

ject of commercial enterprise the report points out that much has yet to be done before the Soudan is opened up. Even that portion of the country which is already conquered is only just beginning to settle down into tranquility. Some judicial institutions have to be established before Europeans in any numbers can reside in the country. For some time to come trade will be a good deal hampered by difficulties of transport, even where railway communication has been established. For the present the Gordon College at Khartoum is carried on as a higher primary school. The age of admission is from seven years and upwards, and the course lasts four years. Instruction is given chiefly in Arabic, and when the level of education has been raised sufficiently, more advanced instruction will be provided with the assistance of persons specially to mark out the new course of study. The description given of the Bahr-el Ghazel is not very hopeful. A great portion of it is described as an immense alluvial plain, swampy near the river banks, with flat grass land beyond stretching to the horizon. Not a sign of a hillock is to be seen anywhere. The landscape is, however, varied by extensive woods, which come down to the water's edge where the banks are firm. The current is about 2½ miles an hour. The depth is over 20ft. throughout. The width of the river is from 150 to 200 yards. As to the finances of Egypt, Lord Cromer says the Budget for the year shows a surplus of nearly half a million sterling, although the land tax has been reduced and others abolished. Since 1890 there has been a remission of taxation of over a million and a quarter per annum. The danger which Egypt escaped by British intervention is thus stated by Lord Cromer:—"It would be difficult to exaggerate the ruin which would have overtaken, not only the population of Egypt, but all who are interested in Egyptian affairs, if the régime of the pre-reforming days had been allowed to continue in existence but a few years longer. It so happened that the maladministration of the past reached its zenith shortly before a great fall took place in the price of all agricultural produce. Improvements in the system of irrigation, by which the increased quantity produced has in some degree mitigated the effects of the fall in price; the appreciable fiscal relief, of which the details are given above; and, generally, the substitution of a civilized, in the place of an oppressive and semi-barbarous, administrative policy, have conjointly enabled Egypt to bear the strain. I have no hesitation in saying that, but for these changes, the Egyptian Treasury would before now have been hopelessly insolvent, and that the condition of the people would have been in all respects deplorable." Britain having acquired a hold upon the country, is extending her influence

RATHRONAN.

The general Vestry for the Union of Newcastle and Rathronan met on the 5th, the Rev Canon Vance presiding.

Mr J McDonald was appointed Clergyman's, and Mr P Palmer, People's, Churchwarden.

The following were elected to the Select Vestry—Captain Bain, E. Curling, R O'Grady, E W O'Brien, J B Massy, F Walshe, C Purcell, J Gleeson, E Baird.

DROWNING ACCIDENT ON THE SHANNON.

An inquest was held this afternoon by Mr Coroner M R Clery, M D, with a jury, touching the death of John Masterson, aged 36, steward on board the Lower Shannon Co's steamer "Shannon," whose body was found at Coonagh on Sunday evening. The deceased had been missing since New Year's Day.

Mr J. S. Gaffney, solicitor, and Mr C. Downey, manager, appeared for the Lower Shannon Steamship Company.

Sergeant O'Brien (Cahirdavin) conducted the proceedings on behalf of the Crown.

Ellen Masterson, wife of the deceased, deposed that she lives in Kilrush; she identified the body as that of her husband, who was steward on board the steamer "Shannon"; she last saw him alive on New Year's Eve at her house; he left the house at 7 o'clock on that morning to join the "Shannon," which was going to Limerick, and she did not see him since.

A Juror—Was he sober when he left the house? Witness—He was; he did not take a drop of drink for the past twelve months to my knowledge. He was at home at Christmas time, and he did not stir outside the house.

Mr Downey, Manager of the Lower Shannon Company, stated the matter was reported to him by the master of the vessel who, while on his trip down the Shannon on the Monday morning following, found the man was not on board, and he reported the matter on arrival at Kilrush. He (Mr Downey) made close inquiries into the matter, and found that two boys had been speaking to deceased at a door-way on Sunday evening, and he told them that he was going up town. Nothing was known of him after that.

Mr Gaffney said the Manager of the Company would like to say something about the lighting of the quay.

Coroner—We don't know where he got into the river.

Mr Downey said that latterly there had been a great many drowning cases in Limerick, and one could not disguise the fact that the quay was not sufficiently lighted.

Mr Gaffney said that Mr Downey would like to get an expression from the jury to the effect that portion of the quay was not properly lighted.

A Juror—I think you ought to give evidence to that effect.

The Coroner said he did not know that it had anything to do with the cause of death, because they had no evidence to show where the fatality occurred. Of course it would go to the Press.

Thomas Davis deposed that he and two others found the body on last Sunday evening about 5.30; it was drifting down the river.

Dr Nolan deposed to having examined the body; there were no marks of violence on it, and he believed death was due to drowning.

The Jury returned a verdict accordingly.

THE SANITARY LAWS.

Another case under the above was heard at the Quarter Sessions on Saturday, viz—The Corporation v Ambrose Hall, junr.

This was an action for £13 10s brought by the Corporation as Urban Sanitary Authority against Mr A Hall, junior, money expended by them in the erection of a w.c. on his premises at Thomas street, Limerick.

Mr Charles Poyle, B.L. (instructed by Mr Dundon) appeared for the Corporation and said

anything else. The election Bitterness, if there had been a thing of the past (hear, heard now those who had voted for who had voted against him, and spare no effort worthily to fill the representative of the whole con electoral division of Croom (loud

After the third speech the prize march, and conveyed the playing "See the conquering the long avenue of the Manor to the Earl heartily wished them the village rejoicings continue the early hours of the morning.

GRAND JURY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL

LIMERICK.

A meeting of the Committee Limerick Grand Jury was held purpose of selecting three gentle that body on the County Council with the provisions of the Local The subject came up at the Spring in reply to an inquiry of the Local Government Board stated of opinion that if the Grand Jury present a committee to represent them on the the committee may defer until the result of the County is known. Accordingly yesterday place at the County Courthouse Roche, Bart, presiding. There —Mr T D Atkinson, Sir Charles Buckley, jun, Mr Ulick Bourke, Mr J O'G Delmege, D L; Peter Fitzgerald, Mr Thomas Hobson, Mr Basil Roche-Kell Glin, Mr E de Ros Rose, Mr John General Ryan, Mr William William J White, with Mr Secretary.

Sir David Roche, who has foreman of the Grand Jury, Mr Waller were selected by all representatives.

CO. CLARE.

The committee met yesterday there were present—Messrs R D L; W J Maunamark, J P; J Frost, J P; Major Wilson Lynch Willis, J P; Colonel J O'Callaghan Studert, J P, and J W Scott, J The three gentlemen selected Mahon, D L; Major J Wilson Mr E W C Reeve, D L.

LONDON PRESS ON THE

The *Globe* says:—We are glad the general collapse in Ireland, and Lord Montagu have managed for two divisions of County Limerick success is but a poor set-off against universal disaster. Perhaps the failure is that of Lord Inchiquin Clare. That the O'Brien show one of the counties of Munster kingdom of his ancestors, looks Irish had lot even that tradition which is one of the characteristics of the Celtic race

The *Echo* says:—It is noteworthy returns go in the Irish election Unionist minority is represented in proportion to its numbers, are about four to one, and the same proportion. The relig hardly entered into the contest from Ireland received this morning that in one place in the South priest in his sermon on yesterday the people to vote for a local Me