

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

PREMIER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

Mr. Asquith announced in the House of Commons on Wednesday that the Government would set up a Commission of inquiry into the outbreak in Ireland, consisting of Lord Hardinge, Mr. Justice Shearman, and Sir McKenzie Chalmers, late Under-Secretary to the Home Office.

RESOLUTIONS OF IRISH PARTY.

At a meeting of the Irish Nationalist Parliamentary Party held at the House of Commons on Wednesday the following resolution was unanimously passed:— "That any inquiry into the Irish situation must, if it is to be of any value and satisfy the public in Ireland and Great Britain, satisfy two conditions:—(1) The personnel of the Commission must satisfy the public of its impartiality and capability to conduct the inquiry effectively and without favour; (2) the terms of reference must allow of full investigation of all the circumstances which led up to arming of large sections of the people in Ireland and to the recent insurrectionary outbreak, the nature and extent of the outbreak, the fitness of the present form of Executive in Ireland to deal with such troubles, and the actual steps taken by the Irish Executive during the last three years to deal with the conditions which led up to the outbreak, and with the outbreak when it came."

THE EXECUTIONS.

IRISH PARTY RESOLUTION.

At a meeting of the Irish Party on Tuesday, the following resolution was passed: "That we are convinced that the continuance of military executions in Ireland, carried out against persistent protest made on our behalf from the very first, has caused a rapidly increasing bitterness and exasperation amongst the large majority of the Irish people who have had no sympathy with the insurrection, and that, in the interests of the Empire itself, as well as of Ireland in particular, no further executions of the kind should be allowed to take place under any circumstances, and martial law should be immediately withdrawn."

STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr. Asquith said that the court-martials on the rebels of the Dublin revolt are practically finished, and he hoped that there would be no further necessity for the execution of death sentences. So far as he knew, no prisoners whose names had not yet been published had been shot by the military authorities. A debate on the execution of the insurgents was fixed for Thursday of this week.

THE IRISH PARTY AND THE INSURRECTION.

A meeting of the Irish Party was held on Tuesday when a long statement was issued. The following appeared in it: "Another tragedy has been added to the long tale of tragedies in Irish history. The capital of Ireland has been the scene of a mad and unsuccessful attempt at revolution. Blood has been shed freely. It is true that Ireland had been bitterly provoked by the growth of a similar revolutionary and illegal movement in another portion of Ireland, backed by an army in revolt. It is true that a grave responsibility for these events in Dublin rests on the leaders of that movement. These things will have to be discussed at the proper time. It is true that Ireland has been shocked and horrified by the series of military executions by military tribunals in Dublin. These things have been done in the face of the incessant and vehement protests of the Irish leaders, and those protests will be pressed continually and strongly until the unchecked control of the Military Authorities in Ireland is abolished. But it is also true that, in spite of these bitter provocations, the people of Ireland have had no hesitation in condemning the rising in Dublin as a dangerous blow at the heart and the hopes of Ireland."

GENERAL ORDER.

Headquarters, White's Hotel, Wexford, 10th May, 1916.

Colonel Jameson Davis, commanding the 10th Wexford National Volunteers, desires to thank all ranks for their loyal and quick response to the call of duty in defence of life and property and in the preservation of law and order during the recent lamentable insurrection, particularly in Wexford Borough and New Ross. Before the arrival of the military they turned out in force under their officers, and with the R.I.C. and special constables were fully prepared to resist the threatened attacks of the rebel forces, in consequence of which their attacks were happily repelled.

Colonel Jameson Davis desires to express his high appreciation of the conduct of the Volunteers during this crisis, and to say he is proud to command such men. The National Volunteers will continue to render such assistance to the O.C. troops, Co. Wexford, and the R.I.C. as may be required to preserve law and order.

H. Jameson Davis, Colonel and I.O., Co. Wexford.

TRIAL OF SIR ROGER CASEMENT.

