

Rathmore,

CO. KERRY.

Jan'y 16th, 1922.

C. J. France Esq.,
Standard Hotel,
DUBLIN.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 6th inst, and in compliance with the request contained in same to attach the following particulars:-

My farm house was destroyed by Crown Forces (Military and Police), on 5th May, 1921. Practically everything it contained, including all household furniture, bedding, personal property, dairy utensils, and farm implements, were destroyed in the fire which left only the walls standing - and those very much damaged. My house was burned as an official reprisal by the English Forces, for an ambush which had taken place in the neighbourhood a few days previously, and in which eight policemen were killed.

Naturally the effects of such a calamity were many and varied. The total financial loss can scarcely be estimated, the house and contents involved a direct loss of over £800, and there were also many serious indirect losses, consequent on the total disorganization of home life and farm work. Of the actual sufferings we endured this is not the place to speak.

In June, 1921, the Irish White Cross gave me a loan of £60.0.0. for the purpose of doing such necessary temporary repairs to the dwelling house as would make it habitable. This is the only assistance given to me by the Irish White Cross. It has enabled me to put up a temporary roof for the winter for my family. In addition this sum has been most helpful in defraying some of the expenses arising from the burning, and in replacing some of the most necessary articles.

I regret that I have not a photograph of my house after its destruction. I would be glad to let you have it.

I am sending you this. I wish to record my thanks to you and your fellow workers in the White Cross, and through you to all those in America, who have so nobly come to the assistance of those who have suffered in the War of Independence in Ireland. In this Christian work they have done incalculable good to the people of Ireland in their hour of need, and for this service the Irish people are deeply grateful.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd). Patrick O'Donoghue.