

DISASTROUS FIRE IN WILLIAM STREET.

THREE LIVES LOST.

Two Gallantly Rescued.

It was not until well into Sunday afternoon that the citizens generally learned of the burning of Mr. George Clancy's drapery concern in William Street, and of the tragic circumstances, involving as they did the loss of three lives, which surrounded the unexpected and distressing tragedy. A number of persons passed up William Street a few minutes before the burning was observed, and when the fire was noticed it was evident so fierce did the flames fight their way from the rear of the premises, that the wonder was that the volunteers who came to the rescue, were able to save the lives of the two men, Mr. George Clancy, the proprietor, and Mr. Michael Higgins, one of that gentleman's assistants. The facts in connexion with the disaster are very meagre indeed. Fire, without which human life would be an impossibility, is but too often, unhappily, an agency of swift and overwhelming destruction, and in this moving incident its havoc worked with but short shrift for those who perished, and with but the briefest of intervals to those who so pluckily and gallantly made a noble endeavour to keep life with their fellow-beings. It has been said that the facts are meagre, and they are likely to remain, many of them, unexplained.

Mr. Clancy's premises must have been familiar to the great majority of the citizens. They are situate in the busiest part of William street, and they extend into the laneway at the rear, the William street houses forming one side, and the out-offices of Thomas street the other.

It was in the rear that the fire appears to have originated, for when noticed, and the alarm was given, it was found that the staircase, which was in this part of the building, was ablaze, and the escape of those in the sleeping apartments on the third and uppermost storey entirely cut off, and their only chance of rescue being from the windows in the front, to which they hurried. Mr. Clancy was seen at a window on the third storey, and Michael Higgins, Peter McDonald, and the youth George Clancy at the windows of the uppermost storey. Here they were pursued by the suffocating smoke, and from hence the rescues were effected, the outbreak of fire, the appearance of the two men and the youth at the windows, the rescue, and the death of the victims occupying but a few minutes, not more than a quarter of an hour at most, as Higgins stated in effect at the inquest last evening. Short though the time was, however, the question of life or death was involved, and while the flames within the premises were angry to receive their victims, it stirs one to read how into this brief interval so many incidents were crowded. Those gallant volunteers, Mr. James Ledden, Mr. Joseph Griffin, Mr. Dickson, and some others left nothing undone, spared themselves no exertion, avoided no risk in their determined efforts to save human life. They, it is true, achieved but a partial success, rescued only two of the five persons in the house. But that they succeeded as they did, is beyond all praise when one considers the little time there was for action, and how the scanty means available to save life, were utilised as they were. A ladder left by chance higher up the street was procured and with it Mr. Clancy rescued by from the window on the third storey of the burning house, at which he was standing. That done, Mr. Ledden found that the ladder was not long enough to reach Mr. Higgins, who was sitting at this time on the sill of a window on the fourth storey. The rescuers were equal to the occasion, Mr. Ledden got on the ladder to his shoulders, and so managed to reach Mr. Higgins, who was enabled to get down to the entablature of the premises, and thence to the ground. When that was accomplished life's fever was over for the other residents in the building, and the flames had possession of the entire premises, the conflagration hissing and sputtering, and the fierce light telling its lurid tale but too plainly. While the rescue was proceeding word had been sent to the Corporation Fire Brigade, a man whose name is given as John Dickson, of Mungret Street, being the messenger. Word was also sent to the Ordnance Barracks, and a party of the Royal Engineers, with their engine, also arrived. At this time the rescue had been accomplished, and the premises were rapidly burning out. The Corporation Fire Brigade, under Mr. Sheehan, worked with a will, seeing how the position stood, to confine the flames to the burning premises and in this they admirably succeeded. There was some damage to one or two adjoining houses, but it was inconsiderable and only what usually arises in the case of such a trying emergency. The Constabulary also lent valuable assistance, and when word of the fire was sent at 1.20 a.m. on Sunday morning to William Street police barracks, Sergeant Browne, with another constable proceeded at once to Mr. Clancy warehouse. He observed Mr. Clancy and Mr. Higgins at the windows, and fearing that in the excitement which prevailed at the time the

shouts requesting them to come to the ladder. If they did come to the front windows, then, he said, they would all have been saved. The fire spread with amazing rapidity, and shortly after the two men had been rescued the whole house was enveloped in flames and the floors were collapsing. "We could not afford to send a man to the Fire Station to give the alarm while we were engaged in the rescuing work," said Mr. Ledden, "because if we did we could not have saved the two lives which we saved. The loss of a few minutes on our part would certainly have meant the further loss of two other lives." Mr. Ledden said that the Fire Brigade arrived very promptly on the scene after being called, and they did invaluable work in confining the fire to the burning premises. Great assistance was also rendered by the Mayor (Alderman P. O'Donovan), Messrs T. Lalor, J. Dalton, B.C.; J. Dalton, and several others.

