

The particulars of the Northern Section are as follows:—

Area No. 1 comprises a frontage on Patrick street of 132' 0" with a depth on Merchant street (late Fish Street) of 200', and on Maylor street of 215' 0". The total area involved is one acre, and includes five premises on the Patrick street front, four on the Merchant street front, and six on the Maylor street front.

Area No. 2 has a frontage on Patrick street of 156' 0", depth on Maylor street 160' 0", and on Caroline street 83' 0", with an indent into Winthrop lane affecting one of the premises there, for a depth of 63' 0", on a frontage of 27' 0" and is approximately half an acre in extent.

Area No. 3 has a frontage on Patrick street of 114' 0", on Winthrop street front 78' 0"; Robert street front 270' 0"; Oliver Plunket street front, 36' 0". Total area, half acre. Approximate total number of premises, 16.

Area No. 4 is bounded by Patrick street, Robert street, Cook street, and Oliver Plunket street. This block which is completely demolished, measures 160' on the Patrick street front, 260' on the Robert street front, 160' on Oliver Plunket street, and 240' in Cook street. The approximate number of premises embraced in this block is 13; total area, 1 acre. Of the 13 premises mentioned, six front Patrick street, including the establishments of the Munster Arcade, Messrs. Egan and Sons, Messrs. Sunners, etc.

Area No. 5 is bounded on the north by Oliver Plunket street, (late George's Street), on the east by Morgan street, and on the west by Erue's Lane. There is a frontage of 60' 0" at Oliver Plunket street, and 75' 0" at Morgan street, and 110' 0" on Erue's Lane. It includes approximately four premises, embracing amongst others the furniture factory of the Munster Arcade, and the veterinary stables of the late Wallis Hoare, V.S.

Area No. 6 embraces the premises of Messrs. Alexander Grant & Co., and Messrs. Haynes & Sons, Jewellers. It has a frontage on Patrick street of 87' 0", with a mean depth of 130'. The area affected amounts to 1,220 square yards.

Area No. 7 comprises the Municipal Buildings, with the City Hall annexe and Carnegie Library. The Municipal Buildings has a frontage of 160' on Albert quay and 80' in depth to the

main back wall. This building, up to 1892, the old Corn Exchange, and was acquired some 30 years ago by the Corporation, after the burning of their offices in the Court-house.

The City Hall measures approximately 100' by 58', and was erected in 1905 as an annexe to the Municipal Buildings for purposes of public assembly and for the reception of the Organ which was the gift of the Committee of the Cork International Exhibition of 1902-3.

As regards the Carnegie Library, the front to Anglesea street measures 115' and the depth 80'. The site area of this whole block amounts to close on one acre.

SUMMARY OF THE DAMAGE.

On the whole, the total destroyed frontage of Patrick street amounts to 613' 0", or 204 1/3rd yards, this particular property includes between eighteen and twenty of the principal establishments in the city, a number of them being the largest of their kind in the province. The total side street frontage destroyed, was 2,117' 0", or 705 2/3rd yards, and embraced between 25 and 30 premises on the side streets affected. The total area of the sites of the destroyed premises amounts roughly, to five acres. The total number of premises destroyed was between 40 and 50. The valuation for rating purposes of the property destroyed is approximately £5,400. The total amount of damage may be approximately assessed at £2,000,000.

NATURE OF BUSINESS DESTROYED.

The following is a list of the business premises destroyed in Patrick street and the vicinity—

No. 1 AREA.

Patrick Street Front

Messrs. J. O'Sullivan (Tobacconists), New York House, 12, Patrick Street.
J. Wolfe, Drapers, 13, Patrick Street.
Messrs. Roche's Stores, Drapery and Millinery, 14 and 15, Patrick Street.
Lee Boot Manufacturing Co., Shop, 16, Patrick Street.
Messrs. Scully, Connell, Children's Outfitters, 17, Patrick Street.

N.B.—The ground floor occupancy only is referred to in each case so as to give the identity of the individual sites. In many of the destroyed premises there were several occupancies on the upper floors but these interests do not call for attention in this report.

Merchant Street Front

Messrs. Ryan's, Paper and Twine Stores, 21, Merchant Street.
Cork Furniture Stores, 22, 23, 24, Merchant Street.
Dolphin Bar and Billiard Rooms, 25, Merchant Street.
Messrs. J. O'Sullivan, New York House, Wholesale Dept., Merchant Street.

Maylor Street Front

Messrs. D. O'Sullivan, Brushmaker, 27, Maylor Street.
Ryan's Paper and Twine Stores, 26, Maylor Street.
Cash & Co., Tailoring and Upholstering Department, 25, Maylor Street.
Stag's Head Bar and Billiard Rooms, 24, Maylor Street.
Lee Boot Factory, Store, 23, Maylor Street.
Scully, Connell, Despatch Dept.

No. 2 AREA.**Patrick Street Front**

Messrs. Cash & Co., Ltd., Drapers and General Warehousemen, 18 to 21, Patrick Street.

Merchant Street Front.

Occupied by the northern side of Messrs. Cash & Co.'s Premises.

Caroline Street Front.

Messrs. John Daly's Wine Stores, 19, Caroline Street, and portion of Messrs. Cash & Co.'s Premises.

Winthrop Street Front.

The Lee Cinema Picture House.

Winthrop Lane Front

Messrs. John Daly's Wine Stores.

No. 3 AREA.**Patrick Street Front.**

Thompson & Co., Fancy Warehouse, 22, Patrick Street
R. Cadmore, Sweet and Fruit Shop, 22a, Patrick Street
Barton, Clothiers, 23, Patrick Street.

The Saxone Boot Company, 24, Patrick Street
J. McKochnie & Sons, Dyers and Cleaners, 25, Patrick Street
J. O'Regan & Co., Hosiers, 26, Patrick Street

Winthrop Street Front

John Tyler & Sons, Boot Warehouse, 20, Winthrop Street.
M. Murphy, Fruiterer and Confectioner, 21, Winthrop Street

Robert Street Front

Tomkins & Co., Store
Munster Arcade Laundry, 3, Robert Street
Shandon Printing Works, 4 and 6, Robert Street
McKetterick, Bookbinding Establishment
D. Mulcahy, Iron Works, 8, Robert Street
M. Hogan, 9, Robert Street

Oliver Plunket Street Front

Mr. P. Forde, Vintner, 103, Oliver Plunket Street
J. Fitzgerald, Creamery, etc., 104, do.

