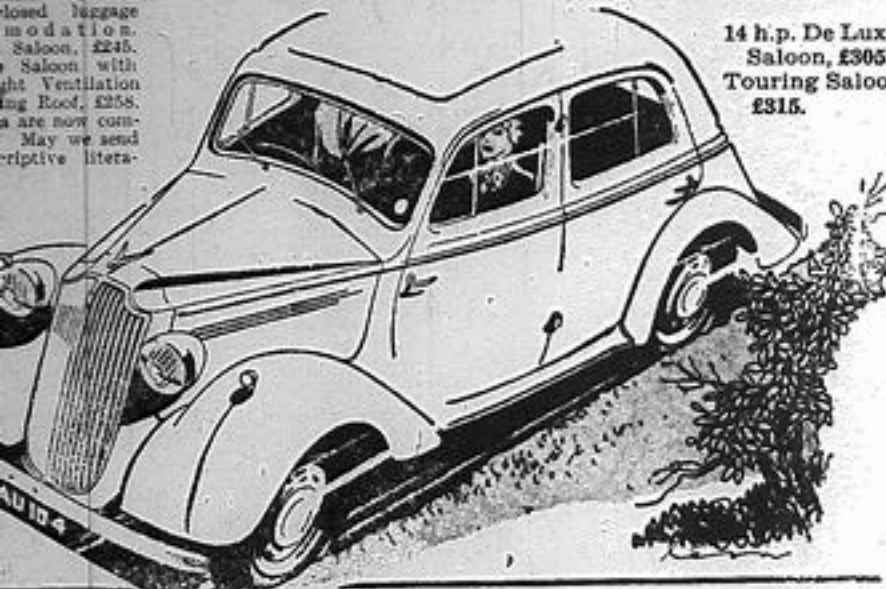


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RATHKEALE COURT

Transport Prosecution

FAILURE TO STAMP INSURANCE CARD

(From our Reporter.)

District Justice C. S. Kenny, B.L., adjudi-
cated at Rathkeale District Court on Monday.

Daniel Coughlan, Buttevant, was sum-
moned for carrying merchandise on a lorry outside the terms allowed by his licence.

Mr. M. F. Noonan, solr., said that Coughlan admitted the offence. The licence was in order but Coughlan went outside his area by bringing scaffolding poles from Buttevant to Rathkeale. In a letter Coughlan said that it was a "sorry journey" for him, as he got a waiting and was in bed for a fortnight as a result.

Justice—Is there only one offence? Supt. Cooney—Yes. He has a transport licence in County Limerick only. He carried these things from Buttevant to Rathkeale.

Mr. Noonan said that Coughlan had to do several journeys.

The Justice imposed a fine of 10/-.

LARCENY OF TIMBER

Daniel and John Meehan, junr., Chapel Lane, Rathkeale, were charged with the larceny of timber, the property of Laurence McDonnell.

Mr. T. E. O'Donnell, solr., said that the defendants were prepared to adopt a certain course. These boys had been before the Court on a previous occasion and were fined. They took the timber from a neighbour who was friendly with them and were caught by a Guard. If they were given a chance they would undertake not to commit the offence again.

Justice—I will fine them 10/- and order them to pay 7/6 compensation. If they are up here again I will send them to hard labour.

The Justice also directed the defendants to pay 5/- witnesses' expenses, and allowed them two months to pay the amounts.

UNSTAMPED CARDS

Michael Hogan, Lisamore, was summoned for failing to stamp the National Health Insurance card of an employee named Mary Doherty.

Evidence was given by an Inspector of the Department that when he investigated the case he found there was a sum of 9/9 due in respect of the employee. Witness ordered defendant to stamp the card within a week but witness did not get the card.

Mr. E. Power, solr. (for Mr. J. J. Power, B.A., State Solicitor), said the defendant had been before the Court on other occasions.

Defendant said that the employee told him she would stamp the card.

