

**TERRIBLE STORM.**

**NUMEROUS CASUALTIES.**

**COASTGUARDMAN KILLED BY LIGHTNING.**

There were numerous accidents during the severe gale which prevailed on Monday night and Tuesday morning, accompanied in some places by thunder and lightning. At Kilkee a Coastguardman named Mercer, was killed by lightning, and the Coastguard station damaged. A church which was in course of erection at Castlebar, and approaching completion, was demolished by the force of the storm. A collision took place on the Mersey between the City of Dublin Company's steamer Louth and a tug named Great Western, resulting in the sinking of the latter. The mail boats between England and France crossed from Folkestone instead of from Dover. The River Usk overflowed its banks, and flooded the town of Brecon. Portion of the glass roof of the London Bridge Station of the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway was destroyed. Much damage was done in Scotland by the storm. The smack Rhado, of Portrush, was wrecked at Campbelltown, but the crew were saved. At Irvine one side of the station was blown down; and in Glasgow the arch of the Caledonian Railway Station was destroyed, and a number of postmen were injured by falling glass.

**LIMERICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS.**

The weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held yesterday. Mr Thomas B Mitchell, J.P. presided, and the other members present were—Alderman Hall, J.P.; Mr Edmund Kirby, J.P.; Mr M Donnelly, Mr Thomas Donnellan, Mr Francis Harty, Mr John McNamara. Mr H J Guinane, Clerk; Mr Edward Dandon, Master, and Dr Nolan, Resident Medical Officer, were in attendance.

**FINANCE.**

The Clerk announced that he had received an order from the Chief Secretary's Office for £508 17s 5d in respect of Probate Grant; the amount lodged since last meeting was £39 6s 4d; paid, £737 17s 1d; balance in favour of the Guardians, £7,339 0s 7d.

**STATE OF THE HOUSE.**

On Saturday, the 24th day of December, 1898:—Remaining on previous Saturday, 1,218; admitted since, 54; births, 0; discharged, 107; died 5; remaining on above date, 1,160; decrease on week, 58; increase on year 22. Able-bodied men, 14; decrease on year, 8; Do (assistants) 15; increase on year 2. Do (tramps in probationary ward), 1; decrease on year 3. Able-bodied women 13; decrease on year 2. Do (assistants), 53; increase on year 3. Do (tramps in probationary ward) 0; increase on year, 0. Infirm men, 201; increase on year, 7. Do women, 197; increase on year, 22. Boys, five to fifteen years, 78; increase on year, 10. Girls, five to fifteen years, 50; increase on year, 4. Children two to five years, 4; decrease on year, 3; Infants under two years, 39; increase on year, 17; Women nursing latter classes, 32; increase on year, 8. Total healthy, 702. General hospital, 369; decrease on year, 26; Fever hospital, 0; decrease on year, 4. Lunatics (male) 36; increase on year, 1; Do (female), 52; decrease on year 11. Total sick, 458; increase on year, 0. Total sick and healthy, 1,160.

Cost of provisions and stimulants consumed in the house.—

Present week—Provisions, £151 14s 3d; stimulants, £4 14s 4d. Corresponding week last year.—Provisions £176 0s 6d; stimulants £6 8s 5d.

Cost of provisions and stimulants consumed during week.—General Hospital—Provisions, £79 18s 2d; stimulants, £4 11s 1d. Fever—Provisions, £00s 0d; stimulants, £0 1s 0d. Healthy—Provisions, £60 4s 5d. Officers—£8 14s 0d. Total—Provisions, £151 14s 3d; stimulants £4 14s 4d.

General weekly average cost, 2s 9d. Outdoor Relief—Present week: Number on relief, 1,543; cost, £30 10s 5d. Corresponding week last year—number on relief, 1,568; cost, £73 2s 10d.

**TENDERS.**

The following tenders for flour and other supplies were received—Miss Delany, best special

**SAD SHOOTING ACCIDENT NEAR LIMERICK.**

On Tuesday an inquest was held at Parteen by Mr Coroner Frost and a jury touching the death of Michael McNamara, aged 84 years, who met his death under very melancholy circumstances of a purely accidental nature near Blackwater, Co Clare, on St Stephen's Day. The facts are detailed in the evidence.

District Inspector Yeldham, Sixmile Bridge, represented the Crown.

A boy named James McNamara, brother of the deceased, deposed that on the day in question about one o'clock, he and about ten other boys, including the deceased, were hunting the wren at Crossmadden, near Blackwater. His brother held the bush, and while proceeding along the road they were approached by two young men named Joseph Gilligan, 20, and Patrick Punch, 35, both belonging to the city of Limerick. The foremost of the two, Gilligan, carried a single-barrelled gun, and when they came near, witness and his companions asked them for some money for the "wren boys." The deceased held up the bush, and offered to give the young men a shot. Punch immediately ran forward to seize the gun in order, apparently, to fire first. He grasped it near the stock, and in a scuffle which ensued the weapon was discharged, and instantly his brother Michael fell to the ground. The latter was only about five yards distant at the time. He was killed on the spot, the shot having entered below the right ear.

District Inspector Yeldham—Did Punch go recklessly towards the gun, or did he go quietly?