No. 4 AREA.**Patrick Street Front**

Munster Arcade Drapery Establishment, 28, 29, 30, Patrick Street
R. Sunner, Pharmaceutical Chemist, 31, Patrick St.
Egan & Sons, Jewellers, 32, Patrick Street
Forrest & Sons, Silk Mercers 33, 34, Patrick Street

Cook Street Front

P. J. Noonan, Vintner, 1 and 2, Cook Street
E. Woods do, 3, Cook Street
Metropole Hotel, Stock Rooms
Cashman & Co., Wine Merchants, 4, Cook Street
P. O'Connor, Restaurant, 5, Cook Street
Miss Martin, Fruit and Vegetables, 6, Cook Street

Oliver Plunket Street Front

Miss K. Ahern, Vintner, 96, Oliver Plunket Street
 Bateman & Co., Boot Repairers, 97, Oliver Plunket St.
 Munster Arcade, Outfitters Dept., 99, 100, 101, Oliver
 Plunket Street.

Robert Street Front

Munster Arcade Premises

No. 5 AREA.

Munster Arcade Cabinet Factory, 36, Oliver Plunket
 Street

M. Cahill, Vintner, 37, Oliver Plunket Street

W. Hoare, V.S., Stables

Morgan Street Front

Munster Arcade Premises

No. 6 AREA.**Patrick Street Front.**

S. Haynes & Son, Watchmakers and Jewellers, 51,
 Patrick Street.

Alex. Grant & Co., Drapers, 52-54, Patrick Street.

Meat Market Lane Front.

Occupied by Western portion of Messrs. Alexander
 Grant & Co.'s Premises.

Mutton Lane Front.

Occupied by Eastern portion of S. Haynes & Son's
 Premises, and Messrs. Grant & Co.

The ruined commercial establishments set out in the above
 list once formed a cluster of very representative trading
 interests in and around Patrick Street. The magnitude
 of many of these concerns is represented in the Compensation
 awards of the Recorder by five and six figures.

For particulars of Area No. 7, see pages 19 to 29.

The areas which are indicated in heavy black outline and
 numbered on the accompanying map were laid in complete
 ruins, and a certain amount of incidental damage was done
 to adjoining property. The Photographs attached give an
 actual representation of the extent of the destruction.

It is pleasing to be able to state that though the property
 losses were extensive, there was not a single life involved
 in the disastrous conflagration.

It must here be mentioned that the work of clearance was
 very quickly and satisfactorily accomplished, notwithstanding
 the chaos of ruins, and the spectacle of appalling confusion
 the scene of destruction presented, with streets blocked with
 the debris of shattered buildings, and the sites of the various
 properties massed up with jumbles of bricks and mortar, stone
 and charred timber, iron and steel work.

JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION.

The cause of the fires was adduced in the Recorder's Court, on sworn evidence, and published verbatim in the daily Press, the following extracts being taken therefrom:—

CORK BURNING—BEFORE RECORDER.

(From "Independent, 8/2/21).

First Claim—Robertson, Leslie Ferguson & Co., in respect of Munster Arcade.

A CLERK'S EXPERIENCE.

Patrick Barry, Despatch Clerk, said that he was on duty at the Munster Arcade on the night of December 11th. At the time there were on the premises three women, two apprentices, two watchmen, and a despatch clerk. Witness was in his room when a watchman came down and told him there was a blaze of fire in Patrick Street. Witness told a watchman to go to the shop and he put another watchmen in the front overlooking Oliver Plunkett Street. Witness went to the front of the house overlooking Patrick Street. Looking through the window, witness saw Grant's a huge blaze of flame. He saw police and soldiers and a lorry and a Crossley car in the light of the blazing fire. He also saw an ambulance passing and a number of police passing down with rifles. Looking towards Mangans he saw a tramway car on fire and some policemen looking into Mangan's shop.

POLICE AND SOLDIERS.

"I heard glass breaking," added witness, "and saw men walking along with tins of petrol. I saw a Crossley car in which were soldiers passing by, and the soldiers cried out 'Cheerio' to the policemen, and the policemen shouted back 'Cheerio.' Witness added that he saw a Ford Car coming out of Winthrop Street into Patrick Street, and stop opposite Messrs. Cash and Co., in Patrick Street. Men in uniform got out of the car and walked down Maylor Street. Then he heard an explosion. He saw girls and a man coming out of Cash's. Looking out on the Robert Street side of the Arcade he heard one of the three policemen say, "The Munster Arcade next." Then he saw police throwing bombs into the shop underneath. Witness rushed to collect the employees. In going towards the exit in Elbow Lane he heard shots fired through the door. He saw police and an officer in charge of them. Witness shouted, "hold on there; there are women up here." The

officer shouted back, "put up your hands." Witness, The watchman, and the male apprentices then put up their hands and were marched out into Elbow Lane. During all this time bombs were exploding in the interior of the premises. The officer and police went upstairs with tins of petrol, and soon after there came a gush of flame from the dining hall and offices, and the police came down and ordered the police and soldiers to let Barry and his fellow-refugees go away.

FORCES WITH MASKS SHOT AT THE REFUGEES.

The soldiers and police had masks on their faces. When witness and his friends got to George's Street, they saw a number of men with peaked caps—policemen of "black and tans." They turned us back and fired at us. They were carrying bags of stuff, he added. When we wanted to go in another direction, soldiers again stopped us, and finally we went to a Marlboro Street restaurant.

HOUSEKEEPER'S STORY.

Mrs. Gaffney, housekeeper, Munster Arcade, said that a maid aroused her and told her that Grant's was on fire. Then another rushed up and said that Cash's was on fire. Witness did not move. After a time they came back and as they were silent she asked them what was up and why they did not talk. Then one man spoke up and said the Arcade is burning on all sides. We heard explosions, and they began firing from the street up at the window where we were then. Mr. Barry went to the window and shouted, "Hold on, there are women here," and the reply came back, "Hold up your hands; women are safe, whatever about you." They went down and saw an officer in a "British Warm" coat, muffled up to his eyes, and with a revolver in his hand. The police with him had revolvers also. Immediately the door was opened and officer rushed up with bags of stuff that burned like bombs, and soldiers followed him with tins of petrol. They were then rushed out and told to halt. I had scarcely my clothes on me, and seeing an Auxiliary officer I went up to him and asked him to allow me to get clothes and dress myself. His answer was, "No, madam, you did not consider us, and we are not going to consider you."

HOUSEKEEPER AND SHOTS.

Persons came out of the Arcade with bags of stuff. They walked up to them. "Get back out of this," cried the men

with bags, who also carried rifles. We were told to come this way, Mrs. Gaffney said she stated on behalf of her little band of refugees. "Well you can't," replied the others, "go back." So the refugees went back, and as they went the men who told us to go back fired on us.

**MESSRS. FORREST & SONS, PATRICK STREET.
33 & 34, Patrick St., and 1 & 2, Cook St.**

Mr. M. J. Forde gave evidence that he was living on the premises on November 27th. Eight ladies were also living in. About 3.40 in the morning he heard a loud knocking at the door. He got up and went to the dining room window. Some of the ladies also came down. Immediately after, said witness, there was a violent explosion, immediately followed by another.

The RECORDER—Were there bombs thrown in through the window? No, they were evidently thrown in the lane at the back of Messrs. Egan's.

