

HARBOUR BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Harbour Board held yesterday in the Board-room, Chamber of Commerce—Sir James Spaight, J.P., in the chair. Also present—Mr Wm. Spillane, J.P.; Mr n. Boyd, J.P., Mr T. E. Bunting, Mr R. M'Donnell, J.P., Alderman J. Counihan, J.P. Messrs James Harris, Secretary, and Wm. J. O'Connell, Harbour Engineer, were in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

THE SHANNON DRAINAGE BILL.

Mr Hall read a letter from Mr Allan Hornsby, of the Inspectors of Fisheries, stating that as they were anxious to make an inspection of the Shannon works above Athlone, they desired to engage the services of the steam launch, the property of the Commissioners, for that purpose. (Mr Hall) presumed the Fisheries Inspectors would pay the expenses of working the launch. It was agreed to give the launch on the same terms on which it had been lent to the Fishery Conservators in connection with the drainage inquiries.

PILOT LICENSES.

A letter was read from Mr Connington, agent of the Lower Shannon Steamship Company, stating that Captain John Hall, being now in the company's employment, applied for a license for the Lower Shannon, to be used only on steamers with which the company were connected.

The Secretary said he believed the "President," which, with the "Huntsman," had recently been acquired by the company, would be used as a passenger-boat occasionally, and it was essential that a pilot should be on board.

Chairman—I suppose there is no objection. As Mr Hall's capabilities there can be no question, I suppose there is no man on the river more thoroughly capable of discharging the duties of a pilot than he is.

Mr M'Donnell said it would be a great thing if a pilot question was taken up in its entirety it would be most satisfactory. Respectable men served their time and spent their youth in acquiring a knowledge of the various rivers and bays of the United Kingdom, and then other men were found to get licenses, taking the bread out of their mouths—he referred to foreigners in particular. This seemed to him to be out of all reason.

Mr Spillane—Why do not registered pilots get licence on these boats?

The Chairman said that companies could not do that. All regular trading boats required to have pilots as part of their crew. If they had paid the ordinary pilotage rates it would have swamped them.

Alderman Counihan—Well this arrangement would place any pilot on the river?

The Chairman thought not.

Mr Spillane said that a licensed pilot was on the "Huntsman" and "President" while they were engaged in towing, but now when they changed hands the very first move was to take the bread out of the mouth of the man who had been engaged at that work before. He (Mr Spillane) did not see why the board should consent to that. They were very reluctant to increase the number of pilots on the Shannon, and he had lately protested against what was proposed. The Lower Shannon Company chose to embark on the new enterprise of towing vessels, which the Commissioners knew, was not so profitable as in the past, they did so with their eyes open, and if they required pilots there were plenty of them to be had.

Alderman Counihan—Don't you think it would be well to postpone the matter till we see how far Mr Spillane's statement is borne out? If this means the displacement of any man on the boats I don't think we ought to allow it.

Chairman—As far as I understand the question, does not, but in the event of either of these boats carrying passengers the services of a licensed pilot would be absolutely necessary.

FATAL EFFECTS FROM A BLOW OF A STONE.

In the City Courthouse yesterday, Mr M. J. DeCoursey, City Coroner, held an inquest on the body of Alice Maher, aged 43 years, who died in Barrington's Hospital on the previous day from the effects of a blow of a stone on the head. Yesterday week deceased's son and a man named Pat Fitzgibbon were fighting at Garryowen, and deceased hearing of the row went out to bring her son home. Fitzgibbon is alleged to have then thrown a stone, which struck deceased on the head and inflicted so serious a wound that she was removed in an unconscious state to Barrington's Hospital, where she died on Sunday morning.

District Inspector Jennings conducted the case on behalf of the police, and Mr Connolly, solicitor, represented the accused, Fitzgibbon.

Michael Maher deposed he was husband of the deceased. Witness was a milesman on the Waterford and Limerick Railway for the last 11 years. Deceased was about 43 years of age, and they resided in Garryowen. When witness came home on Sunday night week, 28th July, his daughter, Johannah, told him his son was fighting. Witness said "let him get out of it as he got into it." Deceased ran out and witness ran to the door and saw his son running away towards the main road. Witness ran after him and a crowd gathered round his son and pulled him away into his own house. Witness came out secondly and was bringing his wife in when a stone was thrown which struck her on the head, causing her to fall at his feet. The stone struck her on the left eye.

