

ed Kingdom. Futhermore, and that for the eight months of the present year a number of disputes have occurred the corresponding period of the whole of any of the years. These facts bear out the general opinion entertained that for a considerable time we have been passing through a period of abnormal industrial activity. It is our hope that a brighter state of affairs awaits us in the near future, and that peace, so essential to the welfare of any community, will prevail in the near future. One satisfactory feature of the present is the important part in which arbitration has prevailed in the settlement of the great majority of the disputes which were determined by direct arbitration but the number settled by arbitration or mediation was the highest yet. Voluntary boards of conciliation and joint committees continued to be formed and settled a large number of disputes without recourse to stoppage of work. The public are anxiously looking forward day by day to a termination of the labour troubles in Dublin. Peace has been mooted or talked of in various quarters but so far the prospects, although improving a few days since, appear to be far away once more. The English labour union delegates have returned to London and yesterday the general situation was without change. Dismal as the state of affairs is, it can only be hoped that some form of conciliation will be speedily found which will bring to an end a struggle which has lasted on its tenth week, with untold suffering to the working classes and vast dislocation of trade and industry that will require a long day to repair. The report of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Mr. W. Collen, referring last week to the effects of the strike on the engineering trades, remarked that it was certain as the outlook was at present that the more or less continuous friction between capital and labour, it might be said with truth that students of the difficult labour problems were coming to the conclusion that

Will that percentage be gained at the "miniature General Election?" That is the question in which members of all parties evince great interest, seeing that when it is answered politicians will have some knowledge as to what may be expected when the appeal to the whole electorate is made. But of more immediate importance is the possibility of one or more of the seats now vacant being wrested from the Radicals. Even a single Unionist victory would mean a serious blow to the Government, and the capture of two or more seats would have a far-reaching effect upon the Radical Party's plans. It is not too much to hope that the miniature General Election will cause the Government to reconsider the advisability of the full steam ahead policy.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN ARTHUR BLENNERHASSETT.

We regret to record the death which took place last night at his residence, 17 County View Terrace, of Mr John Arthur Blennerhassett in the 53rd year of his age. Mr Blennerhassett had been in ill-health for the past few months, but it was hoped convalescence would be a matter of time. Despite the loving care of his wife and the best medical and nursing skill he has passed away to the keen regret of very many friends who admired him for his manly and straightforward qualities, and his courteous, kindly, and charitable disposition. Since the death of his only son, about fifteen months ago, Mr Blennerhassett, has not been in the robust health that he hitherto enjoyed. As managing clerk for many years in the Land Agency Office of the late Mr. E. H. P. Hosford, he was widely known in Limerick and the adjoining counties, and he proved himself to be a man of excellent business capacity, possessing a wide knowledge of matters relating to landlord and tenant. He was an old member of the Congregation of Trinity Church, and one of the Churchwardens for the present year. As a member of the Protestant Young Men's Association, his name has long been identified with the Debating Class, where on many occasions he gave proof of his debating powers and keen grasp of the subjects under discussion. He took a kindly interest too in the Association generally. His sad and premature demise cuts short a useful and an active career, and we sincerely sympathise with his widow in her poignant grief. The funeral leaves for St. Munshin's at 9.30 on Saturday morning.

SUNDAY CLOSING ACT AT BUNRATTY.

A Bunratty publican named William F. Ryan was prosecuted at the Sixmilebridge Petty Sessions on Tuesday for infringing the Licensing Laws.

The evidence of Constable Curtin went to show that on the 26th ult. he visited the defendant's premises and found seven men there. Four of the number lived within the three mile limit.

In cross-examination by Mr. R. Frost, Solr., the Constable stated that he was perfectly satisfied as to the distance the men resided from the public-house as he had paced it, and ascertained that the greatest distance any of them lived was 2 miles and 964 yards.

The burden of evidence given for the defence

I propose we appoint a deputation to meet once and to try to arrange the matter. This was agreed to, and a deputation appointed for the purpose, Mr. O'Meara presiding.

LOANS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Mr O'Meara urged a strong resolution passed for a scheme of houses for the working classes. After the Clancy Act was passed a second application was from Kilrush and had not one house yet erected. In connection with this were applications for a loan abattoir, and the cricket field.

It was ordered to have the resolution passed. Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland.

CQ. LIMERICK TRAGEDY

Kilmallock, Tu

A woman was found drowned to-day in a dyke at Athlacca. So far she has not been identified.

The Inquest.

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of the woman who was found drowned in a dyke at Athlacca.

Dr J. M. Clery, Bruff, who made a general examination of the body, deposed that there were no marks of violence, or evidence of foul play, that in his opinion death was due to asphyxiation as a result of drowning.

A verdict was returned "that the death of the woman whose name is unknown, was found drowned in the dyke on the 4th inst."

Her friends turned up after the inquest and were ascertained that her name was Mary Quinn. She was on her way to Limerick, as her husband was to be discharged from the Industrial School. Her husband was a native of Rathkeale, and stated to be a tinsmith. Her friends took her remains to Charleville for interment.

CHARGE OF LARCENY.

Last night Constable Corry, John street, arrested Martin Nevin, of the thinker class, on a charge of stealing a set of harness the property of Mr. P. Doyle, Garryowen. It was stated that the value of the harness was 30s, and that it had been missing for some time. The accused was brought before Mr. S. B. Quin, J.P., this morning and remanded for eight days.

IRISH P.O. CLERKS AND THE REPORT,

Resolution of Female Staff

Last night in Wynn's Hotel a large and enthusiastic meeting of the female staff of the General Post Office, Dublin, was held under the auspices of the Ladies' Central Branch of the Association of Irish Post Office Clerks. Miss Heap presided.

Miss E. Jones proposed the following resolution:—"That this general meeting of the female staff of the Central Branch approve the policy of the National Executive of our Association in completely rejecting the findings of the Holt Commission, which entirely ignore the claims of the female staff. We are disappointed at the action of the Irish representative Mr. P. J. Brady, in voting against Mr. Wilson's amendment for an increased rate of one shilling for Dublin; and, in view of the admitted increase in the cost of living, the growing volume and complexity of our work, we join with our male colleagues in demanding a corresponding increase in wages from January 1914."