Were Messrs. Egan's premises on fire that night? No.

Witness continued that there was further loud knocking at the door in Cook Street. When he went down to open it there was a tall man masked with a revolver in his hand, at the door, and another smaller man. They ordered him out, and he told them there was no one on the premises but ladies, and he asked for time to allow these ladies leave. He discovered that one lady was not there, and getting permission to go and call her, and in doing so he saw a small man bursting in one of the work rooms, the tailor's. We all passed out into the street and were called into another house. And half an hour after he saw the place on fire. Next day a number of empty petrol tins were found in Elbow lane at the back of the premises.

The RECORDER—Evidently these men had set fire to the premises? Yes.

MESSRS ALEX GRANT & CO.

In the case of the claim for compensation by Messrs. Alex. Grant & Co., 52-54, Patrick Street, when Mr. H. O'Connor, K.C. who represented the firm before the Recorder, proposed to call the caretaker to support the evidence already given in the Court regarding the cause of the burning the Recorder remarked that there was "no need to give further evidence of malice."

MESSRS CASH & CO.

Messrs. Cash & Company applied for compensation in the Recorder's Court for the burning of their premises on the night of the 11th December. Mr. Conner, K.C., explained that the premises were set on fire on the night of 11th December. The Court had already some evidence concerning the burning of the premises generally in the Munster Arcade case, and he did not think it necessary to bring up all the witnesses at his disposal.

Mr. Lynch, K.C., mentioned that he appeared with Mr. McCarthy for the Corporation.

Mr. Conner—As the Corporation are appearing, I think it necessary to prove how the burning took place.

Mr. Thos. Phelan, one of the employees of Messrs. Cash and Co., said that on the night of the 11th December, he got information that there were fires in the city, and Mr. Griffin instructed him not to go to bed. He noticed that there was a light in the warehouse, and at that time there should not be anyone in that portion of the premises. He heard someone trying to get in at the Maylor Street door, and went and opened it. When he did so he saw two men—one in a dark uniform and the other in khaki. They put up revolvers and went in—they were in a very excited state. They went upstairs, and the superintendent and witness went outside and were held up against the wall by a person in uniform. They were kept there for a few minutes. The girls went out, and one of the men asked for the key of the warehouse. Witness handed them over, and informed them that they would not be able to get in themselves, so he offered to go with them, and he did so. They went to the office, and one of them tried to open the desk with his rifle, and witness volunteered to try and get the keys. Witness failed to get them, and the man told him to get out, as any civilian was not safe on the premises. Witness asked them were they auxiliary police, and one of them said, "I am an auxiliary policeman myself." Approaching 12 o'clock he heard a great explosion, which shook the house, and saw smoke issuing from the Maylor Street shop.

Replying to Mr. Lynch, K.C., the witness said there were eight altogether living on the premises, and they did not go to bed at all that night—they decided to remain up as they had seen two fires in the street—one was Grant's and the other was the tramcar which was burning near the Statue. When

witness opened the door for the men, Mr. Hunter, the superintendent, was with him. Both the two men at the door and the one on the other side of the street were armed.

Mr. Wm. Griffin, Secretary of Messrs. Cash & Company, said he resided on the premises prior to the burning. Replying to Mr. Lynch, K.C., the witness said he saw some young men in uniform—two of them came in, and a third remained in Maylor Street. One was in khaki and the other was wearing a long dark coat. One of these young men seemed to be very excited, told us not to leave and threatened us with a revolver. There were some others with witness—the cook, some of the maids and some boys. One of the men asked him if he was the manager, and he said not, but that he was the principal person there at the time. Witness and the others went to a house which had been prepared for them, and the explosion occurred about 12 o'clock.

GENERAL CROZIER'S EXPOSÉ.

CORROBORATING INFORMATION.

Some six months after the burning, General Crozier, who held high rank on the staff of the non-military forces (sometimes called "Irregulars") created under the Restoration of Order (Ireland) Act, 1920 had resigned owing to a difference with his chiefs on certain disciplinary action he took with certain members of his forces in connection with the looting of the town of Trim. His case aroused such strong public feeling that it was made the subject of a discussion in the House of Commons.

Following this General Crozier felt it necessary to render an exposition of his case to the public, and in the "London Daily News" he published what was journalistically termed the "Crozier Dossier." In this chronicle of events during his period of service he dealt with the burning of Cork in the following paragraph which is taken from the English paper referred to:—

WHO BURNT CORK?

"A Colonel commanding a company of Auxiliaries at the time of the burning of Cork, was suspended. When the Company kicked up rough all those who were at Cork during the fires were sent up to Dublin to be dealt with. What happened. They demanded the reinstatement of Colonel—, or else they would state (1) who burnt Cork, (2) the names of the men implicated; (3) the name of the man who pumped petrol on to the City Hall and fired Verrey lights on to the roof. Result: Colonel— promoted."!

AREA No. 7. Southern Section.

DESTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, CITY HALL and CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

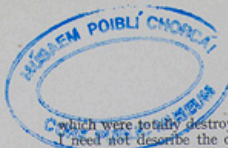
The burning of the three Public Buildings comprising Area No. 7, which means the destruction of the various Administrative Offices and Departments of your Corporation is a matter for your more direct concern. Practically all the records which dealt with the various ramifications of the service were destroyed.

This destruction of the Municipal Buildings, City Hall and the Carnegie Free Library is a calamity which only Civic Administrators can properly appreciate from the particularity of their knowledge of its dismal significance. The loss of Departmental Records and official muniments, of the Minutes of Proceedings as representing matters of Civic endeavour and achievement, of the Officers' papers and archives—their accumulated treasuries of years of advice and service—of public accounts and financial records, of schemes of public utility, and the files of technical data bearing on same,—in a word, all that goes to make up the recorded endeavour of the local Civic Authority in advancing the well-being of the local community, and thus contributing its share to the make up of a country's civilisation and status.

Such has been the loss to Cork by the recent destruction of its Municipal centre. One of the burnt Buildings—the Carnegie Free Library—was a very popular centre of culture and enlightenment. It was the gift of one of America's most liberal citizens whose philanthropy took the form of books for the people, and papers for the million.

OPENING STATEMENT OF COUNCIL FOR CORPORATION BEFORE THE RECORDER OF CORK.

