

were prevalent in Cork that the Lord Mayor was to be killed by the police. On March 16, four days before the murder occurred, Denis Morgan, chairman of the Urban Council of Thurles, then in Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, London, heard that MacCurtain "had been sentenced to death by the Royal Irish Constabulary."

After the death of Lord Mayor MacCurtain the British Administration in Ireland announced that he had been killed by "Sinn Fein Extremists." We can discover no basis for this statement. Testimony was presented to us that at the inquest the British authorities responsible for this charge were directly challenged to produce any evidence of the participation of "extremists" in the crime. No such evidence was produced nor was the charge officially repeated thereafter. Nevertheless, it persisted in the press while public indignation was at its highest pitch. Our record shows that at the inquest a great mass of evidence was introduced attaching the responsibility for the crime to the "police." The Coroner's jury held certain British officials, including Inspector Swanzy, responsible for Lord Mayor MacCurtain's death.

Miss Susanna Walsh testified that the home of Lord Mayor MacCurtain's widow had been raided by Imperial British Forces twenty times since the murder. Your Commission had occasion to call the attention of the British Ambassador at Washington to one of these raids, in which Mrs. MacCurtain was reported to have been shot at, and which occurred a few days after we had cabled to her an invitation to testify before us.

Father Griffin.—While we were sitting, a priest named Father Griffin was mentioned in testimony as the possessor of a great deal of evidence regarding atrocities committed by British forces. A few days later he disappeared; and his body was subsequently found in a bog. Death had apparently resulted from bullet wounds. During interpellations in the British Parliament, brought to our notice concerning this murder, the British press reported that Sir Hamar Greenwood, hesitating for a reply, was prompted by a whisper, "Say the Sinn Feiners did it," loud enough to be heard in the press gallery. According to the newspaper accounts this prompting whisper came either from Mr. Winston Churchill, or, according to the correspondent of the *New Statesman*, London, from Premier Lloyd George.

"Extremists."—The phrase "Sinn Fein Extremists" casts doubt on the loyalty of the deceased to the Irish Republic, and in the Republican view contains an aspersion on his memory. It tends to make Irish Republicans suspicious one of another. It was invoked in the murder of a Republican Lord Mayor and of a Republican priest. It was also invoked in the burning of Cork. The attention of the Commission was called by several witnesses to the persistent efforts of officials of his Britannic Majesty's Government to create the impression, without the offer of evidence, that citizens of Cork had burned their own city.

Destruction of Cork.—Lord Mayor O'Callaghan testified, in effect: On the night of December 11, 1920, by the military curfew law Cork citizens were forbidden to be out of doors, without military permission, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. About 9 p.m. the streets were cleared by shots from the British military. The fires began at several points about 10 p.m. in the main thoroughfare of the city. At 3 a.m. another fire was started in the City Hall, separated by the River Lee from the 10 p.m. conflagrations. Previous attempts had been made to fire the city. During the night in question military trucks filled with soldiers patrolled the deserted burning streets. The fire brigade deposed that they were shot at while attempting to extinguish the flames. Exclusive of the area of the City Hall fire, about one square mile of the city was burned out. The loss was estimated at 20,000,000 dollars. Besides the business premises, and the seat of the Republican administration with its records, all the premises of the Republican political organisation were destroyed.

It may be noted that in his testimony before us Lord Mayor O'Callaghan definitely charged the burning of that city to the Imperial British forces, but did not offer direct proof to establish this charge. He placed in evidence an attested copy of the following telegram sent by him together with Messrs. Walsh and De Roiste, members of the Dail Eireann, to Sir Hamar Greenwood, Lord R. Cecil,

Messrs. Asquith and Henderson, and Commander Kenworthy:

"On behalf of the whole citizens, we absolutely and most emphatically repudiate the vile suggestion that Cork city was burned by any action of the citizens. In the name of truth, justice, and civilisation, we demand an impartial civilian inquiry into the circumstances of the city's destruction."

"We are quite willing to submit evidence before any international tribunal, or even a tribunal of Englishmen like Bentinck, Henderson, Kenworthy, and Cecil."

Lord Mayor O'Callaghan further testified:

"That demand for an impartial inquiry was supported by the Cork Chamber of Commerce, which, as I told you a short time ago, had already wired to Sir Hamar Greenwood, Imperial Chief Secretary for Ireland, and had asked for protection for their property. Up to then the demand for protection had only resulted in increasing the incendiarism, and they sent the following wire:

"The Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping express their astonishment at the statements made by you in the House of Commons with reference to the destruction of Cork. We demand that, as Chief Secretary, you make personal investigation on the spot of the true facts, when incontrovertible evidence will be placed before you, and that a judicial commission of inquiry be set up without delay. We claim that all damage be made good out of Government funds.

"The Chamber begs to draw your attention to the fact that on November 29 they wired you with reference to incendiary fires occurring in Cork, and requested immediate protection for citizens' property, to which telegram no reply was made by you.

"(Signed) DANCKERT, Honorary Secretary."

"That was also adopted by the Cork Harbor Board, on the motion of Mr. Benjamin Haughton, one of the Unionist members of the Board; and by the Cork Employers' Federation."

The Imperial British Government ordered an inquiry to be held, presided over by Major-General Strickland, in Cork, who was the officer commanding in Cork. Major-General Strickland duly reported to the Imperial British Government. His report was suppressed by that Government.

Your Commission had submitted to it copies of the reports of the British Labor Commission and of the Irish Labor Commission, both of which bodies, having made a direct and searching investigation, concluded that the forces of the Crown were guilty of the destruction of Cork. The conclusions of these two Commissions as to the guilt of the Crown forces and the responsibility of the British Government appear to us to be given greater weight by the refusal of the British Government to permit a civil inquiry, by the secrecy with which the military inquiry of General Strickland was conducted, by the suppression of the report of General Strickland, and by the admission in the House of Commons of Sir Hamar Greenwood, Chief Secretary for Ireland, that certain "Black-and-Tans" had been mildly disciplined for the part they were shown by the Strickland report to have had in the burning of Cork.

"Sinn Fein Extremist" would seem to be a term used exclusively by the British. The term is sometimes employed by them to connote murderers and incendiaries, engaged in the destruction of the lives and property of Irish Republicans. In the case of the murder of Lord Mayor MacCurtain, a British-summoned coroner's jury charged certain agents of the Imperial British Government with the crime; and in the case of the burning of Cork, General Strickland's military tribunal apparently found certain "Black-and-Tans" were culpable; though in both cases members of the Imperial British Government had averred that the guilty parties were "Sinn Fein Extremists." We would deprecate the use of the term "Sinn Fein Extremist" by responsible Ministers of the Imperial British Government.

Selected Irish Republicans would appear to have been murdered, singly and in numbers, surreptitiously and publicly. In domiciliary murders, without notoriety, silence followed. When the position or profession of the victim made silence impracticable, the British-made "Sinn Fein Extremist" was invoked. When the victim was in British

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