It has been arranged that the case against Sir Roger Casement will be commenced at Bow-street, London, on Monday, before Sir John Dickinson, who will continue the hearing from day to day.

LORD WIMBORNE RESIGNS.

It is officially announced that Lord Wimborne has resigned the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland.

COMPULSION.

The United demand for the extension of compulsory enlistment to Ireland was rejected by the House of Commons on Tuesday.

REV. P. F. KEHOE, P.P., CLOUGH-SAWN.

The good people of Cloughsawn parish and his many friends in Clonroche are anxiously awaiting the home coming of their beloved pastor, Rev. P. F. Kehoe, P.P., who is at present on his way from New Zealand, accompanied by the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Lord Bishop of Auckland. The travellers are expected to arrive early in July, when it is needless to say, the good people of Cloughsawn parish will be their loyal welcome. It is believed that only generous Irish Catholic hearts know how to accord a well beloved sagarth aroon.

THE SINN FEIN REBELLION.

IN ENNISCORTHY.

DETAILS OF THE RISING.

FROM OUR REPORTER.

(Passed by Censor).

The thriving town of Ennisclorthy, where so many famous battles were fought during the Rebellion of 1798, was the scene of remarkable occurrences towards the close of last week. The town, which is the centre of a rich agricultural district, is situated on the side of Vinegar Hill, where the rebels of '98 made their last stand. For some time past the town had been regarded as being a hot-bed of Sinn Fein, and when the insurrectionists held up Dublin, it was surmised that the Sinn Fein Volunteers of the county, Wexford would make a stand at that town, which is admirably suited for defence purposes.

The rising in Ennisclorthy started shortly after two o'clock on Thursday morning last. At that hour about 200 Sinn Feiners who had gathered about the town during the night, assembled at the Athenaeum, one of the principal buildings in the town. The Athenaeum was seized and utilised as headquarters for the insurgent staff. All the principal thoroughfares were guarded and patrolled, while forces were dispatched to guard all the approaches to the town. About 20 motor cars, the property of residents of the town, were commandeered and huge supplies of petrol were also procured by force. At a quarter past six o'clock arms and ammunition were served out at the Athenaeum to recruits for the Republican forces, and the Republican flag of green, white, and yellow was hoisted at the headquarters. A strong force of the rebels also proceeded to the railway station and took possession. A light engine which was proceeding the train conveying munition workers from Wexford to Arklow was held up and seized by the insurgents. The rebels then cut the telegraph and telephone wires and during these operations one of the rebels fell from the telegraph pole and crushed his ribs. A party then proceeded to tear up the railway lines at either end of the town and were successful in cutting off all communication with the outside world.

A proclamation was issued by the Sinn Fein, stating that the town was in possession of the Irish Republicans, and warning the citizens, as to their behaviour. All publichouses were closed by the Sinn Feiners, and business was entirely suspended, the only people working being the employes of the Gas Company and the bakers, who were made to work by the rebels.

Shortly after seven o'clock an encounter took place between the police and the rebels, and two policemen who were cut off from their barracks had to take refuge in the Bank of Ireland. The R.I.C. barracks, which had been held by the authorities, was stormed by the insurgents, but as the police had plenty of ammunition, the rebels failed to take it. During the attack on the barracks, Constable Grace was shot in the leg, his thigh bone being fractured. A little girl of eight years, named Foley, was also shot in the neck. District-inspector Hegarty, who was in charge of the police, was observed near the Bank of Ireland, which was also harried and defended by the police, was also fired on but he escaped, a bullet passing through his cap.

The Sinn Feiners were now in complete possession of the town and large supplies of food, bedding, etc., were commandeered by them. A proclamation calling for the surrender of all arms was published and in this way the supply of munitions at the disposals of the Volunteers was considerably augmented. In spite of this a house search was conducted by the rebels and a big quantity of firearms was found. The local cycle shops were also visited, and motor cycles, bicycles and accessories were also commandeered.