Mr. Norwood, K.C., said that "he appeared with his friend, Mr. Reardea for the Applicants in the three applications which in reality were one, and were in respect of the Municipal Buildings and City Hall, and the Carnegie Free Library,



which were totally destroyed by fire on December 12th, 1920. I need not describe the character of these buildings because anybody coming into the city could not fail to be struck by their handsome appearance. They have been burned down and nothing remains of these magnificent buildings and all they contained but the bare naked walls. . . . I hand in to your Honor a photograph of the buildings as they were and a photograph of the buildings as they are now—a mass of ruins. These buildings were not all built at the same time, or in the same year, or did they come from the same source. The building fronting the Quay was originally part of the old Corn Exchange. On the passing of the Act of 1889 that building then vested in the Trustees of the Corn Market became vested in the Corporation, and portion of the old buildings was still being used up to the time of the fire as portion of the buildings of the Corporation. It was extensively added to and was called the Municipal Buildings in which ever department of the work of the Corporation was carried out. In the years 1905-07 an addition, known as the Concert Hall, or City Hall, was made to it, and later on the buildings became to be known as the City Hall. To the right of these buildings was the Carnegie Free Library which was erected out of a gift of £10,000 and other moneys. That building, the Free Library, also perished in the flames. In the Concert Hall, or City Hall, which was a very magnificent building there was a grand organ which was presented to the Corporation after the Cork Exhibition of 1902 and 1903. These three buildings and all they contained in them were destroyed by fire on the morning of December 12th, following the events of that night. I need not tell your Honor all the events of that night. It was the night on which practically one quarter of Cork was burned down. And I think your Honor has judicial knowledge of these burnings because you have adjudicated on some claims already arising therefrom. The firing of these Corporation buildings was, I think, a part of the scheme and plan of campaign which took place on that night of December 11th, and you will clearly see from the evidence I will put before you that it was a detached business and that the flames did not spread from the burning buildings in Patrick Street to these Corporation premises which were singled out for separate attack. And it was not the first time that these buildings of the Corporation were singled out for attack, because on a prior occasion they were bombed, but with a result that did not bear any great effect. But the persons that perpetrated

*At a distance of about 200 yards from these public buildings is the Central Police Depot in the City.

these crimes were determined that it should not escape on this the third attack, which they were determined was to be the final one. At 2 o'clock on the morning of December 12th, 1920, firemen who were on duty at the Municipal Buildings saw men approach the buildings. They heard shots outside; they saw men climbing over the wall skirting the buildings. Some of these men were wearing trench coats, dark coats, and some of them had hammers and sledges in their hands with which they tried to cut up and break in through the windows near the organ in the City Hall. The firemen went for assistance and coming back saw three men coming along Union Quay, and each man carried two tins of petrol. Eventually these persons attacked the building in the flank and got in, because these three men who came from *Union Quay each carrying petrol tins were let in the front door. Fire followed explosions in the building and when the firemen got out and were able to put a hose in position to play on the flames the water was cut off and the whole buildings were involved, and the perpetrators were determined that no effort to save them would meet with success. The result was that these splendid buildings were now, as depicted in the second photograph, a complete mass of ruins."

The estimates for the restoration of the Buildings, as prepared by the City Engineer, were then dealt with, and were as follows:—

Municipal Buildings	...	...	£69,324
City Hall	...	...	£37,333
Carnegie Library	...	...	£40,462
Books and Furniture (Librarian's estimate)	...	...	£9,650
Total Amount of Claim	...	...	£156,769

EVIDENCE OF FIREMAN C. HEALY.

CHRISTOPHER HEALY, Fireman, called, sworn, and examined by Mr. Rearden:—
 Q. Were you a fireman on duty at the City Hall on the morning of December 12th last?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. And I believe there were four other firemen on duty with you?
 A. Six altogether, sir.
 Q. Now do you remember your attention being attracted by some noise about two o'clock on that morning?

THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE RUINS OF FOUR PREMISES ON THE WESTERN END OF AREA NO. 4

A. Yes, sir.
 Q. Tell us what you heard?
 A. First of all I heard shots on the Quay.
 Q. What part of the building were you in?
 A. In the lamp-lighter's department.
 Q. That is a portion of the building off the vestibule?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. You were on duty from the Fire Brigade Station at the Municipal Buildings in order to guard against damage?
 A. Yes.
 The Recorder—You came from the Fire Station?
 A. Yes, your Honor.
 Q. What did you hear next?
 A. We went then from the Hall into the Cornmarket, that is back of the Hall. We went out into the yard and saw by the Carnegie Library men coming over the wall—men wearing long coats.
 Q. Just a moment—Before you went to the back, into the Cornmarket from the City Hall, did you hear any knocking at the door?
 A. No, Sir.
 Q. Then you got into the Cornmarket yard at the rear and you saw some men climbing over the Carnegie Library boundary wall?
 A. Yes.
 Q. And what did you see then?
 A. I saw these men coming. One man carried a hammer or sledge or some heavy instrument in his hand. We went over on to the boundary railings between the Bandon Railway and the Cornmarket yard, and got into the railway station, and rang up the Fire Brigade and told them that the City Hall was being attacked again.
 Q. How many men did you see trying to get over the Library wall?
 A. Two, sir.
 Q. Did you notice how they were dressed?
 A. They were wearing trench coats, sir.
 Q. And when you saw these men you went and rang up the Fire Brigade?
 A. Yes.
 Q. Had you been on duty at the City Hall on other occasions when it was attacked?
 A. Yes.
 Q. Do you remember any time before that it was attacked?
 A. Once before.

Q. How long before this attack?
 A. I was employed there since the first bomb was thrown into it.
 Q. How long before had the attack taken place, that you were there?
 A. *It is hard to say.
 *First attack took place on night of October 9th, 1920. The second occurred on the night of November 30th, 1920.
 Q. A few weeks?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What happened on that occasion?
 A. One room was completely burned.
 Q. And there were bombs thrown through the window?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. You rang up the Fire Brigade and told them of this attack being made on the City Hall. What did these men at the Fire Station do?
 A. They could do nothing, sir. The man at the Fire Station told me that Patrick Street was on fire. He told me that Cash's, Grant's, and the Arcade were on fire.
 Q. Did you do anything?
 A. If I came out I would be fired on.
 Q. Did you stop at the Bandon Railway Station?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What occurred, when you did go out on the Quay?
 A. I saw men coming direct down from Union Quay—three men carrying tins.
 Q. How many?
 A. Two men, each carrying two tins.
 Q. Did these men appear to be carrying petrol tins?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. And you saw these men coming down from Union Quay and towards the City Hall—coming from the direction of the Police Barracks?
 A. They were.
 Q. Now what did these men with the two tins of petrol do?
 A. They were coming to the front door of the City Hall and they went in the door of the City Hall.
 Q. Before you left, before the attack began, had the front door been barred and locked from inside?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. These two men entered by the front door: what happened when they entered?
 A. There was a loud explosion, and there was one man giving orders—telling them stand clear—the whole time.