Justice—Is it stamped?—Yes.

Why didn't you stamp it in time?—She said she would stamp it herself.

The Justice said that the usual procedure was for the employer to deduct the amount from the employee's wages and stamp the cards.

The Inspector said that he thought the defendant was not too well off.

The Justice said that he would let defendant off with a fine of 10/- and 4/- costs, and allow him until the end of June to pay.

SINGING ON THE STREET

James and Christopher Lynch, Reen's Pike, Rathkeale, were summoned for disorderly behaviour.

James Lynch said that his brother was unable to attend Court as he was working.

Guard Dundon said that he found the defendants singing and shouting on the public street at 12.15 a.m. on St. Patrick's Night.

James Lynch said that he and his brother came into Rathkeale to a dance.

In reply to the Justice, witness admitted that he had some drink.

The Justice observed that this was a nice state of affairs on St. Patrick's Day, when all the publichouses were supposed to be closed. Addressing defendant, the Justice said:—"In order to safeguard you and in case you come to a dance in Rathkeale again, I will hold this over your head for six months. If you behave yourself in the meantime there will be nothing more about it. Christy will have to appear here before me the next day and I will hear what he has to say."

(The other cases before the Court will be found reported under separate headings.)

CITY BURGLARY

ACCUSED AGAIN REMANDED

The case in which two young Englishmen, Ronald Francis T. Robinson, and Wm. E. Coon, both with addresses in London, against whom charges of larceny and house-breaking and with being in possession of fire-arms and house-breaking implements have been preferred, was mentioned at the Liberties Court, Limerick, on Wednesday, before District Justice Flood, B.L.

The charges were a sequel to the burglary at Messrs. Cannock's last Sunday night week, when articles of clothing to the value of £12 were stolen. The accused were arrested the following day, and on being searched by the Guards it was alleged that a revolver, three jemmies, and some of the stolen articles were found in their possession.

At the last Court, Supt. Meehan said that he was in possession of information to show that the capture of the prisoners was very fortunate for the people of Limerick.

The proceedings at to-day's Court lasted only a few minutes.

As enquiries were not completed the Garda authorities applied for a remand to the 22nd April and this was granted.

CLARE STREET CYCLING CLUB

Clare Street Cycling Club tendered sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and family, Michael Street, on the death of Mr. Stephen Kennedy.

DRUMMER DYES

25
EDWARDS, EDGES BOLTON

IN DAYS OF HEROISM AND DANGER

Leaves From An Intelligence Officer's Diary

The Affray at Limerick Workhouse in 1919—How a Brave Republican Lost His Life

(SPECIAL TO THE "LIMERICK LEADER")

Easter Week had awakened the slumbering nation and sown the seeds of rebellion. The Irish Republican Army, when once again the roads of all Ireland were ringing with the music of marching feet, and men began to train themselves in discipline and the use of arms. Soloheadbeg re-kindled the revolutionary fire, which was gradually smouldering away, till at Limerick on Sunday, 6th April, 1919, a flaming torch was applied to the dying embers.

At the Union Hospital on that day was exchanged the first shots that presaged the intensive guerrilla warfare of the following years, and the first victim of the new fight for freedom was a young Limerick man.

Bob Byrne, 28 years of age, in the prime of his life and manhood, full of ambition, fire and energy in espousing and propagating the ideals of the great Irish Volunteers, had only just been elected Adjutant of the Limerick City Second Battalion when he was arrested at his mother's house, Town-wall, Limerick, on the night of the 5th April, 1919, where the women of 1890 manhood were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for being in possession of fire-arms.

A PRISON FIGHT AND HUNGER STRIKE

In gaol he was the idol of his fellow prisoners, and soon became their leader in the fight to secure political treatment. During the campaign he was the initiator of a scheme that led to the cells being wrecked and considerable damage being done before the prisoners were overpowered by reinforcements of police brought into the prison. As a result, they were subjected to barbarous treatment; many had their boots removed and were left night and day barefooted and handcuffed in the wrecked cells, while others were removed to solitary confinement.

