

C O P Y

K I L G A R V A N,

CO. KERRY.

24. 1. 22.

C. J. France, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

It is some weeks since I received a letter from you for which you required an answer. A serious illness in my family prevented me doing so by return, and I earnestly hope to be excused.

The grateful thanks of all of us in Ireland go out to the American people and to your Committee for the aid and the noble work done to relieve distress in our poor persecuted country.

I received a loan of £50 for which I am most grateful. I am not able to express my great thanks in suitable terms. We all in Ireland wish to express our appreciation of the sympathy and generosity of our benefactors in America. We can do nothing but pray for them. I beg to state that I did not receive any other gift but this loan of £50.

I put in a claim for this loan because my business was completely destroyed through the activities of the Crown Forces. They had a regular set on me as my son was a prominent I. R. A. man. He got two terms of imprisonment and was 'on the run' for over two years. I am an old man and could not work and he was my support. They raided and searched sometimes three times weekly and they never caught him. They posted proclamations on my house and threatened me if they were torn down; they were, and I was ordered to appear at a Military court twenty miles from my home. I did not go and I was fined £10 in my absence. In a few days a party of military and police came and seized all the goods in my drapery, two bicycles, a set of harness and a fancy clock - in fact, ten times the amount of the fine -, and they left my little shop bare. The loss to my business then was worse than all. I could not get in any stock and I could not go anywhere. In a country village, if you run down you cant pull up. The customers are taken up by others who can carry on.

With all the terror, my daughter got heart trouble and is an invalid since. My wife, too, is not strong; we are both old. So I mean you to understand this is how I suffered. My house was not destroyed though it was threatened, and so was my life. We are glad to have peace, though we have not what we suffered for. I hope you will excuse the length of my letter. You can publish what is suitable, and I would be grateful if you did not publish the name in U.S.A., some of my friends may not like it.

With many thanks to you and Committee,

I beg to remain, Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) JERH. HEGARTY

Main St., Bn Kilgarvan.

K e r r y.