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Current Comments

Mr. Arthur Griffith, T.D., at present in Mountjoy Prison, has issued the following message to the Irish people:—
 "The people of Ireland need pay no attention to inspired statements in the English Press regarding individual members of the Ministry of Dail Eireann. The Ministry acts as a unit in international relations, and no member of it has acted or will act in such affairs without the knowledge and concurrence of his colleagues.
 "Those on whom the Irish nation has imposed the duty of speaking and acting on its behalf have never ceased to make known that Ireland desires to live in peace with all nations without exception, but Ireland will not accept subjugation in any form in the false guise of peace. The main strength of Ireland's cause to-day consists in the steadfast adherence of the people of Ireland to the principle of independence, and their determination to discharge, at whatever cost, their duty to those who have gone before them and to those who will come after them. Their heroic endurance has covered their enemies with shame in the eyes of civilisation, and if they must still endure more, it will be to win a crowning triumph not only for our dear country, but for Justice, Liberty, and Peace throughout the entire world.
 "ARTHUR GRIFFITH."

Last week we wrote in our "Current Comments"—
 In addition to the attacks on the lives and liberties of the Irish people, there was a deliberate and carefully organised plan to destroy the City of Cork. During the past fortnight there have been upwards of twenty fires in Cork City alone, not to mention the destruction that took place in outlying towns. The damage in the City was estimated on December 2 to be well over a million sterling.

The destruction of the best part of the City was well-nigh completed on last Saturday night (December 11), when the whole of one side of Patrick Street was destroyed by fire. One hundred houses have been burned. The damage is now estimated at three millions, making, in all, some four millions' worth of "Restoration of Order."
 The heart of the city lies in smouldering ruins. The Dublin and Limerick Fire Brigades are busy as we write trying to save the rest of the City. Six streets have been reduced to ruins, including many of the finest establishments, the City Hall, and many other public buildings. The following is a list of some of the places burnt out, and will give a good idea of what happens during Curfew hours, when the English Army of Occupation is roaming the streets, and when citizens are liable to be shot at sight, even if they open their windows and dare to look out.

Patrick Street.—J. O'Sullivan and Co., tobacconist; J. Woulfe, ladies' outfitter; Roche's Stores, formerly The London House; Lee Boot Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; Scully and O'Connell, outfitters; Cash and Co., drapers; T. Thompson and Co., fancy goods; R. Cudmore, fruiterers; Burton and Co., merchant tailors; Saxone Shoe Co.; R. and J. Mechnie's; O'Regan and Co., hosiers; Munster Arcade; R. Sunner, chemist; W. Egan and Sons, jewellers; portion of Forrest and Sons, which had not been destroyed in the previous fire. Further up, the premises of Messrs. Alexander Grant and Co. were completely destroyed, and the adjoining premises on both sides of Messrs. S. Haynes and Sons, jewellers, and Jas. Hackett, jeweller, were seriously damaged; while the tobacconist's shop of Mr. F. E. McTigue also suffered some damage. **Winthrop Street.**—The Lee Cinema, and on the opposite side of the street the premises of Messrs. W. J. Tomkins and Son, wine and spirit merchants, were almost completely destroyed, together with Messrs. Tyler's boot shop. **Oliver Plunket Street.**—K. Aherne, vintner; C. Bateman, boot factory; H. J.

O'Callaghan, and on opposite side of street, Munster Arcade Cabinet Factory; Patrick Fordé, vintner. **Cook Street.**—Almost all the premises on the eastern side of Cook street, including those of Messrs. P. J. Noonan, vintner, and E. Woods, wine merchant, were destroyed. **Robert Street.**—Munster Arcade Laundry; Shandon Printing and Bookbinding Works; D. Mulcahy, ironworks; Maurice Hogan. **Morgan Street.**—P. McGrath, farrier, and Messrs. Marsh's garage. **Caroline Street.**—John Daly and Co., tea and wine merchants and manufacturers of mineral waters. **Maylor Street.**—Miss O'Shea, dress and mantle rooms; Lee Boot Company's Store; Robert Walsh, vintner; Cash and Co.'s upholstery warehouse; James Ryan, paper merchant; D. O'Sullivan, brush maker; J. W. Green and Co., corn merchants. **Merchant Street.**—Part of Roche's Stores which open to Merchant Street; Mrs. Mewen, vintner.