Eventually, having exhausted all other resources, they finally went on hunger strike, attempts to induce them to eat and break their morale having failed. After a time some of them got

one of whom is seated on either side of the bed, the others, numbering six altogether, occupying vantage positions within the ward. Outside in the corridors and grounds, the remaining volunteers are on the alert, calmly and casually waiting for the signal.

A CONCERTED RUSH

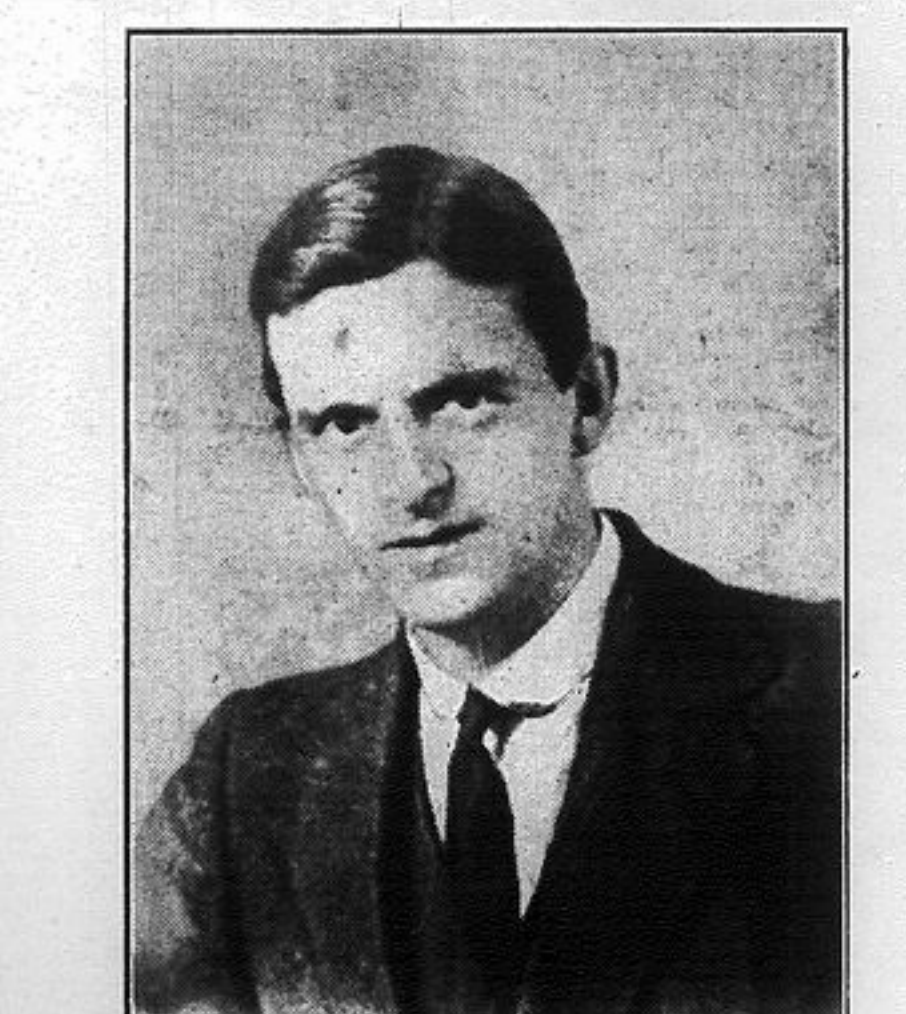
At three o'clock—the striking of the hour, and the shrill blast of the whistle were simultaneous—a concerted rush is made at the police. Bobby Byrne, weak and exhausted, attempts to get up, to be frustrated by Constable O'Brien throwing himself bodily across the bed, then grimly holding him down while in a kneeling position. Immediately shots rang out, and there is general pandemonium—patients jump panic-stricken from their beds and mingle with the terror-stricken visitors, now rushing to exits, while the volunteers and police are in handgrips, rolling and struggling about the ward. In a few minutes all is over. The ward is empty save for the bound and trussed-up policemen. The raiders have gone, one carrying the limp, frail figure of Bob Byrne, attired only in his pyjamas, across his stalwart shoulders. He is placed in a commandeer donkey cart and driven away. During the journey it is noticed that he is bleeding profusely and when it is discovered that he is wounded, for a hurried examination reveals a hole almost the size of a halfpenny on the naked breast close to the heart, he is wrapped up in overcoats and transferred to a pony trap in which he is brought to the house of John Ryan, Knocklishen, about three miles from the Union Hospital.

