction from which we had come. About half a mile outside the town I heard my brother cry out, and immediately a sharp revolver shot rang out. The shout from my brother was in all probability occasioned by his seeing his assailant levelling the revolver

at him. A second shot followed almost instantly, and I fell in the lorry, shot through the right shoulder. I gave no provocation whatsoever for this shot, and my brother gave none either. We were both sitting quite still, and were making no effort to escape, as is alleged by the military.

"An hour and a-half later we were both admitted to the military hospital, Victoria Barracks, Cork. During our journey to Cork, the military left us lying in the lorry and never approached us to ascertain the extent of our injuries or to succor us in any way; neither did they speak—even among themselves—after firing the shots, until we reached the hospital. As my brother uttered no sound during the journey to Cork, I believe he was unconscious all the time. I suffered great agony from the wound in my shoulder, but did not speak."

"When we reached the hospital we were placed in a ward and our wounds attended to. My brother died almost immediately on being admitted.

"On November 10, 1920, I was released from the hospital without any charge being preferred against me, or being tried in any way. My right arm from the elbow down is still lifeless, and I am unable to move my fingers."

If a charge existed against the deceased, he was not tried for it and it was not mentioned. He was a Republican; it would appear to us that he was murdered without provocation by soldiers wearing his Majesty's uniform while he was unarmed and handcuffed in a vehicle in the custody of an officer of His Majesty's Cameron Highlanders.

Miss Louie Bennett testified to another application of this *Ley de Fuga*, and several more instances were presented to us. It would seem that "Shot trying to escape" is sometimes used officially to connote the assassination of an Irish citizen, an unarmed prisoner of the Imperial British forces.

"Refusal to Halt."—The "refusal to halt" variant of this *Ley de Fuga* was called to our attention in the depositions from Patrick Nunan, a farmer at Buttevant, Co. Cork, and his son Patrick, jun., the latter shot by soldiers in a raid on their home, September 28, 1920. The young man was out until late that evening, getting in some hay, and when he returned the raid was already in progress. The father deposed:

"Then I heard the order of 'Hands up!' and I saw my son coming in the door with his hands above his head. The soldiers gathered about him, and before putting any question to him, one hit him with the butt-end of the rifle, while others hit him with their fists about the face. They searched him, and then they asked him his name, and he said: 'Paddy Nunan.' They stopped when they heard his name. He went from the kitchen to the bedroom, and sat down on the bed beside his mother. He was not there more than two minutes when the soldier who had already threatened me said: 'Take that young fellow outside the door and shoot him!' This order was hardly given when three or four others approached him and told him to come on. I was in the room at the time this order was given, and when they were leading him out I attempted to follow, but was told to remain where I was. He was not far from the door when I heard the reports of shots."

At this point the son's deposition takes up the narrative:

"When I went outside the door I was shot in the right hand. The soldiers were standing around in a semi-circle, and I had walked only five or six yards from the door when I received several shots in the back and front of my body. I fell forward on my face and hands. I was then hit on the jaw with something hard. They turned me over on my back, and opened my coat and waistcoat. One of them said: 'We needn't bother with him any more.' They then went away, and my father and family came to me and I was carried in home."

Mr. Nunan, sen., further deposed that when the shooting occurred some soldiers who were searching the house called out: "Oh, King, we are in the wrong house." They then departed. Patrick, jun., included in his deposition a report issued from military headquarters stating that

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