

Police
17-10852



Awaz

Office of Commissioner of Police,

Ref N°

Brisbane, 2nd December, 1917.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that as instructed by you I proceeded to Warwick on the 30th ultimo for the purpose of making enquiries into the charges preferred against Senior Sergeant Kenny, and the Police under his charge, by the Honourable, The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, Mr W. M. Hughes.

The complaint against Kenny is fully set out in the telegram addressed to you by MR Hughes from Wallangarra, a copy of which is attached.

As a result of my enquiries I ascertained that on the 29th ultimo a large crowd of people assembled on the platform of the Warwick Railway Station and its vicinity, awaiting the arrival of the Prime Minister from Toowoomba by the southern mail train. Immediately the train pulled in, Mr Hughes alighted on the platform and was met by Mr C. E. McDougall and other members of the National Political Council; and amidst mingled cheers and groans from the crowd, he proceeded to make his way across the platform to the place set apart for him to deliver an address. An egg was thrown at

The Commissioner of Police,

the

Brisbane.

the Prime Minister whilst crossing, but it missed its mark and landed amongst the crowd near him. A second egg was almost immediately thrown from the same direction, striking the Prime Minister's hat, and simultaneously all was excitement. Amongst the assembled crowd were two brothers, Barty and Patrick Brosnan, and there appears to be ample evidence procurable to show that they were responsible for throwing the eggs, of which it is alleged three were thrown and one of which struck the Prime Minister. When Mr Hughes was struck, he turned and moved towards the carriage in a very excited condition. Senior-Sergeant Kenny, who was in attendance, caught the Prime Minister by both arms, and, not being in uniform, endeavoured to explain that he was the senior sergeant of police and that he would afford Mr Hughes protection and arrange that he should get a hearing. Mr Hughes endeavoured to free himself from Senior-Sergeant Kenny, but was unable to do so until Mr C. E. McDougall intervened and insisted on Kenny releasing his hold, which the latter forthwith did.

Mr Rule, who I understand is the man referred to as a returned soldier, and who accompanied Mr McDougall and party to the railway station, saw Barty Brosnan throw the egg that struck Mr Hughes, and he immediately struck Brosnan a heavy blow in the face. The latter retaliated and a fight ensued. A crowd gathered around the combatants and a deal of jostling took place, caused apparently by the efforts of the crowd to obtain a view of the fight. Sergeant Huston, who was present on duty, forced his way through the crowd and separated the men, Barty Brosnan being removed from the railway premises, to which he did not return, nor did he again interfere in the proceedings. As a result of the encounter, Barty Brosnan was severely cut about the face.

About this time, Patrick Brosnan was seen by Constable Tong to throw an egg in the direction of the Prime Minister and was immediately removed by Tong from the railway premises, and three more eggs found in his possession were destroyed.

Mr Hughes then faced the crowd with the evident intention of addressing them, when Senior-Sergeant Kenny, who was standing near him, appealed to those assembled to give the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth a fair hearing and British fair play. Mr Hughes had not proceeded far with his address when Patrick Brosnan, who had not been arrested by Constable Tong, reappeared and, interjecting, approached within about ten feet of Mr Hughes in a threatening attitude, when he was promptly arrested by Sergeant Huston, who removed him and handed him over to two constables to be taken to the lock-up and charged with creating a disturbance.

Mr Hughes, during these proceedings, was in a very excited state, and on several occasions ordered the police to arrest Patrick Brosnan, who at the time was actually under arrest and was being removed. The Prime Minister apparently was confused by the physical resemblance existing between the brothers Brosnan, and was under the misapprehension that Patrick Brosnan was the individual who had assaulted him and engaged in the encounter with Mr Rule. This would probably account for Mr Hughes's action in excitedly jumping from the platform, making his way through the crowd, and addressing Sergeant Huston in the following words, "Sergeant, arrest

arrest that man, and if you don't do so I will have you reduced." This incident alone is I think sufficient to indicate that Mr Hughes lost for the time all control.

I interviewed several gentlemen who were present, including Mr McDougall, from whom I obtained a statement as attached which speaks for itself. Mr McDougall was near the Prime Minister throughout the proceedings, and he states he did not see any person lay hands on Mr Hughes, with the exception of Senior-Sergeant Kenny, whose intention was friendly: and the only assault he saw committed was that on Mr Hughes when he was struck with the egg. The blood which is alleged to have been seen on Mr Hughes's hand cannot be accounted for by those present.

The fact that Senior-Sergeant Kenny was not in uniform caused, in my opinion, some confusion, as it is doubtful whether the Prime Minister was aware, when Kenny caught him, that he was a member of the Police Force.

At the completion of his address, Mr Hughes called Senior-Sergeant Kenny over to his carriage, and within the hearing of Mr McDougall and others, said to him, "Have those men been arrested?" to which Kenny replied, "I will if you lay an information." Mr Hughes then said, "I am Federal Attorney-General and I tell you to arrest them." In reply to this remark Kenny said, "I am under the Queensland Government and I take my instructions from them." Mr Hughes replied, "Then I will deal with you." At this time Patrick Brosnan was actually in custody, but his brother Barty, who was

not

not arrested, had not put in an appearance.

The Brosnans are well known to the police, and Patrick Brosnan does not bear a good character, being looked upon as a quarrelsome man. I feel convinced that had Patrick Brosnan been arrested when seen by Constable Tong throwing the egg, and then found with three other eggs in his possession, further trouble would have been averted.

Mr F. C. M. Burne, the local Police Magistrate, was present and saw all that took place, and he assured me that the report appearing in the Brisbane morning papers was exaggerated, and he is prepared to give a statement in detail of what he saw. He states that the disorderly proceedings on the platform did not last more than three or four minutes.

I also interviewed the following gentlemen:-- Mr F. Selk, auctioneer; Mr R. J. Leeper, solicitor; Mr John Stuart, retired contractor and President of the Caledonian Society; Mr J. Murdoch, J.P., Livery-stable keeper; and Mr A. Gale. These gentlemen are in agreement that Mr Hughes was not assaulted beyond being struck on the hat with an egg, thrown by one of the Brosnans: and during my short visit to Warwick, I met several residents who were present at the proceedings who are of opinion that the police, under the exceptional circumstances, were placed in a very trying position.

With reference to a statement contained in the published reports to the effect that one of the men in the crowd carried a hammer, and another a heavy spanner, it was found on investigation that these men were railway employees on duty, and the implements referred

to

to were in use by them for the purposes of their occupation. The men are well known and reputable citizens and were only inoffensive spectators throughout the disturbance.

As a result of my enquiries, and from a perusal of the reports submitted, I have come to the following conclusions---

(1) That owing to the prevailing excitement, the reports prepared almost immediately afterwards appear to be exaggerated.

(2) That the trouble would have been minimised had Senior-Sergeant Kenny been in uniform as he should have been, which would have prevented confusion when he held the Prime Minister who was probably unaware of his identity

(3) That the statements are conflicting as to which of the Brosnan brothers threw the egg which struck the Prime Minister; but in my opinion, and as a result of careful enquiries, Barty Brosnan was responsible.

(4) That Constable Tong, in my opinion, failed in his duty in not arresting Patrick Brosnan when he saw him throw an egg in the direction of the Prime Minister.

I have instructed Inspector O'Connor and Detective Senior-Sergeant Head, who are still in Warwick, to obtain full statements as to the assault on the Prime Minister by the Brosnan brothers with a view to proceedings being taken against them.

The following reports, etc., dealing with the matter have been obtained---

- (1) Statement by Mr. C. E. McDougall.
- (2) Report by Senior-Sergeant Kenny.

- (3) Report by Sergeant Huston.
- (4) Report by Acting-Sergeant O'Brien.
- (5) Report by Constable Tong.
- (6) Report by Constable Dufficy.
- (7) Report by Constable Coughlan.
- (8) Extracts from the "Warwick Argus" and the "Warwick Examiner and Times".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,


Chief Inspector.

Criminal Investigation Branch,
Brisbane. 29th November 1917.

Copy of telegram to Commissioner received 7.20
p m, 29/11/17.

Wallangarra. Sec.95.
The Commissioner for Police, Bne.

*Chief Insp. Street
for attention
and report*

*Warragunda
29/11/17*

At Warwick today at 3 p m, when leaving the train to address a public meeting I was assaulted by a number of men stop there was great tumult amounting virtually to a riot stop I ordered the Police to immediately arrest the two most prominent ring leaders but acting under the Senior sergts direction they refused to do so stop I called the attention of Senior Sergeant Kenny that a deliberate and violent breach of the laws of the Commonwealth had been committed that the laws of the Commonwealth override those of the state and as Attorney General I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute these men under the Commonwealth law stop he replied that he recognized the laws of Queensland only and would act under no other stop I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the Commonwealth law and that having issued instruction to the Police under his control to do likewise he not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings of the meeting but had broken the Commonwealth law himself stop I have to request that you as Commissioner for Police of the state of Queensland suspend him from duty immediately and take all such steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the laws of the Commonwealth stop unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Government will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breach of *such laws.*

B.P. Street

Wm. Hughes. Insp. General

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REFERENDUM.

MR. HUGHES IN WARWICK.

SCENE AT THE STATION.

EXCITING INCIDENTS.

A BRIEF ADDRESS.

In accordance with the arrangements made overnight, the Prime Minister arrived in Warwick by the mail train on Thursday. It had originally been intended that he should travel by motor car from Toowoomba, but the condition of the roads rendered this arrangement impracticable. The Prime Minister's visit aroused considerable interest. A large crowd had gathered in the roadway outside the station, waiting to hear the address. An almost equally large number assembled on the platform. The train arrived up to time, and the Prime Minister immediately alighted. He was met by members of the National Political Council, and amid mingled cheers and boohos, he quickly proceeded to make his way across the platform towards the opening where the mails are loaded and unloaded. From there he was to address the crowd. While Mr. Hughes was crossing over, an incident occurred which led to all the subsequent excitement and trouble. Somebody in front threw an egg at him, and it missed, but landed amongst those who were just at the back of him, and splashed on ladies' dresses. A second egg which came from the same direction broke on the Prime Minister's hat, and in an instant all was tumult, excitement and confusion. The Prime Minister drew back towards the train and spoke in excited tones to Senior Sergeant Kenny, who, with others, appeared to be escorting him towards the place where he was to address the people outside. Then another egg was thrown, and the crowd on the platform was swaying and surging around the Prime Minister, and those accompanying him. Police were close at hand, and Constable Tong, stepping in amongst the section of the crowd nearest the bookstall, went up to Patrick Brosnan, and seizing him by the arms held him for some time. At the same moment, a fight commenced in the centre of the throng, and for a few minutes, a very willing encounter was waged. It was impossible to see how it originated. Apparently, somebody resented the egg-throwing, and when a rush was made at Patrick Brosnan, his brother, Bart Brosnan intervened, and then there was a wild scrimmage, in which arms and fists could be seen working vigorously. Bart Brosnan, towering above the crowd, had blood on his face, and the scene at this stage of the proceedings threatened to develop seriously. The crowd on the platform closed in round the men engaged in the fight, and the crowd on the roadway swarmed on to the platform, adding to the confusion. Everybody seemed to be rushing towards the combatants, but fortunately, the fighting ended almost as quickly as it began and nobody appeared to be much the worse for it as far as damages went. Meanwhile, time was passing, and it looked as if the Prime Minister would not have the chance of speaking. When the disturbance ceased, Mr. Hughes, who was accompanied by Senior Sergeant Kenny, made his way through the crowd, and reached the opening in the platform fence, at which he was to speak. All the time there was a running accompaniment of cheers and groans. Mr. Hughes essayed to begin his address, but there was a fusillade of interjections and interruptions, and above the noise thus made cheers of support and encouragement also rang out. It was very difficult from the first to follow the various phases of the disturbance, as so many things were happening all at once, and the crowd was surging back and forward over the platform in a condition of intense excitement, caused mainly

by the unexpected fist encounters. A similar difficulty attended the reporting of the Prime Minister's speech. The reporters' seats were overrun, and while Mr. Hughes was speaking, about a score of others were talking, and arguing all the time just beside him, making the Prime Minister almost inaudible except to those immediately in front of him. It should be added that prior to the departure of the train, Mr. Hughes and Senior Sergeant Kenny were seen in animated discussion, and Mr. Hughes was apparently complaining that the man who assaulted him had not been taken into custody. Mr. Hughes sent a telegram to the state Premier on the subject. The correspondence is given below.

When the disturbance had subsided, and the Prime Minister again walked over to the place from which he was to speak, escorted by Senior Sergeant Kenny, the latter announced that the Prime Minister wished to address those present on the subject now before the electors, and expressed the hope that he would be given a fair hearing.

Mr. Hughes, who was received with applause and groans, said: We have seen an exhibition to-day which proves conclusively that these men enjoy a liberty which they ought never to have had.

The opening sentence of the Prime Minister's speech aroused such a clamor that it was some seconds before he could proceed. "I am here," continued Mr. Hughes, "to say this—that the laws of this country should be obeyed by those in this country (Voices: Hear, hear). I came here at the invitation—"

Again the interruption commenced. "Sergeant," said the Prime Minister, turning to Senior Sergeant Kenny, and pointing to P. Brosnan, who was standing in the crowd, "arrest that man."

Senior-sergeant Kenny made some reply which was inaudible to those standing a few paces away.

"I don't care," retorted Mr. Hughes, emphatically. "You must arrest that man at once." Jumping down amongst the crowd, the Prime Minister made his way over to where Brosnan was standing. In the meantime, Brosnan was taken in custody by Sergeant Huston, and Constable Dufficy, who hustled him away.

Returning to the platform, Mr. Hughes resumed his address: "I will keep law and order in this country," he said. "Whether you belong to the Sinn Fein or the I.W.W. you will have to—" The remainder of the sentence was lost in the din that arose. "Now just you say one word and I will have you," continued Mr. Hughes. "Just open your mouth."

