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Clifden, January 20th, 1922.

Sir:-

On 17th. March, 1921, at 5 p.m. my residence and all its contents together with my Carpenter's shop and store with their contents were maliciously and completely destroyed by fire by English Forces of the Crown. Myself, who am 75 years of age and my wife who is an invalid for the last 16 years had to jump out of bed without one minute's notice; ordered out and had to walk one mile with only our night clothes before we could get shelter in a hut. We were left homeless and penniless. We have no relations that we know nearer to us than the U.S. A. They are all of the working class and at present have enough to do for themselves. In fact we are in very bad circumstances. And only for your good Society I do not know how we could get along before getting £150. I got from the White Cross Committee here in Clifden the following:- £10, £5, £10 and four payments of £1,10 - which amounted to £31.

I was awarded a Loan by the Reconstruction Commission of your Society of £275 and have got £150, which leaves a balance of £125. When I got the £150 I had to buy some clothes, shoes, and keep ourselves with food and pay rent for the house we occupy.

I was awarded on the 18th June 1921, at Oughterard Quarter Sessions £540 compensation, which is very short to cover my loss. When I got the £150 the weather being so bad I could not undertake to get any work done, and at present the weather continues bad; but as soon as the weather takes up I will start to build and will expend all I can with economy. and any work I get done I will get it done well. Labour and materials are very high, but we must do the best we can.

I am one of the worst and hardest hit objects in Ireland, and since this Hellish thing happened it left me unable to use a writing pen.

Independently of the Loan, of your Society could give me some aid. I would, and do require it badly.

I am sending by post two pictures, - one of my dwelling house and one of my workshop and store.

My occupation is house-carpenter and Farrier, but the destruction was so complete it left me homeless and penniless completely.

Sir, I would like you would make use of my name in any way you think proper.

James Guilfoyle,
Carpenter, etc.,
Clifden, Co. Galway.

To/
C. J. France, Esq.,
Standard Hotel, Dublin.

P.S. The £150 instalment I will make the most I can, but goes very short when it has to go in different directions.

J.G.