

## STOLEN IN ROSCREA

At last Roscrea Petty Sessions, before Messrs T. O. Read, in the chair; Major Dease, R.M.; J. S. Roe, and P. J. O'Byrne, B.L.,

William Gleeson was sent to jail for two months for the larceny of a bicycle pump.

William and Ellen Borthwick were charged with the larceny of £4 10s from Private Michael Callaghan, 2nd Leinsters, who had been home on furlough from France.

The soldier verified a deposition to the effect that he arrived from France on 29th Dec. by the 11.37 train, and called at William Borthwick's house in Banker's Hill about 12 noon. Mrs Borthwick and her brother, Ned Bergin, were there. Bergin and complainant went to Madders's, where they had a drink. He counted his money in the train, between Ballyrophy and Roscrea, and had £4 in new Bank of England notes and 10s, which he placed in his purse and put it in his pocket. He also had 12s in silver. He and Bergin were drinking about the town during the day. About three o'clock they met William Borthwick at his own house, and then all went down the town and had several drinks together, he paying for all. About eight o'clock the three of them went back to Borthwick's. He was then drunk. He felt his pockets, and the purse and some loose money were there. He had a tobacco pouch and pipe in one of his top coat pockets. Bergin and Borthwick had a good deal of drink taken, but were not drunk. He got for half-a-gallon of stout, but drank very little of it. He fell asleep before the fire, and awoke about 9.30 p.m., when he missed the money. When he awoke only Mrs Borthwick was there with the child in her arms. He asked her what had happened to his money. She said she knew nothing about it. He told her it was in her house he lost it. He then left, and went up to his lodgings. When he got up next morning he missed the pouch and pipe. He again called at Borthwick's house at about seven or eight o'clock next morning. Mrs Borthwick was there, and he asked her if there was any account of his money, and she said "No." He said he was going to tell the police about it. He was with the head-constable and other policemen when they went to search Borthwick's house. He saw the pouch (produced) in the head-constable's hand in Borthwick's. It was the one he lost.

Cross-examined by Mr Dwyer, solr., for the defence—He was a native of Roscrea, and he remembered everything that had happened during the day. From the time he came off the train he had a good time, but he was quite capable. He had paid for all the drink, and added: "I paid dear for it in the latter-end" (slaughter). He got the purse at the battle of Hooge. It fell out of the pocket of a dead German whom they were burying.

Head-Constable said he went to Borthwick's house. Ellen Borthwick handed him the tobacco pouch, which she said she had found. The complainant identified it as his. He found the purse (produced) on top of the dresser. Mrs. Borthwick said, "That's there for years." It had no dust on it, only as it is, and it was empty.

Miss Comerford, assistant in Mr. Quinn's, swore Ellen Borthwick came on the 29th December and tendered a ten shilling Treasury note for some drink, and got 9s 7d change.

To Mr. Dwyer—Treasury notes are very common. Mrs. Borthwick had been in the shop several times, and always had money. She never got anything but drink.

Mr. Dwyer addressed the bench, and made an able speech, pointing out that there was not a particle of evidence against his clients.

The magistrates, however, held that there was a prima facie case, and returned the accused for trial.