

Copy/

Electric Saw Mills & Joinery Works,
Denmark Street,

Limerick. 10/2/22.

C. J. France, Esq., Director,
The American Committee for Relief in Ireland.
Dublin.

Dear Sir:-

As requested I give you a short account of my burning. Sickness and other troubles prevents me from giving you a more detailed account of the fire.

At another time I may have more to say about this outrage.

There was no authority for making a prisoner of me.

Yours truly,
P. Bourke.

ACCOUNT OF BURNING:-

Gentlemen, the following is the story of my burning by the English Government:

Last April 10th, at three o'clock on Saturday, the city was closed down, and all people ordered indoor by the Military. A Military Force of about one hundred men, including Colonels, Captains and Generals - mine was an official reprisal - called at my premises and put my wife and myself with the household under arrest. The soldiers then made all the necessary arrangements to secure the other property from taking fire. The glass in my factory and dwelling-house was broken, the entire of the building were strewn with petrol and then set on fire. The flames continued for four hours and could be seen for ten miles away. When all was burned the soldiers cleared out and left ~~xxx~~ not one shed to shelter us for the night. When dark came on we stole into the neighbouring houses - one to each house - some far away and some near. The police were on duty during the process, but took no active part. I would say they had not sympathy with the work, and were disposed to allow me to save some foodstuff, but the soldiers would not permit. The army officers took the barrels of pipeheads and cast them into the flames.

(b) The burning leaves me without a possibility of starting in life again ^o pther than a small dealing my wife has - My immediate loss is two thousand pounds. I have nothing now left but the four walls of an empty yard, where once I employed fifty men. The loss to my trade I cannot estimate, but I am sure in putting it at another thousand.

(c) One pair of blankets and a quilt, - cannot say value.

D. The amount of loss £100. I erected three rooms against wall of brick - timber rook and felt. It would take a thousand pounds to start me in a small way as a builder.

I failed to get picture of factory or joinery works. Should I succeed in securing a copy I will forward it to you. P. Bourke,