

SINKING OF M.S. LEINSTER.

APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE.

London, October 13.

The torpedoing of the Irish mail steamer *Leinster*, 2,646 tons, in broad daylight, on the voyage from Dublin to Holyhead has created a profound impression throughout the United Kingdom. It has now been definitely established that 587 lives were lost.

The *Leinster* was torpedoed forward, and heeled over. The crew began to lower the lifeboats, and a second torpedo three minutes later struck the engine rooms. A deafening explosion followed, blowing the funnels into the air, and killing the captain. One of the crew says the steamer seemed to crumble to ashes. She sank in fifteen minutes. A number of women and children was thrown headlong into the water. It was only possible to lower a few boats, and these were overcrowded. One boat filled with water and was overturned. Several survivors were picked up clinging to overturned boats, while others were on rafts cast off the deck.

The wireless operator called for help, and 50 vessels of all descriptions left Kingstown. Crowds lined the pier awaiting tidings, and 200 ambulances awaited the survivors. The first passing vessel brought 105, and others about 100, also a number of dead.

An officer says all would have been saved but for the second torpedo. Only four boats were then afloat, and the occupants saw a most terrible spectacle. The ship heavily listed, and her propellers were out of the water. When the vessel was struck the second time the track of the torpedo was seen, but no submarine was visible. There was a tremendous explosion, and some of the boats and rafts were smashed to matchwood.

One lifeboat with 70 people hung on the davits, and the occupants were blown to fragments. Out of 22 postal officials who were busily sorting the mails, two were saved. Naval boats were first on the scene, and they rescued many.

King George has telegraphed to Viscount French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, stating that he is appalled at the terrible disaster of the *Leinster* and asking for news. Viscount French replied that all vessels at Kingstown and some at Dublin had been despatched at once. Patrol vessels concentrated at the scene, but the heavy seas made rescue difficult. There were 780 aboard the vessel, and of these only 193 survived. So far 149 bodies have been landed, including a mother clasping her dead child.

There were 150 women and children on board, of whom 15 were landed, but several have since died. The Arch-

bishop of Dublin ordered masses for the victims to be said on Sunday.