The following is a rough list of the premises which were seriously damaged by the flames:—

George's Street.—Miss O'Shea, tobacconist; City News Depot; M. Cahill, vintner; M. Nagle, victualler; M. Fitzgerald, restaurant; J. T. O'Sullivan, chemist. **Winthrop Street.**—L. L. Ferguson, hairdresser; the Lounge Restaurant (Miss Clarke's); J. Waters and Son, Ltd., oil and colour warehouse; Power Bros., hatters and tailors, and the back portions of the following premises were also partly destroyed:—T. Tierney, fancy fair; Scannell and Dowling provision merchants; M. F. O'Shea, tobacconist; Cummins and Co., ladies' outfitters; Manley and Sons, victuallers; Joshua Manley, provision dealer. **Merchant Street.**—James Ryan, Ltd., paper store; Cork Furniture Stores. **Morgan Street.**—Marsh's. **Maylor Street.**—D. F. O'Sullivan and Co., tea and wine merchants; D. O'Sullivan, brush factory; Thomas Molloy, lodging house; W. Clifford, private hotel. Towards the Grand Parade end of Oliver Plunket Street, there was much destruction of property, and in many cases the establishments wrecked are stated to have been looted. The glass frontage of the provision shop of Cowlie Brothers, provision merchants, was extensively damaged, and other premises similarly treated were Messrs. D. O'Flynn, outfitters; Tadman's, hairdresser; Murphy, top shop and general stationer; Gerald Griffin, boot shop. The tobacconist's shop of Mr. P. D. Buckley, Grand Parade, is badly wrecked. In Marlborough Street, among the houses bearing distinct evidence of damage are the rooms of the Irish Farmers' Union, MacCarthy's refreshment rooms; Keohane's hair-dressing rooms, the Y.M.C. Hall, "Irish Times" office, Munster Type-writing Co.'s premises, Kingston's licensed premises, and Wilson's shop, the windows of which bear several bullet holes. The shop windows of several other shops in the flat of the city, and particularly towards the western end, were smashed, and the goods displayed in the window were looted. The damage from these occurrences is very considerable, for a large number of establishments suffered loss through window smashing and the goods in the windows being looted. The tobacconist shop of Mr. Spiro, at the corner of Bridge Street and Patrick's Quay, was broken into, and an entrance to the jewellery store of the same gentleman, in Bridge Street, was effected from the tobacconist shop. Looting in both premises was carried out on an extensive scale, and much damage was done to other stock and property by wrecking. The loss is very considerable.

During last week we have to record a number of deaths by violence. On December 8 it was stated that mystery still surrounds the deaths of Patrick and Henry Loughnane, whose bodies were found near Gort. The deceased were the only sons of Mrs. Loughnane, residing at Shanaghish, three miles

from Gort, on the Clare border. Their farmhouse, which is on the roadside opposite the Beag Parish Church, has been frequently raided. Patrick, who was 29, was said to be President of the local Sinn Fein Club, and Harry, a younger brother, was said to be Secretary. At a military inquiry held at Gort it was stated that the discovery of the bodies resulted from a dream which a companion of the victims had. He dreamt he saw the bodies in a pond at Owenbisty, near Drumhasna. On going to the pond with a number of boys he found the bodies under three feet of water, the surface of which was covered with oil. The bodies were almost unrecognisable, the remains being charred and the clothes burned away. The medical evidence showed that death in both cases was due to laceration of the skull and brain. There were no marks of bullet wounds. A military officer who said he commanded the Auxiliaries (better known as the Black and Tans) at Drumhasna, stated that on Saturday, November 28, it was reported to him that two brothers Loughnane were arrested on the previous day. It was reported to him on the morning following that two men had escaped from custody the previous night. This is all that is disclosed. They were next found dead in a pond under the extraordinary circumstances of the dream.