Q. How many explosions did you hear altogether?
 A. Well, I heard two very loud explosions in the place. And then there were several small explosions.
 Q. And did the whole building then catch fire?
 A. It took about two hours before the whole building was well ablaze.
 Q. In the meantime did you make any effort to quench the fire when it started?
 A. I couldn't, sir.
 Q. Why could you not?
 A. I could not go out on the Quay.
 Q. Were you still in the Bandon station?
 A. Yes, sir.
 The Recorder—Why couldn't you go out on the Quay?
 A. There was firing going on.
 Mr. Norwood—A very good reason, I should think.
 Mr. Rearden (to witness)—And taking it that you saw these policemen go in there—
 The Recorder—Has he stated that?
 Mr. Rearden—I beg your pardon. (To witness)—you saw these two men enter the building and you went back to the Bandon Railway station and remained there because of the danger of being shot on the Quay?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. How long did you remain in the station?
 A. Until four o'clock. We were going in and out on and off to see if there was anything at all we could do. But every time we came out up to four o'clock there was someone on the Quay.
 Q. And the firing was continuous?
 A. Yes.
 Q. When you came out at four o'clock was the whole place ablaze?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What did you do then?
 A. We went straight into Patrick Street and there saw a horse reel hose and we took a stand from King (or MacCurtain) Street and went down to the City Hall again. When we got down there the police were there then in uniform. We put the stand pipe down to get the hose to work from the corner of the Carnegie Library.
 The Recorder—What were the police doing there?
 A. They were standing around, sir. Twenty or thirty police were there at that time, all standing around the place. One man said he would give us assistance if we wanted it.

Mr. Rearden (to witness)—One of the police said he would give assistance
 A. Yes.
 Q. At this time had the Carnegie Library caught fire?
 A. Yes. We got the hose through the garden of the Library, and I climbed up on the wall and came over by the roof to play the hose there. But every time I was going to put the water into the place, the water was turned off.
 Q. Who was turning off the water?
 A. The police were turning off the water. I saw them plainly from where I was.
 Q. You saw them turn off the water from the very first attempt to play it on the fire?
 A. Yes.
 Q. And as a consequence of that you were able to do nothing to stop the fire?
 A. No, sir.
 Q. And so the entire place, the Municipal Buildings, City Hall and Carnegie Free Library were all gutted—all burned to the ground?
 A. Yes, sir.
 This completed the witness's evidence; and
 Mr. Norwood (to the Recorder)—I have some more witnesses but I think it only wasting time to examine them.
 The Recorder—Of course, if you mean about malicious burning. I have no doubt about that.
 Mr. Norwood—To exclude the principal question of accident.
 The Recorder—Accidental burnings don't take place all over a city in one night.

RECORDER'S JUDGMENT.

At the sitting of the Court on Tuesday, the 22nd of February, His Honor the Recorder of Cork, in giving judgment, said—
 In this case there are two claims, one in respect of the Municipal Buildings, and Concert Hall, and the other for the Carnegie Free Library and its contents. The City Engineer's claim for personal effects is included, and that I allow in full. The deductions I make don't affect that. Now, as I understand your claim, I mean as regards what you have given evidence of, you have four items—£69,324, £37,333, £44,462 10s., and £9,650, making a total of £156,769 10s., and that in reality is the claim you make as consistent with the evidence.
 Mr. NORWOOD—That is so.
 THE RECORDER—Well, of course, Mr. Norwood, it is a large sum.

MR. NORWOOD—So is the injury.

THE RECORDER—The injury, or course, was enormous.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

Now, the first item—I can't go into a very large number of details, you can well understand, in commenting on the matter. I take now the first item of £69,324, and I am quite aware that the cost of re-building is large compared with the original outlay in the building, the £8,000 that Mr. Fitzgerald got, but now the cost of restoring the building is estimated at £47,000. I recognise what the Engineer said that there really was a great rise in the cost of building materials and likewise in the cost of labour, which I have no doubt were 20 per cent. up in 1914 and probably 350 per cent. since then. I think that is quite correct. I am not finding any fault now with the £47,313 claim. There are several items, however, comprising this claim of £69,324. There is one—Consequential loss in change of offices, £9,012, and I examined Mr. Delany a good deal about that, because I wanted to satisfy myself and understand, and no person was more competent to explain matters to me than Mr. Delany, and he did give me a good explanation, but still I think that sum is too high. Another item that is too high is "internal furniture and fittings," £7,896. They are the only two items that I interfere with under that head, and I reduce the £69,324 to £65,000.

CITY HALL.

The next item is "City Hall, £37,333"—that is the estimated cost of restoration of the Concert Hall. Well, the same observations I made as regards the Municipal Buildings apply here, for though this Concert Hall cost only £5,731 to erect the cost now, taking that into account and taking also into account the allowance made in respect of the old walls and foundations, £19,501, I don't think it is too much and I am not going to interfere with it. But this I will do—the consequential loss involved in disturbance there—that item I will wipe out altogether. I suppose very few of us escape in the present times without some disturbance or inconvenience, and we all have to put up with these things, each in his own way. The temporary loss of the Concert Hall would be better accepted and put up with than to go and lay out £7,896 in trying to put up some temporary structure which would enable that disadvantage and inconvenience to be tided over until the Concert Hall is restored again. So I take upon myself the responsibility of striking that sum out altogether as an

unwise expenditure, and I think that would be the view of the Corporation themselves if they considered and reflected on the matter. At all events that is my view, and I strike it out. Now, I am not very competent to pronounce on the question of the Organ. That is a matter for the Corporation themselves as to whether they will now or in the future think it wise to go to the expense of laying out £7,000 on an Organ. It is possible that such an Organ as they had before would cost that. But would the Corporation think it wise now to lay out £7,000 on an Organ? Of course that is a matter for themselves; I have some doubt whether they would, but I don't know. However, I suppose what I am bound to do is to use my own judgment independently and do what I think right. I consider that this sum of £37,333 is substantially excessive, and what I allow in respect of all that item is £28,500.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

I now come to the Carnegie Library: Now we will first deal with the building itself apart from its contents, and the sum which you estimate as the cost of rebuilding the Library is £33,262 10s. I make the same observation about the building there as I made about the previous buildings. In 1904 it cost £9,769. A considerable portion of the walls are standing, and there are also the foundations. The foundations are a very important item often; they entered very largely into the question of the old Municipal Buildings, if I remember rightly. Here is an item which I commented on yesterday—Consequential loss incurred in disturbance £7,200. Well, of course, Mr. Delany, as he always is, was very reasonable in answers to me about that, and Mr. Norwood himself, I think, saw that that could hardly be pressed with reason, and with fairness as a burthen to be put on the taxpayers or whoever it may be. But at the same time Mr. Delany said that the Corporation were anxious during the progress of reconstruction to have some provision made so that the people should not be deprived of the advantage of the Free Library, and they would make some temporary provision on premises which would not involve any unreasonable or extravagant outlay; and he said that the views of the Corporation could be carried out at an expenditure of about £11,000. That seems not unreasonable, and I am willing to allow it, but the remainder of the £7,200 must go. Of course I don't accept every item, every particular, and I reduce that claim of £40,462 10s. to £33,000. There comes next the item of £9,650

