

anxious consideration of the Department of Agriculture." We have no doubt they will give due weight to the resolution unanimously passed by the Conservators directing special attention "to the steady deterioration of the Shannon Salmon Fisheries, which can, in the opinion of this Board, only be arrested by the establishment of a proper hatchery or hatcheries and calls upon the Department before it is too late to take the necessary steps to erect and carry on a hatchery or hatcheries on an adequate scale. And if this is not done, the Shannon Salmon Fisheries, a great national industry, must soon cease." The discussion was a timely and practical one, and it is to be hoped will tend to equally practical results.

## FATAL CITY ACCIDENT.

A distressing fatality occurred yesterday at the saw mills in Ellen street of Mr Morgan McMahon. One of the workmen, Patrick Moloney, a young man, was at his usual employment in the forenoon, when he was accidentally caught in the machinery, in which he became entangled for some time, and sustained such severe injuries on different parts of the body that death took place almost before stopping the moving machinery. The deceased was a native of Mungret, and much sympathy is extended to his relatives over the sad occurrence. He was about 27 years of age. Mr J F Barry, J.P., City Coroner, and a jury, opened the inquest yesterday, but after taking evidence of identification, the inquest was adjourned to Monday, with a view to affording an opportunity to a Board of Trade official to be present at the proceedings.

## SPRING ASSIZES 1917.

North-East—The Right Hon the Lord Chief Justice; the Right Hon Mr Justice Ross.

Munster—The Right Hon Mr Justice Dold; the Right Hon Mr Justice Pim.

Connaught—The Right Hon Lord Justice Molony; the Right Hon Lord Justice Konan.

North-West—The Right Hon Mr Justice Kenny; the Right Hon Mr Justice Gordon.

Leinster—The Right Hon Mr Justice Gibson; the Right Hon Mr Justice Madden.

The Circuits will go out on Thursday, 1st March, or Friday, 2nd March.

## A PLEA FOR THE BIRDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—Might I through your columns make a plea for our little friends of the feathered tribe. The present very severe weather is a trying one for those who delight us with their joyous notes when Nature smiles on us and on them. But now the very hard state of the ground renders it most difficult for the birds to get food, I have seen some of them dead. There are many thought-

ferences at St Michael's Temperance Hall on Thursday night. The paper on the subject was to be read by Mr John F Bourke, B.Com, but at the last moment he found that he was unable to fulfil his engagement, and his place was taken by Professor Smiddy, who supplied a very instructive paper. The Rev Fr Devane, C.C, presided, and said the subject was one which, he felt sure, would evoke among the audience that attention and thought it deserved. There were social problems confronting them in the city which needed solution, particularly the housing question, as it affected the poor. Let them try and bring into their every-day lives some thought for the less-circumstanced, and in these series of conferences they would find many topics to engage attention, and probably a solution would be found for the economic conditions under which the workers suffered.

Professor Smiddy, who was very cordially received, said by casual labour he did not mean unemployment. The casual labourer was a person who worked a couple of days in the week, while unemployment implied that a man might work continuously for two or three months and find himself out of work for a week or two at a stretch. He gave a description of the conditions of employment prevailing among the cloth porters of Manchester and the Liverpool dockers, and proceeded to contrast the terms of employment prevailing in these centres with the port of Hamburg, where what was known as the contract system obtained. A good deal of casual labour had its outcome in blind alley employment, and to check this committees were about being formed in Cork, where when a boy reached a certain age other employment was found for him of a permanent character. He advocated a better system of education to meet the growing demands of the moment, and thought this could be extended by making it compulsory for boys to attend continuation schools at the conclusion of their day's work.

At the conclusion of the address, a discussion took place, in which the speakers were Rev Fr Hackett, S.J.; Mr R P O'Connor, B.C.; the City High Sheriff, and the Chairman.

The lecturer having replied to the various points raised, a vote of thanks to Professor Smiddy, proposed by Fr Devane, concluded the proceedings.

## THE CITY ALLOTMENT SCHEME.

The following is a copy of a letter which was read at the meeting of the Allotment Scheme Committee of the Corporation on Thursday:—

Cahir Abbey, Cahir, Co Tipperary.

6th February, 1917.

FOOD PRODUCTION, 1917.

Land for Tillage—Estate of Lord Lansdowne.

DEAR SIR—In reply to yours of yesterday's date, I am prepared to advise Lord Lansdowne to offer the Clannurise meadow lands, containing eight acres or thereabouts, to your Land Allotment Scheme Committee, at a rent of £2 the statute acre (landlord paying taxes), on the understanding that it is to be let out for the benefit of the working classes to whom plots are to be let for tillage purposes. The terms would be for three years, with an obligation to restore the land in grass at the end of the three years, the land