

them by no means bright or encouraging. Churchill at Leicester devoted himself to commercial prospects, expressing the view that the bottom of trade depression had not been reached, and that there was nothing to be done but to wait for the labour outlook to improve in the new year. It is to be hoped that this will prove to be the case, having regard to the great shrinkage in British overseas trade which took place in 1908, and the fact also that even down to December exports showed a decline in every group except electrical goods. The entire circumstances regarding the position of British trade are a convincing proof of the impotence of our fiscal system to safeguard our industrial and commercial interests in a time of depression, and that until a wiser and more progressive policy prevails we shall not see any substantial and steady progress.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Literary Class P.Y.M.A.
 The second part of the Session 1908-9, of the Literary Class of the Protestant Young Men's Association, begins on Friday next, the 22nd, with a very interesting and instructive programme has been prepared in connection therewith. On the opening evening the Lord Bishop of Limerick has kindly consented to deliver an illustrated lecture on "The Holy Land." Mr. H. Bennis on the 29th will read a paper on "The present Trade depression, and its causes." On February 5th, Mr. Wm. Fry, of Dublin, will give an illustrated lecture on "A Trip to the States," while on the 12th there will be a paper on "Socialism," by Mr. W. M. Sewell. A prior debate "That the United States of America were justified in seeking Independence," takes place on the 19th, and on the 26th of February a lecture on "Land and Fresh Water Resources," by Mr. Harry Fogarty, will be delivered. On March 5th there will be a debate on that very absorbing topic "That women should have equal voting powers with men"; the 12th a lecture on "Robert Louis Stevenson," by the Rev. G. A. Earle; 19th, the competition for Mr. Webb's prizes will take place, and the 26th the session will close with the President's Address. Such a very diversified bill of fare should attract

Canada and India as Governor General, have (remarks the 'Evening Standard') qualified him to be perhaps the best informed and all round statesman in the Empire.

CROMLECHS AND SUPERSTITION.

In his evidence before the Royal Commission on ancient monuments in Wales, Dr. Henry Owen, F.S.A., who has taken part in an archaeological survey in Pembrokeshire, said he did not think many cromlechs had been removed from the county. There was a deep rooted superstition concerning their removal, as they were supposed to be the remains of Druidical altars. The superstition was that the person who disturbed the cromlech would lose his wife or some other near relation within a year, and his crops would fail.

THE CZAR'S CLEMENCY.

Seventy-three persons were recently sentenced to death or to terms of penal servitude by the court-martial at the Ekaterinoslav, but it is announced, says a Reuter message, that the Czar has reprieved the men condemned to capital punishment, while the terms of penal servitude have been reduced.

BURNING FATALITY.

The little girl, Johanna Downes, who was admitted to Barrington's Hospital on Wednesday night, suffering from burns to the chest and abdomen, died in the institution during the early hours of yesterday. The little patient's condition all along had been so bad that no hope was entertained of her recovery, but everything that medical skill could do was done by the house surgeon and the nursing staff of the institution.

COUNTY SHRIEVALTY.

Mr. T. Wise Browning, Carras, was to-day sworn in High Sheriff for the County of Limerick before Mr. James Weply, Commissioner for Oaths. Mr. B. Lucas was at the same time re-sworn Sub-Sheriff. The High Sheriff has appointed Mr. A. Blood-Smyth, solicitor, his returning officer.

PLUCKY RESCUE.

On Tuesday night, as the 7.15 train from Gort was going out of the station, Guard Nicholson very nearly met with a shocking accident, which was, however, averted by the plucky and daring action of Mr. Stephen Gleeson, Stationmaster. The guard, lamp in hand, attempted to board the train when in motion and his foot accidentally slipped, his lamp and right hand catching the door of the van. He was dragged a few yards at first and Mr. Gleeson immediately rushed to his rescue, moving along with the train, which was then going fairly fast, and at the same time trying to extricate the unfortunate guard who was now partly between the steps of the van and the platform. At length Mr. Gleeson gained his end in view, and he shoved the guard into the

atmosphere intensely cold and claimants had a severe to Glib where the Pensic

SNOWFALL IN

Wintry weather prevailed accompanied with high morning, and with the ex-Union trial game, for which football looks to-day.

THE MAY

The Mayoralty for 1909 very close contest, if any to current gossip on the will take place on this dates so far are the civic chair, Alderman Patrick Bourke, the co-encounter, when the four. Both candidates canvass.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Lansdowne V

The Lansdowne-Garry this afternoon at the M abandoned owing to the weather, which rendered

THE EAR

Rescues a

A report from Mess persons were yesterday ruins alive. They had nineteen days.

EARTHQUAKE SOUTH

Several shocks of earthquake recently in various parts was felt at Johannesburg has been reported.

TEMPERANCE HAVERGAL

In the Havergal Hall held in connection with Board of Temperance, Rev. Dr. Orpen presided attendance. A very temperance work was done. W. Harpur, Castlecome of thanks was passed to the motion of the Vice seconded by Mr. P. R. It is interesting to is at present conduct temperance in the diocese to the city, visited Kil Adare.