

ery largely explain
 nated decrease in
 ed with the average
 rs is 0.2 per cent.
 per 1,000 of the
 by the marriages
 third quarter of
 verage rate for the
 the preceding ten
 he mortality from
 epidemic diseases,
 December quarter of
 he highest on the
 measles were next
 139, and diphtheria
 represented by 80
 ile small-pox was
 ber of deaths from
 returned at the big
 ed with 1,921 for
 r of 1913. Cancer
 aths. In former
 ade to the decline in
 es, and it is pleasing
 its presented them-
 quarter. The total
 less than in the
 f the year 1913, and
 rage for the fourth
 s 1904-1913. Now,
 sing said and done
 of tillage operations
 oped that increased
 m will be found at
 gration "drain" will
 less. The weather
 and we know that
 is the winter—what
 pest, and icy down-
 il—has been an ex-
 e, but at last the
 of spring-time are
 themselves in the
 rden and field, and
 other respects as well
 h the three closing
 ar we observe that
 ing that quarter, the
 mber, when rain or
 is rainfall measuring

showing an increase of £776,455 for the year and making the total Funds, with Capital paid up, £9,808,538. A record of which the Pearl may well feel proud is found in the fact that no less than 1,908 members of the Company's Staff have joined His Majesty's Forces. The report further announces that "During the first five months of the war, claims on the lives of one thousand and twenty of the Company's Policy-holders who have become victims of the war have been paid in full, although by the conditions of their policies the Company was not liable for any payment." The facts and figures contained in the report indicate steadily increasing business, and with it steadily advancing prosperity, on which the Company are to be heartily congratulated. Intending policy-holders can obtain any further particulars that may be needed from the courteous and energetic Limerick District representative, Mr J. J. McGammon, Cecil Chambers, Limerick.

♦ ♦ ♦
DEATH OF MRS MORONY, ODELL VILLE.

We regret to record the death of Mrs Helena M. Morony, wife of Mr Edmund Morony, of Odell Ville, which took place at her residence on Sunday after a short illness. The deceased lady who had attained a ripe old age, was the only child of the late John O'Dell, of Odell Ville, a family whose name has been associated with the district for over a century. She was mother of Mrs. H. V. Morony, wife of Mr Morony, B.E. M. Inst. C.E., Harbour Engineer, and of Mrs H. G. Molony, wife of Dr Molony, Ballin-garry. The deceased, who was of a most kindly and charitable disposition, was highly popular with all classes and creeds, and her demise is deeply regretted, and general sympathy is tendered to her husband and relatives in their bereavement. The funeral takes place for Ballin-garry at 12 o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday).

♦ ♦ ♦
DEATH OF MR. GEORGE ROBERTS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr George Roberts, which occurred at his residence, New-town, Clarina, yesterday, at the venerable age of 85 years. The deceased gentleman was a well-known resident of the county, and was held in the highest esteem by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, who admired him for his fine traits of character and honesty of purpose. He was father of Dr James Roberts, Upper Mallow street, Limerick, and of the Rev. Father Aidan, O.F.M., Athlone. The funeral will take place at 1 o'clock to-morrow, from Ballybrown R.C. Church, for the family burial-place.

♦ ♦ ♦
ANCIENT IRISH MUSIC.

The beauties of ancient Irish music were adequately expressed by Mr Arthur Darley in an illustrated lecture at the Theatre Royal on Friday night. Considering the educative value of the subject, and its close association with our historic past, it was disappointing to find that the audience was not of larger proportions, but those who found the opportunity to be present, in spite of bad weather, were amply rewarded by a treat of unsurpassing beauty and instruction. Mr Darley who has made a close and profitable study of Celtic airs described the three kinds of music played by the harpers of old, and gave specimens of the sorrowful, the soothing, and the martial strains, which made a

the
 SO-CALLED GERMAN BLOCKADE
 of our coasts; he would have to use some very plain language. Germany had taken a further step without precedent in history, by mobilising and organising under the surface of the sea a campaign of piracy and pillage. Addressing himself to the neutral countries of the world, he asked if we were to—if we could—sit quiet, as though we were still under the protection of the restraining rules and usages of civilized warfare. He thought we could not. The enemy described these measures, by a grotesque and puerile perversion of language, as a blockade. But a blockade consisted in sealing up the war ports of a belligerent against sea-borne traffic by encircling their coasts with an impenetrable ring of ships of war. Where were those ships of war? The plain truth was that the German Fleet does not, could not, and never would, blockade our coasts. He then read

THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION
 on the subject, which recites the German announcement in regard to war on belligerent and danger to neutral ships within the so-called war area. This German declaration is, it is argued, in effect a claim to torpedo at sight, without regard to the safety of crew or passengers, any merchant vessel, under any flag. Since it is not in the power of the German Admiralty to maintain any surface craft in these waters, the attack could only be delivered by submarine agency. These operations were outside the scope of any international instruments regulating operations against commerce in time of war. Germany, by adopting these methods, had

DRIVEN HER OPPONENTS TO RETALIATE
 by preventing as far as possible commodities of every kind reaching or leaving Germany. These measures would, however, be enforced by France and England without risks to neutral ships or non-combatant lives, and in strict observance of the dictates of humanity. The British and French Governments would hold themselves free to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership, or origin. It was not intended to confiscate such vessels or cargoes unless they would be otherwise liable to confiscation. That was the British reply.

SUBJECT TO HUMANITY AND HONESTY,
 there was no form of economic pressure to which the Allies would not resort. Discussing the labour situation, he said this was a war not only of men, but of material, and the first duty of all concerned was to go on producing with might and main what the safety of the State required. If this was done, he could say with confidence on his part that the Government would ensure and promote an equitable settlement of disputed points. This was not the time to talk of peace—those who did so were the victims of grievous self-delusion.

Testimonial to Sergeant Michael O'Leary, V.C.

A circular, which is signed by the Earl of Bandon, K.P.; Ald H O'Shea, Lord Mayor, Cork; R. Brophy, J.P., Chairman Macroom Board of Guardians; John O'Shea, J.P., Chairman Macroom Urban Council, and John Fitzgerald, J.P., M.C.C., Chairman Macroom Rural District Council, has been issued. It states that "in response to numerous and pressing requests, it has been decided to promote a testimonial on behalf of Sergeant Michael O'Leary, V.C., the hero of Cuinchy, whose fame and name ring through the British Isles for one of the most heroic and glorious of deeds on the battlefield. In Macroom, Co Cork, a few miles from his native home, a