The Prime Minister then went on to speak on the question now before the electors: "Now then," he said, "I am here to speak to you on a subject of vital moment to the welfare of Australia. On the 20th December you will decide whether you are for Australia or against Australia, whether you range yourself as under the Union Jack and alongside your kinsmen fighting for the cause of liberty, or whether you will range yourselves alongside those men who are playing the dirty work of Germany in our midst (applause). The Government has set its proposals before you, and these men who prate about liberty are endeavouring to prevent the voice of the Government being heard, but, sirs, the people have given me authority, and by virtue of that authority I will maintain law and order against all men in this country. (Voices: Hear, hear). The man who interrupts me, I don't care who he is, or who interrupts any other speaker, or who makes any misstatement calculated to mislead the electors, I will deal with out of hand. We have in this State men in charge of the Government who are openly lending themselves to the defiance of the laws of the country, and they are endeavouring, in defiance of the Commonwealth law to circulate through the country in a "Hansard," a concoction of vile lies for the purpose of confusing the minds of and deceiving the electors in the exercise of their votes.

But they shall not do it either openly or by subterfuge. My friends, there never was in the history of Australia a time— A voice: There was never anything like you.

Mr. Hughes: There never was a time when there was a greater duty on free citizens to comport themselves worthily of their freedom. Here we are at the present moment, when the British Empire has upon its shoulders the great responsibility for the cause of liberty, when Russia is in a state of collapse, when Italy is now fighting desperately to hold her own on her own soil, when one of our Australian divisions has to be withdrawn from the front owing to the lack of reinforcements—The Government would be a set of cravens, cowards and traitors if they did not come before the people to ask for power from the free citizens of Australia by virtue of which they can govern the country—

At this stage the interruption was resumed, and the conclusion of the Prime Minister's sentence was inaudible.

Mr. Hughes: If you are for Germany if you belong to the Sein Fein, put your flag up and I will deal with you. I will deal with you, make no mistake about it, whether you are in the police or outside it (uproar). When these men prate about liberty, when they declare that the proposals of the Government are inimical to liberty, I ask you to remember that to-day you owe your liberty to the fact that England France, Italy—all the nations of the world save South Africa and ourselves—have adopted this very system we are urging upon you. You are here to-day in peace and security. Why? Because you are sheltered behind the conscript armies of the world. Are you free men? Are you worthy of those men and women who bore you?

Here there was further interruption, in which voices could be heard shouting: "Conscripts!" and "Give him one;"

Mr. Hughes: Are you worthy of the liberty you enjoy? If you will not strike a blow for the country to which you belong—

(Once more the Prime Minister's remarks were drowned in the uproar.)

There are some men who say put Australia first. Yes, I say, put Australia first, but you cannot be loyal to Australia if you are disloyal to the Empire. There is a man in Melbourne to-day who is the real head and front of these men, a man around whom all the clans who are opposed to the proposal of the Government gather; a man to whom every German in this country looks; a man to whom every Sinn Feiner looks; a man to whom every I.W.W. man looks—and that man's name is Mannix. If you wish to ride beneath his banner, do it.

A voice: Why do you raise the sectarian issue?

Mr. Hughes: But when you do it you range yourselves under the banner of the deadly enemies of Australia. Why should Germans range themselves against the proposals of the Government? Because they know that the proposals of the Government are a menace to Germany. Ladies and gentlemen, the time is too short to enable me to deal with the matter at length. But I implore that in the name of Australia, in the name of liberty, you will do your best on the 20th December to show that you are loyal to Australia and to the Empire (applause). Wipe out the stain that rests on the name of Queensland, and prove yourselves deserving of liberty.

Mr. Hughes concluded his speech amidst cheers, which were followed by a strong counter-demonstration. The Prime Minister hurried back to catch the train, and as it moved off the anti-conscriptionists mustered in front of his carriage and hooted with all the vigor of their lungs.—W. H. A. Dunn, "Argus" Office, Warwick.

ADDRESS AT STANTHORPE.

The "Courier" gives the following report of the meeting at Stanthorpe, as reported by two Melbourne journalists:

When the train drew up at the Stanthorpe Station about an hour and a half later Mr. Hughes was given a reception in complete contrast to that accorded him at Warwick. A large crowd had assembled on the platform, and they gave the Prime Minister a rousing cheer. He alighted and addressed them for a few minutes. He said: "A scene which

There is unparalleled in the history of the country has just taken place at Warwick. I have been assaulted in a most cowardly fashion, and the police there, apparently acting under instruction from a Government which is entirely opposed to the principles on which Australia and the Empire stand, so far from assisting to preserve order, actually connived at the assault upon me and lent their aid to it. (Cries of 'shame'). I told them, and I tell every citizen of Queensland, that the law of the Commonwealth is supreme and must prevail. (Cheers.) Now is the time when you must show under which flag you are fighting. I ask you to heed not the lies of those who wish to make you play the game of Germany.

"There is in this country now, under the name of Sinn Fein, a body which wishes to destroy Australia and the Empire, but I will fight them as I will fight the Germans, whose instruments and tools they are. If you are for Australia fight for her. If you are for Germany or Sinn Fein, for God's sake range yourselves under their banner, so that we may know you for enemies and deal with you accordingly. The Commonwealth has elected this Government to carry out the laws of the land, and it will not allow any citizen or State, through its instruments, the police, or anybody else, to stop us." (Cheers.)—R. Austin, 233 Collins-st., Melbourne, and L. Dumas, 197 Collins-st., Melbourne.

STATEMENT BY SENIOR-SERGEANT KENNY.

Senior-Sergeant Kenny, speaking to a representative of the "Courier" on Thursday night, said:

"There was considerable disturbance when the Prime Minister stepped off the train, and one man made himself objectionable by pelting eggs at the Prime Minister, and he was promptly arrested, and will be brought before the court to-morrow morning. I took the Prime Minister back to the place at which he was to speak, and, addressing the crowd, said: 'Ladies and gentlemen, this is the Honourable Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. He is here for a few minutes to address you. Give him British fair play and listen to him.' I stood behind the Prime Minister while he spoke, and nothing occurred."

"THE WARWICK INCIDENT."

BRISBANE, Friday.—Referring to-day to the Warwick incident Mr. Ryan stated that arrangements had already been made with the object of having the occurrence thoroughly investigated. The Commissioner for Police had reported that he had not complied with the Prime Minister's request for the suspension of Senior-sergeant Kenny, because the Commissioner owed a duty to the Senior-sergeant, and in view of certain phases of the case indicated to him he did not feel justified in taking the drastic action of that officer's suspension. Mr. Ryan commented on the fact that the reports of the incident published in the conscriptionist press bore the signatures of two officials who were travelling with the Prime Minister.

PROSECUTION OF MR. RYAN.

BRISBANE, Friday.—Mr. Ryan to-day referring to the impending prosecution of himself and others said that the effect would be to prevent him participating in the referendum campaign to the extent he would otherwise have been able to do. He regarded the steps taken as a departure from liberty and fair play.—F. Melton, Provincial Press Agency, Brisbane.

THE IMPENDING PROSECUTIONS.

BRISBANE, Friday.—In connection with the proceedings against Mr. Ryan on a charge of having committed a breach of the censorship regulations, it is learnt that the case will come on at the Police Court in Brisbane on Monday morning. The charge of conspiracy against Messrs. Ryan, Theodore, Lewis Macdonald, and Cuthbert Butler will be heard on Friday next.

A SOUTHERN PROSECUTION.

CHARGE AGAINST MR. CATTS, M.H.R.

SYDNEY, Friday.—Mr. Catts, M.H.R., was charged at the Summons Court to-day with having at Tamworth on November 24 made a verbal false statement that there were six divisions of Australian troops in existence. Mr. Catts gave evidence that he believed there were six divisions when he made the statement. The Magistrate dismissed the case, stating that Mr. Catts had proved that he had reasonable grounds for believing his statement was true.—F. Melton, Provincial Press Agency.

ACTION BY MR. HUGHES.

CHARGES AGAINST POLICE.

MEASURES THREATENED.

BRISBANE, Thursday.—Telegrams have passed between the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) and the State Premier (Mr. Ryan) regarding to-day's incident at Warwick. The Prime Minister wired to Mr. Ryan as follows from Wallangarra to-day:—

"At Warwick to-day at 3 p.m., when leaving the train to address a public meeting I was assaulted by a number of men. There was a great tumult amounting virtually to a riot. I ordered the police to immediately arrest two of the most prominent ring-leaders but acting under the Senior-Sergeant's directions they refused to do so. I called the attention of Senior-Sergeant Kenny to the fact that a deliberate and violent breach of the laws of the Commonwealth had been committed, that the laws of the Commonwealth override those of the State, and, as Attorney-General, I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute the men under the Commonwealth law. He replied that he recognised only the laws of Queensland and would act under no other. I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the Commonwealth laws and that having issued instructions to the police under his control to do likewise he had not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings but had broken the Commonwealth law. I have to request that you, as Premier of the State of Queensland, suspend him from duty immediately and take all steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the laws of the Commonwealth. Unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Government will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breaches of such laws. Signed, William Morris Hughes, Prime Minister.

The reply by Mr. Ryan is addressed to Mr. Hughes, Sydney, as follows:—

Your telegram of even date received. I regret to hear of the accident and trust you suffered no bodily injury. I am having the subject matter of your complaint immediately inquired into. A preliminary inquiry by telephone from Warwick seems to indicate that the occurrence was not so serious as your telegram represented. I am unable to understand the relevancy of your statement to Kenny that the laws of Commonwealth override the laws of the State. It seems to me that such a statement had no bearing on the matter as I am not aware of any State law which conflicts with the laws of the Commonwealth in the circumstances which you allege. Your threat with regard to the Commonwealth Government taking steps to enforce its own laws is quite uncalled for as this Government is enforcing and will continue to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth and the State. Signed, Ryan, Premier.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

CHARGE OF CREATING A DISTURBANCE.

In the Warwick Police Court yesterday before Mr. F. C. M. Burne, P.M., Patrick Brosnan was charged with creating a disturbance in Grafton-street on Thursday, November 29. Mr. E. J. Brennan appeared for the defendant who pleaded not guilty. Sergeant Donoghue prosecuted.

At the outset of the case, Mr. Brennan said he was going to ask for an adjournment for a week. He had only received instructions on the previous afternoon to appear for the defence, and Senior Sergeant Kenny had been called away to Stanthorpe on urgent business.

Constable Dufficy gave formal evidence of arrest. He stated that at about 3.5 p.m. on the 29th instant, he was on duty at the Warwick railway station. He saw the defendant amongst a crowd of people who were listening to an address being delivered by the Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes. Witness heard the defendant interject on two or three occasions. Later, the Prime Minister jumped down amongst the crowd, and ordered that the defendant should be arrested. Witness then conveyed the defendant to the watchhouse, and charged him with creating a disturbance in Grafton-street.

The P.M.: Did you see anything else?—No I did not see anything else; I was on the outskirts of the crowd.

Did you see the defendant advance with his arm in the air towards where the Prime Minister was speaking?—No, I did not, your Worship.

This is not the man that threw the eggs is it?—I did not see him throw any eggs; I was outside the railway station on the outside of the crowd.

You did not see the eggs thrown?—No.

Senior Sergeant Kenny was on the step alongside the Prime Minister when you arrested the defendant. Did he give you instructions to arrest him?—No. He did not give me any instructions.

You say all you saw the defendant doing was interjecting?—Yes.

Sergeant Donoghue: Do you know that anybody struck the Prime Minister?—I do not; I did not see anybody strike him.

The P.M.: Would you tolerate such conduct if you did?—No.

Towards any man?—It would not matter what man it was I would not tolerate such conduct.

The P.M.: I saw another man throw eggs; I think it was the defendant's brother. Why he was not arrested I cannot understand at all.

Mr. Brennan: I was going to say this, your Worship. Seeing that you have got full possession of the information, I think it rather remarkable that you are trying the case.

The P.M.: I just wanted to mention this. It's an extraordinary thing that Senior Sergeant Kenny is not here. I don't know whether he saw it. Section 260 of the Code reads: "It is lawful for any person who witnesses a breach of the peace to interfere to prevent a continuance or renewal of it, and to use force as is reasonably necessary for such prevention, and is reasonably proportional to the danger to be apprehended from such continuance or renewal, and to detain any person who is committing or is about to join in or to renew the breach of the peace for such time as may be reasonably necessary in order to give him into the custody of a police officer."

"It is lawful for a police officer who witnesses a breach of the peace, and for any person lawfully assisting him, to arrest any person whom he finds committing it, or whom he believes, on reasonable grounds, to be about to join in or renew the breach of the peace."

"It is lawful for a police officer to receive into custody and detain in custody any person given into his charge as having been a party to a breach of the peace by a person whom the police officer believes, on reasonable grounds, to have witnessed the breach of the peace."

The P.M. to witness: You say this man was not the one who threw the eggs?—I did not see him throw any.

You heard him interject?—Yes. Which is general at all political meetings?—Yes.

The P.M. to Mr. Brennan: You say you wish to apply for an adjournment?

Mr. Brennan: Yes, your Worship. I have not had time to go into the defence. I only received my instructions yesterday afternoon.

You want time to go into a case when you are instructed to defend on a charge of creating a disturbance?—Yes. I am asking for a week for that purpose.

Are there any other reasons?—No, except that I want time to prepare my defence; that's all.

The P.M.: I will adjourn until 2.30 o'clock this afternoon.

Sergeant Donoghue: Senior Sergeant Kenny will be back in at least two days; he might be back to-morrow.

Mr. Brennan said he thought in fairness to Senior Sergeant Kenny that the P.M. might meet him. From information he had received that morning he learned that the Brisbane papers were full of statements regarding the matter, and also alleging that the police did not do their duty, and those whom it concerned should be given an opportunity to come to the Police Court to defend themselves.

The P.M.: Is there any real necessity in the public interest that I should adjourn this case for a week?

Mr. Brennan: I ask for it in the interests of the defendant.

The P.M.: It's simply a case of creating a disturbance by interjecting.

Mr. Brennan said he thought he would be able to prove to his Worship that interjections, if any were made, were caused by the remarks of the speaker, and that in face of what was said, certain sections of the people were called upon to defend themselves against the remarks that were made. If after a public speaker had inflamed the minds of the people he was addressing, and they committed a breach of the peace, was it fair to punish them in a court of justice? Proceeding, Mr. Brennan asked who was the breaker of the peace if a public man, Prime Minister or anyone else, used language calculated to inflame the passions of men, and those men committed themselves.

The P.M. said that it was only reasonable that law and order should be preserved, no matter what the subject might be, whether one was with the speaker or against him.