He is then dying, having been shot during the struggle in the ward; medical attention is forthcoming, and a priest comes to administer the last rites, and, suffering intense agony, while making a heroic fight against death, he finally expires about 8.30 that evening.

In the melee Constable O'Brien was also shot dead, and Constable Spillane gravely wounded, whilst Sergeant Goulding, Constables Tierney, Fitzpatrick and Clarke received slight wounds and minor injuries.

SCOURING THE COUNTRYSIDE

Police and troops were out at once scouring the countryside, and Sean Hurley



The late Mr. Bob Byrne.

(cousin of Bob Byrne), who later in the Tan War was Quartermaster, Mid-Limerick Brigade, I.R.A.; Arthur Johnson (Battalion Engineer, whom Byrne had succeeded as Adjutant), Thomas Crowe, cousin of deceased Michael Doherty, farmer's boy at Ryan's house, and Patrick Bray, undertaker's driver, were arrested and remanded, charged with being accessories after the fact in connection with the murder of Constable O'Brien.

Next day great tension prevailed all over the area, and all approaches to the house, where the body lay in an upper room, covered with a bloodstained Volunteer overcoat, were held by detachments of the Scottish Horse with fixed bayonets. When later the body was handed over to the relatives, it was laid out in the uniform of a Volunteer officer, which was removed by the police and led to a protest being made at the inquest by Mick Brennan, then an officer of the Clack I.R.A.

The scenes and incidents that followed will for ever be remembered by the populace. The removal of the remains from the quiet farmhouse at the foot of the Clack hills to St. John's Cathedral was an awe-inspiring sight, as, accompanied by thousands of Limerick and Clare Volunteers the coffin, draped in the Tricolour, is borne reverently and slowly through the quiet countryside, and, although crusted city (shops being closed, work, business and traffic being suspended), to await the Requiem on the day following, when, with a funeral cortege unsurpassed in pomp, amid scenes of grief and mourning, Bobby's mortal remains were borne to the cemetery, en route to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery, the shoulders of his compatriots, through streets thronged with sympathisers, and lines of steel-helmeted British troops, with fixed bayonets (coming smartly to the present) as the coffin is borne past.

Armoured cars following, with guns trained on the procession, while aeroplanes are hovering and droning overhead.

Surely a fitting funeral tribute to a soldier of Ireland, an unsolicited, unwanted honour for the first to die in the new fight.

THE LAST TRIBUTES—AND AFTER.

The last tributes are paid at the graveside, and the crowds return to their homes. Limerick is proclaimed a military area. Permits from the British Military Authorities are a necessity for workers, businessmen and pedestrians. A general strike against military armaments. It is the ignited torch that burns throughout 1919-20-21, an inexhaustible flame, to re-light the hopes and illumine the glory in that new fight for the freedom of the

SEQUEL TO CRASH ILLEGAL POSSESSION

Charge Of Dangerous Driving

CASE AT CROOM COURT

(From our Reporter.)

At Croom District Court on Tuesday, before Mr. C. S. Kenny, B.L., District Justice.

