

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. **W.S.**...537.....

Witness

Michael McDunphy,
25 St. Lawrence Road,
Clontarf,
Dublin.

Identity.

Secretary to the President of Ireland,
and Director of the Bureau of Military History 1913-21.

Subject.

The Painting -

"The Trial of Roger Casement 1916" by
Sir John Lavery, R.H.A. 1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. **S.55**.....

Form B.S.M. 2



UACHTARAN NA HEIREANN
(PRESIDENT OF IRELAND)

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 537

ORIGINAL

BAILE ATHA CLIATH
(DUBLIN)

15 Meitheamh, 1951.

The Secretary,
Bureau of Military History.

Among the pictures in the historical collection in Áras an Uachtaráin is one which is recorded as No.81 in the catalogue as follows:

No.81. The Trial of Roger Casement, 1916.

Oil Painting. Canvas 25.5" x 32.2".
Frame: 36" x 42". Painted by
Sir John Lavery, R.H.A. 1916.
Loaned by the Municipal Art Gallery,
Dublin, July, 1944.

Since the catalogue was compiled it has been ascertained that the description of the subject as "The trial of Roger Casement" is not correct. The following is an extract from a letter which the President has received under date of 20th April, 1951 from Mr Justice Lavery, a judge of the Supreme Court, formerly Attorney General of Ireland from 19th February, 1948 to 20th April, 1950:

"I have checked up on the Casement picture. It is not a picture of the trial at the Old Bailey but of the hearing before the Court of Criminal Appeal. The trial at bar was before three judges and a jury - the judges being Lord Reading (Rufus Isaacs) Lord Chief Justice, and Avory and Horridge Justices.

The prisoner does not always be present in the Court of Criminal Appeal, but I have verified that Casement was in the dock on the appeal. The five judges were Darling, Bray, Lawrence, Scrulton and Arthur, J.J., who are the five in your picture.

I mentioned that Lincolns Inn had offered the Benchers of Kings Inns on permanent loan a picture of the Trial by Lavery, and we are getting it. It seems, therefore, that Lavery painted both Courts, and Áras an Uachtaráin might be a better place than the Kings Inns for the trial picture, so that both should be together."

Incidentally, Mr Justice Lavery is not a relation of

the painter of the picture.

It is thought that this information may be of interest to the Bureau as an item of historical interest.

Copy of the Catalogue referred to was sent to you on 24th April, 1951 in connection with a painting of a "Flying Column, 1920" which is also in the collection here.



Rúnaí.