Jas. Lawlor, an engine driver, native of Inchicore, was shot dead at Lismore by a sentry. It is stated he failed to answer a challenge.

Michael Murphy, a youth, residing at Tower Street, Cork, was shot dead when leaving SS. Peter and Paul's Church on December 8. The man reported killed during the raid on an Arbitration Court at Cragaknock, Mil-townmalba, is stated to be Thomas Curtin, of Cragaknock. Mr. Crotty, of Kilrush, was seriously wounded. John Fleming was fatally shot on December 6 near the corner of Water Street and Lower Road, Cork. He had served 21 years in the English navy, and took part in the battle of Jutland. At the time he was shot, says the "Independent," he was with two of his brothers. Just as they had crossed the road, three lorries containing uniformed men, with rifles pointed out of the side of the cars, passed at a rapid rate. When one of these lorries was about four paces away, a shot was fired, followed by three others, and John Fleming was shot. At Ballyshannon a man named Thomas Rooney was shot dead by the military for failing to stop when halted. A young labourer named Bernard Doyle was found dead in the graveyard of the Protestant Church, Dunboyne, with a bullet through his head, and another through his body. A young man named Denis Regan was found dead midway between Clonakilty and Timoleague, with a bullet wound in the back of the head. An aged man named Andrew Forbes was wounded in the foot by a shot fired by looters in Patrick St., Cork. Wm. Owens, aged 24, died as a result of a bullet wound received during a military raid on a club at Shankill, near Bray. Such are the principal fatal events of the week's "truce."

The terrorism practised by the forces of the English is, in itself, sufficient to cause death to women in a nervous state of health. We have to record two such instances this week. Miss Ellen Kennedy, of Killaloe, was frightened by rifle shots fired, it is alleged, from three lorries of Crown forces passing near her employer's house (Mr. Richardson), on Saturday, December 4, at 6 p.m. She became ill and died within half an hour. The deceased, who was in her usual health, was a native of Westport. Mrs. Madalie, of Tuckey Street, Cork, died suddenly on Friday night (December 10), when a military raiding party entered her bedroom, says "The Irish Independent" of Monday last. The Madalie family

are of the Jewish race. Thus the English Army of Occupation has extended its frightfulness to the Jews.

Our space would not hold a tenth of the doings of the Army of Occupation and its branches, satellites, and agents. On December 8 it was reported in the press that Cork pedestrians were held up and whipped, shops were wrecked, and Gaelic names removed by force from fascia boards in Tralee. The Misses Walsh, sisters of the T.D. for Cork City, were bombed twice inside in their home. A hall in Finuge, County Kerry was bombed. Raids were made by armed forces on Cork Harbour Board and Balliboro R.D.C. A congregation of a church at Riverstown was held up. The Dublin City Offices have been commandeered and put out of action by the military occupation.

Several important cases, according to the "Wexford Free Press," were before the Wexford Borough Arbitration Court last week. The first, which the Court adjourned for further evidence and discovery of documents, was a peculiar claim brought by Mr. P. Parle against Mr. James Parker for £22 on watch, which, the plaintiff alleged, had been entrusted to the safe keeping of defendant. Defendant admitted the transaction, but disputed the amount.

In a second case John Doyle, garage proprietor, sued Thomas Boggan for £7 17s. 3d., for alleged damages and negligence in carrying out repairs. Plaintiff's solicitor applied for an adjournment for the production of evidence, which was granted.

A Dublin firm of confectioners were granted a full decree, with costs, for their claim for goods supplied to a local lady. Leave was granted to pay the amount in weekly instalments.

Four masked and armed men (says the "Independent" of December 9), entered the P.O., situated near the gate of Lord Barrymore's demesne at Fota, Cobh, says the Exchange, and took away all the money from the private office. They were traced and arrested by Sinn Fein police with the greater part of the money on them.

