

C O P Y.

DROMORE, FRANKLE,

CO. CLARE.

Feb'y 19th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours about the destruction of my property, I beg to relate as follows:-

On the 23rd October, 1920, I received information which caused my family and I to leave our home, - all except my wife. Next morning the Crown Forces surrounded my place, searched and smashed my furniture, and all my Agricultural Implements, destroyed my Dairy and its contents, looked for my sons, my daughter and myself, and threatened to shoot us if they caught us. They came next day again and tore up the ceilings of my home, also the flooring, and smashed all the windows. They kept firing shots all around it for 1 hour. They searched my four ricks of hay. They came each night in succession until the 29th. On the morning of the 29th, they burned my dwelling-house and 4 ricks of hay, and left us penniless. They still kept coming day after day, thinking they would catch some of us. On the 8th November, they came in Lorries - Black & Tans, Auxiliaries, and the R.I.C. They surrounded the place and fired shots all around, bombed a new range of Out-offices, and burned them to the wax ground. They destroyed a rick of turnips and mangolds, etc, and my potatoes were not lifted, and had to remain there, as none of us could go near the place, and were destroyed by the winter. So the place was deserted for 7 months. My wife, daughter, and myself, then got leave to come back. My two sons would be shot if they were caught, so they had to remain "on the run" until the Truce. We had no home then to come to. A friend of mine had a new house built by the Board about a mile from where I lived, so he let me have the house. I had no help then to do anything on the farm, and all the neighbours at the time were afraid to give me any aid. There was another son of mine in England, who fought in the European War. I sent for him to help me in the Farm, and he came. At first the authorities seemed not to mind him. A little later on they seemed hostile to him. They beat him, and ran him before the lorries, and he had to go on the run also. So I had 3 boys on the run, and I was in a bad way until the Truce came on.

Well, I received £20,000 from our Bishop. I applied for a Loan of £200,000 to rebuild my Out-offices. They granted me one so I completed the work of my Out-offices, but that sum did not go far in the work. I applied for £5000,000 Compensation, but when my case came on I could not appear, as I was on the run, and it was adjourned until later on. Then when I could attend, the Government put the Crown Forces on the Ennis Court-house, and would not allow Judge Bodkin to hear my malicious ~~claim~~ claim, or other claims, so it was never tried since. Now as the times are peaceful I intend to rebuild my home immediately, as the owner of the house I'm living in presently wants his house for his own use, so I'm applying to the White Cross for a loan of £600,000 to help to rebuild my house. Hoping they will grant it to me immediately.

You can use my name as you please.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd). Patrick Tuohy.