

basking in the after-season on the golden sands of Ostend, the unfortunate Secretary was still chained to his kennel in Grosvenor Square, absorbing the horrors of police reports, signing warrants of arrest, and listening to all the maddening Dutch chorus of panic, advice, information, and abjuration that reached him from a country from which the next telegram might bring news of the first shot of an insurrection.

If Ireland's mission in the universe was to chasten John Jelliland's good soul, the Green Isle had not lived in vain. The Secretary was as humble, cordial, and amenable to reason as could be. "My dear lord," he cried, shaking himself up out of his papers, like a genial rat popping out of his hole, "I'm so glad—so pleased to have the benefit of your counsel at such a crisis for your unfortunate country."

"To tell the truth, Mr. Jelliland, my advice about Ireland is not worth three straws—not worth more than my advice how to get at King Theodore of Abyssinia," said his visitor.

(To be continued.)

THE AMERICAN COMMISSION ON CONDITIONS IN IRELAND

INTERIM REPORT

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER IV—(Continued.)

Reprisals

"Attempt to escape" and "refusal to halt" are used by the Imperial British Government in explanation of the killing of Irish citizens by persons directly identified as members of the Imperial British forces. In other cases, where the identity of these agents of outrage against the Irish people was likewise irrefutably established, we encountered the term "reprisal," used in the excusatory sense of a justifiable retaliation, spontaneously carried out, by members of the Imperial British forces, naturally incensed by the murder of a cherished comrade.

Galway Reprisal, September 17, 1920.—Galway had been quiet before this date. In the police barracks were some 50 constables and one "Black-and-Tan" who was there temporarily from another town getting a motor car repaired. Krumm was the man's name, and he was described to us by former Constable John Joseph Caddan, who was stationed there at the time, as "a reckless fellow who drank a lot." Caddan testified that on the night in question Krumm had been drinking heavily, and along towards midnight he strolled down to the railway station announcing that he would be back presently with a fresh bottle of whisky. He was in plain clothes.

A crowd was gathered at the railway station at that time waiting for the evening papers from Cork. Two American witnesses, the Reverend Dr. James H. Cotter, of Ironton, Ohio, and Mrs. Agnes B. King, of Ironton, Ohio, were eye-witnesses to the following incident. In the words of Mrs. King:—

Murder of Unnamed Boy.—"There was a man on the platform to whom I paid little attention. He wore what I think was a loose cap. He did not appear to me to be a regular soldier, nor did he seem to be the customary "Black-and-Tan." There was a woman on the platform with three or four children. There was an English officer, and there were many civilians. Suddenly the man in the cap whipped out a revolver. He was standing with another man in ordinary attire. And he slashed the revolver around and began shooting. One shot hit a boy in the leg. That boy was not killed instantly, but fell at once. He later died, and the next day I saw him in death. Then another young man jumped from the back and caught the soldier about the body, so that he had only one hand free. And then a fresh shot rang out and this soldier, or whatever he was, fell to the ground."

Rev. Father Cotter gave a similar account.

Back in the barracks Constable Caddan had gone to bed. "The next thing I knew," he testified, "one of the

constables came up and gave the alarm, and said one of the constables was shot. We all had to get up and dress and get our carbines. There were about 50 men in the barracks, and they ran amok then. The whole 50 came out in the streets." District Inspector Cruise rushed out with the men.

The members of the R.I.C. proceeded to shoot up the town, to loot public houses, to burn residences and smash up business places, and we have the testimony of several persons, including Constable Caddan, that they took three men from their homes to shoot them. The firing squads were so drunk that two of these men escaped by promptly falling on their faces when the order to fire was given.

They went to the house of a man called Broderick. There they found an old woman, about 70 years of age, shut her in a small room, poured gasoline in the room and set fire to the house. The woman was rescued by neighbors.

Murder of Quirk.—From Broderick's they went to a house where a man named Quirk was lodging. He was taken by them at 4.30 a.m. Quirk was not at the station when the original shooting occurred. Thomas Nolan, a witness, testified that he was walking toward the station with Quirk to get the newspapers when they noticed a crowd rushing toward them, and after they were informed that there had been shooting they immediately went home. Nolan bade Quirk good night at 12.10 and at 7 the next morning he saw him lying at his home, with seven bullet wounds through his stomach.

Murderers Commended.—The further testimony of former Constable Caddan is as follows:—"The next day a British general came down and spoke to us in the day room. He had two motor-lorries of soldiers there to guard him. He had two other officers with him. The county inspector was there and two district inspectors, and all the men in the barracks were there. And he started to talk about this business. He said: "This country is ruled by gunmen, and they must be put down." He talked about giving Home Rule to Ireland, and he said Home Rule could not be given until all of these gunmen were put down, and he called on the R.I.C. to put them down. He asked them what they required in the barracks, and said that whatever they wanted he would give them, and that they were also going to get a raise in pay. And they said they needed machine-guns, and he said that they would get them, and also tanks and more men, men who had been in the army during the war and who knew how to shoot to kill; and he said they would be the right men in the right place."

Murder of Councillor Walsh.—An aftermath of this incident was the killing of Walsh, an urban councillor of Galway, one of a considerable number of elected officials of Republican sympathies on whose killing we have direct testimony. Walsh was killed in the middle of October. He was the proprietor of a public house. He was the father of eight small children. Five men in civilian clothes, supposed to be "Black-and-Tans," entered his public house about 10 o'clock at night, ordered the crowd out, and announced to Walsh that he would be a dead man within an hour. He asked permission to summon a priest, and their leader replied: "To hell with the priest!" Then they took him out and his body was found floating in the harbor the next morning. No motive for this crime, except the Republican connections of the victim, could be discovered. Two witnesses—Miss Nellie Craven, of Washington, D.C., a cousin of Walsh's, who had been visiting relations in Galway, and Thomas Nolan, who had been sleeping at Walsh's house, and was present when the armed men entered his establishment, gave testimony on this affair.

Balbriggan: Murder of Gibbons and Lawless.—When Balbriggan was shot up and burned in reprisal for the killing of a sergeant, in a drunken brawl, on the night of September 20, 1920, two men, James Lawless and John Gibbons, were taken from their homes to the police barracks, and after being held there through the night and subjected to repeated threats, were finally bayoneted to death at five o'clock in the morning, their bodies being left on the principal street. Urban Councillor John Derham, who gave testimony on this affair, saw the bodies early in the morning. His own house was burned down, and one of his sons, who had been beaten until he was

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