James Trehy, 25 Glementworth Street, Limerick, was charged by Supt. Cooney, G.S., with dangerous driving of a motor car on the morning of the 6th January, and with being under the influence of drink while in charge of a car.

John Hogan, Main Street, Croom, a druggist's assistant employed in Limerick, said that on the night of the 5th January he attended a dance in Newcastle West. He left the dance shortly after 1 a.m. and when he approached Carrigreen Cross he observed a car approaching him and travelling at a speed which he estimated at 50 miles per hour. Witness swore his car violently to his left-hand side but defendant's car came on and crashed into him.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., for the defendant, witness denied that his recollection of the whole occurrence was hazy. Witness was of the opinion that the defendant was intoxicated, because his speech was very inaccurate. His breath also smelt strongly of liquor.

Mr. William Ryan, architect, Limerick, gave evidence of the measurements of the road at the scene of the impact, adding that if the defendant had been driving at 50 miles per hour around the bend his car would have dashed into the quarry.

DEFENDANT'S EVIDENCE.

Defendant, in evidence, stated that on the evening of the 5th January he drove a man from Limerick to Granagh. When approaching Carrigreen Cross on his way home he was travelling at 25 miles per hour. When he rounded the bend he was in as far as possible on his own side of the road. He saw a car approaching from Ballingarry and it was travelling on the centre of the road. The car crashed into him and extensively damaged his vehicle. Witness had not moved any distance from his original position on his right side of the road when the crash occurred.

Continuing, witness said that he was subsequently charged by a Guard with being drunk. On the night in question he had three drinks—three mediums of stout—and when he left his passenger at home the latter gave him a half of whiskey.

Cross-examined by Supt. Cooney, witness said that he was driving cars for thirteen years and had travelled all over the country.

Superintendent—When you left Limerick, where did you first stop?

Witness—At Patrickswell.

Had you any drink there?—I had one. Did you stop in Croom?—Yes.

How many drinks had you there?—Two.

ALL ARISING OUT OF THE ACCIDENT

Mr. McNeice—I would like to point out that all these charges have arisen out of this accident and it is quite clear the impact took place on my client's side of the road. Hogan stated that when he saw this car coming around the bend he swerved violently to avoid it and the accident took place seven feet from my client's side of the road. I submit that if this man was in the condition stated and was travelling at the speed alleged he would be in the quarry.

The Justice, addressing defendant, said that he did not want to give lectures, but if he were a hackney driver he would take the pledge. Defendant had no right to take four drinks when driving anybody. The gentleman who gave him the whiskey was equally to blame.

Defendant was fined 20/- for dangerous driving, and the second charge was dismissed.

FELL FROM LORRY

This evening Thomas McNamara, an employee of Messrs. McGuire, Corn Merchants, Francis Street, sustained a rather serious head injury when, it is stated, he fell off a lorry at the corner of Arthur's Quay. The injured man was removed to Barrington's Hospital, where he was treated for his injury.

ANZACS ON PARADE

The great Anzac Day parade to be held in Sydney, New South Wales, on April 25th, will see a total of 50,000 war veterans, including 2,000 New Zealanders and 30,000 from other Australian States. It will be the largest parade ever held, outnumbering almost by two to one the assembly held in Melbourne in 1927.

FARMERS' UNION RESOLUTION

The Ulster Farmers' Union, at their meeting yesterday, passed a resolution urging farmers in the province, in the absence of a guaranteed price for flax, to refuse to grow any more.

NOBLE SPIRIT.

Surely the noble spirit of self-sacrifice was never more evident than it was in this instance, where men in their fealty to a cause, and their loyalty to a stricken comrade, could go unarmed, unflinchingly, I say, unoffended and unafraid, to assail an armed force in an attempt to effect his rescue. The pity of it is that their success should have had such a tragic ending.

They hearkened to their comrade's call To break his bonds; they did their best. What matter if through death they failed.

When others lived to do the rest. (The second article in this series will appear in our next week-end issue. It is entitled "The Invasion of Limerick.")