Mr. Joseph Griffin's Narrative.

Mr. Joseph Griffin, William-street, in an interview yesterday, stated that he was closing his own shop on Saturday night when he heard the repeated crash of glass further down the street, followed by loud screams of "Fire." He immediately ran down William-street, and saw Mr. Clancy's premises on fire. He saw Mr. Clancy at one of the windows on the third floor, and also noticed a man, whom he did not recognise at the time, at one of the windows in the top storey. Both of the men were screaming for help at the top of their voices. Mr. Griffin shouted to Mr. Clancy to come down to the ground floor and that he (Mr. Griffin) would break an entrance through the shuttered shop windows to enable him to escape to the street. Mr. Clancy responded that he could not, probably meaning that the fast-spreading flames had cut off all communication with the lower portion of the building. Mr. Griffin ran through the street, which was completely deserted at the time, shouting "Fire," but not a single person was there to come to his assistance. After some time a young man, unknown to Mr. Griffin, came on the scene, and both of them procured a ladder which was being used in some painting operations at Tyler's boot stores. Mr. Ledden then came to their assistance, and after considerable difficulty they placed the ladder against the burning building, and by this means Mr. Clancy descended wearing only his night attire. Mr. Higgins was next rescued, and this was effected by elevating the ladder, which was too short, by placing it on their chests, and shoulders. Just before the men were rescued Mr. Griffin said he sent one of the Night Constables for the Engineers, and the young man who helped him to convey the ladder from Tyler's, to the Fire Station to give the fire alarm. After rescuing Mr. Higgins the rescue party kept the ladder in position, and shouted to the other people in the house to come to the front of the building, but no response was received to this appeal. If only two minutes' delay was made in rescuing the two gentlemen who were saved, they would also probably have been lost, for when the ladder was placed against the house after Mr. Higgins had been rescued, the top part of it was burned. Mr. Griffin also referred to the splendid work done by the Fire Brigade in confining the conflagration to the burning premises, and said they could not possibly have done more effective work.

THE INQUEST.

Evidence of Mr. Higgins.

At Barrington's Hospital last evening Dr. Roberts, deputy for the City Coroner, Mr. James F. Barry, J.P., opened an inquiry as to the cause of death, the following jury being sworn to hear evidence at the investigation:—Patrick Gleeson (Foreman), Lewis Griffiths, James Duggan, John Kelly, Wm. B. Smith, Patrick Dargan, W. J. Roman, John Malone, James Williams, John Whelan, Ml. Sadlier, Joseph Smith, Cornelius Devane, and Ml. O'Mahony.

District Inspector Craig conducted the inquiry on the part of the Crown, and the Jury having viewed the remains the proceedings commenced shortly after five o'clock.

Michael Higgins, examined by District Inspector Craig, said he had been an assistant at Mr. Clancy's William street, for the past 18 years. On Saturday night last, about a quarter past eleven o'clock, witness closed the shop and turned off the gas as usual. He also locked the back door, and in doing so he did not practically notice anything wrong. There was not the slightest sign of fire about the place. After locking the door witness and Mary Daly, the servant, went up stairs. She had a cup of tea for Mr. Clancy as usual, and witness gave her the keys to bring into him. Mr. Clancy's room was on the first floor over the shop, and it was there he had the tea. Witness went up immediately to his own room on the top of the house. Peter McDonald slept in the same room, and the boy, George Clancy, slept in a room off that of witness, but on the same floor. The servant woman, Mary Daly, slept in a room at the back of young George Clancy's room, on the same landing also. Witness went to bed as usual, and had a chat with Peter McDonald before going to sleep. Witness would say that it was about a quarter to twelve when he fell asleep.

District Inspector Craig—Was Mr. Clancy in his room at that time?

The Witness—I could not say for certain. After falling asleep he was aroused by Mr.

old. She was unmarried, and McDonald was also unmarried. He was a native of the County of Cavan. The boy George Clancy, was from Killee, and he was staying in the house. He was going to school in the city. Witness did not see Mr. Clancy at the time he gave the first alarm. He merely heard him. He subsequently saw him in the window in his night shirt. Somebody said he had a blanket round him.

District Inspector Craig—He had both, as a matter of fact.

The witness having answered some questions put by jurors,

Dr. Roberts said he must notify the Factory Inspector at Cork of the proceedings, and the inquest would have accordingly to be adjourned.

After some conversation, it was agreed the inquiry should be resumed at five o'clock on Monday evening next.

Discussion at the Harbour Board.

