

compared with £29,759,640 in the corresponding month of last year, being an increase of £4,224,445. The exports for the last month were £17,679,449, against £17,093,309 in 1893, the increase being £586,140. The imports for January and February together amounted to £72,442,690, against £62,886,110, the increase as compared with the same period last year being £9,556,588. The increase in the exports for the last two months was £712,001, the figures appearing as £35,831,329, compared with £35,119,328. The chief items of the increase in imports from British possessions and foreign countries are to be found under the headings of food and drink, and raw materials for textile manufacture. The import of wheat from Russia is steadily increasing, but diminished returns are coming from both seaboard of the United States, while there is an increase in the amount received from the British possessions in North America, the East Indies, and Australasia. The cotton trade both as regards imports and exports is very active, and has much improved on the previous year. It is very greatly to be desired that nothing will occur to check the "flowing tide" of industrial activity which appears to have been directing itself to our shores during the last two months.

We publish in our advertising columns a summary of the report of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, presented at the 45th annual meeting held on the 1st March. The figures give an idea of the gigantic business done by the company and its intimate connection with every part of the United Kingdom. Each year its transactions increase, and the past year shows an advance of the enormous sum of £2,229,213 in the assets which in the Industrial and Ordinary Branches now stand at a total of £18,538,865. In the Limerick District, which is under the able superintendence of Mr D. Doyle, 3 Belle View Terrace, the increase last year in the two branches has been the largest since the company was established, and this fact speaks volumes for Mr Doyle's energy and attention, while it is also undoubted evidence of the growing popularity amongst us of this colossal institution. To all connected with it the report of the Directors will give unqualified satisfaction.

The Mayor (Mr B O'Donnell) was elected today a Director of the Limerick Race Company.

"The Land of Yesterday" (Mascheroni), in a very artistic manner. Miss Birdie McCarthy sang "Lucia" (Luigi Luzzi) in her usual accomplished style, and a duet, "Gondoliers," by herself and Mr Gaffney was, perhaps, the most attractive item of the evening. Mrs Cleeve's interpretation of "Where'er you Go," was most artistic, and evoked the warmest plaudits. Mr Joseph Gaffney received an enthusiastic encore for his rendering of "I Arise from Dreams of Thee" (Sale), in response to which he gave a most effective version of "The Pale Young Curate" from the *Sorcerer*. Mr Seymour sang "The Songs of Arabi" in fine style. The programme concluded with a quartette "Where are you going to" (Caldicott) effectively executed by Miss Graves, Mrs Fogerty, Mr Patton, and Mr Bourke.

The following gentlemen acted as stewards, and the arrangements under their supervision were all that could be desired:—Mr F Muspratt, Mr C Croker, Mr P Fitzgerald, J P; Mr E G Fitt, Mr F Johnson, Mr C Kendal Irwin, Dr O'Mara, Mr J F Power, Mr George Ryan, Mr W L Stokes, J P; Mr V Nash, J P.

FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN F. CLUNE.

The interment of the late Mr John Francis Clune, the announcement of whose untimely death appeared in Saturday's issue, took place on Sunday last at the family vault, Quin Abbey. The deceased occupied the position of assistant at Messrs Quin's establishment, Patrick-street, and was held in the highest esteem, not only by his employers, but by the general public. The cortege was of large dimensions, the line of vehicles extending over half a mile in length, and its representative character testified to the respect in which the deceased was deservedly regarded by all classes. Mass having been celebrated in St Michael's R C Church, the procession started for Quin Abbey, the remains having been borne by Messrs Quin's employees through the streets, and then placed in the hearse. Large numbers of the assistants in the principal houses of the city followed the remains the greater portion of the way. As the mournful procession neared Quin, it was augmented by large numbers of people from the neighbourhood, and the greatest sympathy was manifested for the late Mr Clune's parents in their sad bereavement.

McCarthy's EXTENSIVE FORTNIGHTLY CATTLE SALE—Next Saturday, 10th March, Mr F W McCarthy, auctioneer, will hold his next great cattle sale at the Agricultural Hall, Limerick. Gentlemen replenishing their dairies cannot fail to satisfy their requirements, as the number on the programme amount 90 in-calf heifers and dairy cows. All the cattle are of a very high class character, being consignments from such names as Mr R Hunt, J P; Mr S Dowling, J P; Mr Jas O'Halloran, Mr T Dicken, Ardvullen; Mr E Baker, and others. Sale punctually at half-past one o'clock.

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