

Limerick Chronicle.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1850.

£2 PER ANNUM, TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

DIVAL GOODS.

Hall,
Numerous Friends and
idly patronised him
establishment, that he
supply of Superfine
Mill'd Pilot Cloths
Tweeds, Corduroys,
, all of which will
mony of the present
reasonable in point of
and solicits inspec-
Clothing, which are
ality and lowness of
are the sole print-
is conducted, of
ware, the Proprietor
n a List of Prices to
in purchasing at the
HALL,
BERT.

5. 5.
6 to 10.
12 to 14.
10 to 16.
20
Coats, of
11 to 20.
20
ad engaged 27
29 to 40.
26 to 30.
21 to 28.
12 to 30.
SIL.
rice.
Jan. 19.

ET,
he Townland House,
NCRAGGY, part of
he Marquis Conyngham,
Mr. Daniel Finucane,
lley, and County of
res Irish plantation
and, with a Dwelling
OHN BENDOW, Esq.,
London.
Jan. 19.

Limerick.

of Limerick Grand
Tenders for the
and other Works.
nes of two solvent
erformance of each
eable to the plans
veyor, which docu-
mentary's Office, No. 4,
the 14th day of
several Tenders will
k, noon, at the City
s will be declared
to be lodged at the
on said day:—

m Spring Assizes,
Limerick to Kil-
ic and Wightfield
per perch by the

on the road from
een Curry's Lane
's Hospital, near
, and Old Clare-
use not to exceed

hill on the road
nry-street to the
ad—expense not

MERCY,
Secretary.

AZZETTE.

—JAN. 25.
t. the Hon. Geo.
vice Burchaell,
—Robert William
tenant, vice Sir

ONICLE.

RUARY 2.

in brought this
ed with the inte-
a paper read by
ociety at a late
transactions, he
f political econo-
such a cause.
s have asserted
a country; and
hem with their
'their own prin-
ced, have satisfied
mse, and to that
ce wealthy men
se first country
'benefit. The
a still continue

be evident. They say it creates an additional demand for Irish produce to the amount of four millions annually, whereas it will now be apparent not that it creates a demand, but that it compels a sale—that it compels a sale from the proceeds of which Irishmen derive no advantage whatever."

This is quite consistent with Mr Butt's opinion, who in answer to those who quote the amount of our exports as a proof of our prosperity says:—"Had the land of Goshen been separated from Egypt by the sea, the children of Israel, according to this theory, have carried on a very thriving export trade in the products of their brick-kilns, when they were bound to supply a certain quantity to their taskmasters."

But some who grant that the effect of absenteeism is to withdraw the income of the absentee from Ireland and to spend it in England, assert, that it is a matter of perfect indifference where a wealthy man resides, as his whole income will be unproductively consumed by him; and consumption being an annihilation of property it matters not where it is annihilated. To them Mr. Vereker says:—"The portion of a resident proprietor's fortune, unproductively consumed by himself and family, bears only a very small proportion to the residue of his income. The rest either supports tradesmen, labourers, and servants, in the country where he resides, or is productively expended; and though it is true as it is sometimes said, that if the absentees resided in this country a great portion of their incomes would be devoted to the purchase of foreign commodities, and manufactures, or consumed in unproductive expenditure, yet if we assume the extreme, rather the impossible case, of a landlord's spending his entire income upon foreign productions alone, his countrymen will nevertheless derive considerable benefit from his expenditure. The retail dealer and the wholesale merchant will each of them retain his profits, and commission, averaging from 20 to 30 per cent each; and thus a large portion of his income will remain in the country, while the whole of it will circulate in a fertilizing stream throughout the land, like the Rhine which loses itself in the sands before its waters can mingle with the ocean." A great portion is also expended in permanent improvements, buildings, drainage, reclamation of waste lands, &c. by which the produce of the land, and consequently the revenue of the country is permanently increased.

The conclusion Mr. V. draws from all this is, that the exports of Ireland exceed her imports by £4,000,000 annually—the amount of absentee remittances—"Ireland, therefore, in consequence of absenteeism, loses annually the enjoyment of foreign luxuries to that amount; or more probably the advantages that would result from the profitable investment of a great portion of that sum in this country." After quoting the statistics of the Limerick trade of Ulster, he says:—"I reflect upon this. Every four years a sum of money greater than three times the entire capital embarked in the linen trade of Ireland—to the existence of which the comfort and prosperity of Ulster are mainly due—is taken out of the country and expended or invested in foreign climes—a sum which, invested in trade or commerce, in our own country, would enable in eight years more than £7,500,000 to be annually spent in paying wages to native workmen—a sum exceeding half the present rental of Ireland." And "hence beyond all doubt arises the poverty of Ireland, the absence of capital and enterprise, her desapidated resources, her expiring commerce and bankrupt tradesmen, her unexplored treasures and unworked mines, her barren wastes, and above all her unemployed population."