Need for Improved Fire Appliances.

At the Harbour Board meeting yesterday, Mr. J. Ellis Goodbody remarked that the mention of fire (referring to a letter from the Hibernian Insurance Company) led him to suggest that the Corporation should again consider the suggestion made there some time ago to have a conference with the Harbour Board and Chamber of Commerce on the subject of fire appliances in Limerick. His experience was that, except under pressure of a calamity, such as they unfortunately just had, the public took no interest in these things. He was strongly of opinion, and so were most of his brother merchants, that the appliances for dealing with fire in Limerick were very inadequate, and that there was considerable danger to life and property occurring under present circumstances. They had made a reasonable request to the Corporation to have a conference on the matter in order to ventilate the question, and he hoped it would be held. As they knew, in former days the merchants presented a fire engine to the city, he believed out of subscriptions amongst themselves, and there was something in the minds of the same body now that if cause could be shown for providing funds to aid the rates in connection with the matter of fire appliances, they would be fully considered by the merchants. These were some of the points that would come up during the conference, and he would make one more appeal to the Corporation to meet the Chamber of Commerce and the Harbour Board (hear, hear).

The Mayor—I may say when your letter was read I was in favour of having a conference with a view to obtaining this fire engine. I think they don't mind who presents the engine, so long as we would get it—(hear, hear)—even if it came from Timbuctoo. I was willing to meet you in conference.

Alderman O'Brien—I think you were the only one at the meeting who spoke in favour of it.

Mr. Glynn said he would like to endorse everything that had been said by Mr. Goodbody. He thought the Corporation made a mistake in not meeting the Chamber of Commerce, and he was of that opinion from first to last. If they had an up-to-date engine on Saturday night probably three valuable lives would not have been lost.

Mr. J. E. Goodbody said he did not want to cast any reflection on the Fire Brigade, nor did he think Mr. Glynn did so either, or, without full knowledge, any accusations that might prejudice the inquiry to be held that evening. He only wished to repeat that it was only occasions of this kind that served to draw attention to the importance of the subject.

The Mayor—Quite right. He was notified of the fire on Sunday morning at 1.30. He was there at about a quarter to two, and the Brigade were at work with the hand hose, the engine arriving a little time after. It was a most regrettable thing to announce that it was not at all up to the mark. He felt very small as Mayor to be present, and hear the remarks passed about the fire-fighting appliances they had.

Mr. Roche—Was the fire escape on the ground?

The Mayor—Yes. But if you had the London Fire Brigade there, it would have been of no avail. The place was practically gutted when our Brigade was notified. I should like to say that I had a few words with Mr. Goodbody as I arrived here this morning, with reference to the providing of a fund for the relatives of the victims who lost their lives in this fire. I understand the owner himself has not one penny insurance on the place which was value for some thousands of pounds. His little nephew, a boy of 14, lost his life, and also a man named McDonnell (a County Cavan man), and a woman named Daly. I think in the hour of need of the relatives of these poor people the most practical way of showing our sympathy would be by starting a little fund, and this being the premier Board representing the commercial interests of the city, I think it my duty as Mayor to bring the suggestion forward at the earliest opportunity. I would be very glad if some of the members of the Board would formulate a Committee to aid me in the matter. I propose to bring it forward at the Corporation also.

Mr. J. E. Goodbody said if the Mayor started the fund, and told them how much money was wanted, he was sure he would be met in the usual generous way that Limerick people met appeals of this nature. He was saying nothing about his own firm, but he knew that the people of Limerick were extremely generous on occasions of this kind. Any way he could assist he would.

The Mayor—Thank you very much.

STOP PRES

Brooklesby Trial Stakes—Singer, 2; Oneida, 3. Also Slash Lane, Pitmaston, Sun Crundell Chick, Swing C. Scotch Wife, Harry Preston 8 to 1 Bas Bleu, 9 to 2 Sun Cherry, 10 to 1 Pitmaston, Oneida, 100 to 8 others.

Sudbrook Selling Plate—Day, 2; Ballyrinta, 3. Also of Gloucester, Evening Glow 8 to 1 Ballyrinta, 5 to 2 Fei Glow, 10 to 1 others.

SPORT

Lincoln Me

CUTHBERT (Bickley) BERRILLDON (Robbins) JUNIOR (E. Huxley) Also ran—Long Set, Ed Cigar, Castleton, Wrack, Gr Beaurepaire, Uncle Pat, Mordred, Sobieski, Touquet Hill, Mr. Peeper, Saucy Vi. Betting—4 to 1 Uncle Pat to 1 Lavolt, 100 to 8 Junior and Berrilldon; 100 to 6 Ta bert, 25 to 1 Mordred, Whit Touquet, 35 to 1 Dunholm a Wrack and Eton Boy, 50 to 1 others. Place Betting—1: 5 to 2 Beaurepaire and Lav tionate betting.

