

During a manufacturing which passed over a portion of the West Clare district on the afternoon of Sunday, lightning descended the chimney of a house at Clooney, Ennistymon, instantly killing a man named Michael Egan, and knocking unconscious two other persons who were in the same apartment.

## West Clare Storm Swept

### QUILTY FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

The storms on the Clare seaboard during the past few days have led to the inundation of low-lying lands. At Quilty and Seafield stone walls were knocked down. Six canoes and some nets have been swept out to sea, depriving 18 families of their means of livelihood. In Kilrush and district, writes our Kilrush correspondent, the weather has been very severe and stormy during the past week. An amount of damage to property has been done. The slates of several houses have been blown off. On Sunday the sea ran mountains high, and a large number of coasting steamers are at anchor at Scattery Roadsteads pending the settlement of the weather.

## FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

### FORTHCOMING LECTURE BY FATHER FINLAY, S.J.

We desire to draw the attention of our country readers to the advertisement which appears in this issue announcing a meeting of the Limerick and Clare Farmers' Association, in the George Hotel, on next Saturday at 11.30 a.m. We understand that arrangements are being made to have Father Finlay, S.J., F.N.U.I., and Vice-President of the I.A.O.S., deliver in Limerick on March 16th a lecture under the auspices of the Farmers' Association on the subject of—"Co-operation in Agriculture." Next Saturday's meeting is called for the purpose of arranging details of this important event, and consequently it is desirable that all members attend.

## Town Tenants' League

### PUBLIC MEETING AT KILRUSH

A largely attended public meeting under the auspices of the Kilrush Branch of the Town Tenants' League was held at Bank Place on Monday night. Mr M. O'Meara, U.C., presided, and in a spirited address, which was punctuated with loud cheers, he appealed to the people of the town to come forward and join the branch. After enrolling a large number of members and subscriptions having been handed in, it was decided to invite an organiser, down from the head office, to put the movement on a firm basis. Mr. T. Nagle, U.C., and Mr. Bunfield were appointed secretaries pro tem, until the election of officers and a committee would take place on Monday night, February 2nd. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

## City Finances

For some time past the Borough Council has been considering the question of the best means of arranging its finances and placing them on a better footing, the state of the different funds having become somewhat disarranged owing to the decision of the County Court that the Improvement Fund cannot legally bear the deficit in the Electricity Concerns and to other causes. A special meeting of the Finance Committee is to be held very soon to review the position, and go into the whole question, when the new members will have an opportunity of getting into touch with the financial position generally. It may be assumed that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

Mr. P. J. Kelly, R.M., attended at the City Police Court to day, but there was no case for hearing.

came into the office to square up the accounts due by them for money advanced, free of interest—a privilege granted many years ago to keep them out of the toils of moneylenders. The many kindnesses and considerations they received at my hands when they or their families were in sickness or trouble was quite forgotten in their loyalty to their society, which seems bent on breaking up the friendly relations existing between employers and employed, dislocating trade, and whilst injuring employers kind and generous, only damaging their own interests, happiness and welfare.

## Talented Limerick Girl

### TO ACCOMPANY GAELIC ENVOY

Miss Teresa Halpin, the talented daughter of Mr Joseph Halpin, Garryowen, Limerick, is to accompany Miss Nellie O'Brien, Ardaneir, Foynes, on her forthcoming mission to the United States on behalf of the Gaelic League. Miss Halpin was for years one of the most prominent figures at Gaelic concerts and festivals. When only five years of age she won prizes at Feiseanna, and since then she has achieved many distinctions by winning medals at the annual Oireachtas, as well as numerous trophies at Feiseanna in all parts of the country. She is one of the greatest living exponents of Irish step dancing, having won the Championship of Ireland in that art, and is also a singer and violin player of great merit. During her visit to the United States she will give exhibitions of Irish dancing, as well as expositions of Irish music and singing. We understand that an influential committee has been formed to make her a presentation prior to her departure from her native city.

## Stones on the Line

### RAILWAY OUTRAGE IN CLARE.

The last train for West Clare from Ennis on Monday night had a narrow escape from a serious accident. On the Ballygriffey section, between Ennis and Ruan, the driver noticed a light on the line in front and slackened speed, but the engine ran into an obstruction across the permanent way. The driver and District Inspector Davis, who was travelling by the train, got off to make inquiries, and they ascertained that a number of large coping stones had been removed from the wall alongside the track and built up into a barrier between the rails. On this a lamp had been placed. No damage was occasioned to the engine, which after delay resumed the journey.