If those who spend their time and abilities in pursuing idle theories and speculations, would turn their attention to the real grievances of Ireland, and suggest practical remedies for the practical evils under which our country has so long groaned, we are convinced that absenteeism, and with it a host of other disastrous consequences that follow in its train, would be swept away by salutary laws, and would soon cease to exist. Absenteeism, the non-appointment of Irishmen to offices, the prohibitory duties on the manufacture of sugar from beetroots, the prohibition of the growth of tobacco in Ireland, the differential duty on the export of Irish whiskey, &c. are all subjects loudly calling for the attention of the practical and patriotic Irishman.

THE IRISH POOR LAW.—Monday last was published a blue book of 458 pages, containing the 14th report of the select committee of the House of Commons, appointed in Feb. 1849, to investigate and report their opinion on the Irish Poor law question. The committee consisted of Col. J. Dunne, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, Sir W. Somerville, Mr. Scrope, Sir R. Ferguson, Mr. Clements, Mr. S. Adair, Mr. C. Lewis, Mr. Monsell, Sir D. J. Norreys, Sir J. Pakingham, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. S. Crawford, Mr. Fagan, Mr. O'Flaherty, Major Blackall, and Mr. Stafford. The report is dated the 27th July, 1849. The committee agreed to the following two resolutions:—

1 That it is the opinion of the committee that the rate for the support of aged, sick, and impotent, destitute poor should be estimated and struck as a separate rate from that for the support of the able-bodied poor.

2 That it is the opinion of the committee that where the rate payers within any district or townland, or union of townlands, within any electoral division, voluntarily undertake to support a number of poor to an amount of a fair proportion between the valuation of such townland or townlands and the number of poor and outside valuation of the electoral division within which such townlands are situated, then such townland, or union of townlands, voluntarily undertaking the support of such fair proportion of the poor, and fulfilling such undertaking to the satisfaction of the guardians and the poor law commissioners, shall be exempt from any other rate than a rate for the charges of the union establishment.

The Irish Savings banks inquiry committee will be revived the present session of Parliament. Sir Emerson Tennent is reported for the government of the Australia colonies.

The recent Nenagh quarter sessions occupied Sergeant Howley 13 days, sitting from nine in the morning to six in the evening each day.

At the City Court-house, on Thursday, Thomas Humphry, for attempting to pick a lady's pocket in the street, was remanded; Richard Lardner, a vagrant, ten days imprisonment; Michael O'Neill, stealing a purse from Mrs. Peacocke, one month's imprisonment, and to be whipped; Michael Sheehy, larceny of ropes, 21 days imprisonment.

Tuesday night immediately after the

APPALLING CATASTROPHE AT CLARE-ST. AUXILIARY WORKHOUSE, LIMERICK.

THE INQUEST.

At 12 o'clock on Wednesday, the Coroner, Dr. Enright, held an inquest on the bodies of the ill-fated victims, in the Board-room of Barrington's hospital, outside which an immense crowd had assembled. The Mayor, Alderman Geary, John W. Mahony, Wm. Roche, and Pierce G. Barron, Esqrs., J. P.'s, attended. Also the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ryan, R.C.B., and Roman Catholic clergymen.

Mr. Lynch, A. P. L. C., attended the investigation; also Mr. D. Cullen, vice-chairman of the board of guardians, and Mr. Williams, Sub-Inspector.

The following jury was sworn:—John Quin, foreman; Wm. St. Lawrence, John Hogan, Thomas Bourke, Robt. O'Shaughnessy, Patrick Sheahan, Thos. Trousdell, James Campbell, Thomas Blundell, John Walsh, Wm. Quinlan, James Connell, Edward Cullen, John Holohan, James Morris.

The following absent jurors were fined 40s, each for non-attendance—William Tubbs, Thomas Carmody, John Clune, and Robert Bull.

