

publication, which was telephoned by the Brigade-Major at Cork:

"As a result of the ambush and attack on the police at Middleton and the Glebe House it was decided by the military Governor that certain houses in the vicinity of the outrages were to be destroyed, as the inhabitants were bound to have known of the ambush and attack, and that they neglected to give information either to the military or police authorities.

"The following houses were duly destroyed between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on January 1: Mr. John O'Shea's, Middleton; Mr. Paul McCarthy's, do.; Mr. Edward Carey's, do.; Mr. Cotter's, Ballyadam; Mr. Donovan's, do.; Mr. Michael Dorgan's, Knockgriffin; Mr. Ahern, do.

"Previous to the burnings Notice B was served on the persons affected, giving them one hour to clear out valuables, but not furniture. No foodstuffs, corn, or hay were destroyed."

(3) An official communication issued by General Headquarters in Dublin on January 1, 1921, the text of which, as reported by the *Weekly Irish Times*, January 8, 1921 (page 1), is as follows:

The following communication was issued by General Headquarters in Dublin on Sunday evening:

"As a result of an ambush of police on December 29 at Middleton, Co. Cork (a martial law area), in which one policeman was killed and eight wounded, two of whom have since died, the houses of seven inhabitants living in the vicinity, and who were bound to have known of the ambush, were destroyed on Saturday by order of the Military Governor.

"The occupants were given one hour's notice to remove their belongings."

Industrial Destruction

It is worthy of note that while the primary motive for the destruction of lives and towns seems to be to strike terror into the hearts of the civilian population, this motive is mixed with another—to destroy the principal industries, presumably for the purpose of reducing to destitution and starvation the working classes which are mainly Republican in sympathies.

Destruction of Hosiery Factory.—The destruction of the principal hosiery factory at Balbriggan was testified to by Mr. John Derham, a member of the Urban Council of Balbriggan:

"The factory would be about 500 yards from the nearest burned dwelling. There is a railroad embankment passing through the town, about 10ft. to 15ft. high, and it is on the sea side of the embankment that the factory is situated. You cannot see it from the town. It was burned next morning. Totally destroyed; one hundred thousand pounds loss. It is owned in London. The manager is an Englishman. There is nothing in a political line there. Only to leave destitution in the place. One hundred and twenty people worked in the factory and 300 more in their homes."

The burning of this factory would seem to have been a deliberate act, as was the burning at Mallow, where the troops, equipped with gasoline sprays, marched a considerable distance from the main portion of the town in order to burn the condensed milk factory. No military necessity for the destruction either of the Balbriggan hosiery factory or of the Mallow condensed milk factory appears in the evidence.

Burning of Creameries.—In addition to the burning down of factories situated in or contiguous to towns that were burned, the evidence indicates that there has been a persistent and concerted attempt on the part of the Imperial British forces throughout Ireland to destroy her one distinctive industry, the co-operative creamery.

A majority of the witnesses before the Commission presented evidence relative to the destruction of creameries, from which we select a statement sent to us by Mr. George Russell (A.E.), the celebrated writer and one of the leaders of the Irish Co-operative Movement, and quote from it:

"The co-operative movement in Ireland has gained world-wide recognition as one of the sanest and most beneficial of national movements. Its membership included men of all parties and creeds in Ireland, and it is as popular and widely spread in Ulster as in other pro-

vinces. Its constitution and the rules of its societies forbade the discussion of political and sectarian matters. On this basis many thousands of Unionists were able to join with their Nationalist fellow-countrymen in an all-Ireland movement for their mutual benefit. Over 1,000 societies have been created, with an annual turnover now exceeding £11,000,000. The creameries, bacon factories, mills, and agricultural stores created by co-operative societies are a familiar feature in the Irish countryside. Up to the moment of writing, forty-two attacks have been made on co-operative societies by the armed forces of the Crown. In these attacks creameries and mills have been burned to the ground, their machinery wrecked, agricultural stores have also been burned, property looted, employees have been killed, wounded, beaten, threatened, or otherwise ill-treated. Why have these economic organisations been specially attacked? Because they have hundreds of members, and if barracks have been burned or police have been killed or wounded in the lamentable strife now being waged in Ireland, and if the armed forces of the Crown cannot capture those actually guilty of the offences, the policy of reprisals, condoned by the spokesmen of the Government, has led to the wrecking of an enterprise in the neighbourhood, the destruction of which would inflict widespread injury and hurt the interests of the greatest number of people. I say this has been done without regard to the innocence or guilt of the persons whose property is attacked. [In other paragraphs Mr. Russell effectively and completely disposes of the allegation that these creameries or any of them were Republican arsenals.]

Destruction of Crops and Animals.—Ireland is an agricultural country. The destruction of the creameries has crippled, if not ruined, one of the principal Irish industries, forcing farmers to kill or to sell for slaughter or export their milk cattle, under most unfavorable conditions at whatever the market would bring. An equally serious blow has been struck at Irish agriculture by the Imperial British forces through the destruction of crops and the indiscriminate shooting of live stock. Miss Ellen G. Wilkinson, an English woman who made a tour of inspection over a large part of agricultural Ireland on behalf of the Women's International League, testified as follows:

"When I was in West Clare and Limerick there was a wholesale burning of hay ricks. That was extremely important, because on the hay ricks depended the cattle, and hence the creameries. And, of course, in burning the hay ricks you destroyed the very foundations of Irish agricultural prosperity. It was said by the British military authorities that these were reprisals against Sinn Féiners; but that was not so, because in Pallan and Kenry (*sic*) in Kildare, which are Protestant settlements, their ricks were burned, too.

"When we went to Limerick we were taken to Brennan's farm, five miles out of Limerick. It was owned by a widow. Her two sons were heroes in the countryside. One of them, Michael Brennan, is chairman of the Clare County Council. Of course, they are both on the run. And the English officers, rightly or wrongly, put down many of the occurrences in this community to them. So the English officers went to the house, told Mrs. Brennan to get out immediately, and burned the house and the hay."

In another section of the report we have called attention to testimony that soldiers passing through the country in motor lorries have made a practice of shooting at farm animals along the way. And the testimony of John Charles Clark and others shows that considerable numbers of livestock have been destroyed by the burning of barns and cattle sheds.

(To be continued.)

I am now eighty years old, and have known the Truth for thirty years, during which I have chosen the service of my Creator, the Eternal God, thinking nothing of the pleasures of the world.—St. Felicianus.

The Defence Department of New Zealand has decided to adopt the "Dennis" Motor Lorry. Transport Officers saw that in France the "Dennis" proved first for reliability.—The New Zealand Express Co., Ltd.

Brownette Bros.

NAPIER'S LEADING FOOTWEAR AND REPAIR SPECIALISTS.

EMERSON ST. (Opp. Working Men's Club), NAPIER.