Mr. Brennan said his feelings about the matter were that when he knew the speaker proposed to touch on subjects which he knew might make him lose control of himself, he kept away from the meeting.

Sergeant Donoghue said the police were quite agreeable to the adjournment as requested by Mr. Brennan.

The P.M. said he thought a week was too long to adjourn such a simple case. It struck him that there was something more behind it. He would adjourn the case to Monday if that would suit Mr. Brennan.

Mr. Brennan said Monday would be acceptable to him, and the case was adjourned to 2.30 p.m. on that day.

Bail was extended.

DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRIES.

Mr. Short, Chief Inspector of Police, arrived from Brisbane yesterday. His visit was of an official character. The Chief Inspector, it is understood, came to make inquiries, on behalf of his Department, regarding the incident at the Warwick Railway Station, and the charges preferred against the police in connection therewith.

It is also reported that an inquiry was held yesterday on behalf of the Railway Department. This was conducted by Messrs. Hooper (Acting District Traffic Manager), Millar (District Engineer) and Hewson (Acting Loco Superintendent).

Mr. Brennan said that the Brisbane papers were full of the incident at the Warwick railway station, and he thought that in justice to the police the P.M. would meet him in the matter of an adjournment.

The P.M. asked whether it was in the public interest to adjourn the case?

Mr. Brennan said that he thought he would be able to prove that if there were any interjections they were induced by the remarks of the speaker, and being directed to the public, the latter were called upon to defend themselves. If a public speaker addressed an audience in such a manner that they committed themselves, he thought it was unfair to punish them in a Court of Justice.

The P.M.: That doesn't permit a person to be assaulted.

Mr. Brennan: I submit this is a matter of law. When a man, whether he be a Prime Minister or not, gets on to a platform and uses language calculated to inflame the minds of men, then he is the cause. Mr. Brennan added that the Criminal Code provided for a man who, through circumstances, lost control of himself.

The P.M.: You know quite well that the Legislature of Queensland and also the Legislature of the Commonwealth provide specific law against disturbances at any meeting.

Mr. Brennan: That is so; if I go to a meeting for a criminal purpose. But if a person goes on to a platform and uses language simply to provoke me, then he is responsible.

The P.M.: I do not think you are serious.

Mr. Brennan: I am serious; otherwise a person has the right to go on a plat-

form and say things, and the public have no redress.

The P.M.: What I say is this, and I say it without in the slightest way retracting anything I have already said, or of reflecting upon the persons who participated in the disturbance—and I think you will agree with me—that law and order must be kept, no matter what the subject is.

Mr. Brennan said that personally, if he was not in agreement with a subject which he knew would be spoken of at a meeting, he kept away. This was because he knew that he might lose control of himself.

Sergeant Donohue said that the police were agreeable to the application of Mr. Brennan for an adjournment, and Senior-Sergeant Kenny would like to have something to say on the matter.

The P.M.: I will meet his convenience; but I think it is wrong to raise a defence for a simple question of this kind. It strikes me there is something more behind it. A week is too long, but I think we will agree to adjourn it until Monday at 2.30. Bail was extended.

SENIOR-SERGEANT KENNY NOT SUSPENDED.

PREMIER'S COMMENT ON INCIDENT.

BRISBANE, Friday.—Referring to the Warwick incident, Mr. Ryan said arrangements had already been made with the object of having the occurrence thoroughly investigated. The Commissioner of Police had reported that he had not complied with the Prime Minister's request to suspend Senior-sergeant Kenny. He (the Commissioner) owed a duty to Senior-sergeant Kenny, and in view of certain features of the case communicated to him, he did not feel justified in taking drastic action for that officer's suspension. Mr. Ryan commented on the fact that the reports of the incident published in the conscriptionist press bore the signatures of two officials who were travelling with the Prime Minister.

F. Melton, Ward's Chambers, Brisbane.

RAILWAY INQUIRY YESTERDAY.

Officers of the Railway Department held an inquiry yesterday into the alleged misconduct of some railway employees at the railway station on the occasion of Mr. Hughes' address on Thursday. It is understood that the evidence given was favorable to the railway men.

SENIOR-SERGT. KENNY'S POSITION.

Yesterday Chief Inspector Short, of Brisbane, Inspector O'Connor and Detective Senior-Sergt. Head, of Toowoomba, arrived in Warwick to conduct an inquiry into the allegations made by the Prime Minister against some witnesses of the affair were taken, and it is probable others will be examined subsequently.

S. B. Irwin, Palmerin-street, Warwick.

MR. HUGHES AT WARWICK

DISGRACEFUL HAPPENINGS.

SCENE OF TUMULT ON RAILWAY
PLATFORM.

AN ARREST MADE.

There was a very mixed crowd at the Warwick railway station on Thursday, awaiting the arrival of the mail train from Brisbane conveying the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes). Mr. Hughes, who had agreed to address the assemblage from the railway platform during the few minutes at his disposal, met with a most unpleasant experience. The Prime Minister was met at the train by several prominent citizens of Warwick, and as he was on his way to the edge of the platform someone from the crush on the platform threw an egg. The missile caught the Prime Minister on the hat, and he thereupon made his way back towards the train. For a few minutes there was a mingled series of hoots and cheers, and further eggs flew. One perpetrator of the deed was rather severely handled, but, apparently, he was not alone in this respect. During the melee Mr. Hughes had his hand cut, and blood ran freely. However, seeming order was restored, and Mr. Hughes was again escorted to the edge of the railway platform. Eventually the Prime Minister was introduced to the people by Senior-sergeant Kenny, who asked that he should be given a fair hearing.

Mr. Hughes said that they had seen at that moment a most gross assault upon him and the cause which the Government of the country was now advocating, and putting before the people of the country. They had seen an exhibition which proved conclusively that the men who enjoyed the liberty and freedom of Australia were unfit to maintain it.

At this stage there was a great deal of commotion. The pressmen were jostled about, and it was difficult to hear above the din.

A voice cried out: Were you ever in Adelaide?

Mr. Hughes: Arrest that man!

In the midst of further disorder, Mr. Hughes jumped off the platform amidst cheers and great excitement. Subsequently the interjector was arrested.

After resuming his stand the Prime Minister was again interrupted, and for a few minutes it was impossible to hear what was taking place.

Continuing, Mr. Hughes said that he was there to speak to them on a subject of vital interest to the welfare of Australia. On the 20th December they would have to decide whether they were for Australia or against. (Applause.) Whether they arranged themselves alongside the Allies, or whether they arranged themselves alongside the men who were doing the work of Germany in their midst was the question. Those men were trying to stop the voice of the Government being heard.

Interruption again took place at this stage, and Mr. Hughes said that any man who interrupted him or any other speaker would be dealt with out of hand.

Mr. Hughes said that they had in the country people who, by a concoction of lies, were trying to deceive the electors in the exercise of their votes. However, they would not be allowed to do it, either by coming out into the open or by subterfuge. At the present moment, the British Empire had upon its shoulders great responsibilities. Upon the Empire rested the cause of liberty. Russia was in a state of collapse, and Italy was fighting the enemy on her own soil. Also, one of the Australian divisions had had to be withdrawn from the front. The Government, therefore, would be cowards not to ask for the powers for which they were asking to govern the country. The anti-conscriptionists prated about liberty and declared that the proposals of the Government were inimical to liberty, but Mr. Hughes reminded him that they owed their liberty to the fact that all the Allied nations had adopt-

the name of the Government and of liberty to cast their votes of the 20th December in the way that would show that they were loyal to Australia and the Empire. The conclusion of the speech was greeted with ringing cheers and some hoots.

W. H. Keates, Palmerin street, Warwick.

ACTION BY PRIME MINISTER.

SENIOR-SERGT. KENNY'S SUSPENSION ASKED FOR.

MR. RYAN'S REPLY.

Telegrams passed between the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) and the State Premier (Mr. Ryan) regarding Thursday's incident at Warwick. The Prime Minister wired to Mr. Ryan as follows from Wallangarra that day: At Warwick to-day (Thursday) at 3 p.m. when leaving the train to address a public meeting I was assaulted by a number of men. There was a great tumult amounting virtually to a riot. I ordered the police to immediately arrest two of the most prominent ring-leaders, but acting under the Senior-sergeant's directions they refused to do so. I called the attention of Senior-sergeant Kenny to the fact that a deliberate and violent breach of the laws of the Commonwealth had been committed, that the laws of the Commonwealth override those of the State, and, as Attorney-General, I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute the men under the Commonwealth law. He replied that he recognised the laws of Queensland and would act under no other. I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the Commonwealth law and having issued instructions to the police under his control to do likewise he had not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings, but had broken the Commonwealth law. I have to request that you, as Premier of the State of Queensland, suspend him from duty immediately, and take all steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the laws of the Commonwealth. Unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Government will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breaches of such laws. Signed, William Morris Hughes, Prime Minister.

The reply by Mr. Ryan was addressed to Mr. Hughes, Sydney, as follows: Your telegram of even date received. I regret to hear of the accident, and trust you suffered no bodily injury. I am having the subject matter of your complaint immediately inquired into. A preliminary inquiry by telephone from Warwick seems to indicate that

the occurrence was not so serious as your telegram represented. I am unable to understand the irrelevancies of your statement to Kenny that the laws of the Commonwealth override the laws of the State. It seems to me that such a statement had no bearing on the matter as I am not aware of any State law which conflicts with the laws of the Commonwealth in the circumstances which you allege. Your threat with regard to the Commonwealth Government taking steps to enforce its own laws is quite uncalled for as this Government is enforcing and will continue to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth and the State. Signed, Ryan Premier.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

AFTERMATH OF THURSDAY'S MEETING.

As an outcome of the scene at the Warwick railway station on Thursday, Patrick Brosnan appeared before Mr. F. C. M. Burne, P.M., at the Warwick Police Court yesterday morning, charged with creating a disturbance in Grafton-street on the 29th inst. Mr. E. J. Brennan, who appeared for defendant, asked for an adjournment of

the case for a week to enable Senior Sergeant Kenny to attend. Mr. Brennan explained that Senior-Sergeant Kenny was away at Stanthorpe.

Constable Dufficy gave evidence of arrest. He stated that at about 3.5 p.m. on the 29th inst., he was on duty at the Warwick railway station. Witness saw defendant Patrick Brosnan amongst a crowd of people who were listening to an address by the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes). Witness heard defendant interject on two or three occasions, and after a time the Prime Minister jumped off the platform and ordered the arrest of defendant. Witness then conveyed the defendant to the watchhouse and charged him with creating a disturbance in Grafton-street.—By the P.M.: Witness never saw the defendant do anything else. Witness was on the outside of the crowd.

The P.M.: Did you see him advance towards the place from which the Prime Minister was speaking?—I did not.

The P.M.: He is not the man who threw an egg at the Prime Minister?—I did not see that.

The P.M.: Senior-Sergeant Kenny was on the platform alongside the Prime Minister when you arrested this man. Did he give you any instructions to arrest him?—No.

The P.M.: All you saw defendant doing or heard him doing, was interjecting?—Yes.

The P.M.: Did you see him throw any eggs?—I did not see anybody.

The P.M.: Would you tolerate such conduct, if you did, towards any man?—No; no matter who he was I would not tolerate such conduct.

The P.M.: I saw another man, I think it is his brother. Why it is he is not arrested I cannot understand at all.

Mr. Brennan: Do you not think, if you have full possession of this information, it looks rather remarkable you trying this case?

The P.M.: I simply mention that it is an extraordinary thing that Senior-Sergeant Kenny is not here. The P.M. added that he did not know why Senior-Sergeant Kenny, who saw the incident, did not order the man's arrest. He then proceeded to quote from the Criminal Code section 260, as follows, regarding a breach of the peace: "It is lawful for any person who witnesses a breach of the peace to interfere to prevent a continuance or renewal of it, and to use such force as is reasonably necessary for such prevention, and as reasonably proportioned to the danger to be apprehended from such continuance or renewal, and to detain any person who is committing or who is about to join in or renew the breach of the peace, for such time as may be reasonably necessary in order to give him into the custody of a police officer."

It is lawful for a police officer who witnesses a breach of the peace and for any person lawfully assisting him, to arrest any person whom he finds committing it or whom he believes on reasonable grounds to be about to join in or renew the breach of the peace.

It is lawful for a police officer to receive into custody, and retain in custody, any person given into his charge as having been a party to a breach of the peace, or a person whom a police officer believes on reasonable grounds to have witnessed a breach of the peace."

Continuing to question the witness, the P.M. asked: You say this man was not the man who threw the eggs?—I never saw him.

The P.M.: The only thing you saw him participate in was the interjections?—Yes.

The P.M. (to Mr. Brennan): You say you wish to apply for an adjournment.

Mr. Brennan: I want to go into the case, I only got my instructions yesterday afternoon.

The P.M.: Is there no other reason beyond that?

Mr. Brennan: Except that I want time to prepare my defence.

Sergeant Donoghue then said that he thought Senior-Sergeant Kenny would be back in two or three days.

1268 M 78

Charles Edward W. Dougall states of am Vice President of The Reinforcement Campaign Committee of Queensland. I am also President of Queensland National Agricultural & Industrial Association, Brisbane. I am a Justice of the Peace, Queensland and a grainger residing at Rydalmere Warwick Q. Land. I am also senior partner in the firm of W. Dougall & Co Auctioneers and Commission Agents, Warwick, Queensland.