Witness—Quietly, sir.

District Inspector Yeldham—Were the men sober.

The Witness—I think they were sober.

The Coroner—I take it that they were sober.

District Inspector Yeldham—How did the gun go off?

The Witness—Both had a hold of it at the same time.

District Inspector Yeldham—Was there a struggle?

The Witness—I did not see any struggle.

John Hanrahan, who was one of the wren boys, gave corroborative evidence.

Sergeant Murray deposed that he heard of the accident on Monday, and went into Limerick about four o'clock to make inquiries; while in the Mary street police barracks Gilligan and Punch entered; the former carried a single barrel shot gun, which he handed to witness, saying, "Here is the gun; I will never fire it again"; both men then were taken into custody, having being previously charged by witness with the wilful murder of Michael McNamara; they were subsequently taken before Mr J Frost, J.P., and remanded in custody for eight days.

Dr Brown said he made a superficial examination of the body and found the right side of the neck actually riddled with shot wounds; in his opinion death was due to shock and hemorrhage, resulting from the wounds.

The Coroner said he was fully of opinion there was no necessity to prolong the inquiry. The evidence given by the brother of the deceased was conclusive that the occurrence was the result of an unfortunate accident. These two young men were coming away from Limerick and met the boys with the wren. The latter asked them for money. They were then invited by one of the boys to take a shot at the wren, and then an unfortunate struggle for the gun took place, during which the weapon went off and Michael McNamara was shot. It was perfectly plain the case was the result of an accident, and he had a strong opinion that the young men in custody should not be put to any inconvenience. If he thought it was a matter of culpable negligence he would ask the jury to mark their sense of it in the verdict, but he considered the occurrence was purely accidental.

The jury returned a verdict of death due to gun shot wounds, sustained at the hands of Gilligan and Punch, and that same was accidental. The jury exonerated the latter from all blame in the matter.

The accused, who were represented by Mr T H Kenny, solicitor, were subsequently liberated on bail to appear at next Doonass Petty Sessions.

**LATEST FASHIONS.**

Never was dress brighter and gay than the present time, and there is a decided cheeriness through the dark winter days in plenty of pretty bright colourings on D Fashion's fair votaries, instead of the one fixed idea that the sombre season called sombre clothing. Skirts, cut for the greater part to the close, sheath-fitting shape, were perfectly over the hips, and in many cases pocket-holes is not at the back, nor are there pleats, the former being entirely hidden at part under a trimming or panel edge, while the latter is cut so that it flows out to give necessary spring, but is perfectly plain at of waist—a somewhat trying style to figures, to whom seams well-placed and fold so necessary to effect a slighter appearance. Pouch, front for bodices still hold their although somewhat modified, and there are number of short, loose-fitting tunics worn walking costumes by well dressed people none of them fasten double-breasted, as Russian blouse of last season did.

Sacque jackets and sacque cloaks are the of the hour, but tight-fitting and semi-fitted coats are so much worn that no one need add sacque to whom that garment is unbecoming. Almost the smartest styles of coats are those are braided on the lines of a Norfolk jacket they are generally becoming to any wearer. Braiding on this particular kind are interesting; as so many varying kinds are worn in together, and there is good opportunity display of artistic taste in the construction finished design. The most fashionable fur are ermine, sable, and celestial fox, though black and brown shrunk and mix furs are used, especially on dresses, a quantity of in very narrow width, is employed on dresses, which, in spite of fashion, always one with sense of incongruity; and person consider chenille much more suitable for purpose.

Guipure lace is largely used on all occasions, particularly in conjunction with thick costumes and coats. It is always fast if good, and when jewelled tastefully is lovely. Fichus and berthas are either stipulated to a very large extent, and many variety of charming designs. One very crepe de chine one can see this week had quills of lace sewn on to a flounce of the with the edges of pattern outlined in a chenille, while in the centre of each flower pattern were little jewels.—Leach's Family Dressmaker for January.

**DEATH OF A CRIMEAN VETERAN.**

Charles Cousins, an ex-trooper of the 4th Dragoons, met with a shocking accident Monday. He went to the Army and Veterans' Club, New Brompton, Chatel exchange greetings with his old comrades upon leaving the reading room unfortunately tripped and fell down the stairs, breaking neck. The deceased, who was about 70 years of age, was a particularly active and a cavalryman between 40 and 50 years served throughout the Crimean campaign one of the "Giant Six Hundred" in the famous charge upon the Russian Balaclava on October 25, 1854. He possessed Crimean medal, with clasps for Alma, Balaclava, and Sebastopol, and also the medal. He enlisted in the 4th Light in 1851, and left the army in 1863. He was the last survivor of the 1st Charge residing in the Chatham district Samuel later in the day of another General M'Connell, a former corporal Engineers, and an old comrade of Cousins a pathetic coincidence.

Mr Leopold de Rothschild, the Unionist date for the Aylesbury Division, is brother of Lord Rothschild, and brother the late member, Baron Ferdinand de R He is about fifty-three years of age, residence at Leighton Buzzard, and Gunnersbury. He is a well-known and is one of the most successful racehorses on the turf.