The Jury then proceeded up stairs to view the bodies, 27 in number, out of which only nineteen could be identified by their friends, viz:—Mary Nunan, Margaret Howard, Mary Donoghue, Mary Dunrea, Mary Tuohy, Johanna Shaughnessy, Honora Ryan, Mary Danaher, Mary Heston, Bridget Harty, Julia Gilligan, Catherine Brandon, Ellen Connell, Bridget Lyons, Mary Ryan, Mary Hastings, John Mulcahy, Margaret Howard, Mary Riody, and Mary Hassett.—On visiting the scene of death the jurors were terrified at beholding the truly awful spectacle which presented itself, while the lamentation of those who recognised deceased relatives would soften the most obdurate.

This sad duty having been performed by the Jurors, they again returned to the board-room.

Patrick Lavan was the first witness examined. He swore that as carman, he was in the habit of drawing water to the auxiliary workhouse at Clare-st.; went there last night a little after eight, with two barrels of water for next morning's breakfast; while delivering it a woman called out from one of the store windows that there was smoke from rotten sticks that were burning, and that she believed the house was on fire; all the females were in bed at the time; witness told her not to make any alarm, that it was not the case, and that he would go for the master to see about it; he did so at once and met Mr. O'Shaughnessy in the yard, but before they returned to the staircase the women were tumbling down in heaps—they were piled upon each other in such a way that you might as well endeavour to pull a stone out of the wall as to drag one of them out; the people from outside then came in and gave every assistance.

The Jury having expressed a wish to view the premises proceeded to Old Clare-street, and were anything but pleased with the condition of the auxiliary establishment, and the want of requisites.

On their return the enquiry was resumed—Peter Nugent, watchman, corroborated the testimony of Lavan as to the excitement that prevailed in the workhouse, and detailed the particulars, as before stated, which led to the melancholy catastrophe. The ballustrade and stair-case, only two foot and a half wide, gave way beneath the weight and pressure of the bewildered multitude who thronged the door-way to escape, and actually crushed each other to death, while some jumped from the windows and were killed on the spot.

Mr. Morris—What steps were taken to save the people? Witness—As fast as we could we pulled them out of each other until we were nearly dead ourselves.

To the Coroner—A man named Daly assisted me in extricating the sufferers; I don't know the woman who gave the alarm; I think she called out from one of the windows over the archway where the people were killed; I walked the house that night before the occurrence, and there was no appearance of fire; there was a fire burning in the yard, but no danger could arise from that.

Mr. Morris—How long was it from the time the woman gave the alarm until the accident occurred?—Almost at the same time. How long was it from the time they commenced falling down 'till the outer gate was open for the people to come to their assistance? I think only four or five minutes. How many paid-officers were in the house when this happened? The assistant-master was all I saw. If there had been a sufficient staff of officers in authority that night, would there have been such a sacrifice of human life? I can't say which, but if we had help in time to pull them away as they fell down, so many would not have been killed. When the stair-case gave way, what means were adopted to save the people? Only to try and pull them asunder as well as we could.

Mr. D. O'Connor—I think it right to state that there are three paid officers attached to Clare-street auxiliary workhouse—an assistant-master, matron, and cook.

A Juror—A staff totally inadequate to govern an establishment where 680 paupers are located.

Mr. Morris—How many females did you see in a heap over each other when the stairs fell? I think there was 100!!!

Michael Spellacy sworn—Is a carpenter, and was employed at the Clare-street auxiliary workhouse for the last three weeks; was sitting with Nugent in a room about 30 and 40 yards from the corridor leading to the lofts where the females were in bed, on Tuesday night; between eight and nine o'clock, we were alarmed by a woman endeavouring to burst open the door leading from the first loft to the staircase; I ran out and asked what was the matter? she replied the place overhead was on fire, and immediately I heard all the women running along the lofts, in great confusion; I called out to them to have patience, and I ran to the workshop for a candle, which I procured, and stuck against the wall of the corridor, but by this time the door of the staircase had been forced off the hinges, and a number of the women were out about the yard; those above then began to tumble down in sixes and sevens, until the stairs became so wedged, that the outer sheeting and ballustrade gave way, and they rolled out in a mass; the stairs next broke at bottom and top; what followed I can scarcely tell; I pulled out five dead persons myself, and I think I saved the lives of twenty.

To Mr. Morris—The sheeting of the staircase was pretty strong; the stairs were not more than from two feet six to two feet eight in width; I am of opinion they were sufficiently substantial as a passage up and down with perfect safety had there been no rush.

To the Coroner—When I saw I could do nothing in the corridor, I ran again to the workshop, tore asunder the two planks which constructed my working bench, and placed them against the wall under one of the windows, and by this means several of the women got out; I saw women leap from the top windows, and I am sure two of them were killed on the spot.

