

Rioters clash with protest march in Cromac Sq. battle

FOUR POLICEMEN INJURED

"Belfast Telegraph" Reporter.

TEN PEOPLE ARRESTED, four policemen and a 12-year-old girl hospitalised and several thousand pounds' worth of damage. That was the outcome of last night's disturbances in Cromac Square, Belfast, where more than 200 rioters clashed with a protest march of nearly 1,000 supporters of Rev. Ian Paisley, moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church.

The attack on Mr. Paisley's marchers lasted only a few minutes—but for several hours afterwards sporadic violence erupted in the markets area of the city as bricks, nuts, bolts, lumps of iron and broken glass were hurled at the police from side streets around the square.

The marchers were crossing the Albert Bridge when a crowd of about 200 people—half of them youths and young girls—formed a human wall across the road to stop the parade. The police flanking the procession moved in to break it up, and there were some scuffles before the crowd dispersed along Lagan Street and Verrier Street.

One young man armed with an iron bar got to within a few feet of Mr. Paisley and Rev. John Wylie, before being grabbed by some of Mr. Paisley's followers. Then the hail of missiles came from the far side of the square. Head Constable

Robert Finlay went down as he was struck on the head and chest with pieces of brick. Other policemen were hit and the marchers were forced to the far side of the street. But the parade did not break up. It continued through the square up into May Street.

One middle-aged woman, with bricks smacking at her, continued to sing "Onward Christian Soldiers". More police were rushed into the area armed with shields and riot sticks, as the crowd lined up on the Lagan Street side of the square continuing to throw missiles at passing traffic and shop windows. The windows of the post office in Cromac Square were shattered by a fusillade of bricks.

Cars damaged
Cars parked in side streets had their windows broken and several parked in the centre of the square were badly damaged before they could be got away.

While the riots were still going on, Mr. Paisley led his marchers, who were protesting against "remaining tendencies" in the General Assembly, to the Assembly Buildings.

As they marched round and round the block there were some jarring exchanges with Presbyterians leaving the Assembly. The rallying continued for some time and there was a brief clash between some of the demonstrators and police when Howard Street was roped off to allow the Governor, Lord Londonderry and Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Geddis, and the new Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Alfred Martin, to cross the street to the Presbyterian Hotel.

'Victory'

Asked about his reason for parading through a Nationalist area, Mr. Paisley later said: "If the Tricolour can fly there throughout the Easter Rebellion celebrations, then the Union Jack should be able to fly there."

"It is all part of Ulster. This is the first Protestant parade through the markets area for 30 years. It is quite a victory."

When the parade marched out of the city centre again to disband at Ravenhill Free Presbyterian Church, the marchers looted the markets along the Laganbank Road. An uneasy peace—occasionally disturbed by intermittent sniping—reigned in the markets area during the rest of the night, and it died in the early hours of the morning when the streets were cleared. Two of the injured police men, Detective Sergt. Robert Kelly and Constable Ernest Russell, who both received head injuries, have been released from hospital.

Head Constable Finlay, who received severe head and chest injuries, and Constable John McNeill, who received chest injuries, are still detained. A hospital spokesman said today that Constable Yeats' condition was "fair" and that Head-Const. Finlay was improving.



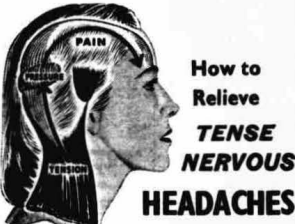
Above: Police charge the mob which formed a human barricade at Cromac Square to prevent Rev. Ian Paisley's protest march to the Presbyterian General Assembly getting through.

Left: Head Constable Robert Finlay, who received severe head and chest injuries, is led to an ambulance.

Clips from news film by courtesy of the BBC.

£7,000 award for arm injury

A 19-DAYS-OLD apprentice draughtsman whose left arm was crushed by an 8 cwt. iron casting was awarded £7,000 agreed damages against Associated Electrical Industries Ltd. at the High Court today. The award was to William John Duddy, of Wellington Avenue, Larne. His arm had to be amputated below the elbow following the accident at the company's Larne works. **Appearance** — Mr. Basil Kelly, Q.C., and Mr. W. P. Collins, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Frank Hanna) for Duddy; Mr. R. E. Chambers, Q.C., and Mr. A. Campbell (instructed by John A. Wallace & Co.) for A.E.I.



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Shopkeepers assess damage

"Belfast Telegraph" Reporter

BOARDED-UP SHOP
windows and smashed cars in Cromac Square this morning were only part of the aftermath of last night's violence. Less noticeable, but less easily repaired, was the damage to the morale of the small shopkeepers and businessmen of the square. Some had their shop fronts wrecked, others had minor damage, but they all had one thing in common—a grim-puffed reluctance to make any comment.

"We're caught in the middle here," one man said, as he gathered fragments of plate glass from among his goods. "We just want to be left alone to carry on with our business. If my name appears in the papers, I could get another window smashed in to-night."

His feelings were shared by other businessmen around the square, where about half the premises had been damaged during the riots.

Cromac Square post office was one of the worst hit, four large plate glass windows, installed last week, being broken. Six cars be-

longing to the Auto Taxi Company were damaged, and another belonging to a firm's mechanic had all its windows smashed.

Most of the businessmen had gathered up evidence to show their insurance companies—pieces of heavy cast iron and steel tubing which had been thrown through their windows.

The Black Bull bar, at the corner of Cromac Square, had one of its large windows broken by a brick which landed on a table among a group of customers.

"I actually saw the brick flying towards us," Mr. Patrick Scollan

manager of the bar, said today.

"It smashed the window and scattered drinks off a table where four of my customers were sitting. I shouted a warning and then got everybody into the lounge at the back where they were safe. A woman and child came running in to shelter as the club was trembling like a leaf."

"At one point a policeman even came in for safety. There was an awful lot of bricks and stones flying about there just as the procession came by—it was no place for a woman"

LETTERS to the Editor