LINCOLNSHIRE

DESCRIPTION OF Mustapha, Talana Hill, Saucy Vixen, and Sobieski start. Beaurepaire and Saucy Uncle Pat on the left made in the centre. Cuthbert on t Wrack, Grammont, Junior, Castleton, and White Sta were maintained for a when Cuthbert took pursued by Berrilldon Wrack, Junior, Mr Peeper, and Cigar, the most promine Dunholm, and no further ch furlongs had been covered, Peeper, and Castleton ca then-finding an opening on t at the distance, a tussle then ensued. Bef strides appeared likely victory, but the weight tol last fifty yards, Cuthbert ge splendid finish won by a between second and third officially placed fourth

CUTHBERT DISQ

Owing to Cuthbert being c was placed first, Junior sec h ird.

Lincoln Plate—Staccato, Nonnette, 3. Also ran—S Squall, Barium, Cocking I Castle, Nun Superior, Rom Virritoot, Ohtzka. Betting to 1 Step Dane r, Barium, at others.

Doddington Plate—Lavin 2; Cullen Castle, 3. Also rar 9 to 4 on Lavine, 5 to 1 agst Protestant Boy, 10 to 1 Omn

Kesteven Plate—Lindsay 2; Miss Tathwell, 3. Also ra Isle, Start Point, and Marita agst Tathwell, 4 to 1 Lind Brummel, 7 to 1 Assagai and others.

OFFICIAL SCRA

LINCOLNSHIRE I Daly's and Lesto at 9 a.m GRAND NATI Liverpool Sandy, after 5 Rathnally, at 12.36 to-day.

COUNTY LIMEF

calamitous fire, and that commend to the citizens Mayor to start a fund the three victims whose sed the deepest sympathy, but far outside it where ils of the disaster have sympathy can best find by public subscription, d, that the Mayor's appeal t liberal response which eteristic of the generous-imerick. His worship eting of the citizens at Thursday afternoon, at nake arrangements for d. We might also suggest rganising a public enter- we have no doubt, our itlemen amateurs would rvices and do all in their success, and one worthy of eds no pleading.

IN WAR. ED NAVAL STRATION.

Takes Action.

enna that the Austrain 23rd as embarked at Zara for a informed that the Powers naval demonstration against ll accordingly be sent to the uegrin coast. tleships, two cruisers, and royer were seen yesterday 7 miles of Antivari. lies to the recent recom- wers in regard to mediation way to London. o Cetinje that the Turks made a sortie from the osh, and a desperate engage-

RS' PROPOSALS

by the Porte.

nceded without rvation.

ELEGRAPH.) esday—The Portes in its Note formulating pro- asis for concluding peace, for their mediation, and nts enumerated without.

K QUARTER SIONS.

mpensation Act.

Court Judge Law-Smith lay in a number of Work ases, the evidence in which In Gavin v. Fitzgerald the- rmined from yesterday, Jarroll the amount was re- from the same date. In half wages, 8s. 9d., was of Lyons v. the G.S. & W. s dismissed, and in Puroell from yesterday. In Ryan urke v. Lynch 10s. a week ner, and 12s. a week in the ., and 6s. per week after- ion, Rea v. Moloney, was ase of Margaret McKelligan another, compensation for d. £271 14s. was awarded, 1 £151 14s. to be invested rned. In the case of as granted from the 17th n to that date being re-

CHORAL SOCIETY.

Reservation.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

ntinople, Tuesday.—The Porter in its the Powers' Note formulating proposals regarding the basis for concluding peace, the Powers for their mediation, and all the points enumerated without on.

LIMERICK QUARTER SESSIONS.

men's Compensation Act.

onor County Court Judge Law-Smith decision to-day in a number of Work n-pensation cases, the evidence in which nyesterday. In Gavin v. Fitzgerald the ation was determined from yesterday, idMahon v. Carroll the amount was re- 6s. weekly from the same date. In an v. O'Shea half wages, 8s. 9d., was The action of Lyons v. the G.S. & W. Company was dismissed, and in Puroell y determined from yesterday. In Ryan yer, and in Bourke v. Lynch 10s. a week red in the former, and 12s. a week in the use to 31st ult., and 6s. per week after- The application, Rea v. Moloney, was and in the case of Margaret McKelligan Granger and another, compensation for of a husband, £271 14s. was awarded, he widow and £151 14s. to be invested wo children concerned. In the case of v. Ryan 8s. was granted from the 17th compensation to that date being re- 2s. weekly.

