

her obligations. Peace with Turkey must be made effective, account being taken of now circumstances. France will not intervene in the internal affairs of Russia, but cannot admit that the Soviet armies shall cross the Russian frontiers to attack the Allies of France. Confidence was expressed that Great Britain will aid all she can to arrive at an agreement and the settlement of all questions concerning peace now in suspense. Promises an early renovation of the financial administration and intensified reconstruction of devastated regions, made up the remainder of the programme and which judged by the applause, satisfied the great majority of members of Parliament.

Cork, Jan. 19th. The first official destruction for attacks on crown forces in Cork City, since martial law was enforced in this area, was carried out this morning when two houses in Washington Street, where two members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were attacked on Saturday last, were destroyed by military forces. The military authorities assert that crown forces were fired on on Saturday from six houses in Washington Street and that "the two worst" were selected for destruction. In the official destruction today of the houses large forces of military arrived on the scene at eleven o'clock and drew a cordon around several blocks and no one was permitted to enter or leave the area. Dwyer's wholesale drapery, the largest in Southern Ireland, systematically searched, the raid lasting several hours. The work of blowing up the designated houses was gone about carefully, in order to prevent damage to adjoining property. The houses selected are said to have been occupied by well known Sinn Fein sympathizers who were given a warning to clear out. They were permitted to remove their furniture and the military engineers prepared for the demolition of the buildings. Meanwhile officers with draw revolvers ordered the large crowd that had gathered to disperse saying that otherwise it would be fired on. At 1.40 this afternoon loud explosions at intervals of several minutes, causing consternation throughout the city, occurred. Up to 3 o'clock this afternoon, however, no fires had broken out, and no visible damage had been done to houses outside the zone surrounded by the military. The raid continued until 5 o'clock, when the troops were withdrawn. It was then found that two three-story houses had been completely demolished, only the walls remaining standing, and that a provision shop adjacent had almost been wrecked by the force of the explosions. Scores of windows in other buildings were shattered.

Cork, Jan. 20th.—In the first formal interview given to the press since he came to Ireland, Major General Strickland, in command of the troops, told the

Associated Press today that martial law was proving a success. He discussed the reprisals and his letter to the acting Lord Mayor explaining that he expected aid from the citizens in the shape of a vigilance committee of some kind to supply information to the military. He did not allude to his report on the Cork fires. Among the interesting statements made by Genl Strickland was one that women carried weapons concealed in their skirts to the ambushing parties. He declared he did not expect immediate results from martial law, but even before it was imposed the murder gang was finding it impossible to live at home and had begun to form flying columns in the Macroom District and parts of Tipperary and Kilkenny. The first result of martial law was to make these columns more active. He said, the definite thing we are accomplishing is the breaking up of the organization of the Republican army. Until martial law was declared, that organization was remarkably efficient. Its formations were almost as well organized as those of the British army. It might be taken as too optimistic today to say that present operations of the Republican army are its dying kicks, but I believe that to be a fact. How long they can keep going is a matter of conjecture, but it is only a question of time. In reply to a question as to what results had been obtained up to the present by the proclamation demanding the surrendering of arms, Genl. Strickland admitted it probably was true that the number of arms personally surrendered could be counted on the fingers of one hand, but added in one way or another arms are coming in. General Strickland spoke bitterly of the part he alleged women were taking as arms bearers. The military are not making war on women or interfering with them in any way. He said the difficulty in getting the arms in the possession of the women may be imagined. Concerning the suggestion that the people of Cork form a vigilance committee, the General remarked "Sixteen months ago when I first came to Ireland, County Clare was a hot bed of Republican activity".

Dublin, Jan. 21st—Eight men, seven of whom were constables, were shot and killed in engagements with Sinn Feiners near this city yesterday. Six of the officers met death when their motor-car ran into an ambush, while the body of another was found near the barracks of his squad yesterday morning. The civilian slain was shot in cold blood by several men who entered his home. Announcement has been made that in future all motor cars carrying constables and therefore likely to be attacked will carry members of the Sinn Fein as hostages. This plan has been in operation near Cork where martial law is in force, and has, it is said acted as a preventative of attacks on

parties of constables. Recourse to the hostage system here while martial law has not been declared caused general surprise.

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