

to keep the Workhouse open by borrowing a large sum of money at interest in anticipation of the next rate. Yet we apprehend that very few of the ratepayers know the real cause of this deplorable state of affairs. Indeed, it is no wonder that the outside public are somewhat puzzled on the subject; for, judging from the tone of the discussions at the Board-room, the Guardians themselves collectively do not seem to know how they got the Union finances into such a mess. All the information the ratepayers can get, is to hear that some of those who aspire to lead or rule the Board are trying to shift the blame on others, and are like frightened school-boys, crying out, "It was not me, sir, it was the other boy." We think the public should not only insist on the Guardians explaining how they can justify their conduct in allowing the Union finances to get into such a condition, but should also compel a thorough reform of their mismanagement. Reserving for a future occasion what we may have to say about the wasteful building expenditure, and the extravagant outdoor relief, which some patriotic Guardians so freely saddled on the ratepayers, we shall at present merely call attention to one main cause of the Union embarrassment; that is, the laxity and bungling of the majority of the Guardians about the making and collection of the rates. Any one noticing their proceedings may remember that even after the funds are completely exhausted, the Guardians for some time past never move about making a new rate, so long as the Treasurer will go on lending them money, and it is only when the Treasurer presses them that they seem to awake—then they call for an estimate of a new rate, but they generally play shilly-shally with the estimate for five or six weeks before they actually strike the rate, and in fact they seldom put it into collection until the Treasurer refuses, or threatens to refuse, honouring their cheques. The usual

No trace has been obtained of the money, but the orders are of no good to the thief, whoever he may be.

An objection, as anticipated, has been lodged with the Returning Officer of the Rathkeale Union against the return of Mr O'Sullivan for the representation of the Ballyallen Division by the friends of the Nationalist candidate, a Mr Frawley, who was defeated by one vote. Mr J H Moran attended at the workhouse on Tuesday, when an inquiry was held into the matter, and disputed the legality of some of the votes given in favour of Mr O'Sullivan, the result being that Mr Frawley was elected by a majority of two.

A few evenings since a quarrel took place in a public house in the village of Askeaton between a man named John Bridgeman, of Toomdealy, and six others, residing in the locality, which was attended with rather serious results. The dispute, it would seem, was the outcome of a feud which had existed between the parties for a considerable time past. Bridgeman was struck with a bottle on the head, and received a number of dangerous wounds, for which he was treated by Dr O'Brien, and is at present in a rather critical state. His assailants have been arrested, and are now on remand pending their trial.

This morning, Mr M J DeCoursey city coroner, held an inquest at Barrington's Hospital, on the body of Michael Hanly, who died in that institution on the previous night. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased on 28th ult., was walking down Old Francis Street, and stepped on to a heap of rubbish out of the way of a load of timber which was passing down the street. He slipped in the act and the wheel of the cart passed over one of his legs, dislocating his knee and giving his system a severe shock. He was taken to Barrington's Hospital, where he has lingered until yesterday, when he died. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased's death was caused from injuries received in an accident. No blame is attached to the carrier, who is in the employment of Mr McMahon, cooper.

According to the report of the Registrar-General 28 births have been recorded for this city and district, against a total of 20 deaths. Of the mortality, two resulted from scarlet fever, five from phthisis, and five from diseases of the respiratory organs. The average annual death rate represented by the deaths registered last week in the sixteen principal Town Districts of Ireland was 26.8 per 1,000 of the population, the respective rates for the several districts being as follow, ranging in order from the lowest to the highest:—Dundalk, 13.1; Lurgan, 15.4; Killeeney, 16.9; Sligo, 16.2; Armagh, 20.7; Londonderry, 23.2; Newry, 24.6; Wexford, 25.7; Dublin, 26.7; Limerick, 27.0; Belfast, 27.1; Cork, 27.3; Waterford, 34.7; Galway, 37.0; Drogheda, 38.1; Lisburn, 38.7.

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