AVIOUR'S CHORAL SOCIETY.

of high class music will be afforded the ty on Friday, April 18th, at the concert ove Society, to be held at the Theatre being present at the performance of the "Hallelujah" chorus, from "Messiah," is "Bridal March" from "Lohengrin," and specially selected works. Mr. W. F. ablin, the eminent baritone, will take amongst those locally who are giving ices are Mr. Frank Muspratt, and Miss violin), L.R.A.M., who will contribute tal items. The concert will be under tion of Mr. Henri Begas, Organist, St.

MILLIONAIRE DEAD.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan.

New York, Monday. gram from Rome announces that Mr. Morgan, the world-famous banker and died at five minutes past twelve this

CHURCH OF IRELAND.

ination intended to be held by the op in St. Mary's Cathedral next Sunday unavoidably postponed, through the the candidate. The Morning Service id at the usual hour, 11.30.

FTER TRADE AND I.A.O.S.

A Protest.

eting of the Irish Butter Trade Associa- at the Boardroom, Chamber of Commerce rman Henry Dale, J.P. (Richard Clear, t.), presided.

lowing resolution was proposed by Mr. e. and seconded by Mr. J. M. Slattery, ee):—

the opinion of the members of this. As- he most satisfactory means of promoting al development in Ireland is through the ut of Agriculture which, in the opinion oiation, is doing its work well, and, hat no public moneys should be granted ublic control. That we renew our inst any grant of money from public the Irish Agricultural Organisation or the following reasons:—Experience believe that the activities of the Irish al Organisation Society necessarily into association with trading bodies, the Irish Co-operative Agency, the ve Creameries Federation, the Irish ve Wholesale Society, etc., etc., and as this is so, brings them indirectly into with traders whose taxes may be used e the Irish Agricultural Organisation That we, as traders, consider it unjust art of taxes paid by us should be l to any body who, directly or indirectly te with us in way of trade. That the sed to be done by the Irish Agricul- nisation Society would be more fairly vely performed by the Department of e.

ge has been arranged, and will shortly between Major Roger Monck-Mason, yal Munster Fusiliers son of the late onck-Mason, I.C.S., and Geraldine ighter of Robert Lewis Verity, The church Crookham, Hants.

th took place at Nenagh on Saturday onors, who had reached the age of had been employed by the Board of and afterwards by the Urban Council, venger for over 60 years. He con- until three years ago, when the ted him a pension.

spared themselves no exertion, avoided no risk in their determined efforts to save human life. They, it is true, achieved but a partial success, rescued only two of the five persons in the house. But that they succeeded as they did, beyond all praise when one considers the little time there was for action, and how the scanty means available to save life, were utilised as they were. A ladder left by chance higher up the street was procured and with it Mr. Clancy rescued by from the window on the third storey of the burning house, at which he was standing. That done, Mr. Ledden found that the ladder was not long enough to reach Mr. Higgins, who was sitting at this time on the sill of a window on the fourth storey. The rescuers were equal to the occasion. Mr. Ledden got on the ladder to his shoulders, and so managed to reach Mr. Higgins, who was enabled to get down to the entablature of the premises, and thence to the ground. When that was accomplished life's fever was over for the other residents in the building, and the flames had possession of the entire premises, the conflagration hissing and sputtering, and the fierce light telling its lurid tale but too plainly. While the rescue was proceeding word had been sent to the Corporation Fire Brigade, a man whose name is given as John Dickson, of Mungret Street, being the messenger. Word was also sent to the Ordnance Barracks, and a party of the Royal Engineers, with their engine, also arrived. At this time the rescue had been accomplished, and the premises were rapidly burning out. The Corporation Fire Brigade, under Mr. Sheehan, worked with a will, seeing how the position stood, to confine the flames to the burning premises and in this they admirably succeeded. There was some damage to one or two adjoining houses, but it was inconsiderable and only what usually arises in the case of such a trying emergency. The Constabulary also lent valuable assistance, and when word of the fire was sent at 1.20 a.m. on Sunday morning to William Street police barracks, Sergeant Browne, with another constable proceeded at once to Mr. Higgins at the windows, and fearing that in the excitement which prevailed at the time the men might be tempted to jump into the pavement below, he returned to the barracks for blankets to break the fall if such an attempt were made. The Mayor was on the scene of the fire when the alarm was given, also County Inspector Yates, District Inspector Craig, Head Constable McKernan, and a number of citizens. They gave all the help possible, and remained for a time, between the hours of about one and four o'clock, when the fire was got entirely under. At first it was reported that Mr. Clancy had his stock insured, but that does not appear to be the case, and so he has his great trial heightened by the pecuniary loss and damage he sustained. When rescued he was removed to Fox's Hotel, Thomas Street, and thence yesterday, it is understood, he was removed to Barrington's Hospital, as he has not so far recovered from the shock and ordeal through which he has passed. Mr. Higgins, too, has not quite recovered, but he was able to give evidence at the inquest last evening. All through Sunday diligent search was made in the burning premises for the remains. McDonald, who was a native of Cavan, and the boy, George Clancy, aged 14, and a native of Killee, who lived with his uncle, and was attending school at Limerick, were first recovered. Later on the remains of the servant woman, Mary Daly, were found, and enclosed in shells the bodies were removed to the Mortuary at Barrington's Hospital, pending the opening of the official inquiry by the Coroner. At the Harbour Board yesterday sympathetic reference was made by the Mayor and the other members present to the catastrophe, the fire appliances, and the desirability of having a fund provided for the sufferers. The suggestions will commend themselves, one can have no doubt, to the citizens generally.