During Thursday several attempts were made to take the police barracks, but all attacks were repulsed.

The ladies of the Cumann na mBan fitted up the top story of the Athenaeum as an hospital and preparations were made for the reception of the wounded. During the day commandeering of supplies continued. In the afternoon Ennisclorthy Castle, which stands on an eminence commanding the town, was taken by the rebels and the occupants, Mr. Henry Roche, J.P., and his family, were evicted. A large number of young men joined the forces that night and were sworn in as Republicans.

The town was now in a thorough state of defence and scouting parties or rebels scoured the country for miles. The streets were picketed by rebels, and the townspeople, who were much alarmed at the sensational developments, were obliged to keep indoors. A man named Walsh, who when challenged by the sentries, refused to stop, was shot in the arm. The position on Friday was something similar, the commandeering of supplies proceeding on even a larger scale. On Saturday a rebel force from the town proceeded to Ferns by motor and took possession of the police barracks and post office in that town. A party of rebels from the Ferns district, which was encamped in a wood close to the town since the previous Tuesday, disbanded that evening.

Food was becoming very scarce in Ennisclorthy, and by order of the Sinn Feiners, the shopkeepers were only permitted to discharge of limited quantities of certain commodities. A party of two hundred and fifty soldiers, wives and about fifty old age pensioners waited on the rebel commanders during the evening and complained, that as they had not secured their Government allowances owing to the post office being in the custody of the rebels, they had no money to buy food. The insurgents then gave orders to persons in receipt of allowances, by which they were able to procure the desired supplies from the shopkeepers. The poor of the town also obtained food in this way, and at night all the shops were practically empty.

The townspeople were eagerly awaiting the arrival of the military to relieve them as the situation was becoming desperate. On Saturday night a meeting of the business men of the town was held at which the clergy of all denominations were in attendance, and a deputation was appointed to visit the rebels as to terms, but nothing came of the Conference. On Sunday a party of citizens from Arklow including District-inspector from Govern, R.I.C., and Father Kehoe, Camolin, came to Ennisclorthy by motor under a white flag, and conveyed the news that the rebels in Dublin had surrendered. A deputation consisting of Father Fitzgery, Catholic, Ad. Administrator Canon Lester, Protestant Rector, Mr. Patrick O'Neill, J.P., Chairman Urban Council, and others were

permitted by the Republicans to proceed to Wexford to interview the military. These the news of the surrender of the Rebel Commanders in Dublin was confirmed. The rebels in Ennisclorthy refused to credit this and declined to give up possession of the town. Captains Buckingham and Doyle of the Republicans were allowed to proceed to Dublin under a military escort, where they interviewed Commander Perse at Arbor Hill Invermont Barracks. On their return to Ennisclorthy the Rebel Commanders held a Conference, and after much persuasion on the part of the chief citizens present at the proceedings, agreed to an unconditional surrender.

On Monday morning a force of 2,000 military, comprising infantry, cavalry and artillery, under the command of Colonel French, entered the town and were accorded a hearty welcome by the suffering townspeople. The six commanders of the rebels surrendered. Practically all the rebels had disbanded on the previous night, but huge supplies of arms, ammunition, etc. were taken by the military. During the day, and on the following days many of the rebels were rounded up and the work of arresting and disarming the remainder of the rebels in proceeding.

A rising was also feared in Wexford on Thursday and the National Volunteers, under Col. Jameson Davis, D.L., turned out to assist the police. Over 600 of the chief citizens of the town, including the Mayor, also enrolled as special constables, and the town was put in a state of defence. A number of arrests were made in the town, and on the arrival of a party of soldiers on the following day further precautions were taken and numerous arrests were made.

On Friday night the house of Mr. O'Connor, brother of the Solicitor-General for Ireland, was fired into, but no damage was done. On the same night three men having arms in their possession were arrested in the vicinity of the local munition factory.

