

of the County Club, with his condolences and the latest particulars of the murder from the evening editions, and who, with the most obsequious intentions possible, ventured to hint that such a thing could not possibly have happened if his lordship had gladdened the eyes of his respectful adorers with an occasional glimpse of his person in the county, his lordship replied, brutally: "No doubt, sir—I have been so long away that I have really forgotten that I had the honor of your acquaintance." And then remarked to a bald-headed old deputy lieutenant who was dining off a mutton-chop at the same table, "How can you blame men for keeping away from Ireland when they can't even enter the County Club without rubbing skirts with a fellow of that kind?" When he was disgorged on the Garrindinny railway station towards three o'clock in the morning, and Head Constable Muldudden met him with a polite suggestion of a police escort, he replied, summarily, "Nonsense! Certainly not!" To the amicable overtures of the driver, who told him the road was bad and the storm rising, and that Mick Birne's best bedroom was at his lordship's service for the night, he responded by jumping into the chaise and observing, "Drive on, damn you!" paying half a sovereign for his oath as an extra at the end of his journey.

(To be continued.)

THE AMERICAN COMMISSION ON CONDITIONS IN IRELAND

INTERIM REPORT

(Continued from last week.)

CHAPTER VI.

Moral Consequences to the Imperial British Forces

The Imperial British Soldier

It would appear to your Commission that the official campaign of murder, arson, and repression has had an unfortunate effect upon the moral fibre of the forces engaged in it. Lord Mayor O'Callaghan and others testified that it has been 'fashionable' for the soldiers and police, careering through the cities and villages, to hang over the sides of the lorries, their rifles pointed at the passers-by. Apart from any deliberate intention to shoot the citizenry, this bullying practice would seem to us contrary to British tradition. Deaths result from it. And sometimes these deaths seem scarcely accidental.

Wanton Murder.—Mr. Broderick, of Chicago, was in Abbeyfeale when a passing "Black-and-Tan" killed two boys leading their cows to pasture. The shooting of Mrs. Quinn, an expectant mother, we mention, but refrain from discussing because it was deplored by British authority.*

Numerous examples of wanton slaying or wounding were brought before us, including the shooting even of dumb animals, dogs, and cattle.

Depravity.—At the sack of Balbriggan, according to the testimony of Mr. John Derham, one of the places burned was a dairy run by Mrs. Cochran. When the raiders entered, Mrs. Cochran ran into the yard leaving behind her two little boys of ten and twelve years. The Imperial "police" made the boys dress and took them

through the house to witness the smashing of household effects. After this sport, they led the children down the street "to see Derham's house afire." Then they took them back to their own yard and told them to sit on a hay rick there "to warm themselves." The "police" thereupon poured petrol over the rick and set fire to it, and then burned down the Cochran house.

Flogging.—The degrading effect of their duty upon the criminally-minded among the Imperial British forces has led to innumerable assaults upon priests, women, children, and the aged. Miss Anna Walsh testified that pedestrians had come running into her store at Cork to escape from "Black-and-Tans" who were scourging the passers-by. In Queenstown, John Charles Clarke, an American, witnessed the flogging, to the effusion of blood, of Irish citizens by a khaki-clad person. Thomas Nolan testified that from the house he stayed at in Galway a young man was taken out by soldiers and flogged. And an editorial from the *Manchester Guardian* of October 19, 1920, was placed in evidence concerning the stripping and flogging by uniformed British soldiers of more than a score of the villagers of Corofin and Cummer in Galway.

Thieving.—Besides encouraging brutality, the "duties" of the Imperial British forces in Ireland seem destructive of British honesty. The testimony before us shows that for some time thieving has been a common activity of the British forces in Ireland.

Daniel J. Broderick (American) testified to seeing three "Black-and-Tans" help themselves to liquors, cigarettes, and food in a public house kept by a widow, a Mrs. Macauley, in Abbeyfeale. "They told the woman, as they left, that she should be glad they did not take the till."

John Derham, Town Councillor of Balbriggan, in his testimony on the wrecking of that town by the police, stated:

Pillage.—"Two grocery stores they looted and razed: threw the tea and sugar and soap and candles, and everything, on the floor about three feet high; trampled over it; and pulled things out in the passage to destroy what they did not set fire to."

Looting.—Lord Mayor O'Callaghan testified that houses raided were commonly looted. In Cork he stated that from the beginning of the year up to December 10, 1920, apart from places absolutely destroyed, "at a very moderate estimate" fifty establishments had been attacked and looted by the Imperial forces. Miss Susanna Walsh testified that a few days after Lord Mayor MacCurtain's death his business establishment was looted by the military.

Transporting Loot.—The prevalence of this practice would almost seem to indicate that it was not discouraged by those in authority. Indeed, the looters sometimes arrived provided with vehicles to transport their spoil, and openly carry it off. Miss Craven testified to the looting of Michael Walsh's house and shop at Galway by raiders a few nights before he was murdered. "They destroyed practically everything. They had lorries outside, and they took the tobacco and cigarettes and sugar and candles and different things like that. They also took the liquors."

The loot was occasionally a perquisite of murder. Thomas Nolan, of Galway, who was with Walsh the night he was killed, testified that some of the men, who took Walsh away came back to the murdered man's home and made off with Walsh's overcoat and a liberal supply of cigarettes.

Sean Courtney, of Cork, sent a sworn statement that his house was raided at 2 a.m. on October 28, 1920. He was dragged out by men who threatened to kill him. When he was allowed to go he returned to his home and found it had been looted. Silver and household articles had disappeared.

In the following instance, an officer interrogated the householder while his men removed her goods. Mrs. Eamon Coughlin, of Cork, wife of Alderman Coughlin, made a sworn statement of a raid on her home and shop by the military at 4.45 a.m., November 27, 1920. "I found the following goods missing, looted, of course, by his companions downstairs while the leader was questioning me: About £20 to £25 worth of cigarettes, about £7 worth of tobacco, and various other things, such as cocoa, etc."

Assurances.—When complaints were made to the competent military authority, assurances were sometimes received in lieu of restitution or redress. The sworn statement of Mrs. George O'Grady, of Rochestown, Co. Cork, told of a raid on her home by police and military, March 20, 1920. She kept poultry and her season's egg money, £63, was all taken. Her husband deposed that he complained to Sir Hamar Greenwood, to the General Officer Commanding in Cork, and to General Macready about the robbery and received assurances from all three that nothing had been touched in the house.

And sometimes to the value of such assurances another raid was added. Timothy Horgan, of Cork, sent a sworn statement of a raid on his barber shop by the military,

*Mr. Mosley (House of Commons, November 25, 1920) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether Mrs. Eileen Quinn, of Kiltartan, Co. Galway, was killed by a shot fired from a passing police lorry on November 1, 1920, while sitting on a wall in broad daylight with child in her arms; whether he will state the distance between this wall and the road from which the shot was fired; whether the position of Mrs. Quinn at the time she was shot was in full view of the road; whether the police occupying the lorry in question were called as witnesses at the court of inquiry; how many rounds of ammunition were fired by the occupants of this lorry in the course of their journey; and how far away was the nearest point at which murders of soldiers and policemen had occurred to the scene of Mrs. Quinn's death.

Sir H. Greenwood: A military court of inquiry was held into this deplorable affair and found that the cause of death was misadventure. I am not prepared to reopen the inquiry by entering into a discussion of points of evidence all of which were fully considered by the court. (*Loc. cit.*, vol. 135, cols. 619-620.)