

Penrith By-Election

Major-General Sir Cecil Lowther, Coalition Unionist, and Mr Levi Collinson, Independent Liberal, were nominated to-day for Penrith by-election.

The Reparations Committee

The Reparations Committee arrived in London from Paris this morning.

Death of a Famous Astronomer

New York, Wednesday—Mr Wm Brooks, a native of Maidstone, Kent, the famous astronomer who discovered twenty-seven comets, died, aged 76.

Plea of Insanity

In Charges Against Limerick Prisoner

A plea of insanity was made in the charges heard at military court in Cork against Thos Leahy, Tournafulla, Co Limerick, of (1) having an automatic pistol; (2) 69 rounds ammunition; (3) attempting to shoot with intent to murder at Castleisland.

A specialist in mental diseases, examined by Mr Joseph M'Carthy, said accused was mentally deficient; he imagined that he heard voices saying they would do away with him; he thought he saw visions of certain persons watching him; he also imagined he used to hear police horses coming into the yard of the house where he was staying.

To the Court—The bringing up of the accused on the capital charge would have made his condition worse, but independent of that he was quite insane.

A military doctor swore he was mentally deficient.

To the Court—It was reported to witness that the accused had attempted to hang himself by a handkerchief around his neck; he is still of opinion that the accused was unfit to be tried.

The decision was not announced.

ARREST OF MAYOR OF LIMERICK

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIMERICK LEADER.

SIR—On behalf of the citizens of Limerick I must protest against the treatment of our Mayor, Ald B M O'Mara.

On Monday, 25th ult, he received an invitation from the Crown forces to attend at the barracks. This he courteously replied to, pointing out that his time was limited and valuable, and asking for some explanation of the invitation. The reply to this was a command to appear before the competent military authority, again giving no indication of any charge or any apparent reason for the summons. About an hour afterwards Crown forces went into his private office at the City Hall and brought him before the military authorities, where he was accused of contempt of Court without being informed of why he was summoned to attend the Court. As a Republican he, of course, refused to plead, and a fine of £10 was then imposed, with an alternative of seven days in goal.

On Thursday morning, two days after above proceedings, he was arrested at his private residence and imprisoned.

We have abundant experience in Ireland of arrests and imprisonments, but the above treatment of the Chief Magistrate of a great city is surely almost unique.

I deem it a civic duty to make this formal protest, but need not say that our Mayor and the citizens of Limerick will pursue their chosen path asperurbed by this latest outrage.

JAMES CASEY, ALD (Deputy Mayor).

Limerick, 29th April, 1921.

The military, returning the fire, claim to have killed five Republicans and wounded about a dozen others. The military placed the five dead bodies on a cart, and the two wounded soldiers on another, and were removing them when, near Garryspillane, some distance further on, they were attacked by a fresh column of Republicans, who captured the cart with their five dead comrades. The military also left behind the cart on which the two wounded Yorks were, but succeeded in bringing away the men themselves. The military were compelled to fight a rearguard action on the way back to Gaibally. The sound of the firing was heard many miles around. The wounded soldiers were brought to Tipperary Military hospital, where they are progressing favourably. At two o'clock yesterday morning large bodies of Crown forces proceeded from Tipperary to the scene of the fight, and recovered the missing caps of the wounded soldiers. They found a Winchester repeating rifle and some ammunition left behind by the Volunteers. An exhaustive search was made of the countryside.

The Official Report

Military Headquarters, Dublin, issued the following report last night: A cycling patrol consisting of an officer and ten other ranks of the "Green Howards," and one sergeant and two constables of the Royal Irish Constabulary were ambushed about three o'clock yesterday at Lackelly, near Emly, by a large body of rebels. The Crown forces returned the fire of the rebels, and a prolonged engagement ensued, during which about 15 of the ambushers were seen to fall. The rebels then dispersed, leaving five of their dead on the ground. The Crown forces had only one soldier slightly wounded. During the action the Crown forces commandeered a farm cart, on which they placed the dead bodies and started to proceed to their destination. As they were leaving heavy fire was opened on them from the north and west, forcing them to abandon the cart and withdraw in a southerly direction. This small party of soldiers and police then discovered another body of about 50 rebels advancing on them. They were led by their officer, and charged the party which was attacking them from the west and scattered them. During this part of the action one soldier was seriously wounded, while four rebels were seen to fall. The military and police were then again attacked by another party of rebels, estimated to be about forty strong, but so effectively was the fire returned that several rebels were seen to fall, and they did not further interfere with the withdrawal of the Crown forces, who reached their destination without being further molested, with two wounded soldiers, who succeeded in keeping with them all the time. The Crown forces were forced to abandon six of their bicycles, but they captured two rifles, one carbine, a quantity of small arms and ammunition, revolver ammunition, some of which were "dum-dum;" two grenades, several haversacks, a quantity of service kits, and odd items of military equipment. The action occupied about a period of five and a half hours.