Charge At Rathkeale Court

QUESTION OF A MORAL RIGHT

CASE STRUCK OUT AT ADARE

(From Our Reporter.)

The "history" attaching to a plot of land granted to a tenant by the old Board of Guardians, and the tenant's later assertion of moral rights to a cottage built there by the Limerick Board of Health, was outlined at Rathkeale Court on Monday, before District Justice Kenny, when an elderly man named Patrick Carroll was charged with having taken possession of a house and plot of land at Ballynorth, Askeaton, the property of Limerick Board of Health.

Mr. R. Cussen (solicitor for defendant), suggested at the outset that if the Justice dealt with the case summarily his client would be prepared to give an undertaking.

Justice—The only undertaking I can get is that he will go out.

Mr. Cussen—Of course he is out.

"TOOK POSSESSION TWICE"

Supt. Cooney said that Carroll took possession of the place twice. When the key was handed over Carroll went back again. He was not now actually living on the place, but he had a few bits of furniture there. Carroll lived some distance away, and he (Supt.) understood that Carroll rarely, if ever, slept in this house. The case would not be pressed against him if he cleared out.

Mr. Cussen asked the Justice to hear Carroll's case, as it would help him in arriving at a decision.

Justice—He says he thinks he has a moral right. I am not here to decide moral rights. The only rights I am here to decide are legal rights. The fact is that he has possession, and the Board has caused an information to be sworn, and had him arrested and brought here. It seems I would be neglecting my duty if I did not send him for trial.

Mr. Cussen—The old Board of Guardians actually gave him this plot of ground.

Justice—That may have been before the time of the people in this court.

Mr. Cussen said that he had one of the members of the old Board of Guardians present in court to testify.

Justice—He won't appear before me. WHEN LAND COMMISSION STEPPED IN.

Mr. Cussen explained that at the time Carroll got the plot there had been severe agrarian trouble in the district, and eventually the Land Commission stepped in. There were five half-acre plots which were given to the Board of Guardians to appoint labourers to till them, and Carroll was one of the five selected. Of the five Carroll was now the "last of the Mohicans." When Carroll went to get the cottage which had been built he found that it had been given to someone else.

Justice—He may possibly have what he describes himself as some kind of moral claim, but I can't entertain it.

Mr. Cussen—He is prepared to give an undertaking that he will not interfere with this house or plot again.

Supt. Cooney said that the Board had granted the cottage to a tenant, and Carroll went in and ploughed the land. After a consultation with his client, Mr. Cussen announced that Carroll would agree to give up possession of everything.

Justice—That is quite a different matter. Sergeant Flaherty gave evidence of seeing Carroll, who made no statement when cautioned.

The Justice remarked that there were many applicants before the Board for houses, and they could not put strong cases. He could not allow Carroll to take the law into his own hands and anticipate the decision of the Board.

Mr. M. F. Noonan, solicitor, said that the procedure adopted by the Board, in the direction of the Minister, was to appoint the most suitable tenants. A tenant had been appointed to this cottage, and the Board were anxious to get him in immediately.

Sergeant Flaherty said that he believed that the trouble was due to the fact that the tenant was a stranger to the district.

The Justice decided to remand Carroll on his own bail of £5 pending the carrying out of his promise to hand up possession. Addressing Carroll, the Justice said: "If you try to adopt the high hand you will probably find yourself without any cottage, and in addition be in Limerick Jail."

The Justice advised Carroll to make representation to the Board with a view to getting a cottage.

CASE STRUCK OUT.

At Adare Court on Tuesday, Supt. Cooney informed the Justice that Carroll had now given over possession of the cottage and that the tenant appointed by the Board of Health was in occupation.

The Justice then struck out the case.

SOUGHT PROTECTION

A homing pigeon bearing a ring numbered 321-1883, took refuge in the Garda Station, Whitebow, one evening last week, but departed on the following morning.

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