

hop be insisted upon. It seems to be the general opinion among all classes of the community that the Government should introduce at the earliest possible moment a Bill legally defining beer as the product of barley, malt, hops, water, and yeast, and precluding the possibility of brewers of fermented liquors intending to imitate beer, from using more than a fixed percentage—if they use any at all—of malt substitutes; that these substitutes should be defined by law, and that the Inland Revenue Commissioners should be requested to direct forthwith that (in addition to malt and substitutes for malt now entered) entries should be made by all brewers of the quantities of hop and hop substitutes used. Agriculturists would have no objection to the re-introduction of a tax on malted barley, as before—though the brewers possibly might—in lieu of the present beer duty. This, in view of the advantage to agriculture, ought to be pressed upon the Government, for it is a singular thing that on the recently-appointed Royal Commission to enquire into the matter, there is not a single representative of the barley-growing industry, although there is one of its members connected with the largest brewing interest in England. The matter would not affect us here so much as it does the people across the water, if Irishmen only stuck to their own productions. As, however, they do not, the influence of Irish M.P.'s, as well as English, Scotch, and Welsh, should be brought to bear on the Government, so that an end may be put to the use of things which are highly injurious, if not absolutely dangerous to life itself.

SAD DEATH OF A DRAYMAN.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the offices of Messrs. Guinness and Co., Cecil street, by Mr. Coroner DeCoursey, into the circumstances of the death of Daniel Costello, a drayman, who died suddenly in the store while engaged in the duty of stacking barrels.

The evidence showed that deceased must have fallen, and the doctor declared that death was due to failure of the heart's action.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly. Mr. O'Dea said it was the desire of the jury that Mr. Kennedy (representative of the firm) should make some representation to the firm on behalf of the widow and family of the deceased, with a view to assisting them.

"marked read," or as it really means "not worth serious consideration."

A SENSIBLE SUGGESTION.

Referring to the jewellery robbery which recently took place at a Clonmel pawnbroker's establishment, where, presumably for "a lark," the clock was taken from the centre of the window, the *Watchmaker and Jeweler*, says:—"These burglaries lead to the inquiry when will jewelers learn to properly protect their windows? There are many who consider it a sufficient protection to affix an iron lattice, and leave a light burning in the shop. That this is no "protection," has been seen over and over again, notably in a big haul which was made at Hopkins, in Dublin, in a lighted shop while a policeman actually stood outside. The danger is not so much of actual burglars, but of intoxicated individuals, as in the Clonmel case, "out for a lark." Probably deliberate theft is not intended, but it is the opportunity that makes the thief."

A UNIQUE CLOCK.

Referring to clocks, an extraordinary clock, which was shown at the great exhibition of 1851, has recently been sold by Christie, of London. It only fetched £150, in spite of the fact that it is nine feet high, has twelve dials, giving solar time, a revolving year dial, showing months and days, and eight side-dials showing the time at Sydney, Madras, New York, Canton, Calcutta, Paris, St. Petersburg, and Constantinople.

YET ANOTHER.

Yet another interesting time-piece came under the hammer at Stevens', London, recently, and fetched £5 only. This was General Cronje's clock, taken from his laager at Paardeberg on his surrender to Lord Roberts on February 27th, 1900. The same general's saddle holsters, with his bridle and spurs, taken by the English at Paardeberg, realised eight guineas.

GIRLS AS BELL-RINGERS.

Six young ladies have learned the art of bell-ringing in the village of Bradfield, Berkshire. They "rang-in" 1901 at the church, and the conductor, Mr. T. D. Rowe, claims this to be a record. The tenor bell weighs 12½ cwt. The names of the ringers are Miss Vaughan, Miss C. O. Stevens, Miss E. Smith, Miss C. Chillingworth, Miss M. Chillingworth, Miss C. Rowe (aged 15), with Mr. A. Standige and Master J. Rowe (aged 13). The poetry of bell ringing receives an added charm from an incident like this, but what shall be said of the utilitarian notions of an English clergyman, who has discharged his bell-ringers and enlisted the services of an electric motor for chiming the bells on Sunday. The beauty and

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