Interview with Mr. James Ledden.

Mr. James Ledden, upholsterer, Thomas-st., in an interview, said he slept in his sister's house, next door to Clancy's, on Saturday night and about 1.15 a.m. he was awakened by the sound of the breaking of glass. On looking through the window to ascertain the cause of the noise he saw that Mr. Clancy's drapery establishment was on fire. He immediately got down into the street, where a man named Joe Griffin had procured a ladder with another man whom he (Mr. Ledden) did not know. Mr. Ledden, Mr. Griffin, and the other man next placed the ladder against the burning house for the purpose of rescuing Mr. Clancy, who appeared at a front window on the third floor, and Mr. Higgins, who appeared at a window on the third floor. They placed the ladder in a position for Mr. Clancy, who descended in his night shirt. They next set about rescuing Mr. Higgins, which was a very difficult matter since the ladder was much too short. At this stage two other men named Mr. Graham, William Street, and George McGrath, a railway porter, had arrived on the scene. Mr. Ledden placed the ladder on his chest, and thus, with the aid of the other men present, it almost reached the window where Mr. Higgins was. After some difficulty the latter named gentleman got on to the ladder and descended. While doing so Mr. Ledden asked him if any more people were in the house, and he having answered in the affirmative some of the rescue party told him to sit on the entablature so as to occasion no delay in rescuing the others who were in the burning building. This Mr. Higgins did, and the firemen on the street shouted out to the other people within the house to come to the front windows where the ladder was, in order that they might be saved. They kept on shouting thus for a considerable time, but they received no response, and there were no visible signs to show that anyone was in the building. Mr. Ledden said he believed that the three persons who lost their lives in the burning were not in the front portion of the house at the time, because if they were, they could easily have heard

Evidence of Mr. Higgins.

At Barrington's Hospital last evening Dr. Roberts, deputy for the City Coroner, Mr. James F. Barry, J.P., opened an inquiry as to the cause of death, the following jury being sworn to hear evidence at the investigation:— Patrick Gleeson (Foreman), Lewis Griffiths, James Duggan, John Kelly, Wm. B. Smith, Patrick Dargan, W. J. Ronan, John Malone, James Williams, John Whelan, M. Sadlier, Joseph Smith, Cornelius Devane, and Ml. O'Mahony.

District Inspector Craig conducted the inquiry on the part of the Crown, and the Jury having viewed the remains the proceedings commenced shortly after five o'clock.

Michael Higgins, examined by District Inspector Craig, said he had been an assistant at Mr. Clancy's William Street, for the past 18 years. On Saturday night last, about a quarter past eleven o'clock, witness closed the shop and turned off the gas as usual. He also locked the back door, and in doing so he did not practically notice anything wrong. There was not the slightest sign of fire about the place. After locking the door witness and Mary Daly, the servant, went up stairs. She had a cup of tea for Mr. Clancy as usual, and witness gave her the keys to bring into him. Mr. Clancy's room was on the first floor over the shop, and it was there he had the tea. Witness went up immediately to his own room on the top of the house. Peter McDonald slept in the same room, and the boy, George Clancy, slept in a room off that of witness, but on the same floor. The servant woman, Mary Daly, slept in a room at the back of young George Clancy's room, on the same landing also. Witness went to bed as usual, and had a chat with Peter McDonald before going to sleep. Witness would say that it was about a quarter to twelve when he fell asleep.

District Inspector Craig—Was Mr. Clancy in his room at that time?

The Witness—I could not say for certain. After falling asleep he was aroused by Mr. Clancy, who came outside and said to witness to get up and get out of the premises as soon as he could. McDonald heard Mr. Clancy, and he got dressed before witness. McDonald went to the door of the room, and when he got there he cried out, "My God, we're done."