* The City Engineer is not responsible for this figure.

for the list of furniture, fittings, books, and so on. I may as well say at once I consider that an extravagant claim. In a case of this kind, as in so many other affairs in this life, a little regard to history always throws a lot of light on it. And when I recall the Fund originally supplied by Mr. Carnegie, £10,000, and when I recall that the building there at that time previously was a modest building, of only modest proportions, and when I recall also that the Corporation from that time to this had very large demands on them I can't suppose they went to any extravagant outlay on the furniture and books. I have no doubt they made reasonable expenditure on these matters, so far as their duties required, but that is all. I think the sum claimed £9,650 for furniture, books, and fittings too much, but I don't want at all to hamper the gentleman in charge who gave his evidence very well, and evidently displayed a keen and most commendable interest in the welfare of the Institution. I reduce that £9,650 to £7,750. Now, the effect of dealings with these two claims is this—the two claims of £156,769 10s. are reduced to £134,250, but to be legally correct what I must do is to deal with the claims before me. The first claim was for the Municipal Buildings and Concert Hall. Very well. What I allow in respect of that is £93,500, and what I allow in respect of the Carnegie Free Library, buildings, contents and all is £40,750.

MR. NORWOOD—The area of charge is a matter of importance in this case. The claim is brought against the Co. Council. The injury took place undoubtedly within the Borough but within a quarter of a mile of the Boundary.

THE RECORDER—Is that so?

MR. NORWOOD—Yes, it is.

THE RECORDER—Now, I ask you this as a matter of curiosity—are the claims brought against the County Council only?

MR. NORWOOD—No. There is a particular form of notice required under the Rules, which according to a recent decision have got the effect of an Act of Parliament, and though you do apply against one the Notices have to be served both on the extra Body and also on the Body where the injury was committed. But the Act of Parliament says the claim can be brought against the one or the other. We brought it against both. We did so in fairness. It is hard to conceive that any citizens of Cork are guilty of the outrage. The perpetrators are in the city but we do not know where they came from, and we don't think it is fair to saddle the City with this great,

big burthen. The perpetrators may have come from the County. I suggest that the County must bear its portion. It is impossible to say that the City should bear the burthen of £134,000, as there is absolutely no evidence to show that the legal malice in this case originated in the City and was the malice of citizens of the Borough. You can put the whole on the County if you wish so far as your Honor's power is concerned. You have absolute power to do so.

THE RECORDER—I see no reason at all why I should confine it to the City. It is one of these things where you cannot say that the City is more responsible than the County. My present disposition is to distribute it equally over the City and County. I will consider the matter and I will hear you, Mr. Norwood, if you have anything further to say.

MR. NORWOOD—I have given you all the information I can. Who the perpetrators were is a matter of surmise.

THE RECORDER—The feeling I have about it is this—What is fair and just? I intend to distribute this burthen over the City and County, and the question is whether I should do it in proportion to the Valuation or equally. I think it is only fair to put this burthen on the City and County—half on each. I exempt the City of any special responsibility at all.

COMMENTS AT THE CORK SPRING ASSIZES, 1921.

The following is an extract of the reported proceedings of the Cork Spring Assizes, 1921, taken from the "Irish Independent," of March 15th, 1921. This was the first Government High Court Session to assemble in Cork subsequent to the great fire.—

"The destruction of Cork city was referred to by the Lord Chief Justice in opening the Assizes for the city. He stated that on December 12th, during the time of Curfew, incendiary fires broke out in various parts of the city, and damage was done which is estimated in the police return at £3,000,000. He had surveyed with infinite sorrow the ruins of great warehouses, Municipal Buildings, Carnegie Library, nurseries of trade and commerce.

"The fires must have been the work of many, armed with large quantities of explosives, and even now, after three months, no person had been made amenable, and the authorities appeared to be helpless and hopeless in face of one of the greatest catastrophes of modern times."

RESTORATION AND RE-CONSTRUCTION.

And now having dealt with the existing situation it is right to make some reference to the future:—

- (a) As to the possibilities of early re-construction;
- (b) The opportunities for improvement.

As regards the former, it is certain that re-construction can only be faced by the proprietors of the demolished business premises when the necessary financial arrangements have been made for the re-establishment of their concerns; and how this primary necessity will be provided is a matter which will involve a protracted process of negotiation and procedure for the payment of compensation. One thing certain is that having regard to the circumstances, the proprietors themselves cannot be expected to find the capital for re-building. This being the case it is manifest that the payment of compensation should come either from the Insurance Companies involved or the Government, or from both.

Much time will be involved in the negotiations under these heads by the parties and Departments concerned, and it will, therefore, be seen that the erection of temporary premises, or the adaptation of other premises, in the meantime is being resorted to. This process of re-establishment of the commercial interests has already begun, and adaptations of other premises have been resorted to in some instances. New temporary structures on old sites are in several cases already erected, and proposed in others, whilst transfers to secondary premises already held by some firms have been accomplished in other cases.

In the work of re-construction there can be no doubt that exceptional opportunities for improvements exist, and these may be categorised into three heads, viz. :—

1. Facade effects;
2. Building line improvement or rectification; and
3. Street widening.

There is no scope for new thoroughfare formation or street re-planning works, except by the costly acquisition and demolition of expensive property.

I should mention that I have had conferences both individually and collectively with the architects of the city, practically all of whom are engaged by the various firms and

proprietors, and there is general agreement as to the desirability of treating the restoration work in a manner becoming the opportunity, and in achieving the effects, both artistic and utilitarian which this portion of the city calls for.

I may state that in the local Branch of the Royal Institute of Architects, Ireland, acting purely as citizens, it is our intention to hold frequent conferences, and deal with all points that arise in the work of restoration in the spirit above-mentioned, with a view to meeting the ambitions and aspirations as expressed by the Deputy Lord Mayor at a recent meeting of the Council as to artistic harmony, etc. I should also say, in my official capacity, that the proprietors, the architects, and the builders of the city are very cordial in their desire to co-operate, and having a high appreciation of the problem before us all, they will spare no pains in contributing to the ultimate realisation of the general desire of the citizens.

INCREASE IN DESTITUTION.

The following extract from the Annual Report of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Cork gives some indication of the unprecedentedly large increase in destitution so wantonly caused in the City:—

"In no previous year were the demands for relief so numerous and continuous. . . . The Society was anxiously engaged in the closing weeks of the year (after the burning of the principal business portion of the City) in making arrangements for the relief of a larger number of families than had never before been entered on their books. The reader does not need to be reminded of the conditions which led to this alarming increase of distress."

It needs no imaginative effort to picture the poignant misery so suddenly brought on the approach of Christmas to the homes of a people who derive much spiritual succour and such simple worldly joy as their modest conditions of living afford from the sentimentality surrounding the great Festival.