I met the Hon the Prime Minister at the Warwick Railway Platform on the arrival of the Brisbane to Sydney Mail Train on the 29th inst at about 3 pm. I walked with him from the carriage along the platform towards ~~the~~ a projecting portion of it where it was arranged he was to speak. When nearing that portion, I saw a man's arm raised from amongst the people who were partly at the side and partly behind the Premier and me. Immediately afterwards I saw an egg hit Mr Hughes' hat and knock it off. I do not know whose arm I saw raised and I did

to
the
Premier

not see an egg thrown by that
 arm. When I saw Mr Hughes
 got knocked off I looked
 round and saw Paddy
 Brosnan apparently walking
 towards Mr Hughes. Simultaneously
 Mr Alex Rule rushed towards
 Brosnan and a few blows were
 struck between Brosnan and
 Rule. Just then Bartie Brosnan
 rushed at Rule, the crowd
 closed in and two or three others
 joined in the fight. Paddy
 Brosnan disappeared from
 the scene and I think one
 of the Police had a hold of
 him and pushed him out.
 The Prime Minister turned
 round and pushed back
 towards the train. I thought
 for the moment that he had
 given up the idea of speaking
 and was going back to his
 carriage. I soon discovered my
 mistake and saw that he was
 bent on having the disturbers
 arrested. Just as the Prime
 Minister was rushing Senior
 Sergeant Henry caught him
 by both arms from behind.
 About that time Hughes
 called out "arrest those
 men". I immediately caught
 Henry in the same way as
 he had hold of the Prime
 Minister who was trying to get

P. P. 1003

away. Kenny was saying to him "listen to me listen to me". Kenny then said to me "unhand me". I said, "I'll unhand you when you unhand the Prime Minister." Kenny then turned his head and said to me, "I want to get him a hearing". I then let Kenny go and he released Mr Hughes and called on the people to give Mr Hughes a hearing and he accompanied him to the part of the platform from which he was going to speak. After Mr Hughes had been speaking a few minutes some person interjected from the crowd in front of the speaker. Mr Hughes immediately called out "arrest that man" and then jumped down from the platform and said "if you dont arrest him I will". I was anxious for the welfare of Mr Hughes and I said to Kenny who was near me and had a view of what was happening "is he all right" and he replied "dont worry he's all right". Kenny was standing alongside Mr Hughes when he jumped down off the platform. In a very short time Mr Hughes returned to his place and went on with

to the speaker

his address. I did not see him assaulted then, and I did not see any man arrested. The only assault that I saw committed on him was ~~at~~ when his hat was hit with the egg. When his address was finished and as he was making back to his carriage he called out "where's the Sergeant, where's the Sergeant." Kenny then came up and Mr Hughes said "have those men arrested." Kenny replied "I will if you lay an information." Mr Hughes then said "I'm Federal Attorney General and I tell you to arrest them." Kenny then said "I'm under the Queensland Government. I take my instructions from them." Mr Hughes then said "very well I'll deal with you." Mr Hughes then got into his carriage and Mr Stephenson, Manager Bank New South Wales, said to me "I don't think Mr Hughes heard what Kenny said." So I called Kenny to the carriage window and a similar conversation again took place between him and the Prime Minister. When he returned from the crowd to the platform from which he had jumped down

2-26-1881

5

I noticed a little blood on his
hand. I don't know what
caused it but I heard after-
wards that he hit Paddy
Brosnan.

~~J. J. Brosnan~~

This and the preceding
four sheets were written
by me and the signature
to this sheet and the initials
on preceding sheets were
written in my presence.

J. J. Brosnan
Inspector
Warwick
1st December 1917

(1)

102

Toowoomba District

Warwick Station

1st. December 1917.

771/17.

Relative to: Complaint of the Hon. W.M. Hughes, re. conduct of police at Warwick.

Sir,

I beg to report having ascertained that the Hon. W.M. Hughes would arrive in Warwick, on Thursday the 29th. ult. and being short habbed at this Station, I took the precaution of 'phoneing to my Inspector on the 27th. ultimo, asking for additional police to assist in preserving order at the prime Minister's meeting, which requested was granted me, & I was given the services of three extra men. Having ascertained on the morning of the 29th. ult. that the prime Minister would address the public from the Railway platform while the train was there, I detailed a Sergeant, an Acting Sergt. & five Constables for duty at the Railway Station, with Sergt. Huston in Charge.

When the train pulled up at the platform the prime Minister alighted from his carriage, & walked to the northern end of the platform. I closed in behind him, and I saw one egg strike his hat, but because of the fact of it having been thrown from behind me I could not see who threw it.

To/
 The Inspector of police,
 Toowoomba.

2

When the egg struck the Prime Minister, he turned & was walking hurriedly towards the train. I caught him by the arm & said to him "I am Senior Sergt. Kenny, come with me & I will see that you get a hearing". He then returned with me to the end of the platform, & I addressed the crowd saying, "Ladies & Gentlemen, this is the Honourable the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth; He wishes to address you, give him British fair play & give him a hearing". The Prime Minister then addressed the audience, & I stood by his side while doing so. I took this action in order to preserve the peace. Beyond being struck on the hat with an egg, no assault was committed on the Prime Minister, & after I introduced him he got a fair hearing. One man named Patrick Brosnan was arrested for creating a disturbance, & his brother, Barth Brosnan, was removed from the platform by the police.

I did not instruct the police not to arrest Brosnan, neither did I issue them any instructions, beyond those I gave them before going to the Railway Station, & my instructions to them then, were to preserve law & order. There was no breach of Commonwealth or State Law, beyond what is herein described, & the only legal action that could be taken by the police was taken.

After the Prime Minister was seated in his carriage just prior to the departure of the train, he called out to me saying, "As Attorney General of the Commonwealth I Order that man's arrest under the Commonwealth Law". He named no man, neither did he point out any man, or do or say anything to indicate to whom he was referring, or the nature of any Charge he wished to prefer. I told him if he had any Charge to prefer against any person, he could lay an information & action would be taken accordingly, & that I knew nothing about the Commonwealth Law, & was acting under the State Law. Presumably he was referring to Patrick Brosnan, but Brosnan was then under arrest for creating a disturbance, & was on his way to the Watch-house.

Henry Butler Kenny
SENIOR SERGEANT, 580

(1)
Toowoomba District

Warwick Station

1st. December 1917.

770/17.

**Relative to: Address of Hon. W.M. Hughes,
Prime Minister of Australia at Warwick,
Rly. Station on 29th. ult.**

103
Sir,

I beg to report that on Thursday 29th. ult. during the address of the Hon. W.M. Hughes I was in Charge of the Uniform Police at the Railway Station consisting of one (1) Act. Sergt. & five (5) Constables. On arrival of the Mail train on which he travelled he was escorted by Senior Sergt. Kenny, (who was in plain clothes) and a number of Civilians, from his carriage to the northern end of the Railway Station from which he was to address the public who were in Grafton St. Immediately on his arrival on that part of the platform from which he was to deliver his address, and which is about three feet higher than Grafton St. & behind where he was standing a fight occurred between two men named Alexander Rule & Barth Brosnan.

I separated the two men & was removing Brosnan from the Railway Station, but on his giving me his assurance that he would not again return I allowed him to go, which he did. I then returned to where the address was being delivered. I saw Constable Tong holding a man named Patrick Brosnan whom we put out on to the Street, through

To/
The Inspector of Police,

Toowoomba.

(2)
through the public entrance. I watched Brosnan & saw him going along by the Station, & up to where the prime Minister was speaking, & raising his hand in a defiant manner, but he was not within striking distance, he sang out some words which I was unable to hear. I then got up to him & caught him by the shoulder & turned him round & said to him "Now Brosnan are you going away", "If not I'll lock you up", at this time I took my hand off his shoulder, but on he replying, "I will not go". I again caught him & placed him under arrest, & was taking him away when the prime Minister jumped off the platform, and following said "Sergeant arrest that man, I command you to arrest ^{him} if not I'll have you reduced". Brosnan was handed over to Consts. Muir & Dufficy, who took him in a Cab to the Watch-house. The prime Minister was greatly excited, & there was no necessity for his jumping off the platform, whereby this scene occurred & could easily have been avoided as Brosnan was then under arrest I did not see any person assault the prime Minister, & nothing occurred at this meeting, except what is previously mentioned, beyond the ordinary hooting & cheering. In my opinion with the exception of the eggs being thrown, he got as good a hearing as the last occasion he addressed a Warwick audience from the same platform. I heard Senior Sergt. Kenny speaking from the platform, but was not sufficiently near to hear the exact words used by him. The Senior Sergt. stood behind the prime Minister during the whole of his address, and there is no doubt but his presence there had a very quieting effect on the crowd. I may further state that the Senior Sergt. gave no instructions except that the meeting was to be carried out as orderly and quietly as possible. Certainly no instructions were given by him during the prime Minister's stay on the platform.

William Huston

Sergeant No. 238.

Submitted.

Henry Butler Murray
SENIOR SERGEANT, 530

(1)

Lowomba District
Warwick Station
30th November 1917

772/17

N^o 4

Relative to:- The Prime Minister.
The Hon W Hughes, address
on the Railway Platform
Warwick on the 29th Instant.

Sir,

I beg to report, that
in compliance with Senior
Serg^t Kenny's instructions,
Serg^t Anston, Constables Muir,
Power, Long, Conaghan, Dufficy,
and myself, were on duty, on
the Railway Platform, on the
arrival of the Prime Minister,
by the Southern Mail Train
3 P.M. on Thursday the 29th
Instant, when the train drew
up at the Station, the Prime
Minister alighted and proceeded
to the western side of the
Platform, to address the people.
I was engaged in keeping the
people from crowding in on
the Speaker and the Pressmen,
who at first had some difficulty
in taking notes, just then
some two or three eggs were
thrown in the direction of the
Prime Minister, by some person
(ini)

The Inspector of Police
Lowomba

in the crowd, looking back I saw Sergt. Huston removing a man named Pat Brosnan, from the platform, just then the Prime Minister rushed back through the crowd, in an excited manner. Senior Sergt. Kenny then spoke to the Prime Minister, and both the Prime Minister, and he returned to the western side of the platform. The Senr. Sergt. then addressed the people, and said, Ladies, and Gentlemen. The Prime Minister of Australia wishes to address you, and I ask you to give him a fair, and impartial hearing. Cheers were then given, and the Prime Minister continued his address, with very little further interruption. The Senr. Sergt. standing by him. During the Prime Minister's address, Sergt. Huston, removed Patrick Brosnan (brother of the previous mentioned Brosnan) from the platform, he appeared again in front of the Prime Minister, and was arrested by Sergt. Huston, and Const Dufficy. The two above mentioned Brosnan's were the only persons, who created a disturbance at the meeting, and they were immediately checked by the Police.

The Prime Minister was not assaulted by any person, and got a favourable hearing. After his address he was escorted back to his carriage by the Senior Sergt.

Daniel D'Brien
Acting Sergt. 434

Submitted
Henry Butler Kruey
SENIOR SERGEANT, 500

Toowoomba Districk.

Warwick Station.

30th November, 1917.

767/17.

105
Relative to: The prime Minister (Mr Hughes) address at a open-air meeting at the Warwick Railway Station, on the 29-11-17.

SIR:

I beg to report on Thursday the 29th inst, about 3.p.m. I was on duty at the Warwick Railway Station on the arrival of the Mail Train from Brisbane, which the prime Minister (Mr Hughes) was a passenger.

I saw the prime Minister alight from the Mail Train, and go in the direction of a place set aside on the Railway platform for him to address the persons present on Conscription.

When the prime Minister was about to speak I saw a man named Patrick Brosnan walk by me in the direction of the prime Minister and throw an egg, as there was a number of persons between myself and the direction where the egg was thrown, I could not see if it hit any persons present.

I immediately caught Brosnan by the right arm, and I said to him if you have any more eggs in your pockets throw them out.

TO/
The Inspector of Police.

Toowoomba.

Brosnan took three eggs from his left hand coat pocket & dropped them on the Railway platform, we were about fifteen yards from the prime Minister when this occurrence occurred. Sergeant Huston then came and removed Brosnan from the Railway Station platform.

I was present through-out the meeting and I saw no more egg throwing, or any person being assaulted.

H. M. Long.
Const 1322.

Submitted.

Henry Dutton Gray
SENIOR SERGEANT, 580

(1)
Toowoomba District

Warwick Station.

30th November 1917.

768/17.

108
**RE:: Address of William Morris Hughes
prime Minister of Australia at the Warwick
Railway Station on November 29th 1917.**

SIR,

I beg to report that I was on duty at the Warwick Railway Station at about 3.p.M on November the 29th on the occasion of the prime Minister's address to the Citizens of Warwick.

I was instructed by Sergt Huston to remain in Grafton Street and see that no missiles were thrown from the crowd that had congregated in Grafton Street.

On the arrival of the Mail Train Mr Hughes made his way to a place that had been prepared for him to speak from off the Railway platform.

Several people from on the platform jostled the prime Minister and I also saw two eggs hit him one knocking his hat off and the other striking him on the back.

Mr Hughes then attempted to reach the train but Senior Sergt Kenny caught hold of Mr Hughes and accompanied him to the place which had been prepared for him to speak from, on arrival there Senior Sergt Kenny addressed the public in the following manner, "Ladies and Gentlemen I appeal to you to give Mr Hughes, the prime Minister of Australia a fair hearing and British Fair play"

The

Inspector of police

Toowoomba

2

The prime Minister then began to address the people and was greeted with a mixed reception, a man named Patrick Brosnan was interjecting repeatedly and was promptly arrested by Sergt Huston. The prime Minister by this time had become very excited and jumped down amongst the people in Grafton Street and behaved in a most peculiar manner his attitude being that of a man who had completely lost control of himself.

He pointed to me and said? "Arrest that man, indicating no particular person or I will have you arrested. Sergt Huston had by this time handed Brosnan over to me. I in company with Constable Muir conveyed Brosnan to the Watch House where I charged him with Creating a Disturbance in Grafton Street, Warwick.

I am not in a position to say who threw the eggs but Brosnans coat showed signs of broken eggs also his hands.

I at no time during the time that the prime Minister alighted from the train until I left with Brosnan see any person or persons violently assault Mr Hughes.

James Dufficy
Constable 2150.

Submitted.

Henry Dufficy
SENIOR SERGEANT, 580

(1)

Toowoomba District,

Warwick Station

30th. November 1917.

769/17.

107

Relative to: Address of the Hon. W.M. Hughes^s
prime Minister, at Warwick Rly. Station on
29th. inst.

Sir,

I beg to report that I was on duty at the Warwick Railway Station, on Thursday the 29th. inst. I was instructed by Sergt. Huston to take up, a position on the Railway Station platform, near where the prime Minister was to speak. There was a fairly large crowd present. Upon the arrival of the prime Minister he made his way to the spot where it was arranged for him to speak, & proceeded to address the crowd. I saw a fight take place between two men in the crowd named Alexander Rule & Barth Brosnan. The men were separated by Sergt. Huston who removed Brosnan from the platform. The crowd was then hooting & cheering. Mr. Hughes then left the place he was standing & went towards the train. I then saw Senior Sergt. Kenny bring the prime Minister back to the place he had just left. I heard the Senior Sergeant appeal to the crowd to give the prime Minister a fair hearing, this had the effect of quieting the crowd.

