COLLAPSE OF TENEMENTS
Backs Separate From Fronts
CHILDREN RESCUED FROM DEBRIS

Early Morning Crash In Broad St.

The collapse of two tenements—Nos. 12 and 13, Broad Street, Limerick—caused a dramatic scene in the early hours of this morning. The occupants were rescued by the firemen and two injured children were taken to hospital.

The houses split in two as if cut with a huge guillotine. The people occupying rooms in the front of the tenements escaped. The crash of the masonry awakened the whole neighbourhood.

Three families nearly lost their lives in Nos. 12 and 13 Broad Street, Limerick, this morning when the rear of the two houses collapsed from the roof down to the basements.

All the floors between and beneath, and every bit of furniture and property they held, was carried away from the debris from the top right down to the basements below.

Three children were hurt for some time, until the Fire Brigade and the children’s parents, in frantic rescue efforts, dug them out.

At 8.30 Mrs. Edmond, Madden got up to prepare her husband’s breakfast in the single room his family occupied as living and bedroom. The husband was awake, just getting up to go to work, when the collapse began. They were on the top floor.

CRACKED IN TWICE

“I saw the chimney-piece crack in twice,” Mr. Madden told the “Limerick Leader,” “My wife made a grab for one of the ledges. I went for the other. We were all pulled down with the debris from the top.”

Mr. John O’Connell, who occupied the floor below that of the Madden collapse, says he was pulled down with the debris from the top.

BACK OF HOUSES FELL AWAY

The backs of the houses fell away from the front as if cut by a monster guillotine,” Mr. O’Connell said. “It was a miracle that we weren’t all killed. Everything we had was destroyed.”

Mr. Michael Quirke, living in the front of the tenement, suffered no loss.

The Fire Brigade was called to the scene almost immediately and found Maura and John Madden, both very young children, buried in the debris, shrieking from pain. All the very cold morning air.

COVERED WITH DEBRIS

Two of the children were buried up to the roof of the building. The rescuers managed to get them out. Little Maura Madden was fairly badly hurt. Her brother, John, had his head cut off and they took both to the City Hospital.

ONE DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

The “Limerick Leader” learns that young John Madden was discharged from the City Hospital after treatment for his head injuries. Maura, however, was detained because her injuries were slightly more severe. She is progressing satisfactorily and suffered more from shock than from physical injury.

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