

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 197

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 197.

Witness

Mr. Robert N. Tweedy,
Carrickmines,
Co. Dublin.

Identity

Member of Commission of Enquiry 1919.

Subject

Investigation of country's industrial
resources.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. S1078

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-

BURO-STAIRÉ-MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 197

STATEMENT BY ROBERT N. TWEEDY.

W.S. 197.

A Commission of Inquiry was set up in 1919 by Dail Eireann to inquire into the total resources of the country, which covered every phase of its productivity, minerals, agriculture and industries.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on 2nd December 1919, in the City Hall, Dublin, at which evidence was taken on a number of subjects. Three volumes of verbatim minutes of the evidence at that session were printed. During the session I gave evidence on the production and use of industrial alcohol, and thereafter I was co-opted on the Commission and travelled over the whole country with various sub-committees investigating peat, fisheries, dairying and coal-mining. I went into every rabbit burrow that was called a coal mine, as well as two good coal mines. We investigated everything, including water power and stock breeding.

The organisation of the Commission rested with the general Committee, which only met occasionally. The administration of the sub-committee was undertaken by Darrell Figgis, the General Secretary, with a staff of two or three.

Separate reports on all phases of the work of the Commission were printed up to the time the Commission was closed down by the Provisional Government in 1922, although the work of the Commission was by no means ended. It had been intended to issue a comprehensive report upon the whole of its working, and in particular with the intention of co-ordinating all the evidence on power, such as water power, coal power, alcohol and peat, but that, unfortunately, still remains to be done. I have copies of the printed reports in my possession on the following subjects, and I am prepared to give them to the Bureau:-

1. Tuairisc ad Interim ar bhleachtas, Fourth edition.
2. Minutes of Evidence, Part I, Milk Production and Milk Products. Fishery - 2, 3, 4 December 1919.

3. Ad Interim Report on Milk Production, March 1920.
4. Report on Stock-breeding Farms for Pure-bred Dairy Cattle, April 1921.
5. Report on Industrial Alcohol, September, 1921.
6. Report on Sea Fisheries, October 1921.
7. Report on Peat, December 1921.
8. Report on Water Power, January 1922.
9. Report on Dairying and the Dairy Industry, March, 1922.

Evidence was collected over the whole country from the persons involved in any particular inquiry, such as fishermen in all the fishing ports, fish-buyers, and local residents, coal owners, coal miners and turf workers, and from everybody employed in any aspect of the work in which the Commission was interested. An enormous mass of evidence was collected, and it was all taken down verbatim by official Dail reporters, including Mr. Spillane. The transcripts of this evidence were in the possession of the Secretary, Mr. Darrell Figgis, and it would be very helpful if these transcripts could now be discovered and made available. The gist of the whole thing is in the reports, but the human documents in the evidence are wonderful.

The occupying forces raised objections to the Commission holding sittings, and once or twice prevented us holding them, as, for instance, in Cork, where we were turned out of the City Hall by the Black and Tans in about 1921. In general, however, there was no real danger to the members of the Commission, and very little real interference with the work. I think the British authorities did not think that they would get any kudos from interfering with such a Commission, as it really had no military significance.

Signature

Robert M. Weedy

22nd February, 1949.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 197