District Inspector Craig—Did Mr. Clancy when calling you say anything about fire?

The Witness—Nothing that I heard. He might have mentioned it, though.

District Inspector Craig—Did you know there was a fire when you got up out of bed?

The Witness—I did not. I thought it was burglars that had come into the house. Witness then went to the servant's room, and went to see if there was any possible chance of escape. When McDonald said what he did, witness did not exactly believe what he told him. Witness, however, found it was impossible to go down the stairs. He knocked at the door of the servant's room. The door was locked, or witness would have opened it. Witness got no reply. The heat, suffocation, and the flames were at this time very bad, the suffocation being the worst, though the heat was intense. He was glad to get into his room and close the door. He could not get down the stairs, and at this time the boy George Clancy had come out of his room. Witness knocked him up, and he came into his room, and Peter McDonald was there.

District Inspector Craig—What did you do then?

The Witness—We put our heads out the windows of the room to avoid the suffocation.

District Inspector Craig—And what did you do after that?

The Witness—I put one leg outside the window, and kept another leg inside. I kept astide of the window sill.

District Inspector Craig—Were the other two beside you at the window?

The Witness—They were, sir.

District Inspector Craig—They did not get up on the window?

The Witness—Not in the same position that I was, but stretched themselves across to get the fresh air.

District Inspector Craig—The other two were leaning out?

The Witness—They were, sir. He did not see the flames begin to tear round from the back because he had the door closed, the suffocation being so terrible.

District Inspector Craig—What happened to the other two, McDonald, and the boy Clancy?

The Witness—They went just behind me, and I suppose they were suffocated. I turned my mouth towards the river Shannon to keep away the fume. They must have lost their heads, got more or less excited, and they must have died immediately behind me.

District Inspector Craig—Did they disappear back?

The Witness—I am sure they did not go two yards behind me, because they fell where they were found. The young chap must have died a long time before I was rescued. Witness was on the window-sill about fifteen minutes before he was rescued.

District Inspector Craig—Were you calling for help?

The Witness—I was shouting, and so were the other two. After some time assistance came, Mr. Joe Griffin arriving. There was a ladder against Tyler's at the other side of the street, and Griffin and James Ledden and others rescued witness. He could not say who rescued Mr. Clancy, but he believed they rescued him first, and then witness afterwards.

District Inspector Craig—Have you any idea at all of what was the cause of the fire?

The Witness—Not the slightest, sir. From the time that Mary Daly went into her room witness never heard anything of her. Peter McDonald was between 35 and 40 years old, the boy George Clancy, fourteen years. Witness had identified the bodies, and to the best of his belief that of Mary Daly, who was about 45 years

think Mr. Gynn did so either, or, without full knowledge, any accusations that might prejudice the inquiry to be held that evening. He only wished to repeat that it was only occasions of this kind that served to draw attention to the importance of the subject.

The Mayor—Quite right. He was notified of the fire on Sunday morning at 1.30. He was there at about a quarter to two, and the Brigade were at work with the hand hose, the engine arriving a little time after. It was a most regrettable thing to announce that it was not at all up to the mark. He felt very small as Mayor to be present, and hear the remarks passed about the fire-fighting appliances they had.

Mr. Roche—Was the fire escape on the ground?

The Mayor—Yes. But if you had the London Fire Brigade there, it would have been of no avail. The place was practically gutted when our Brigade was notified. I should like to say that I had a few words with Mr. Goodbody as I arrived here this morning, with reference to the providing of a fund for the relatives of the victims who lost their lives in this fire. I understand the owner himself has not one penny insurance on the place which was value for some thousands of pounds. His little nephew, a boy of 14, lost his life, and also a man named McDonnell (a County Cavan man), and a woman named Daly. I think in the hour of need of the relatives of these poor people the most practical way of showing our sympathy would be by starting a little fund, and this being the premier Board representing the commercial interests of the city, I think it my duty as Mayor to bring the suggestion forward at the earliest opportunity. I would be very glad if some of the members of the Board would formulate a Committee to aid me in the matter. I propose to bring it forward at the Corporation also.

Mr. J. E. Goodbody said if the Mayor started the fund, and told them how much money was wanted, he was sure he would be met in the usual generous way that Limerick people met appeals of this nature. He was saying nothing about his own firm, but he knew that the people of Limerick were extremely generous on occasions of this kind. Any way he could assist he would.

The Mayor—Thank you very much, Mr. Goodbody.

The discussion ended.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The Mayor has convened a public meeting of the citizens for 4 o'clock on Thursday evening to make arrangements for starting a fund on behalf of the sufferers of the disastrous fire in William Street on Sunday morning.

ACTION OF THE CORPORATION.