To/

The Inspector of police

Toowoomba.

2

The prime Minister then continued his address, & beyond some
cheers & hoots there was no further disturbance. I saw no person
assault the prime Minister, or interfere with him in any way,
beyond the ordinary interjections from the crowd.

Jeremiah Loughlan

Const. 1848.

Submitted.

Henry Butler Kruay
SENIOR SERGEANT. 580



CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
15010 12 DEC 1917
QUEENSLAND

17.10852

Warwick Incident

PREVIOUS
14974

his. Chief Secy

Office of Commissioner of Police.

Brisbane.

No. B.C. 12 DEC 1917
RETS

6th December, 1917.

7 DEC 1917

Sir,

Following my report of the 3rd December on what has now become known as the "Warwick Incident", I have now the honour to forward twelve more statements obtained from residents of Warwick, including the Police Magistrate, who were present at the scene of the incident, together with a report from Inspector O'Connor covering the same.

The conclusions I came to in my report of December 3rd are amply borne out by this additional evidence and it is now further shown

- (1) That the Prime Minister was in a state of great excitement.
- (2) That his call to "Arrest that man" was immediately responded to, and the man arrested.
- (3) That the only assault that took place on the Prime Minister was by means of one egg thrown by a man in the crowd.
- (4) That beyond all doubt the reports sent to the Brisbane Press were gross exaggerations.
- (5) That the adverse comments on the Police in the same Press were scandalous, vindictive, and uncalled for, and
- (6) That there is no reasonable ground for finding fault with the Police action on this occasion.

Allow the Com to see all the papers
2 at 4th Floor (Warwick)

Handwritten signature and date: 11/12/17

The Honourable

The/

THE HOME SECRETARY.

The truth of the above is now established by the consensus of nineteen witnesses, among whom as typical of all I may cite Mr. C. E. McDougall, Mr. F. C. M. Burne, Police Magistrate, and Mr. R. J. Leeper, Solicitor.

In view of the shocking misrepresentation the Queensland Police has suffered throughott Australia, I beg to request that you will be so good, in justice to us, as to arrange for the whole of the evidence to be made available to the Public.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. M. G. G. G.

Commissioner of Police.

in Adelaide. I could not see the person who interjected from where I was, and I don't know who it was that interjected. The next thing I saw was Mr. Hughes, who appeared to be excited, jump down off the platform into Grafton Street, and I heard him say, "Arrest that man, arrest that man or I'll have you arrested". I believe those words were addressed to Sergeant Huston and Constable Dufficy, whom I then saw in the crowd with a man named Paddy Brosnan in their charge. I saw Huston and Dufficy take Brosnan away to a cab. Mr. Hughes immediately returned to the platform and resumed his speech which was a tirade of abuse of ~~individuals~~ individuals and sections, or supposed sections of the Community. After he had finished his speech he returned to the Railway Carriage escorted by some citizens and Senior Sergt. Kenny. When Mr. Hughes returned to the Carriage I heard him pass some remarks to Senior Sergt. Kenny which I did not catch. When Mr. Hughes was rushing back towards the Carriage, Kenny put his hand on the Prime Minister's shoulder apparently to attract his attention as he spoke to him. When Kenny stopped Mr. Hughes I saw a scuffle between some men on the platform behind the citizens who were with Mr. Hughes. Two of the men who were in the row, were Alex Rule and Alex Fenwick. I saw them punch a man named Barth Brosnan, but I do not know what caused the row. I saw that Brosnan's face and nose was cut and bleeding and I saw the police remove him along the platform towards the exit.

I did not see Mr. Hughes hit or assaulted in any way while on the platform, or when he went into Grafton Street, and had he been assaulted by any person I would have seen it. It would have been possible for Mr. Hughes to have been hit on the hat with one of the three eggs which was thrown, without my seeing it.

From what I saw I'm satisfied that the police did their duty fairly, and acted very promptly in arresting Brosnan, even before Mr. Hughes called out, "Arrest that man".

(Witness)

Thomas Head

3/12/17

Det Senior Sergt.

WARWICK.

3rd. December 1917.

STATEMENT.

WILLIAM DAVID SUMMERS, States,

I am a Contractor and reside in Grafton Street, Warwick. On Thursday 29th. November last, about 3. pm, I went to the Railway Station at Warwick, with a view of hearing the address ~~of~~ by the prime Minister on the Conscription issue. I went unto the Railway platform and was there when the Brisbane to Sydney Mail Train arrived with the prime Minister. I did not actually see him get out of the Carriage, but I saw him a few paces from the Carriage on the platform. Mr. Hughes was met as he got out of the Carriage, by Mr. C.E. McDougall and a number of other men. Mr. Hughes immediately proceeded in the direction of where he subsequently spoke, accompanied by Mr. McDougall and the other ~~Citizens~~ Citizens who met him. Suddenly I saw an egg being thrown from behind me in the crowd in the direction of where Mr. Hughes was with the ¹ Citizens who were with him, and it hit a post some distance in front of them. I saw another egg being thrown almost immediately in the direction of where Mr. Hughes was, but I did not see where it landed, and I saw that a portion of it splashed on a Woman's dress about the shoulder. She was only a few paces from where Mr. Hughes was at the time. I saw three eggs thrown, but I don't know where the third egg landed either, and I don't know whom it was that threw any one of the eggs. The next thing I saw was Mr. Hughes turn quickly around and proceed in the direction of the Carriage from which he came, and I was under the impression then that he had abandoned the idea of speaking. I then saw Senior Sergeant Kenny stop him, and he said something to the prime Minister that I did not hear, and he (Kenny) called out to the people, "Order", at the same time holding up his hand, and said, "I ask you to have the courtesy to give the prime Minister of the Commonwealth a good hearing". or words to that effect, for which he was applauded by nearly all present. Kenny then accompanied the prime Minister to the gate at the edge of the platform, from where the prime Minister addressed the people, and Kenny stood partly by his side and partly behind him while he spoke. Shortly after Mr. Hughes started to speak I heard an interjection from some person in the crowd in Grafton Street, which was to the effect how long is it since you were in

WARWICK.

3rd. December 1917.

S T A T E M E N T.

JOHN MURDOCH, States,

I am a Stock & Station Agent, and a Justice of the peace, and I reside at Warwick. On Thursday 29th. November last about 2.50. pm, I went to near the Warwick Railway Station in a Motor Car, and shortly afterwards I saw the Brisbane to Sydney Mail Train arrive at the platform and I saw the prime Minister alight from it and walk along the Platform to within four or five paces of the spot at which it had been arranged he was to speak. At this time I was standing at an iron gate to the side and about six yards from the gateway at which the prime Minister was to speak. Mr. Hughes was being escorted by Mr. C. E. McDougall, Mr. C. M. Curr, and others. I saw an egg thrown from behind the Prime Minister which hit a post of the fence some yards in front of Mr. Hughes. I do not know who threw the egg. I also saw another egg thrown from the crowd which was behind Mr. Hughes, but I did not see who threw it. When the first egg was thrown I got over the gate and onto the platform to where the prime Minister and the others were. I then saw Alex Rule punching Barth Brosnan a few yards from the edge of the platform behind where Mr. Hughes was, and about the same moment I saw Constable Tong and another policeman catch hold of Paddy Brosnan who was a few yards from where his brother Barth Brosnan was being punched by Alex Rule assisted by others. After Const. Tong rushed in and caught Paddy Brosnan I saw Brosnan empty some eggs on to the platform out of his pockets. At this moment I saw Mr. Hughes rush back from where he was towards the Carriage, from his friends who were partly holding him, and was struggling to get away from them towards where Rule and Brosnan had a few hits, when Senior Sergeant Kenny who was between Mr. Hughes and the crowd on the platform, caught Mr. Hughes by the arm and spoke to him, and at the same time, Mr. McDougall caught Kenny. Kenny said, "Let me go McDougall," Mr. McDougall said, "I will let you go when you let the prime Minister go", Kenny replied, "I want to get Mr. Hughes a fair hearing". Mr. McDougall who appeared to be very excited, let Kenny's arm go, and Kenny then escorted the prime Minister to the spot where he delivered his address.

I heard Kenny ask the people who were cheering and hooting, to give Mr. Hughes a fair and square hearing, or words to that effect.

I think the prime Minister was very excited and lost his head for the moment, as he rushed back towards the Train. Shortly after Mr. Hughes started to address the people, I saw him jump down off the platform into Grafton Street and I lost sight of him for a second or two, and at the same moment I saw Paddy Brosnan in Charge of the police about twelve yards from the spot where Mr. Hughes stood when speaking.

Mr. Hughes was only a few seconds off the platform when he returned and resumed his speech, and got a very good hearing.

Mr. Hughes was not assaulted or hustled about by the people on the platform that day.

I consider only for the tact that was used by Senior Sergeant Kenny and his men, there might have been serious trouble, as ~~KNE~~ Mr. Hughes's actions and the principal topic of his speech excited a considerable number of the persons that were present.

(Witness) Thomas Head

3/12/14

Det Senior Sergt.

John Gurock

1

Arthur Gale states I am
in business as a plumber in
Warwick. On the 29th ultimo
I was standing in Grafton
Street near the portion of the
Railway Platform where the
Prime Minister was to speak.
I saw Mr Hughes accompanied
by Charles W. Dougall and
others walking towards that
portion. I saw an egg coming
through the air which fell
and broke close to Mr. Hughes
Immediately after another
egg came through the air
partly from the side and
partly from the back of Mr.
Hughes and hit him on the
band of the hat. I did not
see who threw ~~that~~^{either} egg. The
Prime Minister then turned
round and went towards
his carriage and I jumped
up on the platform. The
crowd was then around
him. I saw Alex. Keble and
"Bart" Broosman in a fighting
attitude. I saw Keble hit him
over. I then saw the Premier
accompanied by Sen. Sen. Kenny
go to the portion of the platform
where he was to speak, and I
heard Kenny appeal in the
name of British Fair play
for a hearing for Mr. Hughes
who then began to speak

S.B.

Before he had spoken long, Pat Brosnan who was in the crowd in front of and close to the speaker interjected some thing about Adelaide. Mrs Hughes became very excited and ^{said} "arrest that man". Sen. Sarg Henry who was just behind Mrs Hughes said to Brosnan "go on get away". Brosnan walked back some distance. Mrs Hughes jumped off the platform and followed him and called out "arrest that man or I'll give you in charge". He turned quickly to the platform and I watched him. I did not see Brosnan arrested but I saw two policemen put him in a cab and drive away. I am positive Mrs Hughes was not touched or interfered with in any shape or form from the time he jumped off the platform until he returned to it. I watched him closely. He resumed his speech and there was no interference beyond a few interjections. When his speech was concluded I followed him amongst the crowd and saw him enter his carriage. He was not molested in any way. At the carriage I heard Mrs Hughes say to

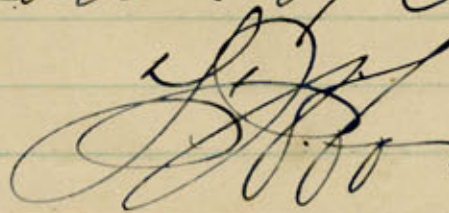
S.P.

3

Ser. Serg. Kenny "if you don't
arrest that man. I'll deal
with you." Kenny said "if
you lay on informations, I'll
prosecute. I'm under the state."
Mr Hughes said "the Commonwealth
overrides the state," or words to
that effect. He asked the Ser.
Sergt for his name, and
Kenny gave it. The train was
moving slowly when the Ser.
Sergt gave him his name.

Arthur Gale

Of his and the preceding
two sheets were written by
me and I saw this sheet
signed and the two preceding
ones initialed by Arthur
Gale.


Inspector
Warwick
3/12/17

3rd. December 1917.

STATEMENT.

JOHN ALEXANDER STEWART, States,

I am a Contractor and Builder, and a Justice of the peace, and I reside in Dragon Street, Warwick. On Thursday 29th. November last, about 3.p.m. I went to the Railway Station at Warwick. I went there to hear the prime Minister speak. I arrived there a few minutes before the prime Minister arrived by Train. I did not go unto the Railway platform, I remained in Grafton Street. As I arrived at the Railway Station I got into Company with Mr.R.J.Leeper, Solicitor. We stood close to the platform in Grafton Street, about 15 yards from the gate at which the Mails are delivered. The platform is about three feet higher than where I was standing with Mr.Leeper. There were about three hundred people there at the time. I saw the Mail Train by which the prime Minister travelled arrive at the platform. There was a fair crowd of men on the platform in front of where I was standing. As the Train stopped the crowd on the platform surged towards the Carriage which was at the end of the Train, and which was almost opposite to where I was standing. There appeared to be a scrimmage which lasted about a minute. I cannot say what took place then as I could not see from where I was. Shortly afterwards the prime Minister came to the edge of the platform in Grafton Street accompanied by Senior Sergt.Kenny and a number of other men. As the prime Minister appeared there was some cheering and Boohooing. Senior Sergeant Kenny stepped forward in the Gateway and said to the people in Grafton Street, "This is Mr.Hughes the prime Minister of Australia give him a fair hearing," or words to that effect, and he then stepped back. The prime Minister then started to speak and as he did I saw Paddy Brosnan come from the public exit of the Railway Station which is about thirty yards from where I was, and came to where myself and Mr.Leeper were standing and went past us about one pace nearer to where Mr.Hughes was. I heard Brosnan call out, "Were you ever in Adelaide, or do you know anything about Adelaide." He got about midway between where I was and where Mr.Hughes was speaking. At the time Brosnan mentioned about Adelaide he held up one of his hands I heard the prime Minister say something like, "Arrest that man!" At the

JS

the same moment I saw Sergeant Huston come through the crowd from the back and catch hold of Brosnan and turned him around, and was then joined by a Constable who with Huston took Brosnan out of the crowd and put him in a Cab. I followed him in case they may require assistance and a few seconds later as I turned round to where the prime Minister was speaking I saw him going up onto the platform from where the crowd was in Grafton Street. I did not see Mr. Hughes come down from where he was speaking into Grafton Street as he did so while my back was turned looking to see how the police and Brosnan got on. Brosnan was at least five yards from the prime Minister when he was arrested by the police, and that was the nearest he was to the prime Minister in Grafton Street at that time.

