

CORONER'S LAW IN IRELAND ENDS

Witnesses Become "Marked Men"—So Government Abolishes the Court.

By HUGH CURRAN.
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Dublin, October 7.—Coroner's inquests on persons killed in connection with present warfare in Ireland have been abolished in certain counties. This is a very drastic step. Coroner's court law is one of the oldest laws under the British constitution. It provides that the coroner with a jury of twelve men, should investigate all sudden or violent deaths.

In connection with the present disorder in the country where civilians have been killed, the jurists have been in some remarkable verdicts. They have found the British Government and the Prime Minister and other guilty of murder. Later, in the case of shooting of policemen, soldiers or civilians, jurors have hesitated to come forward at all but by so doing, they should become marked men by one side or the other.

For this reason, several inquests have failed. Now, under the new regulations, the military will set up the necessary inquest tribunals themselves. Naturally, there will be a good deal of protest against this form of tribunal. The military tribunals have already been responsible for the deaths of a number of civilians, and the fact that they should be judges, when, according to many of the more ardent writers, they should be in the dock, has aroused some indignation.

The abolition of coroner's inquests is announced in a notification in the Dublin Gazette under the new Restoration of Order Act. For the present, the abolition applies only to certain of the more disturbed counties, namely, Cork, Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Roscommon, Tipperary, and the cities of Cork and Limerick.

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Ottawa, Oct. 7.—Five and a half years bed-ridden, her body and limbs below the waist being paralyzed, Miss Lafontaine, for almost six years an inmate of St. Luke's Hospital, has recovered and now walks with the ease and grace of any other girl of her age. The restoration of the power of her limbs, according to Miss Lafontaine, is the direct result of the ministrations of James Moore Hickson, the Church of England lay healer, who conducted a mission in St. Albans' Church at the end of June last. She is emphatic in her declaration that the physicians attending her were powerless to effect a recovery, and that her healing is due to the laying on of hands and prayer of Mr. Hickson.

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