At the meeting of the Estimate Committee of the Borough Council held on the 14th of March last, the question of providing a thoroughly up-to-date fire engine, as reported on by the City Surveyor some months ago, was under consideration, an item of £1,000 to provide the cost of same being contained in the estimate sheet. It was then decided that instead of including this amount in the improvement rate steps should be taken to raise the sum by loan, repayable by instalments spread over an extended period. The matter was again before the Finance Committee at their meeting last night, when it was referred to the Fire Brigade Committee at their next meeting, to advance the matter without any undue delay.

The remains of the youth, George Clancy, were removed yesterday by rail from Limerick to Killee for interment. The other victims of the fire, Peter McDonald, Cavan, and Mary Daly, servant at George Clancy and Co.'s Drapery Establishment, were interred in the local cemetery. The local school children attended in large numbers young Clancy's funeral to the railway.

MR. KEBTY FLETCHER AND THE CHANCELLOR'S SALARY.

In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Kebty Fletcher asked if the Chancellor's salary was sufficient to prevent him from wrongly and improperly gambling.

Mr. Lloyd George replied if the hon member had anything of that kind to say he had better say it where he would be subject to prosecution. Later, invited to make his charge, Mr. Kebty Fletcher said he would when he had opportunity.

THE PADDOCKS LAST SATURDAY.

A seasonable supply at Mr. Wm. B. Fitt's market on last Saturday, the bulk of the good heifers have been sold, not many on sale. Anything approaching merit was bought readily and at best comparative rates with recent sales. Demand strongest for the choice medium heifer, these sold at rates from £16 to £19, average price for the useful heifer £15 to £17, current prices on same lines as last quotations, top price of the sale went to Mr. John Russell at £19 15s. Fair demand for stores, calves second class £5 19s. Satisfactory trade, good clearance for the right sorts.

The following are the principal transactions of the day:—Mrs Cregan, four, £13 2s 6d to £15; Mr W Gubbins, two, £13 and £14; Mr W B Smith, two, £13 10s and £13 15s; Mr J Corneille, five, £10 10s to £14 2s 6d; Mr M Ryan, three, £16 10s to £18 5s; the property of a gentleman, four, £10 10s to £15 10s; Mr James Ryan, five, £11 5s to £17; Mr P Connors, two, £13 10s; Mr M Welsh, three, £12 5s to £16 10s; Mr P Hederman, five, £12 10s to £14 15s; Mr M Maher, four, £17 to £18 10s; Capt'n O'Brien, four, £16 5s to £18 10s; Mr D R O'Brien eight, £13 5s to £19 5s; Mr J Russell, six, £14 15s to £19 15s; Mr M Moylan, two, £16 and £17 5s; Mr James Dundon, two, £17 10s and £17 15s; Mr D Hederman, six, £12 7s 6d to £15.

furlongs had Peaper, and the finding at the d tussle then strides appe victories, but th last fifty yards splendid finish between second officially placed

CUTE Owing to Cu was placed first hird.

Lincoln Plat Nonnette, 3. Squall, Barint Castle, Nun St Virritoot, Oht; to 1 Step Dance others.

Doddington 2; Cullen Castl 9 to 4 on Lavin Protestant Boy Kesteven Pl; 2; Miss Tathwe Isle, Start Poin agst Tathwell, Brummel, 7 to others.

OFFIC LINCC Daly's and L G Liverpool Sa Rathally, at 1

COUNTY POINT-

The County Races took pl Bruree, and and fashional was favourable, standard, whil smoothly. Det THE COUNTY

(pre. sed) l about four Captain D. J. L Mr. J. P. Hoga Mr. H. S. Pears THE YORK A RACE. Mr. M. K. Sand Mr. H. F. A. G. Mr. H. F. A. G. THE BURNS. Disti Mr. M. F. Kelly Mr. M. W. T. V The FARMERS by Mr Ni about three Mr D S O'Conn Mr J G Lynch's Mr M S Carroll.

P.Y.M.A. A match for between the ab grounds at 3.30 are only two poi and so an excitin

THE AG Mr. William has been app of the Peace fo recommendation tenant of Limeri

THE AG Wee

On Saturday las held their usual The entries were over 100 head be knocked about w that they do not chasers are slow lots. Trade, hov demand a ready being well please cows were eager and a large entry satisfactory price

The following: Mr Campbell's u £13; Mr Conw £14 12s 6d; M O'Brien's third d Corry's from £17 £14 15s to £14 2s from £15 2s 6d to £17 2s 6d; M £13 15s; Mr I Mr Nunan's fro Mrs Margaret l £10 10s. In the from £17 15s to £10 to £13 5s; M 10s; Mr Earlight's many others from from £8 to £5 15s