

POLICE RUN AMOK

Houses Wrecked And Burned.

A Tuam correspondent wiring last night in reference to the Western tragedy says— Constables Carey and Burke, Dunmore, were shot dead last night when returning from Gaiway in a police motor car. They left for Gaiway Assizes that morning, accompanied by Sergeant Beatty and Constable Brennan, whom they left at Tuam, from which town they took an additional escort of police. They returned to Tuam at about 8 p.m., and took Sergeant Beatty and Constable Brennan on the journey back to Dunmore. Constable Burke was driving.

When nearing Newtown-Darcy, about three miles from Tuam, they found the road barricaded with felled trees. Before the driver had time to pull up shots rang out from behind a hedge, and as Carey and Burke were jumping from the car they were shot and mortally wounded.

The other two policemen alighted, and, it is stated, that they discharged all their ammunition at a party of 40 or 50 men who had been in ambush behind the hedge. The two police were overpowered, and their rifles taken from them. They were then blindfolded and told to go back in the Tuam direction. They reached Tuam in a short time, and reported the matter at the police barrack.

Soldiers and police immediately proceeded

to the scene of the occurrence in charge of District Inspector O'Callaghan. Father Moane, C.C., was also summoned, but on arrival it was found that the two constables were dead.

The bodies were conveyed to Tuam Police Barracks, where they still lie.

Later in the night it appears that additional police were summoned from Galway and adjoining stations. A night of terror followed in Tuam, where business establishments were wrecked wholesale.

At about four o'clock in the morning volleys of shots were heard in various parts of the town. Batches of police marched through all the streets and shot at the houses. Very extensive damage was caused. The premises of Messrs Canny Brothers, the largest drapery establishment in the town, were completely demolished, the occupants having to make their way down a blazing stairway to the hall, where they were refused egress at the rifle's point. They eventually succeeded in escaping by the backway.

The Town Hall, a splendid cutstone building, was completely gutted, and numerous other shops were considerably damaged.

Paraffin oil and petrol seem to have been extensively used, and bombs were also flung into buildings.

The houses of young men identified with Sinn Fein were visited by military and police, who acted in a most aggressive manner. All business is suspended and the streets are covered with wreckage.

It is remarkable that no serious injury or loss of life occurred amongst the civilian population.

Skibbereen, Tuesday.—News reached his friends here to-day that Constable Carey was shot outside Tuam, County Galway. Details as to how he met his end are lacking. He had about nine years' service. He was a native of Derrylugga, Skibbereen, and belonged to a highly respectable family to whom general sympathy is extended.

Telegraphing last evening with reference to Monday night's disturbances at Tuam, the Press Association's Galway correspondent says following the shooting of Constables Carey and Burke policemen were rushed to the district from Galway, and Dragoon Guards arrived from Claremorris.

About three o'clock this morning the patrol parties, who had scoured the country without result, returned to Tuam, and the policemen, after viewing the bodies of their comrades, appear to have got out of hand. Fully armed, they marched into the streets, and it is alleged smashed public houses, dragged some young men from their beds and threatened to shoot them, and then fired some buildings.

A later Press Association telegram states: Two grocery and provision stores were set ablaze, and it is rumoured an incendiary bomb was thrown into one of those shops. Practically all business premises in the principal street were wrecked, and as they marched along the rioters smashed windows with rifle butts and fired indiscriminately at the upper windows. Nobody was wounded.

It is reported between 50 and 100 police took part in the disturbances, and when they rushed into the streets shouted,

"Where are the Sinn Féiners now? Let the cowards come on."

The discharge of rifle shots awakened the inhabitants, who for the time were under the impression an attack on the police barracks was in progress. They were speedily disillusioned, for whenever a face appeared at the window there was a sharp command,

"Get back or you'll be shot," followed in some cases by the discharge of shots through the window.

It is declared the police raided the house of one man who was from home and rushed up to his empty bed, which this morning bore bayonet marks.

The Archbishop of Tuam visited the scene to-day and subsequently called at the police station to obtain an assurance the police would be kept under control. He saw the bodies of the dead constables, and told the District Inspector he intensely deplored and condemned the murders, which he did not think were possible in view of his frequent condemnation of crime. But at the same time he protested against the outbreak of the police and the indiscriminate shooting and wrecking of property and the danger to life.