

most fantastic apparel, and all had their arms full of mechanical and other toys, hockey and golf sticks, and all kinds of articles used in popular pastimes.

### MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS.

All through Monday night the military were hastily summoning reinforcements from the Curragh, Belfast, and England, and on Tuesday, April 25, these forces began to arrive in the city. Almost in every instance the soldiers could only be conveyed to within five or six miles of Dublin owing to the interruption of the railway communications, and the men had a long and exhausting march, carrying their full equipment, before they arrived at the barracks to which they had been posted. On the way they were striped at by Sinn Feiners, and had to be continually on the alert to repel attack.

Meanwhile the available forces of the Crown had been engaged all Tuesday morning in conflict with the entrenched rebels, and many fiercely-contested engagements took place. At daybreak troops were posted in houses overlooking St. Stephen's Green Park, and a raking fire was sprayed from machine guns all over the Park, while soldiers picked off every rebel who showed himself. They still, however, managed to hold the Park in much reduced numbers.

Another body of troops surrounded Cork Hill, and a fierce struggle took place for the possession of the *Daily Express* building. Artillery was brought into play, and prepared the way for a charge. This was carried out by the soldiers in gallant style, a terrible fight taking place on the only staircase leading to the upper rooms. Many casualties took place at this stage. The military ultimately carried the position, and either killed or captured the garrison.

Later on Tuesday the positions occupied near Phibsborough were attacked. The barricades erected at the railway bridges on the North Circular and Cabra roads were destroyed by gun fire, about forty casualties being reported and one hundred prisoners secured. These operations resulted in the whole of the North Circular road being in the hands of the military; the Sinn Feiners who escaped it ran for shelter in the direction of Glasnevin Cemetery. The military net was then drawn closer on the city from the North side, but no attempt was made that day to attack the rebels in their central "fortresses."

### FIRST OF THE FIRES.

All day on Tuesday the ambulances were busily employed conveying the wounded to the nearest hospitals, the staffs of which responded to the calls that were made by the ambulance men of the day and night.

More looting took place in the streets in the vicinity of Nelson's Pillar. Messrs. Lawrence's large photographic and toy emporium in Upper Sackville street was one of the principal places cleared. The crowd of looters had matters all their own way for hours, and revelled in the destruction of the property. Some exciting scenes were witnessed when the fireworks were brought out and exploded. Rockets rushed up in the air and burst with a sound like a cannon, and all the smaller sorts of fireworks were thrown whizzing about amongst the crowd. Finally the premises were set on fire and burned to the ground.

In the suburbs many fights with the rebels also took place, the only result being additions to the list of casualties.

Martial Law was proclaimed in Dublin City and County on Tuesday night, 25th April.

On Wednesday, 26th, the position of affairs was worse than before. The Sinn Feiners had been driven to the wall, and were fighting with desperation. More troops, with artillery, were continually arriving in the city, and after a short rest they were brought into action, but they had to fight for every foot of ground they gained. For the most part it was an unseen foe with whom they had to contend.

At eight o'clock on Wednesday morning the Admiralty steamer *Helga* came up the Liffey, and bombarded Liberty Hall, the headquarters of the Citizen Army. Owing to the Loop Line Bridge intervening between the ship and Liberty Hall, direct firing could not be brought to bear upon the building. The ship's gunners, however, dropped shells on the hall, the roof and interior of which were destroyed by bursting shells, but the outer shell of the house has not been much injured by fire. The garrison escaped before the bombardment commenced.

### ARTILLERY GET TO WORK.

By the afternoon of Wednesday the military were in possession of Brunswick street, and all the district between that thoroughfare and the river and right up to D'Olier street. Sentries were placed at the entrance of a lane leading from D'Olier street to the Theatre Royal. The soldiers had not been long there before one of the snipers in Kelly's shop at the corner of Bachelor's Walk shot one of them dead. The military then brought a nine-pounder gun into position at Trinity College, facing D'Olier street, and bombarded Kelly's corner. This was the first appearance of artillery in the centre of the city, and the bombardment greatly alarmed the people who reside in the immediate vicinity. Kelly's shop was riddled with shot, and the garrison had to evacuate the position. One peculiar effect of the gunfire was noticed afterwards. A shell struck an electric light standard at the corner, and bored a hole clean through the metal without bringing down the standard.

Looting continued in the back streets all Wednesday, and in the evening several houses were set on fire.

### THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

Bad as the previous day had been, the crisis reached its climax on Thursday and Friday. Artillery was brought into play at every point, and the air reverberated with nerve-wracking explosives. All day long the bombardment continued unceasingly, and every night the centre of the city was illuminated with great conflagrations. The Hotel Metropole and all that block of buildings for a long distance into Middle Abbey street were burned down, including the *Freeman's Journal* and *Evening Telegraph* offices, Messrs. Easons, Messrs. Manfields, and Messrs. Thom's printing establishment. Then the General Post Office was given to the flames, and was destroyed—only the bare walls of this fine building remain. This particular fire extended down Henry street as far as the large warehouse of Messrs. Arnott and Co., which is still intact, but is flooded with water. The Coliseum Theatre is also destroyed.

On the opposite side of Sackville street all the shops have been burned down from Hopkins's corner at O'Connell Bridge right up to the Tramway Company's offices at Cathedral street. The fire extended backwards, and enveloped and destroyed almost all the houses down to Marlborough street. These include the premises of the Royal Hibernian Academy, with its valuable collection of pictures, and the offices of the *Irish Cyclist*, while on the opposite side of Lower Abbey street the branch of the Hibernian Bank, Mooney's publichouse, "the Ship" publichouse, and Union Chapel have gone in the flames. Round in Sackville street the scarred skeletons of the D.B.C. restaurant and Clery's Warehouse stand like sentinels in the midst of a scene of desolation that beggars description. The