Mr. Morris—How long was it from the time the alarm was given 'till the people were admitted from outside? I don't well know, but I think myself an hour; the terrific cries and screams must have been heard outside some time before the public came in.

A spectator—The gates had to be forced in.

A Juror—It was stated by the first witness that he got the gate keeper to open the doors immediately after the alarm was given.

Mr. Morris—As a carpenter you ought to be a judge of buildings. I now ask you is that auxiliary workhouse a secure asylum for 680 inmates? Witness—I have not examined it so as to be able to answer that question; the lofts are well propped; the staircase was secure only for the rush. Is there not a chimney flue run up in a corner of the yard, the top of which is directly under the eave slates, and from which the smoke issues into the hospital ward through the window? Witness—There is. And if there was fire in that flue, as the jury observed it to-day, I ask you, under such a circumstance, with the smoke running into the hospital, would it not warrant an alarm of fire, where females were in bed? Witness—It certainly would.

Mr. Hogan—We never saw anything so dangerous; there is, besides, a settlement in the wall.

Mr. Morris—I never saw anything constructed by an architect or engineer, more disgraceful than that flue as it at present stands; the side of the hospital window is actually charred!

The Witness said the construction was bad, and required to be remedied.

Mr. James Clappott, and Rev. William Bourke, who were exceedingly active in their exertions to relieve the sufferers the night before, stated there was no obstruction given to the persons entering the workhouse, and who, when they did get in, gave every assistance; and that if sufficient officers had been in authority within no lives would have been lost. The master and matron did all that could be possibly done to relieve the sufferers. A medical officer should be attached to the auxiliary workhouse.

Thomas Murnane, gate-keeper, sworn—Was eating his dinner, last evening, in a ward adjoining the gate, when he heard a woman cry out fire from one of the windows; ran out and told her there was no danger; went towards the front gate and met the master and mistress coming towards him; the paupers were then rushing down the staircase from the lofts; left a man named Daly to mind the gate while he was at dinner; Daly ran to witness and gave him the key of the front gate; the master said to me, "take care of the gate;" understood by that he was not to let any person in for fear plunder might take place; did not unlock the gate as he saw no danger of fire; the gate was pushed in by the crowd in one or two minutes after the general alarm; saw some of the inmates in the yard before the door was open; I am a pauper, and not paid as gate-keeper.

Mr. Edward O'Connell, one of the Guardians, and exceedingly active the night before, was sworn.

Mr. Morris—Mr. Coroner, as this gentleman is a guardian, and as the result of this inquest may not be favourable to that body, I think you ought to caution him against saying anything that may criminate himself (laughter).

Mr. O'Connell—I am ready to abide by whatever I say. I saw the Clare-street auxiliary workhouse, and consider one portion of the roof in an unsafe state; I was of the same opinion before the guardians took the store, and opposed the proposition at the board meeting; I always considered it unfit for the reception of paupers.

Coroner—I don't think this has anything to do with the inquiry—we are only called upon to ascertain how these unfortunate females came by their deaths; the evidence now given by Mr. O'Connell is suited for discussion by the guardians, but does not appertain to the inquest. I ask Mr. O'Connell does he think it was in consequence of the insecure state of the building that the people were killed last evening?

Mr. O'Connell—Certainly not.

Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, assistant master, was then sworn. He stated he was in his own room when the alarm was given; on hearing same he and the matron instantly ran towards the corridor, where the females were tumbling in heaps over each other; on perceiving the wretched condition of the sufferers he returned at once to the gate to have it opened, and as the gate-keeper was in the act of doing so, it was forced in: Mr. James B. Boyd, of Clare-street, was the first he knew; that gentleman went for a ladder by means of which numbers were got out through the window; the citizens that came into the yard rendered every possible assistance.

To Mr. Morris—There were about 360 females on the first loft, over the corridor—no means of egress therefrom but by the small narrow staircase; there were 300 more on the upper loft; there was access to both lofts by the same stair-case.

Dr. R. Tracy, a young gentleman who displayed extraordinary zeal on the melancholy occasion, and was instrumental in restoring two patients who were supposed to be dead, was next sworn—He deposed that he was in the neighbourhood of Clare-street on Tuesday evening, and hearing terrific screams in the direction of the auxiliary workhouse, proceeded there forthwith; on entering the yard he saw light under an archway opposite, and observed a great number of women together; a Roman Catholic Clergyman (Rev. Wm. Bourke) was there; the clergyman cried out "Is there any one there to give assistance?" he went forward and examined several of the females, many of whom were dead; two women were alive; he had them removed to Barrington's hospital; thinks every thing that could be done to save human life was done both at the Workhouse and at the Hospital, where every possible attention was paid to the sufferers; the deaths were from suffocation.

