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Knockans,
Cloonminda,
Castlerea, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of January 6th, I beg to make the following statement: I am a small farmer living at Knockans, near ~~Skinnadaghy~~ Glennaddy. I have about 10 acres of land. On May 19th 1921, at about 1 p.m. my house was raided by armed men who broke in the door without waiting for it to be opened. They were dressed in overcoats and were evidently number of them Crown Forces. They demanded the whereabouts of my son who had resigned from the R.I.C. about nine months previously, and who had been on the run since then. The information being refused they put a revolver to my mouth and told me to pray. Then I was ordered out of the house along with my wife and two daughters who were only partly dressed as neither of us got time to dress. They shot a valuable sow which was suckling 11 Bonons then set the house to fire and all our outhouses, ass cart a part of mule cart, mule harness, ass harness, two stacks of unthrashed hay, about 14 cwt. hay, all furniture, all our clothes, two bicycles, 4 cwt. oat meal, 1½ cwt. flour, 2 cwt. Indian meal, 1 cwt. oilcake, 1 cwt. bran, left us nothing, - also £10. After they had gone we saved a corrugated barn which was burning, by throwing water on it. We had to get shelter from friends until I got that barn fixed up for shelter for the winter. Also a cowhouse which was burned down I got it up well. Since the 15th of July 1921, I have been getting relief from the Irish White Cross at the rate of £2. a week. I also got one special instalment of £25 in December 1921. The Irish White Cross kindly agreed to give me a Loan of £300 on very easy terms, to enable me to rebuild mt house - £150 of the Loan has been forwarded to me, and the remainder will be given in instalments as the work of building progresses. I have been unable to start building as yet, but intend to do so at the beginning of Spring.

I cannot express sufficiently my thanks to the kind friends

of Ireland in America who so generously enabled the Irish White Cross to assist me and others like me in our distress. I don't know what I would have done without that assistance.

I am sorry I have no photo of the ruins of my home, only the blackened walls remain, and even they are so injured by the fire as to be unfit for roofing. It must be all built from the foundation.

Many thanks to the members of the White Cross and all of those who assisted them in ~~earring~~ carrying on their work of Charity.

My right address is:-

John McKnickans,
Cloonminda P.O.,
via Castlerea, Co. Galway.

Yours faithfully,

John McKnickans.

P.S. When my letter goes to Glenmaddy there is a delay.