I did not see the prime Minister assaulted by Brosnan or anybody else, and Brosnan could not have assaulted him in Grafton Street that afterwards without my seeing it. The prime Minister got a very fair hearing and there was no disturbance excepting the scrimmage which took place on the platform about the time the prime Minister left the Railway Carriage, and which I did not see, and a little noise and excitement when Brosnan was arrested by the police. Brosnan went quietly with the police.

The police acted very promptly in arresting Brosnan, and they did every thing possible to secure the prime Minister protection and a good hearing.

Only a few seconds elapsed from the time paddy Brosnan came into the crowd in Grafton Street, as the prime Minister was about to start to speak, until he was arrested, and taken away by the police.

(Witness) Thomas Head

3/12/17 Det Sgt -

John A. Stewart

11

Samuel Kevin Cooper states
I am a railway employee
stationed at Warwick. On
29th ultimo I was on the
platform when the Brisbane
to Sydney mail train arrived.
I saw Mr. Hughes leave the
carriage and, accompanied
by Mr. Mr. Dougall Mc Tweedie
and others, go towards the wall
gate on the projecting portion
of the platform from which
he was to speak. I saw Pat
Brosnan throw an egg in the
direction of Mr. Hughes. The egg
fell and broke on the platform.
Immediately after, I saw Pat

126

Pat Brosnan throw another egg.
This egg ~~the~~ hit Mr. Hughes on
the left side of the hat.
Sergeant Huston and Constable
Long caught hold of Pat
Brosnan and put him out
of the ~~the~~ crowd. Just then
his brother, Bart Brosnan,
appeared to rush to his assistance
when Alex Rule rushed at
Bart and punched him back
about six feet through the
crowd. I then saw Constable
Power get hold of Bart by
the left arm and screw it
up behind his back. As he did
so Rule hit Brosnan in the
face once. After that flow
Brosnan's face was bleeding.

I then saw Mr Hughes rush excitedly through the crowd and heard him call out "who threw that egg, where's the man that threw it" at the same time saying "I've been assaulted". Sen Serg Kenny then approached Mr Hughes and said "I'm the Sen Serg of Police". Mr Hughes said "I'm the Prime Minister". Kenny said "I'm aware of the fact, Sir, I'll see you get a hearing". Kenny then said to the people "Kindly give the Prime Minister a hearing, please," and other remarks. Mr Hughes accompanied by Kenny and others then went to the main gate and began to speak. Kenny stood close behind him while he spoke. I remained there till Mr Hughes returned to his carriage after he had finished his speech. I was at the back of the crowd on the platform and did not hear all he said nor did I see him jump off the platform into Grafton Street. He was not assaulted in any way while on the platform other than when the egg hit his hat and knocked it to one side of his head. When in the carriage Mr Hughes asked

Spald

3

Sen Serg. Henry for his name
and said I intend to have you
dealt with. Just as the train
was about to move the Sen
Serg gave Mr Hughes his name.
Mr Hughes was talking excitedly
with his head through the window
but I could not catch what
he was saying.

S H Cooper

of his and the preceding two
sheets were written by me
and I saw this sheet signed
and the two preceding ones
initialled by S H Cooper

S H Cooper
Inspector
Warwick
3rd December 1897

WARWICK.

3rd. December 1917.

STATEMENT.

FREDRICK CHARLES MEREDITH BURNE, States,

I am a police Magistrate at Warwick. On Thursday the 29th. November last, about 2.40. pm, I drove in my Sulky with my Daughter to the Railway Station at Warwick. I went there for the purpose of hearing an address by the prime Minister. I drove up close to where Mr. Hughes was to speak. I saw the Brisbane to Sydney Mail Train arrive, and I immediately saw the prime Minister approach the gateway at which he was to speak, accompanied by Mr. Fredrick Selke, a returned Soldier, who was in Civilian clothes, and others persons, and when within a few yards of the gateway, or opening I saw a man dressed in black, and white panama hat, and red face, whom I took to be one of the Brosnans, rush from the crowd at the back, towards where Mr. Hughes was, and throw an egg which grazed the top of the prime Ministers hat, and struck a woman who was on the right of Mr. Hughes, and immediately afterwards the same man threw a second egg which hit Mr. Hughes hat ^{on the side} at the back and burst, and knocked it partly off. I know paddy Brosnan, he was not the man who threw the two eggs referred to. paddy Brosnan had a greyish suit on, that afternoon. When the eggs were thrown the prime Minister and those with him turned towards where the eggs came from, and Mr. Hughes called out, "Arrest that man". I did not notice Senior Sergeant Kenny or any police there at the moment, but they could have been there without me seeing them, as there were between a hundred and a hundred & fifty people on the platform at that spot. Almost immediately afterwards I saw the man who threw the two eggs, being struck by a man in the crowd who was dressed in a light grey suit, and whom I took to be Alex Rule, and a general punching match took place between Rule and others, and the man whom I saw throw the eggs. I can identify the man whom I saw throw the two eggs. A few minutes afterwards I saw the prime Minister come to the spot where he was to speak, accompanied by Senior Sergt. Kenny, who introduced him to the crowd and asked the people to give him a fair hearing. After Mr. Hughes was speaking for a little while, I saw paddy Brosnan move forward from the crowd in Grafton Street towards where Mr. Hughes,

Hughes was speaking, with one hand held up, and made some remark which I did not hear. I then heard the prime Minister call out, "Arrest that man, arrest that man", ^{This was addressed to J.S. Keating.} and not noticing any police about I got out of my Sulky and went towards Brosnan through the crowd, and as I got near him I saw that Sergeant Huston had Brosnan in Charge, and I said to them, "Take him away, take him in Charge". They took him away and he was arrested.

When Brosnan approached Mr. Hughes with his hand in the air, he got within three or four yards of where Mr. Hughes was speaking.

When the prime Minister said, "Arrest that man, arrest that man", he almost immediately got down off the platform and went towards Brosnan, still calling out, "Arrest that man". The prime Minister only went a few paces from the spot where he was speaking, and then went back on the platform and resumed his speech.

I am positive that Mr. Hughes was not assaulted by paddy Brosnan, when he got down off the platform and went towards him, nor could he have been assaulted by anybody else at that time without my seeing it.

I consider the police acted very promptly in arresting paddy Brosnan in Grafton Street, as he approached where the prime Minister was speaking. The ~~very~~ prime Minister got a very fair hearing, as there were only a few interjections, *counting out, boohooks and cheers.*

(Witness)

Thomas Head
 3/12/17
 Def Senior Sergt.

Tom Hurley
 3/12/17.

1

Luke Clemens states I am an auditor for the Bank of New South Wales at present in Warwick. On 29th ~~inst~~ ^{ult} I was standing in front of the projecting portion of the Warwick Railway Platform as the Prime Minister came towards the edge of that portion to address the people. I saw a man throw an egg in the direction of Mr Hughes. I cannot say whether the egg hit Mr Hughes. I did not see his hat fall off, but I saw the mark of an egg on Mr Hughes' hat afterwards. I did not know who was with Mr Hughes. He was the only one I knew. A scuffle ensued after the egg was thrown and I, with many others, jumped up on the platform. I could not see what Mr Hughes did after the egg was thrown but when I got on the platform he was in the midst of a crowd of men gesticulating. Later, he, with some men, moved to the portion of the platform where he spoke from. I went off the platform via the public exit and came round to the front of him. He was then about to address the people

L.C.

Just as he commenced to speak
 the man whom I saw throw the
 egg approached the spot where
 the Prime Minister was standing.
 He appeared to come from the
 direction of the public exit
 and moved up through the
 people in front of Mr. Hughes.
 He held up his finger in a
 threatening manner towards
 Mr. Hughes and said some
 thing but I could not hear
 what it was. Mr. Hughes
 then said "arrest that man",
 I'm attorney for the Commonwealth.
 arrest that man or I'll have
 you arrested. Mr. Hughes
 immediately jumped down
 off the platform and went
 towards the man and said
 "arrest that man". The Police
 took hold of the man im-
 mediately and put him in a
 cab and drove away. Two
 Police caught him put him
 in the cab and went with
 him. Mr. Hughes was not
 assaulted when he jumped
 down off the platform. He
 returned to the platform and
 continued his address. I
 did not see Mr. Hughes any
 more after he finished his
 address. The man the Police
 took away in the cab was
 the man who threw the egg.

R.B.

3

He was dressed in a grey
suit and I have since heard
his name was Prosser
I did not see Mr. Hughes
assaulted at any time

Luke Clemens,

This and the preceding two
sheets were written by me and
I saw Luke Clemens sign
this sheet and initial the two
preceding sheets.

J. J. Prosser
Inspector
Warwick
1st December 1917

1

Emanuel Albert Pakhill states: - I am a locomotive examiner in the Queensland Railway Department stationed at Warwick. On the 29th ult I was examining the wheels of the Brisbane to Sydney mail train by which the Prime Minister had just arrived. I jumped up on the platform from the running track to listen to the Prime Minister's speech. I had a spanner in my hand which I use in my work. I did not have a hammer but my mate, Thomas Hawthorne, carried a hammer that day. I can safely say that we were the only men on the platform during the time the Prime Minister was ^{there} who carried either a hammer or spanner in the hand. As the Prime Minister was going from his carriage to the portion of the platform from which he was to speak, I saw first one and then another egg thrown in his direction. One of the eggs hit him on the hat. The same man threw both eggs. I never saw that man before that day and I have not seen him since. I am doubtful whether I could identify him. Immediately after he threw the eggs a man from the crowd rushed him and

2040

and punched him, with the result that his face was covered with blood. Either the Police or some one parted them and just then, the Prime Minister broke away from the men who were with him and in a wild, excited manner made for the man who had the blood on his face. I thought he was going to strike the man; but what he did was to gesticulate with his arms and call out loudly "I want that man's name." He repeated that two or three times. A man, whom I now know as Ser. Sergh. Kenny, caught hold of the Prime Minister and said "Excuse me, I'm Senior Sergeant of Police here. If you have any complaints state them to me." I was quite close to them but I did not hear Mr. Hughes say anything in reply. Kenny immediately addressed the people and asked them to give the Prime Minister a fair hearing. Mr. Hughes, escorted by Kenny, then went to the main gate on the projecting portion of the platform and began his speech. A few minutes after he began to speak the train bell rang and I returned to duty and did not see Mr. Hughes again until I saw him in the carriage. I was then on the running

Copy
D

3

trook on the opposite side of
the train from the platform.
I then heard him talk excitedly
and threateningly to some one
but I could not see who it was.
I was so much surprised and
attracted by Mr. Hughes' wild,
infuriated manner that my
eyes never left him, and I
am quite sure that while
he was on the platform he
was not assaulted in any
way apart from the egg
throwing.

I only come to Warwick in
August last and I am not
well acquainted with the people,
apart from railway men

Emanuel Albert Oakhill

This and the two preceding
sheets were written by me and
I saw E. A. Oakhill sign this
sheet and initial the two
preceding ones.

E. A. Oakhill
Inspector,
Warwick
2nd December 1917

WARWICK.

3rd. December 1917.

S T A T E M E N T.

RICHARD JOHN LEEPER, States,

I am a Solicitor and I practice and reside at Warwick. On Thursday the 29th. November last about 3. pm. I went to the Railway Station at Warwick to hear an address by the prime Minister. I was there before the Brisbane to Sydney Mail Train arrived with Mr. Hughes. I did not go onto the Railway platform, I remained in Grafton Street and was close to the edge of the platform about five or six yards from the gate where the Mails are delivered. I was unable to see what took place on the Platform when the Train arrived. I saw Mr. Hughes escorted by Senior Sergt. Kenny to the spot where he spoke from. Kenny spoke a few words, introducing Mr. Hughes, and requesting that he be given a fair hearing. Kenny remained alongside Mr. Hughes during his address. Mr. Hughes had barely commenced to speak, before he pointed his hand in a direction over my back and said, "Arrest that man," and jumped off the Platform and came between the crowd in the Street and the edge of the platform to where I was standing. Mr. Hughes was in a very excited state. I put my hand on his arm and said to him, "Mr. Hughes don't get excited. Mr. Hughes passed me a few paces and went in the direction of where Sergeant Huston had a man named ~~in charge~~ Brosnan in Charge. Mr. Hughes returned immediately and resumed his speech. With the exception of an occasional interjection there was no real disturbance or demonstration of a hostile nature towards Mr. Hughes.

I think the presence of Senior Sergeant Kenny alongside Mr. Hughes had a great effect on the audience and was the means of keeping the good order that prevailed.

I have read in the Courier what purports to be an account of the meeting and I can only say that the report is a gross exaggeration.

I am not, nor have I been, taking any part in the Conscription issue. prior to Brosnan being arrested by Sergeant Huston and the other police I did not hear him speak but I saw that he held up his hand, and he was then about fifteen yards from where the prime Minister was speaking. When Mr. Hughes came down off the platform and went past where I was

R. J. Leeper

(2)

standing, and until he returned to the platform he was not assaulted or interfered with in any way by any person, and had he been assaulted or molested in any way I would have seen it.

R. Murphy.

(Witness) *Thomas Head*

3/12/17 *Det Senior Sergt.*

Miss



Am

Office of Commissioner of Police.

Ref. No. _____

Brisbane. 30th November, 1917.

J
1/12/17

MEMORANDUM.

The Honourable,

THE HOME SECRETARY.

At 10.30 a.m. this day Mr. Roberts of Messrs. Chambers, McNab and McNab, Solicitors, Adelaide Street, informed me by telephone that he was despatching a Commonwealth Officer to Warwick to inquire into the happenings there during the visit of the Prime Minister to that town yesterday.

In reply to my question he informed me that the Officer referred to was Captain P. Hart (a Military Officer).

He asked me if I would afford to this Officer Police assistance in his Inquiries, to which I replied that I must refer the matter to you.

I soon afterwards conferred with you and subsequently telephoned to Mr. Roberts as follows.-

"I have referred the matter you spoke of to the Home Secretary and I have now to inform you that the whole matter is being investigated under the authority of the State Government and the assistance you ask for cannot be rendered."

