

WAR HORSES

War and the chase are the ultimate objects for which the Commission on Irish Horse Breeding has lately been hearing the evidence of experts on both sides of the Channel. The Irish owners desire to raise a class of horses the best of which can be sold at a high price for hunting, while the rest pay their way as cavalry remounts. How best to combine these objects the Committee will have to decide. Thoroughbred sires, it is agreed, produce the stock most likely to make good hunters; and though the "hackney" is much in favour with some breeders of cavalry horses, we have very little doubt, says the Spectator, that the better bred these are the more likely they are to stand the rough work of war.

The modern heavy cavalry horse has to carry a total weight, made up of man, harness, and equipment, of 20 st.—280 lb.—and the light cavalry horse a weight of 17 st. He is expected if required to march thirty miles in one day, and to be able to do his work on the next. Bought in Ireland at three years old, he is two years in training, and spends four years in the ranks at his average time of active service. It is very possible that if the type of cavalry horse were bigger it would last longer. But the modern animal is a compromise between the needs of the Service and the price which Government can afford. There is no such contrast now as formerly between the great war-horse, specially bred to carry the man in armour, and the "natural" war-horse, bred for speed, endurance, and to carry a man armed only with sword, spear, and shield. The difference has never been presented so vividly as in the battles of the Crusaders, especially those in which they were opposed to the Saracen cavalry. Sir Walter Scott's representation of the single combat in the desert between Sir Kenneth and Saladin is a very probable account of what would happen in such an encounter. When the mail-clad Knights of their heavy horses were able to charge knee to knee they must have swept away any force of Saracen cavalry; but there is evidence in the accounts of the Templars that they modified their equipment in some degree to suit the Eastern modes of warfare and the climate. It is, however, less well known that the Saracens did the same; and that the changes they made in the days of the Crusades endured a hundred years ago, and in some parts of the Sudan are still observable. They adopted a light chain armour, the steel cap, and the two-handed sword of the Crusaders, and to carry the increased weight must have bred their horses of a larger size. This appears in an account by Bruce in his "Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile," published exactly one hundred years ago. He visited, near Sennar, the Sheikh Adelan, round whose house were stabled four hundred horses with quarters for four hundred men, all alike the "property" of Sheikh Adelan. "It was one of the finest sights I ever saw of the kind," he wrote. "The horses were all above sixteen hands high, of the breed of the old Saracen horses, all finely made and as strong as our coach-horses, but exceedingly nimble in their motion; rather thick and short in the forehead, but with the most beautifully eyes, ears, and heads in the world. They were mostly black, some of them black and white, some of them milk-white (foaled so, not white by age)." The size and character of these horses distinguish them from the ordinary little Arab. Sir William Broadwood questions Bruce's accuracy, saying that he is evidently mistaken when he describes Sheikh Adelan's troop horses as all above sixteen hands, because Arab horses now rarely exceed fifteen hands. Bruce's accuracy has survived the questioning of his contemporary critics, but the contact supplies a probable answer to Sir W. Broadwood's doubts. All the riders wore armour, and the horses were not the modern Arab, but bred to carry the extra weight. "A steel shirt of mail hung over each man's quarters opposite his horse, and by it an antelope's skin, made as soft as chamoy, with which it was covered from the dew of night. A headpiece of copper, without crest or plume, was suspended by a lace above this shirt of mail, and was the most picturesque part of the trophy. To these was added an enormous broadsword, in red leather scabbard, and upon the pommel hung two thick gloves, like hedges' gloves, their fingers in one piece." To carry this panoply the Sheikh's horses were modified from the natural Arab tribe.

The size of the English war-horse reached its maximum in the reign of Henry VIII, when the relations of body armour to "hand guns," were analogous to those of the early ship armour and cannon before the "high velocities" were obtained at Elswick. There was good reason to believe that by adding a little to the thickness of the coat of steel the soft low-velocity bullet of the day could be kept out. So it was for a time. But the additional weight required a still larger horse to carry it. The charger had to be armoured as well as his rider, and the collection in the Tower of London shows the actual weight which it carried. The panoply of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, the brother-in-law of Henry VIII, still exists. That of the horse covers the whole of the hind-quarters, the back of the neck, forehead, muzzle, ears, shoulders, and chest. It is exactly like a piece of boiler-plate, and fastened by rivets. The rider sat in a saddle the front of which was a steel shield 10 in. high, covering the stomach and thighs as the "breast-work" on an ironclad.

THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

[ESTABLISHED 1766.]

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1897

SAD FATALITY IN THE CITY

THE INQUEST.

Yesterday, at two o'clock, Mr Coroner DeCourcy held an inquest in Mr Reynolds' public house at Windmill street, into the circumstances attending the death of a man named Michael O'Brien, whose body was found burned in a lime-kiln at Courtrack, adjoining the city, on Sunday morning.

