

Waldegrave Hartest
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk

Oct 25 – 26

Dear Sir

Would you be so kind as to let me have a form on which to present my claim to the Committee and oblige.

William Sidney Pearson

Irish Grants Committee

(Information given on this form will be treated as Confidential, but inquiries will in all probability be made from the references given).

1. Name (in full, and in block letters) William Sidney Pearson
2. Age Twenty five
3. Address (for correspondence) Waldegrave Hartest Bury St Edmunds Suffolk
4. State here the nature of the loss in respect of which application is made, giving material dates. Detailed particulars need not be furnished at this stage.
My Fathers Farm known as Coolacrease Farm situated at Cadamstown Birr Kings County Ireland was burned down by the I.R.A. in 1921 through severe Boycotting. Terrorism he was compelled to sell it to the Irish Land Commission in 1922 for about ¼ its value this farm would have been mine after a few years but my two Brothers being shot down by the I.R.A. & My own life being threatened, I was forced to leave the country & come over to England for safety, leave all at the mercy of the Rifle men, who overpowered my father in such a way. He having neither help nor protection was compelled to accept what they offered, as no other farmer would be allowed to buy the value of the farm before the burning would be £17000 with live and dead stock over £3000
5. Do you claim that the loss or injury described was occasioned in respect or on account of your allegiance to the Government of the United Kingdom? If so, give particulars on which you base this claim.
We were accused of the I.R.A. of giving information to Government Officials of their movements
6. Can you define the actual financial loss directly attributable to the injuries described above? If so, give particulars.
House and furniture clothing jewelry cash about £10000 then in Land consequential about the same £10000
7. The amount for which you now make application. Twenty thousand Pounds
8. Was application for compensation made to any Court, Commission or Committee in respect of the injuries described? If so, give particulars and state with what result.

In October 6th county court at Birr Judge Flemming awarded My father £1500 compensation for his two sons £300 for farm buildings and farm produce, £1000 for furniture clothing, £5000 for house burning out of which the Irish Government stopped £4000 because he did not Rebuild, which he could not as he had the farm sold before they passed this rebuilding act.

9. Give particulars of any moneys recovered by way of compensation or ex gratis grant in respect of the injuries or loss described.

I received none My father got £3800 out of £7800 awarded by the County Court Judge

10. Give names and addresses of two responsible persons, to whom, if necessary, reference may be made (e.g. Bank Managers, Solicitors, Ministers of religion).

Rev. R.E Weir, The Rectory, Mountrath, Queens County, Ireland

Mr Rolleston, Solicitor, Maryborough, Queens County, Ireland

11. State briefly your present financial position.

I have a small agricultural farm here of 163 acres but no cash to work it

I certify that the foregoing particulars are correct.

Date October 28 – 1926 Signed William Sidney Pearson

The Irish Land Finance Company, Limited.

Registered Offices: The Rectory, Mountrath, Queen's Co.

Secretary: Re. R. E. Weir

1st December 1926.

Re Wm. S. Pearson,

Coolacrease Farm,

Cadamstown,

Birr.

Dear Sir,

Illness prevented me from answering your letter sooner.

Mr Pearson was treated in a fiendish manner by the Republicans in the King's Co. I doubt very much if the wrongs which he suffered could be equaled by the horrors of the Black Hole of Calcutta. His sons were murdered and his home burnt. After that Mr Pearson went to England. It would be impossible for me to estimate Mr Pearson's monetary loss altho I have discussed it with him on several occasions. He had one of the best farms in King's Co. I believe that he is perfectly trustworthy, not liable to overestimate his losses and it was wholly and solely due to his loyalty that he lost his home and children.

Yours faithfully

The Secty. I.G. Committee

Robert E. Weir

16th December 1926.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your form of claim to the Irish Grants Committee. As far as I can ascertain from the statement which you submitted with your claim your father was obliged to dispose of his property in Ireland at a figure below his estimated valuation and that you have thereby been deprived of his prospect of inheritance. Please state if this is so.

In your reply will you please state if your father is still alive.

Yours faithfully

(signature)

Waldegrave Hartest

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

Dec 28 – 26

Gentlemen

In answer to your letter of the 18 Dec I beg to say You have the correct meaning of my letter or claim I saw by the papers that the Government was holding out a helping hand to the third party or those who lost indirectly through being victimized and intimidated by the Irish Republican that is the reason I made my claim if it is not the case of course You need not mind any further My Father is still alive and will be presenting his claim later on

Faithfully Yours

W. S. Pearson

Chairman

This claim is not unamusing. Please see my letter of 18/12/26 to claimant & his reply of 28/12/26.

? it is unnecessary to circulate to Cmttee & may be rejected forthwith

(signature) 31/12

(signatures) 3.1.27

3.1.27

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that your claim has been submitted to and considered by the Irish Grants Committee. The Committee regret that after careful consideration of all the

facts before them they are unable to make any recommendation in your case and are accordingly reporting to the Government in this sense.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(signature)