The creditable work of the Cork Distress Committee was organised with most commendable expedition, and was comprised of leading citizens representative of every class and denomination. Great privation threatened various classes of workers affected by the burning of the City's Commercial centre, but relief was speedily forthcoming and some 3,000 indirect and 1,000 direct cases of relief were dealt with. That is to say about 800 heads of families, representing about 4,000 men, women and children.

PUBLIC SPIRIT REQUIRED.

Having regard to the magnitude and importance of the work of restoration it should be realised that, as there ought to be some authoritative source of control, the guardianship of the public interest and welfare in this problem of re-construction must be accepted and asserted by the Corporation, and will be assented to, I have no doubt, by those concerned; therefore, as a means of giving direction to a policy for the appropriate restoration of the destroyed area, it may be well if the Council resolved upon some such general conditions as the following:—

In the first place it may be desirable that the Corporation should be in a proper position, under proper authorisation, and by such mode of procedure as may be advised by the City Solicitor as proper to purchase, exchange, or substitute ground for the purpose of widening or otherwise improving streets in connection with the re-construction of the area recently destroyed by fire.

The Building Bye-laws must be strictly adhered to as regards the lodgment of plans, whether for temporary or permanent buildings. That all temporary buildings shall be erected on their sites within or on—but not beyond—the old frontage boundary lines.

That all permits for temporary or emergency structures shall cover a period which the City Engineer in his discretion may deem desirable to fix, and the building owner shall have to renew his permit by application to the Corporation for an extension of the time so fixed, and setting forth the reasons for such an extension of the permit period.

That all new building restorations, or alterations to building within the area ought to be so designed and constructed as to secure proper amenity on the frontage of the street on which such buildings shall abut, and where there is, in the opinion of the Corporation and their official advisers, any tendency towards incongruity in the external design, irregularity in the line of frontage, or want of harmony in the materials proposed to be used in external front walls, all reasonable amendments shall be made in the plans and designs which the Re-construction Committee shall be advised as desirable. Any difference or dispute on this point may be settled by arbitration, the Corporation appointing the City Engineer, or some person nominated by him as Arbitrator, and the Building Owner an Architect on his behalf.

The Corporation ought, according to circumstances, to endeavour to facilitate re-construction by waiving or relaxing Bye-laws where feasible or desirable.

If after the expiration of two years, the rebuilding or restoration of a destroyed premises has not been commenced, or if commenced has been left unfinished, the Corporation may acquire the site in question by such a form of procedure as may be laid down or based on some precedent.

Some features of the Restoration Problem are intricate. It has its opportunities and its difficulties, and its unprecedented character calls for special administrative facilities and entails diversion from the ordinary lines of procedure by which building operations are usually regulated. The desired improvements can only be achieved by the parties concerned adopting a sound policy of public spirit in the public interest. The proprietors of the lately destroyed property will, I have no doubt, appreciate their obligation to assist, both individually and collectively, the Civic Authorities, and with their Architects and Advisers in making the work of restoration and the improvements incidental thereto a success.

It may not be inopportune here to hope that when the plans and specification stage is arrived at the owners and their architects will see their way to give effect to the principles of the Irish Industrial Revival movement by using Irish materials and manufacture wherever possible in the final and permanent restoration work, or in temporary or tentative operations of re-establishment.

It will, I think, be obvious, therefore, that to co-ordinate all aspects of the problem the co-operation of these two paramount interests can best be assured by a small Committee of representatives from each, and as the Corporation Representatives are already appointed, it only remains to appoint the spokesmen for the proprietors. I therefore think it timely here to suggest the organisation of a "Destroyed and Damaged Property Committee," which can function on behalf of the proprietors in an authorised way, and render valuable co-operation, and as there will be intricacies in law, perhaps the lawyers concerned would agree to hold conferences with the City Solicitor.

This coming new feature in the City should be impressive and monumental, and no owner will be justified in causing disfigurement by the introduction of an ill designed or meanly constructed premises within the groups which will form the

general facade of areas Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. I have given very careful consideration to this aspect of the problem, and the following are my views on what, from an Architect's point of view, is surrounded with difficulties:

In the first place each architect in his own office will design the front elevation of the building he is engaged on according to his own Art sense, and it can therefore be easily imagined what a group of incongruities is certain to result, ill-related as to heights and features of treatment and possibly riotous in the variety of the materials which will be adopted. Let it be said at once that whilst the best possible art will be produced by the individual designers each for his own client and within the limits of his own front elevation, yet, unless there is some well co-ordinated and unified scheme of treatment for the destroyed frontage as a whole from Merchant to Cook Street, or for the individual frontage of the blocks composing it, more particularly those so closely related as Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, there is a risk that aggressively bizarre effects will result.

For instance, if there is no standard as to height there are possibilities of one storey deformities being placed in juxtaposition to buildings of three or four storeys high on either side. Balance, symmetry, unity, harmony in design, will be difficult to achieve under these conditions of procedure by individual architects and I feel that they ought confer and formulate a line of action under this head.

FUTURE CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

TOWN PLAN AND CIVIC SURVEY DESIRABLE.

Having regard to the new possibilities for Town Improvement now awaiting those concerned, I think it appropriate here to re-print the following extract from a Report of mine, submitted to the Corporation in September, 1918, on the Housing question in the city. I stated as follows:—

In considering the development of particular cities, it is most advisable to bear in mind the future improvement of the city as a whole. I have thought it proper, therefore, to make some observations relating to the Town Planning or Town Improvement aspect of the Housing problem in this report.

Where sites are selected for housing development, it will be inevitable that the lay-out of new streets, or re-casting of existing streets, as approaches to the newly developed areas, must take place, and possibly in the densely housed districts the clearance of obstructive and objectionable environment may be necessary to some extent, and bearing this in mind it may be desirable to inquire as to the extent to which town planning would be considered advantageous in Cork, with a view to the future improvement and better shaping of the City. Remodelling of American towns and cities, to meet the modern requirements of their everyday life, is a common phase of civic pride in America. This work is usually investigated by specially appointed Commissioners, consisting of prominent citizens in commercial and professional life, together with representatives of Municipal Councils. The co-operation on these town improvement commissions has been so cordial in their aims at civic betterment, that the schemes produced, and in many cases accomplished, have resulted in the complete recasting of the plans of cities, with consequent improved public convenience, and enhanced amenity of environment.

It demands much highly specialised organisation departmentally, and also amongst laymen who are anxious for real reform, and whose co-operation would be invaluable if properly organised and directed.

Clear foresight is now very essential to the future development of the City, and the preparation of a Town Plan by a

Town Planning Competition or otherwise, as was recently done in Dublin, ought to be undertaken, as this will result in useful suggestive proposals for the future betterment of the city.

The present is an opportune time for the formation of a Committee of leading citizens to co-operate with the Corporation in the development of such a proposal. A useful purpose would be served by convening a Conference on this basis, having for its object the raising of a fund for the purpose of promoting a competition amongst experts for a Town Planning Scheme for the prospective re-modelling of the city. These plans could be kept for reference and guidance as time and opportunity occur. Such a plan would be a guide as to the best lines on which future improvement and reconstruction should develop.