To Mr. Morris—If a resident medical attendant had been at the workhouse, more lives might have been saved.

The Jury were of opinion that evidence should be adduced to satisfy them that the building in which the paupers were located was suited for their reception, and that the staircase leading to the corridor where the females were killed was of sufficient extent to permit the free ingress and egress of so large a number of persons as 670.

Mr. Denis O'Connor, clerk of the union, was sworn and examined. He produced a record of the minutes of the board of guardians, and read proceedings approving of Caswell's store being taken as an auxiliary workhouse for the accommodation of 950 paupers—also a resolution sanctioning an expenditure of £40 for repairing same, under Mr. Cosgriffe, clerk of works; next a minute of the board appointing a committee to report whether the building was ready for the reception of paupers, and their opinion that it was; that report was agreed to.

Mr. O'Connell—Not unanimously; there was a division, and I was one who voted in the minority—I was always opposed to taking that store.

Mr. Morris—On what grounds?

Mr. O'Connell—Because I considered the roof bad.

A Juror—And what did the Guardians say?

Mr. O'Connell—That if I examined the roof of my own house perhaps it wanted slates (laughter).

Mr. O'Connor—The committee that inspected the auxiliary establishment before any paupers were sent

there, met on the 10th January, and recommended that from 300 to 400 females should be sent there the following Monday.

Dr. Kane sworn—I examined the bodies of the deceased 27 females; from their appearance, and the evidence I have heard, they died from suffocation.

The Rev. William Bourke said it was rather extraordinary that neither an apothecary or physician belonging to that branch house had made their appearance that night.

Mr. Lynch—There is no apothecary attached to that auxiliary, but Dr. Lloyd is the visiting physician.

Mr. Williams—I didn't think it necessary to send for Dr. Lloyd, as there were so many medical gentlemen in attendance.

Rev. Mr. Bourke—There should be a resident apothecary or physician.

Coroner—That is also a question for the guardians.

The room was then cleared for the Jury to deliberate, and they were locked in until half-past seven o'clock, when they returned the following verdict:—

"We find that between the hours of eight and nine o'clock on the night of Tuesday, the 29th of January, 1850, in the auxiliary workhouse, Old Clare-street, the aforesaid persons came by their deaths from suffocation, while endeavouring to escape by a narrow stair-case, leading from the lofts to the yards, in consequence of a false alarm of fire being given by some of the inmates to us unknown; and that we cannot separate without passing a unanimous vote of censure on the act of the Guardians in allowing so large a number of paupers to be located in the dormitories of this auxiliary establishment, with such an insufficient stair case; and also representing that there is a very great want of the most necessary appendages which such a place requires. That the state of the house reflects much odium on the Committee, who specially reported it suitable for the admission of paupers, and we urgently recommend a strict scrutiny into its present deficiencies—and an immediate enlargement of the number and size of the stair-cases of this establishment."

We have it from authority that six of the Jurors held out for an hour, with the view of inducing their fellows to bring in a verdict of "manslaughter" against the Guardians!

A wardswoman named Mary Ryan, suspected of having given the false alarm of fire, and who had been in custody since the night previous, was then liberated and ordered to return to the auxiliary workhouse.

The following inmates of the Clare-street auxiliary workhouse, narrowly escaped suffocation on the occasion of the recent deplorable catastrophe, by which 27 females lost their lives on Tuesday night, as detailed in our last:—Mary Nash, aged 40; Anne Cussen, 30; Norry M'Mahon, 40; Mary Naughton, 32; Mary Tuohy, 20; Mary Ryan, 20; Mary Meany, 40; Anne O'Brien, 17; Margaret Fitzgerald, 30; Honora Laffan, 40; Anne Flanagan, 14; Margaret Donoghue, 24; Mary Molony, 24; Bridget Locke, 17; Anne Healy, 20; Anne M'Namara, 43; Bridget Renshan, 68; Bridget Hayes, 40; Peggy M'Cann, 40; Ellen Griffin, 18; Mary Welsh, 16; Mary M'Aliffa, 40; Johanna Halloran, 40; Ellen Enright, 17; Bridget Molony, 13; Mary Galway, 16; Mary Nealon, 15; Mary Griffin, 20.

* The hospital is situated on the upper loft, contiguous to where the alarm was given.