W. J. ...

Commissioner of Police.

Toowoomba District.

Warwick Station.

4th December, 1917.

Relative to: Statement in my report,
768/17. of 30th November 1917 of Mr Hughes
being hit by two eggs & being jostled abo
ut.

SIR:

I beg to report that in my report No
November 30th 1917. No 768/17. I stated
that Mr Hughes was hit by two eggs, the
first egg broke and splashed what I took
to be on Mr Hughes back but could have
broken on some one else or on a post near
by, the second egg hit his hat and tilted
it off Mr Hughes caught the hat as it was
falling, the jostlin mentioned was that
he was procted by a number of his frien
ds who was anxious for Mr Hughes safety

James Duffie
.....
Doust 2150

Submitted
Henry Butler Kenney
SENIOR SERGEANT, 580
4 DEC 1917

Toowoomba District,
Warwick Station,
3rd. December 1917.

144/17.

Relative to: Address by the Hon. W. M. Hughes
prime Minister at the Warwick Railway
Station on 29th. ultimo.

Sir,

I beg to report that on Thursday the 29th. ult. about 3. pm. I was on duty at the Warwick Railway Station upon the arrival of the Mail Train from Brisbane on which the Prime Minister was a passenger. A few seconds after the Train pulled up I saw a commotion on the platform, I went on the platform to see what was the matter, and saw two men fighting the men's names are Barth Brosnan & Alex Rule. Sergeant Huston & I separated the men & put Brosnan off the platform, by the public exit. I then returned and heard Senior Sergeant saying Kenny to give the prime Minister a fair hearing, & British fair play, or words to that effect. The prime Minister then addressed the audience and except for some interjections got a fair hearing. I did not see the prime Minister assaulted in any way, and except for some hoots & booing amongst the crowd the meeting was as orderly as such meetings generally are.

Thos. Power

Const. 1692.

To/
The Inspector of Police,

Toowoomba.

Submitted.

Toowoomba District,

Warwick Station,

3rd. December 1917.

Relative to being on duty at the Warwick Railway Station when Mr. Hughes Prime Minister addressed the public on Conscription on 29th. ultimo.

Sir,

I beg to report that from instructions received from Sergeant Huston on the 29th. ultimo I was on duty in Grafton St. at the front of the Railway Station when the prime Minister Mr. Hughes arrived by the Sydney Mail Train at 3. pm. There was a large crowd of people assembled in Grafton Street also on the Railway platform, I did not see Mr. Hughes alight from the Train but immediately after the Train stopped I heard some persons boohooing and the crowd rush in one direction I jumped over the fence & pushed my way into the crowd and saw Constable Tong holding Paddy Brosnan by the right arm and caught Brosnan by the other, just then Sergt. Huston said to me, "We will put him off the platform if he cannot behave himself," Sergt. Huston and I then put Brosnan off the platform into Grafton Street through the main entrance. I then went back among the crowd in Grafton Street and Sergt. Huston followed Brosnan through the crowd, & shortly afterwards he handed Brosnan over to me & Const. Dufficy & told us to look him up. I did not see any person throw anything at Mr. Hughes or assault him in any way.

To/

J. M. Mui Const. 703.
The Inspector of Police,

Toowoomba,

Submitted.

Chief Secretary's Office,
M.

Brisbane.

11th December, 1917.

Dear Madam,

The Premier directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, accompanied by a resolution passed at a meeting of your League on the preceding day.

Yours truly,

Signed) P. J. McDERMOTT.

Under Secretary.

The Honorary Secretary,

Queensland National Service League,
(Women's Branch)

Darragh's Buildings,
Brisbane.



Office of Commissioner of Police.

Ref. No. _____

Brisbane. 30th November, 1917.

MEMORANDUM.

The Honourable,

THE HOME SECRETARY.

I forward herewith a telegram received last night from the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and my reply thereto.

As you are already aware the telegram is on similar lines to one received by the Honourable, the Premier, who sent for me last night, showed me his telegram, and perused mine.

I despatched Chief Inspector Short to Warwick this morning where he will be joined by Inspector O'Connor and Detective Senior Sergeant Head.

The whole of the circumstances of and the occurrences during the Prime Minister's visit to Warwick will be carefully and thoroughly inquired into and all proper action that may appear to be called for will be taken.

I have not yet complied with the Prime Minister's request to suspend Senior Sergeant Kenny, and with all respect to the Right Honourable gentleman and his high office, I must point out that I owe a duty to

the/

the Senior Sergeant, as well as to the Prime Minister, and in view of certain features of the case revealed by information afforded to me I do not feel justified in as yet taking the drastic action desired by the latter.

I trust the above will meet with your approval, and if it is desired that any different course should be adopted, I await direction.

Gurquian

Commissioner of Police.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 12-68 M 78

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, QUEENSLAND.

This Message is presented for transmission subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.

Telegraph Charges. For 16 words or less, including address and signature:— Interstate, 1s. Within the State, 9d. Suburban, 6d. Each additional word, 1d.	Stamps	to be affixed here,	and they	must not	overlap.	Date Stamp.
	IMPORTANT: {	The address	must contain	all information	n necessary to	
	A receipt	for the charges	on this Tele	gram can be	obtained.—Price	ONE PENNY.

No. of Words _____

Check _____

Remarks _____

By _____

Addressed to The Right Hon.W.M. Hughes,Prime Minister,Sydney.

Your telegram from Wallangarra tonight
is receiving due attention.

Time Lodged _____

Time Sent _____

By _____

From Urquhart.Commissioner Police, Queensland.

Sender's name, or signature,
 and address (if to be tele-
 graphed and paid for) are
 to be shown here. If not,
 the name and address should
 be written on back of this
 form.

29 / 11 / 1917

COPY.

Telegram to the Right Honourable, W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister, Sydney,
from the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane.

Brisbane.

"Your telegram from Wallangarra tonight is receiving due
attention.

URQUHART

Commr. of Police. Queensland.

29.11.17.

Association

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
14974 12 DEC. 1917
QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL SERVICE LEAGUE.
(Women's Branch)

Darragh's Buildings.
Queen-st. Brisbane, Dec 6th. 1917

Hon. T. J. Ryan M. L. A.
Premier of Queensland.

Sir,

By direction of our Executive we have the honour to convey to you the following Resolution, which was unanimously passed at a ~~the~~ meeting of the above League, held on Wednesday afternoon Dec. 5th.

~~the~~ "That this meeting of the women members of the ~~the~~ above League views with the utmost indignation and abhorrence the dastardly and wicked attack that was made on the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth on Wednesday of last week at Warwick, and it further records its emphatic protest against ~~the~~ the action of the Warwick Police officers (sworn to administer the law) when directed to do so by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, after he, himself had been assaulted in a combined attempt to prevent him addressing the public on the most momentous subject that has ever been submitted to the citizens of this or any other nation;"

"That it be humbly suggested to the Prime Minister that he appoint a Royal Commission to investigate and report upon the alleged dereliction of duty on the part of the Warwick Police;"

"That the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, also to the Premier of Queensland."

We have the honour to remain, Sir,
your obedient servants,

E. L. Bushell vice President.

J. M. Reid Hon. Secretary.

ACKNOWLEDGED.

11
DEC 10 1917

Chief Secretary's Office,

Brisbane,

Hon. W. M. Hughes,

Commonwealth Prime Minister,

SYDNEY

Your telegram of even date received I regret to hear of the incident and trust you suffered no bodily injury stop I am having the subject matter of your complaint immediately enquired into A Preliminary inquiry by telephone from Warwick seems to indicate that the occurrence was not nearly so serious as your telegram represented stop I am unable to understand the relevancy of your statement to Kenny that the laws of the Commonwealth override the laws of the State it seems to me that such a statement had no bearing on the matter as I am not aware of any State law which conflicts with the laws of the Commonwealth in the circumstances which you allege stop Your threat with regard to the Commonwealth Government taking steps to enforce its own laws is quite uncalled for, as this Government is enforcing and will continue to enforce the laws of Commonwealth and State.

(Signed) T. J. Ryan,

Premier.

29: 11: 17.

1268 M (78)



URGENT TELEGRAM.

Charges to Pay—Message
Porterage

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.



B.774/2.17.—C.0910.

To No. 1404
The Commissioner For Police
Bne

This message is not received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.

All complaints to be addressed in writing to the Deputy Postmaster-General.



Recd 7:20 P.M. 29.11.17. Const.

STATION FROM.	No. OF WORDS.	CHECK.	TIME LODGED AND RECEIVED.	REMARKS.
2 Wallangarra	158	12/7	Sect 95 6pm	
At Warwick today at 3 p m when leaving the train to address a public meeting I was assaulted by a number of men stop there was great tumult amounting virtually to a riot stop I ordered the police to immediately arrest the two most prominent ring leaders but acting under the senior sergts direction they refused to do so stop I called the attention of senr sergt Kenny to the fact that a deliberate and violent breach of the laws of the commonwealth had been committed that the laws of the commonwealth override those of the state and as attorney general I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute these men under the commonwealth law stop he replied that he would recognised the laws of queensland only and would act under no other stop I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the commonwealth law and that having issued instructions to				

the police under his control to do likewise he had not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings at the meeting but had broken the commonwealth law himself stop I have to request that you as Commissioner for police of the state of Queensland suspend him from duty immediately and take all such steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the laws of the commonwealth stop unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Govt will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breaches of such laws

W M Hughes

Prime Minister

7pmna

C O P Y.

Telegram received by the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane, from
The Right Honourable, the Prime Minister.

Wallangarra

29th November, 1917.

At Warwick today at 3 p.m. when leaving the train to address a Public Meeting I was assaulted by a number of men stop There was great tumult amounting virtually to a riot stop I ordered the Police to ~~xxxxx~~ immediately arrest the two most prominent ring-leaders but acting under the Senior Sergeant's direction they refused to do so stop I called the attention of Senior Sergeant Kenny to the fact that a deliberate and violent breach of the Laws of the Commonwealth had been committed that the Laws of the Commonwealth override those of the State and as Attorney-General I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute these men under the Commonwealth Law stop He replied that he recognised the Laws of Queensland only and would act under no other stop I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the Commonwealth Law and that having issued instructions to the Police under his control to do likewise he had not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings at the Meeting but had broken the Commonwealth Law himself stop I have to request that you as Commissioner for Police of the State of Queensland suspend him from duty immediately and take all such steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the Laws of the Commonwealth stop unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Government will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breaches of such laws

Sgd. W. M. Hughes
Prime Minister

7 p.m. N.a.

1268 M/78



Police Department,

Inspector's Office,

Toowoomba, 5th December, 1917.

Sir,-

Re the disturbance which occurred at Warwick Railway Station on 29th ultimo when the Hon. The Prime Minister arrived there.

I have the honour to forward reports from Constables Muir, Power and Dufficy, and statements from S.K.Cooper (Railway Employee) F.C.M.Burne (Police Magistrate) L.Clemens (Auditor N.S.Wales Bank) E.A. Oakhill (Locomotive Examiner) R.J.Leeper (Solicitor) J.A.Stewart (Contractor and Builder) A.Gale (Plumber) J.Murdock J.P. (Stock and Station Agent) W.D.Summers (Contractor).

In his previous report Constable Dufficy stated that two eggs hit Mr.Hughes. In his present report he states that one of the eggs broke and splashed on what he took to be Mr.Hughes' back, but that it could have broken on some one else or on a post. He still states that one egg hit Mr.Hughes on the hat. The Constable cannot say who threw the eggs.

Mr.Cooper states positively that he saw Paddy Brosnan throw two eggs one of which hit Mr.Hughes on the hat. Mr.Burne P.M. states just as positively that Paddy Brosnan did not throw the egg which hit Mr.Hughes. It is quite clear from the

The,
Commissioner of Police,
Brisbane.

the

statements that Mr. Hughes was hit by one egg only. Mr. Clemens states that he saw a man throw an egg in the direction of Mr. Hughes. He cannot say whether that egg hit Mr. Hughes, but he saw the mark of an egg on Mr. Hughes' hat afterwards. He subsequently saw the man who threw that egg put into a cab by two policemen and taken away. As Paddy Brosnan was the only man whom the Police put into a cab it follows that he was the man who threw the egg. Mr. Oakhill saw two eggs thrown one of which hit Mr. Hughes on the hat. He does not know the man who threw the eggs and is doubtful whether he could identify him. Mr. Gale saw two eggs thrown in the direction of Mr. Hughes one of which hit him on the hat and the other fell and broke close to Mr. Hughes. He did not see who threw them. Mr. Murdock saw two eggs thrown but does not know who threw them. Mr. Summers saw three eggs thrown in the direction of Mr. Hughes. One of them hit a post in front of Mr. Hughes and the people who were with him. He did not see where the other two eggs landed. He does not know who threw them. F. H. Selk told Detective Senior Sergeant Head that he saw Paddy Brosnan throw two eggs in the direction of Mr. Hughes and that one of them hit him. Mr. Selk, A. Rule, A. Fenwick and Mr. Punchard (Secretary National Political Association) declined through Mr. Flower, Solicitor, to give statements on the ground that they had already given statements to the Commonwealth Authorities. Selk and Rule are employed by McDougall & Co., and Fenwick is a Contractor. The latter admitted to the Detective Senior Sergeant that he saw Bart Brosnan (brother to Paddy) in the crowd going towards Mr. Hughes and that he hit Bart Brosnan three times about the head or face without any provocation; also that Alex Rule hit Bart Brosnan whilst one of his hands was held by a Constable. Mr. Fenwick declined to give the Detective Senior Sergeant a written statement. All the eggs were thrown - no more than two or three - and all the blows were struck before Mr. Hughes began his speech. It is an established and indisputable fact that Mr. Hughes was hit by one egg only, and that he was not otherwise

otherwise

assaulted up to that stage, unless it can be held that Senior Sergeant Kenny's action in catching his arm, with the best of intentions, constitutes an assault.