## Death and Funeral of Mrs. E. O'Dwyer, Mary-Street

We regret to record the demise of the above esteemed lady, which sad event occurred on Sunday last after a short illness. The deceased, who was mother of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Mr. John O'Dwyer, Surgeon Dentist, Barrington-street, and mother-in-law of Mr. J. O'Donnell, overseer Shannon Foundry, was held in the highest respect by a wide circle of acquaintances, and many were the expressions of sympathy when the unexpected news of her death became known. The funeral took place on yesterday to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, and the large number who attended, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was abundant proof of the great popularity in which deceased and her family are held.

## Boy's Leg Broken

While a messenger boy named M'Carthy, of College-street, Clonmel, and a number of other youngsters were amusing themselves by making the turning table for the engine at the railway revolve, M'Carthy got caught under one of the wheels of the table, and got twisted right round, the leg being broken. He was conveyed in the ambulance to St. Joseph's Hospital.

SPEECH BY MR. DEVLIN, M.P.  
Speaking yesterday at Bethnal Green, London, in support of Mr Masterman's candidature for the Parliamentary representation of that constituency, Mr Devlin delivered an important and interesting address. Coming to the Home Rule issue, he said—"I have watched Sir Edward Carson and his friends have continually demanding a General Election before the Home Rule Bill has been passed and it seems to me a somewhat extraordinary circumstance that though in Parliament they claim to clamour for a General Election, in order that the judgment of the people may be taken on this great issue, when they do get an election as they have got one here in Bethnal Green and as they have in Poplar, their whole policy is to subordinate and keep Home Rule in the background, and to discuss absolutely entirely different questions" (cheers). For his own part, not as an Irishman, but as a democrat, he would rejoice to argue on any platform the merits of the great National Insurance scheme. He said there, as he would proudly do in Ireland, that next to the Age Pensions Act, no more beneficent proposals were ever submitted to the people, and no greater scheme for the alleviation of suffering and sorrow ever emanated from the mind of a statesman. He did not believe the National Insurance Act was perfect: as an Irish Home Ruler he did not believe that British statesmen were as perfect as they might believe themselves to be (laughter), but, subject to its limitations, National Insurance was a great humane measure, which would fully justify itself in the future, even more than it had justified itself during the past twelve months. One of the chief reasons why the Insurance Act was unpopular amongst many people was because they were compelled to pay direct contribution. Did anyone imagine that old pensions were paid out of some resource in the treasury into which nobody contributed? I thought direct taxation was a good thing for the working classes, because they knew what they were paying for. The Tory Party have never put before the country any alternative policy. They had no policy in that regard in any other. They are clinging to old hatreds and religious shibboleths," Mr Devlin declared. They invite the people to instal them in power and they feed them those hatreds and recriminations that are an outrage to our modern progress and civilisation. It is a scarry policy for any party to have nothing to stand up to but the perpetuation and fostering of hatred between two great peoples, who ought to be joined together by love and as they were joined together by God (cheers). We in Ireland, continued, have not threatened the British people with civil war because we did not believe in Home Rule, I venture to say that if we had we would say these are not enlightened methods that appeal to the English people. Is Sir Edward Carson to succeed in frightening a threatening and intimidating the British democracy? (Cries of "Never.") If Ireland is once more to have the cup of hope dashed from her lips, not only would your liberties be destroyed; for, with the destruction of the Irish Parliament, there is re-established a reign of feudalism in this country (cheers). Mr Devlin mentioned to his audience that one of the Belfast members had told him, and his statement seemed to him to sum up the whole situation—"You have all the argument on your side, you have all the logic and reason on your side; your case from a constitutional point of view is unanswerable, but we can have Home Rule because it is in our blood" (loud laughter and cheers).

## The Irish Land Bill

Mr. Birrell, in a printed reply to a question by Mr. Fetherstonhaugh, yesterday says:— "I hope it may be possible to reintroduce the Irish Land Bill of last session. It will be possible to find time for its passage through the House unless the Bill is practically treated as one not involving controversy."