On the arrival of a force of 2,000 military from the Southern Command the town resumed its normal state, and since then many arrests have been made.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The commandeering of food in Ennisclorthy went on during Thursday, large quantities of tea, sugar, flour, bacon, bread and coal being taken from the grocery and provision shops.

On Thursday evening an attempt was made to blow up the little railway bridge over the River Boro, but the explosion did little damage. Pickets were placed on all streets leading into the town, and no one allowed to leave the town without a "pass" from headquarters. Many strange stories are told of these pickets and sentries. Allegations are freely made that some of them (common corner boys) compelled respectable townsmen to salute them when passing. The "passes" issued by the "Republican" headquarters staff are much sought after as souvenirs by the townspeople and visitors to the town. The officers of the Irish Republic began commandeering motor cars, motor vans and motor bikes at an alarming rate. A Wexford motor van laden with bread was held up and the bread turned over for the use of the rebels, the van being held for transport purposes, and ere many hours passed all the motor cars in the town and vicinity were held up and appropriated for the use of the rebels.

During the sniping that went on in the earlier portion of the day, when some of the Volunteers fired on the police barracks, Const. Grace, Ennisclorthy, was wounded. He was sitting on the bench in his own room in the barracks, when the fire came from a couple of Volunteers believed to have been stationed on Castle Hill when a bullet entered the window and wounded him in the leg. He was conveyed by Mr. Scallan's motor car to the Ennisclorthy hospital. A Volunteer, alleged to have been engaged cutting telegraph wires early in the morning, was fired at by the police, though not hit by the shot he fell to the ground and broke his ribs. He was also conveyed to hospital. A little girl named Foley, daughter of Myles Foley, John-street, was also wounded in the street by the sniping that went on in Court-street in the early morning. These were the only casualties for the opening day of the "rising."

It is stated that at night one Volunteer was wounded by another in mistake, whilst yet another was wounded by his gun accidentally going off, the shot passing through his hand.

The hardware shops were visited, and a number of shot guns and large quantities of ammunition commandeered.

At 2 p.m. the Courthouse was forced and the rifles belonging to the National Volunteers taken.

At night a number of police were enrolled and sent out on the streets to patrol the town wearing armbands with the letters "I.R.P." (Irish Republican Police) this was done with a view to preserve order and prevent shop-lifting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28th.

The situation remained unchanged, the police, about twenty in number, occupied the Bank of Ireland, the police barracks, etc. About 11 o'clock a.m. a proclamation was issued calling upon all the townsmen to deliver up any fire arms, ammunition and explosives, at Headquarters, and threatening to make a house to house search for arms, when if any were found the owners would be severely dealt with. Some houses were visited and arms taken by force. The commandeering went on at a disgraceful rate, two or three cycle shops were raided and new and old bikes taken. Clothing was commandeered in large quantities, hats, boots and overcoats were taken in larger numbers. Many shopkeepers who could ill afford the loss had their shelves practically denuded of all articles of clothing, the Sinn Fein soldiers being most fastidious, in some cases refusing all but the most expensive boots the shop contained.

SATURDAY, 29th APRIL.

On Saturday the rebels commenced operations by taking possession of the Church Institute. The commandeering of boots and clothing went on apace, one shopkeeper's stock of overcoats and boots was drawn on to the next article. The premises of the Bank of Ireland were also visited and occupied. Motor cars rushed through the streets at lightning like speed, visiting country districts and bringing in country boys and youths in threes and fours. Another "Proclamation" was issued about 2 p.m. calling a general parade of officers and men of the Irish Volunteers at five o'clock. The parade took place when about seventy men and about twenty-five boys paraded. About sixty men were fairly well armed, the remainder carrying useless guns and pikes. Rumours that the military were near were frequently heard, but no one could verify the information. The clergy of the town, Rev. B. Fitzgery, Ad. (Rev. John Ross, etc.), etc., used every persuasion to check or stop the silly action of the rebels, but without success. It was definitely ascertained

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