To the Coroner—I don't know who threw the stone. Deceased was brought to the hospital immediately.

To a Juror—Witness could not say who were fighting with his son. He only saw one stone being flung.

To Mr Connolly—He did not see his son throwing stones. He could not say whether his wife had stones in her hands. She was arguing loudly at the time.

Dr Holmes, F.R.C.S.I., deposed that the deceased came under his care on the 29th July. He found her suffering from a compound depressed fracture of the frontal bone to the left of the median line. In the evening witness operated on her, and removed the portion of the bone which rested on the brain, and which he handed to Sergeant Hoban. She continued under witness's care until Sunday last, when she died. They held a post-mortem examination of the body, with the result that they came to the conclusion that death resulted from inflammation of the brain, caused by irritation of portion of the skull-cap fractured, which was caused by external violence. On examination of the heart and lungs, it was found they were healthy.

Dr Riordan gave corroborative testimony.

James Hannan, Garryowen, deposed that he witnessed the row between two men named Fitzgibbon and Hickey, and the deceased's son. Witness saw deceased catching hold of her son. Witness saw the deceased step for a stone, which she threw at Fitzgibbon. Fitzgibbon then threw a stone, which did no harm, but on his throwing a second stone it struck the deceased and she immediately fell.

To a juror—The husband had not a hold of his wife when she fell.

The evidence having concluded,

Mr Connolly said the occurrence was unfortunate for Fitzgibbon, but he was undoubtedly severely provoked. He picked up a stone and flung it at the deceased's son, who had caused the row. The deceased came between them and had received the blow. Anyone could see by the evidence that the row was occasioned by the deceased's son.

The Coroner having summed up, The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from the effects of a blow of a stone thrown by Fitzgibbon, adding a rider that he had received great provocation.

FISHERY INQUIRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Sir Thomas Brady and the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries resumed the inquiry to result if the Shannon Bill was passed.

Mr Counihan, solicitor, Fishery Conservators; Mr O'Connell, Shannon Fishery Conservator; the Limerick Harbour Board for the Board of Works; the Manager of the Shannon, Mr Gleeson, solicitor, of the Fishery Association of the Mackay (Castleconnell), all appeared on their own behalf.

The Chairman said the report from Colonel Hickey, stating that the excavations in the river were not so deep as would go up. Mr Gamble, telegraphed he would attend on Thursday.

Mr Crosthwaite, C.E., in reply, he believed it was proposed to excavate at Killaloe at its depth in dry weather the water would be two feet than the water in the present excavations in 1887 mentioned in Mr Bateman's report carried out by the Board of Works.

Sir Thomas Brady said he had all the information on the subject.

In reply to Mr Counihan, said he did not know whether gravel on the spawning beds was to be removed. Some of the beds were very high, and in dry weather the water would be two feet in the Dublin office. He could not say the effect of the drainage on the beds.

To Mr Connolly—There was a bed on the Tipperary side, which was 7ft.

And when you complete the excavation you will go to the other side, you will not understand Capt Vane's report on Limerick.

To Mr Place—The summer was 7ft.

In reply to Mr Hurley, witness said 36 gates on the Shannon at Kesh were left open, and 2 were closed—that left one gate open on the river.

Witness was further asked by Mr Hurley as to the injury done to the sluices.

Mr Hall, head water bailiff, in reply to Mr Counihan, gave evidence of the injury which would be done by the lowering of the water level by sand-bars outside the sluices.

Mr Michael Gleeson, solicitor, gave evidence as to the injury which would be done to the tributaries of the lake by two feet would run.

A number of fishermen gave evidence of a like nature.

Captain W. Smithwick, of Nenagh side, also opposed the Bill. Several other gentlemen appeared in opposition to the Bill.

Mr Stephen J. Hurley, Killaloe, as witness. He agreed with the evidence that the proposed Bill was very injurious to the fisheries.

At the conclusion of his evidence he was adjourned to Waterford.

KILRUSH PETTY

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)