On Monday, December 6th, the American Congress assembled in Washington. The following day it was stated in official circles in that city that another move would be made to get the ill-fated and ill-omened treaty through the Senate. This news appears most difficult of belief. But it was stated most definitely that "President Wilson will again submit the treaty to the Senate, accompanied by a message dealing with foreign affairs, in which he will implore the Senate to ratify the treaty." The dates are most important. It was on these two days, the Monday and Tuesday of last week, that the great peace offensive against Ireland was at its highest moment of intensity. It was on December 6th that the inspired statement appeared in the "Irish Independent," giving an outline of alleged conversations between certain intermediaries. No tangible facts were given and no names disclosed. The significance of this little gas-balloon lies in the fact that on the following day, that is to say, December 7, the London "Times" came out with nearly three columns on "Towards a Truce." "Sinn Fein Envoy in London." "Foreign Office Meetings." "Proposed Lines of Agreement." "Mr. Henderson's Mission." "An Amistice Proposal." "The Sinn Fein Offer," and various other varieties of allegations. The story of the "Five Weeks' Negotiations" was taken verbatim from the "Independent," and was originally given by the "Independent" in London. Special Correspondent in London. Where he got the story is not disclosed. As this worthy correspondent mentions no names and no dates of any of these

alleged meetings, it is, of course, quite impossible to say anything about it, except that it only mentions two persons, namely, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Arthur Griffith. The correspondent carefully guarded himself by telling us that "Mr. Lloyd George has been in the building at the time, but with characteristic caution, he has never personally taken part in the talks." That eliminates one witness. The other is eliminated by the simple expedient of putting him in jail. So that this statement was drafted with intent to convey facts of which there could be no proof or disproof. Who the "stater" is we are not told. It is peculiar that no London journal got word of this statement, though it was given by the London Correspondent and apparently originated in London.

The significance of the coincidence of dates lies in the fact that Ireland was, and is, the principle obstacle to the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles. If there is any chance of getting it through, certainly Mr. Lloyd George would like to find Mr. Arthur Griffith, Ireland's great protagonist, in jail. He must know that it was the exposure of Article X, in which the editor of this journal played no small part, that led to the defeat of the Treaty in the Senate. Ireland objected, and still objects, to Article X, and time has amply vindicated her. If by any chance the Treaty gets through with Article X in it, then Mr. Lloyd George would have at least a chance of continuing the objects for which the League was perverted, and the United States would be placed in the perilous position of guaranteeing the integrity of the "United Kingdom," which means the continued debasement and enslavement of Ireland to England and her cosmopolitan interests. It would mean the guarantee of the integrity of the despoilers, the house-burners, the petrol brigade, the Black and Tans, the military regime, the raidings, and shooting of unarmed civilians, the spoliation and plunder of our people, the regime of militarism, butchery and slavery, which are all comprised in the "integrity of the United Kingdom."

Meanwhile the League of Nations which assembled at Geneva last month has made, indeed, a poor start. The fortunes of its promoters have reached a low ebb. Their much-boomed League is in danger of foundering. It had hardly assembled when difficulties began to arise. Most of the delegates appear to be deeply dissatisfied with the constitution of the League. Accordingly, resolutions to amend the Constitution of the League continued to flow in. The Secretariat was swamped by them.

The leader in the movement to amend the League was Argentina, whose representative, the Foreign Minister (Párrreyton) presented, on December 4, a letter from his Government, commanding him to withdraw because of the failure of the assembly to act on the four questions covered by him in his speech on the third day of the meeting of the assembly. The English Press took very little notice of these fundamental objections. They hardly referred at all to them. Here they are:—

- FOUR POINTS.**
 The four points proposed by the Argentine delegation are:—
 1.—The admission to the League of all sovereign states which apply for membership.
 2.—The admission of all small states to representation in the assembly though not to voting privileges. (This is taken to apply especially to the new Baltic powers, Estonia, Latvia, etc.)
 3.—The direct election of the Council of the League by the assembly with the selection each term of representatives from four hitherto unrepresented states.
 4.—Compulsory jurisdiction of the international high court.
 A ray of light has strayed through the darkness which surrounds the