

number of recruits were the low minimum standards of height, weight, and chest-measurement in force, under instructions which allow of the enlistment of recruits for the infantry of the line who are a quarter-inch below the regulated height, and a half-inch under chest-measurement. In spite of all these endeavours to obtain recruits the numbers of the infantry had actually diminished by some 800 men during the year, although the number of recruits enlisted was higher than in the previous year." A total force of 25,000 is now to be added to our military establishment, and it will be necessary not only to get the number of men, but to get men of the right kind. Before youths adopt the Army as a career it will be necessary to change the conditions of service, so that instead of the Army being regarded as a refuge for a few years it may reasonably induce a smart man to look upon it as a life career.

THESE are few more successful business houses in Ireland than that of Messrs Cannock and Company. In spite of a trying and depressing season the profits of trading enable the directors to pay the handsome dividend of 9 per cent to the shareholders. In addition to this substantial dividend the Company have during the past year paid off debentures to the amount of £6,200. They have written £900 off the building account, and are still able to carry £3,395 to credit of ensuing year. Perhaps the most striking statement in the record of success is that in which the public are informed that there is no money due to creditors. Goods are paid for in cash, so that the lowest prices are paid, and also the establishment can buy in the best markets, and present their customers, therefore, with the best value. Mr Tidmarsh, who presided on Saturday, was able to state that the Company was never in a more healthy state than it is at present, and anticipates as good a year during the current twelve months as in the last. The condition of the Company speaks volumes for the ability of the management, and the efficiency of the staff.

In consequence of the death of Mrs Smithwick the Derry Castle Harriers will not meet on Wednesday, March 2nd.

Master Reginald Bateman of the Villiers Endowed School, Limerick, has been awarded a McArthur Scholarship of £20 a year (tenable for two years) at the Methodist College, Belfast.

O'Connor, who was elected unanimously. The vice-captains were Mr W Walpole (re-elected), and Mr M Russell in place of Mr D Boland, resigned. The ballot for committees resulted as follows:— Messrs P Nevin, M O'Toole, T Bradley, W B Smyth, D Boland, J Kelly, M Fitzgibbon, M J O'Loughlin, and B Smyth. This concluded the business.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS QUESTION

On Saturday afternoon a meeting of the County Clare Committee of the Financial Reform League was held at the County Courthouse, Ennis, those present being Most Rev Dr McRedmond, Roman Catholic Bishop of Killaloe (in the chair), H V Macnamara, D L; Major O'Callaghan-Westropp, J P; R W Carey Reeves, D L; H B Harris, J P; M A Scalan, T C; Major Wilson Lynch, D L; Rev R Barry, Adm, and J H Harvey, County Secretary.

It was agreed to hold a monster county meeting in Ennis on 15th March, and to ask the Right Rev Dr Archdall, Bishop of Killaloe, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ross, Lord Castletown. The O'Connor Don, Lord Clonbrock, Mr Lough, M P, and other well-known speakers on the subject, to attend.

TRAGIC OCCURRENCE AT THE LIMERICK WORKHOUSE.

A tragic occurrence took place at the Limerick Workhouse yesterday morning. It seems that an inmate of the house named Jane Hayes had been in the able bodied department with other inmates, and after some time she proceeded to the dormitory. She was next seen by the Labour Master in the window situated in the roof, and he exclaimed that there was a woman on the roof. Before anyone had time to come near her she either fell or threw herself down, and dropped a depth of some forty feet. The Master and Assistant Master were quickly on the scene, and the woman was attended by Dr Humphries but she died almost immediately. Deceased was about 40 years of age and married, but has been an inmate of the house for a considerable time. An inquest will be held to-morrow.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.

A Naas correspondent telegraphs that the Lord Chief Justice is much shaken, but he is progressing as favourably as can be expected.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Government are hopeful that the second reading of the Irish Local Government Bill, which is set down for Monday, 14th March, will then be agreed to without a division after one night's debate; but a considerable number of amendments will be moved in the committee stage.

ILLNESS OF LORD SALISBURY.

Mr Gunten, Lord Salisbury's permanent private secretary, telegraphs from Hatfield that Lord Salisbury has a slight attack of influenza, but is doing very well.

It was officially stated yesterday evening that his lordship's indisposition had undoubtedly developed into an attack of influenza. The attack was not of a serious character, and the patient was going on very well, but would, in the circumstances, take all the rest and quiet obtainable for the next few days.

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