Shortly after Mr. Hughes began his speech Paddy Brosnan, who was then in Grafton Street amongst the crowd in front of Mr. Hughes interjected and shook his finger at Mr. Hughes. Sergeant Huston promptly arrested Brosnan. Mr. Hughes about this time jumped down off the platform amongst the crowd and called out, as he had already done before he jumped, to arrest Brosnan. Mr. Leeper states that Mr. Hughes was very excited and that he put his hand on Mr. Hughes' arm and said "Mr. Hughes don't get excited". Mr. Hughes went past Mr. Leeper for a few paces in the direction of where Sergeant Huston had Brosnan under arrest. Mr. Leeper is positive that from the time Mr. Hughes jumped down off the platform until he returned to it he was not assaulted or molested in any way. Mr Stewart, who was near Mr Leeper, did not see Mr. Hughes assaulted after he jumped from the Platform, neither did any of the other people whose statements are attached, nor any of the persons whom the Detective Senior Sergeant and I interviewed.

Paddy Brosnan was charged with creating a disturbance in Grafton Street on 29th ultimo. He pleaded guilty before the Police Magistrate, yesterday, and was fined 10/-. I attach a newspaper cutting which gives a fairly accurate account of the Court proceedings. The only man, therefore, whose conduct the Prime Minister took exception to during the course of his address was arrested and dealt with.

As already shown, there is a conflict of evidence as to whether Paddy Brosnan threw the egg which hit Mr. Hughes; but there can not be any doubt that the egg-throwing caused the melee which ensued, and, according to Mr. Fenwick's verbal statement to Detective Senior Sergeant Head, he and Alex Rule, who are supporters of Mr. Hughes, were the aggressors. The only man

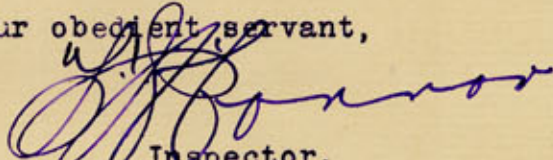
man

in the crowd who received any damage - in fact the only man who appears to have got a blow - was Bart Brosnan and there is nothing to show that he did anything to provoke Fenwick and Rule to hit him. Had they refrained from doing so and had the Prime Minister remained with Mr. McDougall instead of rushing back excitedly to the crowd, the scuffle, which was only momentary, might not have occurred. The train arrived at Warwick at 2-59.p.m. and left at 3-12.p.m., so that in the space of thirteen minutes the melee occurred and Mr. Hughes delivered his speech.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Inspector.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING.
INCIDENT AT RAILWAY STATION.
POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

CHARGE OF CREATING A
DISTURBANCE.

There was a large crowd in attendance at the Warwick Police Court yesterday afternoon, when Patrick Brennan, on remand from Friday, was charged before Mr. F. C. M. Moran, P.M., with creating a disturbance in Grafton street, near the railway station, on Thursday, November 29. Mr. E. J. Brennan appeared for the defendant, who had pleaded not guilty to the charge. Senior Sergeant Kenny prosecuted. Sub-Inspector O'Connor and Detective Sergeant Road were present in the court.

When the case was called Mr. Brennan said he understood that no further evidence was to be offered in support of the case for the prosecution.

Senior Sergeant Kenny intimated that he did intend to offer further evidence.

The P.M. said that first of all he would like to know what Act the defendant was being charged under.

Senior Sergeant Kenny replied that the defendant was being charged under the Liquor Act, section 92.

The P.M. said he was going to say that if it was laid under the Commonwealth law regarding riotous behaviour he had no jurisdiction.

Mr. Brennan said that to ever further look he intended to plead guilty on behalf of the defendant to a technical breach of section 92 of the Liquor Act. He would like to point out to his Worship that on a previous occasion he mentioned that he did not know the legal definition of what was disorderly conduct. He had been searching for the definition in his law books but he had not been able to discover it. It seemed to be a matter for the presiding magistrate to determine. In the present case, the only evidence before the court, had he did not know whether the police could suppress it, was that the defendant interrupted a public meeting. He submitted that after all there was nothing serious in a thing like that. If a man went to a public meeting, determined to burst it up, that was a different matter altogether. If a man merely interrupted at a public meeting, there could not be anything serious about that. He would ask the P.M. to take a lenient view of the case.

The P.M. said a good deal of trouble could have been prevented if defendant had pleaded guilty on Friday, because it was made clear to him on that occasion that the defendant interrupted at the meeting. Constable Duffney in his evidence said that he arrested the defendant for interrupting at that particular meeting. No further evidence had been offered and now the defendant pleaded guilty. What he had to decide now was the measure of the penalty he should impose.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: I would like to be heard on the matter your Worship.

The P.M.: In what respect?

Senior Sergeant Kenny: I would like to explain the circumstances leading up to the arrest of the defendant. On the occasion of the arrival of the Prime Minister at Warwick on the 29th ult., as he left his railway carriage, some eggs were thrown at him.

The P.M.: I don't want to know anything about that at all. I want you to tell me the circumstances in connection with this man's arrest. I won't allow any discussion that may lead up to anything that may possibly be the subject of a prosecution later on. I only want to know the circumstances under which this man was arrested; that is all.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: It will be very hard for me to explain if you won't allow me to start from the beginning.

The P.M.: I am not going to entertain any address leading up to something that is not before me in evidence. The evidence of Constable Duffney was that he arrested this man for creating a disturbance. This is not a departmental inquiry; it is not an inquiry into your conduct. This man is charged only with a trifling offence—that of creating a disturbance in a public place, to which the defendant has pleaded guilty. I only want to know what happened. The P.M. then proceeded to read the evidence as given by Constable Duffney on Friday.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: Yes, I read that before. Of course, your Worship, I understand the defendant pleads guilty, but if I had called more evidence it would have covered a lot of ground.

The P.M.: Of course that would be a different thing altogether, then. I think if you really are desirous of giving this court information about yourself touching this particular arrest I would like to hear you, but apart from that I would prefer not.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: In this case, the question of penalty arises, and in that respect I would like to explain the circumstances of the case.

The P.M.: Was this man on the platform?

Senior Sergeant Kenny: He was.

The P.M.: I only saw him down where he was arrested.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: He was on the platform.

The P.M.: Very well then, go on.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: The defendant was seen to throw an egg which more than one person witnessed. One of the eggs struck the Prime Minister's hat and knocked it off. One of the constables who saw the defendant throw the egg arrested him and ordered him to destroy the eggs. The defendant thereupon destroyed the eggs on the platform. The constable then escorted the defendant off the platform and defendant then went into Grafton street and came up amongst the crowd in front of where the Prime Minister was speaking. As he came up, he held his hand up in the air in a defiant manner, which attracted the Prime Minister's attention. The defendant was immediately arrested by Sergeant Huxton, and handed over to a couple of constables, who conveyed him to the watchhouse. Of course this man was practically the originator of the disturbance. The whole thing was exaggerated in the Brisbane press as your Worship knows. I ask your Worship to inflict the maximum penalty on this man so as to act as a warning to others not to go to public meetings and interrupt.

The P.M.: As regards the action of the defendant in throwing the egg, you are not dealing with that. He was not arrested for that.

Senior Sergeant Kenny: No, your Worship.

The P.M.: Consequently I can't take that into account at all. The charge that has been preferred against the defendant is one of creating a disturbance, and the evidence before the court concerns this charge only. I asked the question of Constable Duffney whether he saw the defendant throw any eggs at the Prime Minister and he said no. Of course I know the constables can't be everywhere, and they can't see everything that is going on.

Continuing, the P.M. said that he agreed with Senior Sergeant Kenny that the report in the Brisbane "Courier"

was a grossly exaggerated version of what took place. From what he saw of the incident, he thought the man who wrote the article for the "Courier" had a very imaginative mind. He was certainly of the opinion that the creator of a disturbance in a public place under circumstances such as those of Thursday required to be dealt with. This man was well known, and he seemed to be an irrepressible sort of subject. The P.M. added: "I think he is the means of causing a great deal of trouble in this town."

Senior Sergeant Kenny: There is no doubt about that.

The P.M.: I don't want to convey to you or the public that I pre-judge these matters. I think the public are of the opinion that I am fair minded or try to be. In conversing with Senior Sergeant Road I distilled from him this one fact, that if the presence of the defendant in Townsville is noticed he is soon got rid of. That only goes to show that he is a man who is really an undesirable. But I am not dealing with that now. He is charged only with creating a disturbance, and I have simply got to measure out the fine which I think should be inflicted. I am asked to inflict the maximum penalty, but I don't think the maximum penalty is necessary in this case. Are there any previous convictions against the defendant?

Senior Sergeant Kenny: Yes, your Worship; the defendant was convicted on a charge of assault in 1906.

Mr. Brennan: That is a long while ago.

The P.M.: A man can reform between 1906 and 1917. What I propose doing is to inflict a penalty of 10/ and costs.

A penalty of 10/ and costs was then entered against the defendant.

1268 1178

30th November, 1917.

MEMORANDUM.

The Honourable,
THE HOME SECRETARY.

At 10.30 a.m. this day Mr. Roberts of Messrs. Chambers, McNab and McNab, Solicitors, Adelaide Street, informed me by telephone that he was despatching a Commonwealth Officer to Warwick to inquire into the happenings there during the visit of the Prime Minister to that town yesterday.

In reply to my question he informed me that the Officer referred to was Captain P. Hart (a Military Officer).

He asked me if I would afford to this Officer Police assistance in his inquiries, to which I replied that I must refer the matter to you.

I soon afterwards conferred with you and subsequently telephoned to Mr. Roberts as follows.-

"I have referred the matter you spoke of to the Home Secretary and I have now to inform you that the whole matter is being investigated under the authority of the State Government and the assistance you ask for cannot be rendered."

EW
Commissioner of Police.

AWAY

Memo

Mr. W. to
Mr. Sec.

At 10.30 a.m. this day
Mr Roberts of Chambers ^{and}
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informed me by telephone that
he was despatching a
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and the assistance you
ask for cannot be rendered

Yours

to

3/11/19

1268 M78

COPY.

The Right Hon.
W.M. Hughes,
Prime Minister,
Sydney.

Your telegram from Wallangarra tonight is receiving
due attention

Urquhart
Commissioner Police, Queensland.

29/11/17.

3/-
Double Rates

1268 M (78)

Inspector O'Connor
TOOWOOMBA

Section 95.

Together with Detective Senior Sergeant Head report to Chief Inspector Short at Warwick today.

URQUHART

COMMR. of Police
30/11/1917

Wire Report

Major Chouros Mba

Together with Det Supt Surf Head report to
Chief Supt Short at Warwick today

W. P. J. 2/11/17

30th November, 1917.

MEMORANDUM.

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the Senior Sergeant, as well as to the Prime Minister, and in view of certain features of the case revealed by information afforded to me I do not feel justified in as yet taking the drastic action desired by the latter.

I trust the above will meet with your approval, and if it is desired that any different course should be adopted, I await direction.

Commissioner of Police.

COPY.

Telegram to the Right Honourable, W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister, Sydney,
from the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane.

Brisbane.

"Your telegram from Wallangarra tonight is receiving due
attention.

URQUHART

Commr. of Police. Queensland.

29.11.17.

C O P Y.

Telegram received by the Commissioner of Police, Brisbane, from
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Wallangarra

29th November, 1917.

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Sgd. W. M. Hughes
Prime Minister

7 p.m. N.a.

~~Handwritten~~

made
copy
telegram
pi 20/1/17

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2

Supr. Honors and Sir
Serr Serf Lead -

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occurrences during the
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I have not yet complied
with the Prime Ministers
request to request Sir
Serr Kenny and write

At respect to the Right
Honourable gentleman
and his high office I
must point out that I owe
a duty to the Serjeant
as well as to the Prime
Minister and in view
of certain features of the
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I trust the above will meet
with your approval and if it
^{is deemed best} any different course should be
adopted I await directions -

W. G.

30th November, 1917.

MEMORANDUM:

The Prime Minister has made certain representations to the Government with regard to the occurrence at Warwick, and in consequence thereof the Government is having an investigation made into the matter. Action has been already taken in that direction, and when a report is received the matter will then be dealt with. The Government will take no action at present other than to make a thorough and complete investigation, and act thereon accordingly.

Richardson
30/11/17

*Noted
G.M.
E.P.
30/11/17*

1268 M 78

Inspector O'Connor

TOOWOOMBA.

SECTION 95.

Reported here some protection may be required for Prime Minister
at Wallangarra. Send Acting Sergeant and one Constable
on from Stanthorpe by Mail Train, also three Constables from
Warwick, if in time.

URQUHART.

Commr. of Police.
29 11 7.

AWAY

Very Urgent
Reported how some
protection may be required
for Prime Minister at
Walthamstow - Send only
Police ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~sent~~ ^{sent}
from and on route
on from Fenchurch by
mail train also 3 ^{cars} ~~cars~~
from Warwick if in time

AS
A. S. 11/17

1268 M (78)



URGENT TELEGRAM.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Charges to Pay—Message

Porterage



B.774/2.17—C.0910.

To No. 1404
The Commissioner For Police
Bne

This message has been received subject to the Post and Telegraph Act and Regulations.

DATE STAMP.

All complaints to be addressed in writing to the Deputy Postmaster-General.



Recd 7:20 PM 29-11-17 B.P. Const.

STATION FROM.	No. OF WORDS.	CHECK.	TIME LODGED AND RECEIVED.	REMARKS.
2 Wallangarra	158	12/7	Sect 95	6pm
At Warwick today at 3 p m when leaving the train to address a public meeting I was assaulted by a number of men stop there was great tumult amounting virtually to a riot stop I ordered the police to immediately arrest the two most prominent ring leaders but acting under the senior sergts direction they refused to do so stop I called the attention of sear sergt Kenny to the fact that a deliberate and violent breach of the laws of the commonwealth had been committed that the laws of the commonwealth override those of the state and as attorney general I directed him to take proceedings to prosecute these men under the commonwealth law stop he replied that he would recognised the laws of queensland only and would act under no other stop I then told him I would take proceedings against him for having broken the commonwealth law and that having issued instructions to				

the police under his control to do likewise he had not only connived at the disgraceful proceedings at the meeting but had broken the commonwealth law himself stop I have to request that you as Commissioner for police of the state of Queensland suspend him from duty immediately and take all such steps as are necessary for his immediate prosecution under the laws of the commonwealth stop unless this is done forthwith the Commonwealth Govt will take steps to enforce its own laws and will hold you responsible for any breaches of such laws

W M Hughes

Prime Minister

7pmns