CASTLECONNELL TRAGEDY

FURTHER REFERENCES IN HOUSE OF LORDS

In the House of Lords yesterday.

Lord Parmour asked whether any steps had been taken to secure an impartial inquiry into the circumstances which led to the death of Mr O'Dowran, of the Shannon Hotel, Castleconnell, on April 17, and into the allegations made as to the conduct of the Auxiliaries on that occasion. He said he had received a telegram from Mr Moran, solicitor, of Limerick, saying—"Fear Lord Crawford is incorrectly informed regarding facts of inquiry. Court empty except for Press and relatives, every question to witnesses put through President of Council impartially no objection. As Lord Parmour understood that Press reports were censored, and therefore

to Tipperary, and about a mile from Limerick, he observed a number of men running from the bridge on the railway and from the road under the bridge; on the left-hand side to which the men ran, there are a number of cottages; this is on the north side of the road and the Limerick side of the bridge; some of the men went between the cottages and the railway line; a good many people, including women and children, were about; witness had the cottages surrounded and fire was opened on the police and the police returned the fire—the fire was opened by the parties retreating; he saw one man definitely fire—and fire came from behind the cottages; as the police were overtaking two of the fugitives the police were fired on and the police fired in return; two men surrendered, but before doing so he saw each of them throw a revolver into a bush; these were afterwards produced to witness as he was going up to the prisoners; one was a service Webley Mark VI and one a Colt; both were service revolvers; one was fully loaded and the other had five live cartridges and one empty case; witness took both prisoners to a tender on the road and handed them over to another police official, and then proceeded to search the houses and the vicinity; there were then a number of people on the road returning to the city; these included women and children, and there were perambulators; he saw the deceased running among the people, and this would be within a couple of minutes after he had been put in the tender; he was running in the direction of the bridge; he was called upon to halt and did not do so; the police opened fire; witness saw him fall, and when he reached him found that he was in a dying condition; he lived only a few minutes; they conveyed the body to the barracks.

To the Court—These incidents occurred at about 3.30 p.m.

Another police witness, who was one of the party, stated a number of civilians ran away as the police approached; witness was left with others to look after the transport, the rest of the party pursuing the civilians; a few minutes after the pursuit began he heard firing from the direction of the railway; when the firing died down 2 civilians were brought to the transport; the civilians were placed in the body of a Crossley tender with two police in charge of them; many people, including women and children, were at this time going towards the city, and the deceased, who had been about two minutes in the car, vaulted out of it on the right-hand side; he started running in a zig-zag fashion through the people—trying to mingle with them—towards the bridge; police pursued him for about 50 yards; he was called on to halt many times, but took no notice, and was getting away when the order to fire was given; he was obstinately the police when witness gave the order to fire; two rounds of rifle shots were fired and one from a Winchester shotgun; deceased fell and succumbed in a few minutes, and was conveyed to the morgue in the New Barracks.

Medical evidence was given to the effect that the following wounds were found—On the posterior aspect of the left shoulder there were multiple small wounds, apparently superficial; on the right side, below the costal margin, a gunshot bullet wound and apparently the entrance wound, about two inches to the left of the mid-line at the back; a bullet wound on a level with the lower border of the scapular, apparently the exit wound; on the posterior aspect of the occiput, slightly to the left of the mid-line, a bullet wound entrance, and no exit wound found; the cause of death was due to shock and hemorrhage as a result of the wounds.

To the Court—The wounds in the shoulder would not be sufficient apparently to cause death—would not be the immediate cause of death; the shoulder wounds were consistent with the fire from a shotgun; there were scratches on the face which might be caused by falling; there were several superficial abrasions that were not inconsistent with falling.

In reply to cross examination, the first police witness said this man was shot on the road and not in a field.

LATE MR. HENRY GLANCY