

shortly after noon on Easter Monday, when Sackville street presented the normal Bank Holiday appearance, with closed shops and a sprinkling of people walking along the footways, a party of armed men, some in uniform and some in multi, came along at a brisk pace up Lower Abbey street, and veered to the right. When they arrived opposite the front entrance to the Post Office the order to halt was given, and the party, numbering about sixty, rushed into the public office. They shouted wildly, and fired about twenty revolver shots, without hitting anyone. They ordered the clerks in the different departments all round to put up their hands, and leave the place with all possible haste. Among those who had to submit to the "hands up" order was a fine specimen of the Dublin Metropolitan Police who was on duty. The invaders jumped over the counters, and took possession of the whole place. Some of the clerks were not allowed time even to take their hats and their coats, and as they were pushed about they were told that they ought to be thankful to be allowed to escape with their lives. There were at that time about twenty or thirty members of the general public in the office, engaged in purchasing stamps, writing letters at the centre tables, or transacting some other business such as is of daily occurrence. These people were simply dumbfounded at what they saw and heard, and, in fact, were very much frightened, indeed, by the revolver firing. They naturally left the place as quickly as they could.

The public office on the ground floor having been in this unceremonious way taken possession of by the Volunteers, and an armed sentry placed at the door to exclude the public, a party was sent upstairs to take possession of the other departments, and of the sorting rooms, parcels rooms, telegraph and telephones.

TELEGRAPH WIRES CUT.

The staffs in these departments surrendered at discretion, and gave place to the rebels. They could do nothing else. The telegraph cables to England and Scotland were cut at 12.20, so that Ireland was completely cut off from communication with Great Britain. It is stated that one of the clerks in the general office had in his drawer about £200, ready for payment of orders that might be presented, and that he had to leave the money to his new and strange masters. Everything in the place was turned topsy-turvy. Not a whole pane of glass was left in any of the windows on the ground floor from the Henry street side round to Prince's street. Up against these glassless windows chairs, stools, mailbags, etc., were piled in the form of a rough and ready barricade. The noise of the glass falling upon the pavement attracted the attention of the people in the street, who at first could not understand the apparently wanton destruction of property. But they were quickly given to understand that serious business was afoot, for a volley of rifle shots fired through the vacant windows sent the hitherto listless pedestrians scampering at full speed in all directions. "O Lord save us," cried a few old women as they hurried away from the scene, "it's the Orange Army, and they have taken the Post Office." And so the first act in this latest of Irish rebellions was performed.

Meanwhile other parties of the revolutionists were not idle, for the noise of fusillading was heard from other parts of the city, notably from Dublin Castle. Excitement grew intense, and women and children who were out for the holiday found themselves cut off from the means of getting to their homes. The tramway service was suspended at one o'clock, and all the cars were sent to their depôts. One large car was perforce kept at the entrance to North Earl street, it might be supposed as a sort of street barricade. All the publichouses within a certain distance of the Post Office were closed, and trembling spectators gathered on O'Connell bridge and at the corners of Westmoreland street and D'Olier street, expecting every moment to see the military coming from one direction or another.

LANCERS ATTACKED.

Shortly after the trouble began a troop of lancers came along from the direction of the North Wall, escorting four or five waggons of munitions which were being conveyed to the magazine in the Phoenix Park. They crossed from the Eden quay side of Sackville street, and passed up Bachelor's Walk, knowing nothing of what was happening in the neighbourhood. They proceeded up the quays, and presumably having deposited their charge, returned to the city, and came into Sackville street from the north end. As soon as they got in front of the Post Office they were met with a volley from the occupants of that building. The shots came for the most part from men who had got on the roof, from which position they had a great advantage over the lancers. Four of the latter were shot, and the horse of one of them fell dead on the street. The dead bodies of these men were taken to Jervis street hospital. The Lancers withdrew to the Farnell Monument, where they remained for a short while before returning to barracks. The ambulances were busy for a couple of hours in the middle of the day, conveying the wounded to hospital. Early in the proceedings a party of the Volunteers turned into Abbey street, and, having smashed several large shop windows, entered the Ship Hotel, and "took" that, too. Armed men posted themselves in the upper windows, but they relinquished that position in the course of the afternoon. The police meantime had withdrawn to their several stations.

SHOPS LOOTED.

Shop windows in North Earl street were smashed, and the shops were looted. Noblett's sweet shop at the corner, and that of Lewers and Co., next to it in Sackville street, were sacked, and youngsters, male and female, might be seen carrying bundles of sweets, or caps and hats, or shirts, of which these shops were despoiled. There was no one to prevent them from helping themselves as they listed. A publichouse in North Earl street was looted, and when the looters had partaken of the ardent spirits some of them beat each other with the bottles so violently that they were under the necessity of having their wounds dressed in hospital. Another of the shops that suffered was that of Messrs. M. Kelly and Son, gunsmiths and gunpowder merchants, at the corner of Bachelor's Walk and Sackville street. The looters took away with them such ammunition as they could lay their hands on. A couple of motor cars were stopped as they were passing the Post Office, and the occupants had to leave them in possession of the "boys." One of the victims of this high-handed procedure was Judge Law Smith, County Court Judge of Limerick, who was accompanied by a couple of ladies.

(25th APRIL.)

THE SECOND DAY.

All through Monday night and Tuesday morning the rebels were busily engaged in Sackville street, taking possession of houses occupying commanding positions. The windows and doors of these premises were strongly barricaded with furniture, bedding, etc., and garriçons were installed in them. At O'Connell bridge, Kelly's shop at the corner of Bachelor's Walk was garriçoned and Hopkins's jewellery establishment at the opposite corner was similarly occupied. At the corner of Lower Abbey street, the branch premises of the Hibernian Banking Company were likewise seized, and a strong garriçon was installed. Every window overlooking the street was filled with armed men, and preparations to withstand a siege were undertaken. Later in the day a chequer of plain look place, and a Red Cross flag was hung out of one of the upper windows of the bank, as if to indicate that this building was to serve as an hospital for the wounded when the siege of the Post Office was entered upon.

Close by, in Lower Abbey street, a formidable barrier was erected opposite Wynn Hotel. To obtain material for the barricade the Irish Times paper store was looted, and the big reels of paper were rolled out on the street. A bicycle shop was also looted, and bicycles and boxes were piled high, forming the only really effective barricade in the city. The Wireless School, at the corner of Lower Abbey street, was another of the places seized by the rebels, and messages were being despatched from this place all day long.

Further preparations for the siege were made by stretching lines of barbed wire across Sackville street, and it was also stated—though we were unable to confirm the statement—that the Imperial Hotel, which stands directly opposite the Post Office, had been occupied by a number of the rebels.

Amongst the premises in the immediate vicinity of the Post Office which were occupied by the rebels was the Greenway Company's