I remain,

Your obedient,

J. F. DELANY,

City Engineer.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CITY OF CORK FIRE BRIGADE (December 15th, 1920.)

(Reprinted from the Report of the Investigation by the Irish Labour Party and Trades Union Congress and the English Labour Commission, January, 1921.)

Incendiary Fires. Explosives Used. Hose Out. Firemen Fired Upon. Military Refused Fire Appliances.

(Captain Hutson is an Englishman.)

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR OF CORK.

SIR,

In reference to the fires which occurred in the city on Saturday night, December 11th, 1920, I beg to report as follows:—

A.—At 10.30 p.m. I received a call to Messrs. A. Grant & Co., Patrick Street, whose extensive premises were on fire. I found that the fire had gained considerable headway and the flames were coming through the roof. I got three lines of hose to work—one in Mutton Lane and two in Market Lane, intersecting passages on either side of these premises. With a good supply of water we were successful in confining the fire to Messrs. Grant's, Patrick Street premises, and prevented its spread to that portion running to the Grand Parade from Mutton Lane, while we saved, except with slight damage, the adjacent premises of Messrs. Hackett (jeweller) and Haynes (jeweller). The Market—a building mostly of timber—to the rear of Messrs. Grant's was found to be in great danger. If this building became involved a conflagration would ensue with which it would be almost impossible to cope. Except for only a few minor outbreaks in the roof we were successful in saving the Market and also other valuable premises in Mutton Lane.

B.—During the above operations I received word from the Town Clerk that the Munster Arcade was on fire. This was about 11.30 p.m. I sent all the men and appliances available to contend with it. Shortly after I got word that Messrs. Cash's premises were on fire. I shortened down hose at Mutton Lane and sent all available stand-pipes, hose, etc., and men to contend with this fire. I found both the Munster Arcade and Messrs. Cash's well alight from end to end, with no prospect of saving either, and the fire spreading rapidly to the adjoining property. The area involved in these two

fires was very large and embraced many valuable and extensive premises.

C.—All the hydrants and mains that we could possibly use were brought to bear upon the flames and points were selected where the fire may be possibly checked and our efforts concentrated there. The General Post Office fire appliances were brought out and did good service in and around Winthrop Street, Robert Street, etc. I regret to state that I found this new hose had been cut in several places whilst in the streets and was of no further use. It was not until about 8 a.m. when I may state that the whole of the numerous points to which the flames had reached were partially under control.

D.—About 4 a.m. I was informed that the Municipal Buildings were on fire. Knowing that there was a practical man with half a dozen men under his control there I had some confidence that they would be able to deal effectively with the fire as had already been done on three previous occasions. I very much regret, however, that the incendiaries were successful in driving my men out of the buildings and also from the Carnegie Free Library.

E.—I continued to do my best to confine the fires to the numerous streets off Patrick Street up to 10.30 a.m. on Sunday morning, having been on duty from 7 a.m. on the previous day.

Mr. Delaney, city engineer, kindly came to my assistance and supervision of the men at work at the various points required.

F.—In connection with the fires at Dillon's Cross I wish to say that on receipt of the call for that fire I got in touch with the military at Victoria Barracks and asked them to take their hose reel and stand-pipes at the barrack gate down at once as I had been called to Grant's fire in Patrick Street, but they took no notice of my request. At the Patrick Street fires it is remarkable that the military never brought out any fire appliances whatever—as they had done on nearly all previous occasions up to the last few months. I must say that prior to these incendiary fires the military frequently rendered us valuable assistance not only in keeping the streets clear but also in extinguishing the fires. The statements of the two firemen working at Scully O'Connell's fire indicate the general position of the military on this occasion.

G.—I have no hesitation in stating I believe all the above fires were incendiary fires and that a considerable amount of petrol or some such inflammable spirit was used in one and

all of them. In some cases explosives were also used and persons were seen to go into and come out of the premises after breaking an entrance into same, and in some cases that I have attended the people have been brought out of their houses and detained in by-lanes until the fire had gained great headway. I have some of the petrol tins left behind in my possession.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED J. HUTSON.

CITY OF CORK FIRE DEPARTMENT.

List of Fires coming under the heading of Incendiary, commencing with the Attempted Burning of the City Hall and Corporation Buildings, 9th October, 1920.

October	9th—City Hall. Called at 5.50 a.m.; confined to two offices.
November	21st—Messrs. Dwyer's, Washington Street. 1.25 a.m.
"	24th—Houses and shops, Shandon Street. 3 a.m.
"	24th—Hardwick Street Piper's Club. Burnt out. 11.50 p.m.
"	25th—Grand Parade. Private house bombed and burned. 3 a.m.
"	27th—McGurk's, North Main Street, well alight. 2 a.m.
"	27th—Forrest's, Patrick Street, well alight at 4 a.m. Firemen fired on.
"	28th—Fire Blackthorn House, Patrick Street, and others, 1.50 a.m.
"	29th—Transport Union Workers, Camden Quay, extinguished and again set on fire at 3 a.m.; Firemen fired on; 7 a.m. called again. First call received at 2 a.m.
"	30th—Thomas Ashe Club, Charlotte Quay; blown up and on fire 1.15 a.m.
"	30th—City Hall bombed and fired; extinguished same. 3.40 a.m. and again at 5 a.m. set on fire; extinguished same.
"	30th—Messrs. Egans, Patrick Street, set on fire, 5.5 a.m. Extinguished same.
December	1st—O'Gorman's and Dalton's, MacCurtain St., bombed and set on fire; burnt out at 4 a.m.



- December 2nd—Shop and rooms, Marlboro' Street, on fire,
1 a.m.
.. 10th—North Main Street. Timber on fire. 4.10
a.m.
.. 11th—Messrs. Grant's, Patrick Street, well alight,
10.30 p.m.
.. 11th—Messrs. Munster Arcade, Patrick Street,
well alight, 11.25 p.m.
.. 12th—Followed quickly by Messrs. Cash's, Roche's
Stores, J. Daly's Stores, Ryan's, Merchant
Street; Burton's, Sunners, Egans and
Forrests, Cudmore's, Ryan's and Thom-
son's. Narrow streets and structural ar-
rangements caused rapid spread of fires.
Inflammables placed inside City Hall
2.15 a.m.
.. 15th Blackrock & Passage Railway, Merchant's
Quay, set on fire at 5.30 p.m.
.. 21st—South Terrace, room on fire. 8 p.m.
.. 24th—"Examiner" Office bombed and set on fire,
8.30 p.m.

ALFRED J. HUTSON,
Fire Brigade Superintendent.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE RUINS OF FOUR PREMISES ON THE WESTERN END OF AREA NO. 4