The following were the jury—Messrs Morgan Fitzmaurice, foreman; Timothy Brinn, John McGrail, Patrick Kennedy, James Russell, John Grant, Daniel McNeice, Timothy Hanrahan, John Hanrahan, Francis Reynolds, Patrick McInerney, James Reddan.

Sergeant Flynn, Dock Station, conducted the inquiry.

James O'Brien, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification of the body. The deceased was a labourer; he was about thirty-two years of age and unmarried; he saw him last alive on Thursday, standing at the dock gates; the deceased resided at 20, Little Frederick Street with his mother; he was in his mother's house at about half-past ten on Wednesday night; witness and deceased had a quarrel on that night in consequence of some insolence which deceased was giving to his mother and sister; deceased was arrested by the police on that night; he did not believe that deceased was in his mother's house since; witness did not know that his brother (the deceased) was on bad terms with anyone.

Sergeant Flynn—Have you any reason to think that he met with foul play?

Witness—Well, I have not. He was well liked by everybody; but he had a mark on his forehead and he was found in a lime kiln.

Joseph Brown deposed that on yesterday about half-past twelve he was outside Mr Hanrahan's field; a young fellow told him that there was a man dead in the lime kiln; witness went into the kiln and recognised the body as that of Michael O'Brien; deceased lay on his back near the edge of the kiln; witness saw the deceased at about half-past six o'clock the previous evening; he then appeared to be sober.

Wm Angleman, carpenter on board the barque, "Astora," deposed that when going towards his vessel on Saturday night at about half-past eleven or a quarter to twelve the deceased came up to him and asked witness how he enjoyed himself; he then asked witness where he was going, and he replied that he was going to his ship; the deceased then said, "I am going to the lime-kiln, I am working there"; the deceased then went away; he (deceased) had drink taken, but was not drunk; it was raining heavily at the time.

Head Constable Feeney deposed—This matter was reported to me yesterday by Sergeant Flynn; I went to the lime-kiln and found the body of the deceased lying between both kilns, about a foot and a half from the brink of the kiln; the left arm was slightly burned; the back of the right hand was burned, and there was also a burned mark on the forehead, with the skin peeled off; convenient to the body I found the cap (produced); what appeared to be the lining of the cap was found in the kiln; deceased's coat was off, and the body was lying on it, and there were two bags over the body; it appeared to me that the deceased had gone to sleep in that position, having first been burned; his clothes were saturated and wet, and when the body was raised some steam came from the clothes; it is my belief that the deceased got burned while lying on his side.

Dr Graham stated that he examined the body of the deceased; he found the skin on the forehead burned; and also the skin on the back of the right hand; there were no other marks on the body; these burned marks were, he believed, produced during life; he believed the cause of death was poisoning by carbonic acid; deceased was put to sleep by the gas, and then became insensible.

A Juror (Mr Brinn)—The burns would not be sufficient to cause death?

Dr Graham—No, they would not.

The Foreman—Would not the exposure help to cause death?

Dr Graham—It might.

The Coroner said from the evidence there did not appear to be any suggestion of foul play. The deceased appeared to be on good terms with everybody.

Sergeant Flynn said he had made the fullest inquiries, and it could not be ascertained that the deceased had met anyone after having been seen at the docks.

The Foreman—There is no doubt but the occurrence was purely accidental. He was a very harmless boy.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from poisoning from carbonic acid and that same was accidentally caused.

DEATH OF A LIMERICK LADY ABROAD.

The *Bairnsdale* (Melb news) *Advertiser* of Tuesday, 23rd February, has the following:—"We regret to announce the death, which took place on Sunday morning at her residence, River View, Bairnsdale, of Mrs Robert Bull, at the very advanced age of 83. Deceased, who was very great y with her husband, Mr Robert Bull, who founded the saddlery business in Main Street, which is still being carried on under the original title of E Bull and Sons, by Joseph Bull, J P, and his brother, Henry. The late Mr E Robert Bull predeceased his wife 23 years, being then 67 years, and was interred in the family burying place in Bairnsdale cemetery, where the body of his wife was laid yesterday. The deceased lady, who, like all her relatives, was a native of the county Limerick, Ireland, retained her faculties to the last, and continued to take a very active interest in the domestic concerns by which she was surrounded. The largeness of the funeral cortege yesterday testified to the universal respect in which the deceased lady was held and the sympathy which is entertained for her relatives in a bereavement that is acutely felt."

KILRUSH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)  
Mr Michael Meskell (Chairman) presided, at the weekly meeting of the Kilrush Board of Guardians on Saturday. The other guardians present were—Messrs John Culligan, J P; F McG Egar, J P; Anthony McNamara, V C, John Mungovan, D V C, M J Carmody, Patrick Crotty, Simon Kett, Michael Buhon, M Corry, Denis Collins, James Bourke, James Crotty, John Cullinan, John Corry, Daniel Considine, John Blake, Thomas McCarthy. Mr Edmund Bourke, Local Government Board Inspector, was also present.

STATE OF THE HOUSE.  
Number of paupers in the establishment, per last return, 384; admitted since, 14; discharged, 10; died, 3; remaining on above date, 385; corresponding week last year, 361; decrease, 26.

FINANCE.  
The lodgments by the collectors on that date were as follows—Collector McInerney, £243 9s 7d; Collector Kett, £92; Collector McNamara, £20 18s.

ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.  
Mr Warren (Clerk of the Union) laid his return on the table, showing the result of the elections in the several contested divisions of the union.

The meeting of the next board will be held next Saturday.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNION.  
The notice of motion given by Mr Kett proposing to appoint temporarily two of the present rate collectors to commence the collection of the rates in the Kilrush and the rural divisions of the No 1 District of the Union pending the sanction of Mr Michael Keating's election, came on for discussion.

In reply to a question by a guardian as to how the union stood financially,

The Clerk stated the union was in an embarrassed state.

The Chairman—There is £24 against us, but we have now got the substantial lodgment to-day of £243 9s 7d from Collector McInerney (hear, hear). There are other lodgments, and at present we are in a fair financial state. Mr McNamara has lodged £20 18s, which with Mr McInerney's makes close on £270, and one collector, Mr Kett, who is doing very well, has lodged over £90.

Mr P Crotty—That's about £260.

The Chairman—Yes, in round numbers.

Mr Kett stated he would leave his resolution in the hands of the guardians.

Mr Bourke—I propose that it be adjourned for three weeks, and if you want money badly we will send it into Mr Warren for you from the Kilrush division (a laugh).

Mr McNamara—Mr Kett does not care if you adjourn it for three months.

Mr P Crotty—Adjourn it for a fortnight, and after that you can adjourn it again.

The Chairman—We can take that course owing to the substantial lodgments we have to-day.

Mr Kett said it was a hardship to have other divisions supplying the union whilst the rich divisions were doing nothing at all.

Mr Bourke—We will give you plenty of help soon.

Mr Bourke, Local Government Board Inspector, at this stage of the proceedings entered the room, and was informed by the Clerk that Mr Kett's notice about the rate collectors was about to be adjourned, though he was most anxious that it should go on.

The Chairman—We have agreed to adjourn it for a fortnight.

The Inspector—Mr Warren you had better take the names of the guardians who vote for the adjournment.

The Chairman—There is no vote; we are unanimous on it.

The Inspector—If you are proceeded against by any of those contractors, and that law proceedings involve you in costs, of course Mr Ellis will surcharge you the amounts. The notice of motion was allowed to stand over for a fortnight.

ARMY AND

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3rd Hussars.—pany's steamer. A the night of the 2 when she left the was the late Lieu carried aboard in and died two days; Musters had taken Major Arnold, and an example to th down with fever. sea. Capt Patton on augmentation.

Royal Irish Rif of the regiment; 13th to the 24th Southampton in t

It is now nearl out that the Go clearly providing might not be very dictated by rumo information was af command at the t tant stations. position has bee bounds since the have good reason guns and supplie passing through I ment with the Po months, all of w val Government, to be full cognisat a question in the ago.

Major General Sir Cairo after inspect the progress of th Abu Hamid.

Lieut-Colonel F Regiment, who v tenant colonely, appointed to succo late Manchester R Arms.

Captain A P M who has been f Sebastopol, is to Grant as Consul Murray's promoti he has been both Consul at Sebasto

Selections for a teers: Captain A Cornwall's Light Manchester Regim Battalion Royal W B V Royal West I D T Loftus, Bat for the 8th Batta Captain E P Thon Fusiliers, for the

THE All the Powers Admirals to proce Gulf of Athens.

says it refuses to such an extraordi by Greece of v an event Greece w and would alone b on no one's supp consent to the agr advantage from i after exhausting; the sufferings she

RUSSIAN W

The semi-official article on the aggressive and p continues to main stinacy forces th against their wish of the Gulf of Atl of Colonel Vassos ment has already the population of tages which a blo the restoration of ordained task of the Powers from of the inhabitant be asked after the and influence of et in the possibility c fully as a declar Turkey. But in pening, Greece wou and would be alone of war, so much desires the mainte directs all its effort renounce illusions, errors. If Greece price, she can evid port. In any case, conflict so wanton would never com deriving the shj After the Powers