...on pay days during the quarter, but an increase of 714 in the average number of persons on outdoor relief. It appears from a statistical table that the total number of deaths from the principal epidemic diseases was 746, equivalent to an annual rate of 0·69 per 1,000 living, and it is very satisfactory to observe that the mortality was 363, or 0·33 per 1,000, under the average for the third quarter of the five years preceding. The number of deaths from tuberculosis disease, as returned by the Registrars, was 2,076, being 32 above the average (2,044) for the corresponding quarter of the five years 1912-16, and representing an annual rate of 1·91 per 1,000 of the population, as against rates of 1·66, 2·40, and 2·65 respectively for the three preceding quarters. Until the housing question is practically solved in our cities and towns, and which, there is a prospect, will be the case after the war, this dread disease will doubtless continue to claim many victims dwelling in wretched abodes and amidst insanitary surroundings. There were 808 deaths from cancer during the quarter, being 54 under the average for the third quarter of the five years 1912-16, which is a satisfactory feature. The number of emigrants who left Ireland during the quarter was only 579, due, no doubt, to war conditions, but it is gratifying to note that the number is 1,829 less than in the corresponding quarter of the year 1916, and 5,858 below the average number for the third quarter of the ten years 1907-1916. This year the further extension of tillage in Ireland, essential as it is in the interests of the people and the Nation, should materially tend to further stay the emigration drain, because there will be plenty of employment for the horney-handed sons of toil, both at the time of sowing and reaping. In the months of July, August, and September but 66, 92, and 68 males, respectively, emigrated, compared with 151, 126, and 145, respectively, for the corresponding period of 1916, while the comparison as regards females is more noteworthy still, the numbers being 121, 119, and 113 for the harvest months of 1917, as against 422, 407, and 157 for 1916. The meterological notes remind us that for the whole quarter under notice, that is to the 30th September last, the temperature was nearly 1a above the normal in both the north and south, while the total duration of bright sunshine was slightly above in the north and a little below in the south, the mean per day being hr. in each district. The total rainfall was in excess very generally. In the north the percentage of the normal was 111, and the south 132. Such a large excess during the third quarter has not been experienced for many years.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Plotholders.

With the compulsory powers at the disposal of Urban Authorities for acquiring land by com-

Assistant Engineer, Londonderry Gas Works, and Mr J E Enright, Engineer, Tralee Gas Works. The sub-committee who were appointed to visit the gas works of Londonderry and Tralee submitted their report, and on the motion of Mr Griffin, seconded by Mr S O'Mara, Mr Enright, Tralee, was unanimously appointed.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE.

The Lord Bishop of Limerick and Ardfert held a Confirmation Service at Trinity Church on Sunday morning. Twenty-nine candidates, all from the parish, were presented by the Rector, Rev Canon Waller, B.D. The Bishop delivered an address to the young people previous to the Confirmation, and later on preached an impressive sermon on the means of grace. There was a large congregation.

MR DUKE.

Report that he has Resigned the Chief Secretaryship.

A circumstantial rumour was current in Dublin last evening, says the "Freeman," that Mr Duke has tendered his resignation as Chief Secretary during the course of the day. No confirmation of the report was, however, available.

IRISH GOVERNMENT.

We learn (says the "Freeman") from usually well-informed sources in London that a report is current there of a most sensational nature respecting impending changes in the Government of Ireland.

DEATH OF MR. W. T. ORMSTON.

The death, which we regret to announce, took place after a protracted illness on Sunday, at his residence, 2 Grattan Villas, of Mr W. T. Ormston. The deceased had about 34 years' service in the Post Office. He was a capable and painstaking official, and of a very affable and genial disposition, qualities which won for him the esteem of his colleagues and the general public. He was a member of Garryowen Football Club for many years, and on several occasions played in some of their most important matches, particularly in the Munster Cup engagements. His death, which is very generally regretted, has come as a great blow to his wife and seven children, to whom the sympathy of the public will be extended in their bereavement. The funeral, which took place to-day to St Mary's Cathedral, was large and representative.

DEATH OF MR PATRICK CLUNE.

The death occurred on Sunday, at his residence in Dublin, of Mr P Clune, who, for over a quarter of a century, occupied the position of agriculturist in the Model Farm, Glasnevin. Mr Clune was an authority upon live stock generally, and his services were in keen request as judge in all parts of the country for many years. In his capacity as Live Stock Inspector to the Department of Agriculture Mr Clune was favourably known for his discernment and impartial judgments. The deceased, who was in his seventieth year, was a native of Co Clare, and received his early education in agriculture in the old Model School at Mungret. He was brother of Mr James Clune, buyer at Messrs Todd & Co, to whom the sympathy of the public will be extended in his bereavement.

OUT AND ABOUT.

Lord Dunraven has arrived at the Viceregal Lodge.

A farmer ploughing a field at Ballysop, near

The same defendant was fined charging for tea, and a similar per charging for margarine.

The defence was ignorance of t and the Chairman remarked that the district should keep in to regulated prices.

IRISH PIGS CONTROL

The Ministry of Food forwards for publication :—The Irish Pigs Co Order issued by the Ministry of Foo the licensing and registration of bu Ireland. The Order has been draft tion with the Irish Department of A the various British and Irish interest the production of pork and bacon a tering it. The Irish Food Committe advantage of the assistance of a tho sentative Advisory Committee. Afte it will be illegal for any person wl plied to the Irish Food Committee fo of registrarion under the Order, a 15th March for any person who is r such certificate or registration, t Ireland for slaughter. Application tion should be made to the Irish Committee, Kilworth House, Dub 1st March. Allocations of supplies to registered buyers on the basis period of trade, and arrangemen made by which English and Scottis secure their fair allocation of suppli

The holder of any licence issue Order shall keep accurate records prices paid for pigs and other such are necessary to show whether or n sions of the Order are being complie

It is further provided that a per after the 21st February, 1918, either behalf or on behalf of any other pe sell, or deal in; or (b) offer or in or propose to buy, sell, or deal in; into negotiations for the sale or other dealing in any pig, except in established marked or fair, and duri for holding such market or fair pres lawful authority. The Committee any pig buyer to buy pigs in such and at such times only as are directed mittee.

TIVOLI THEATRE.

The Tivoli Picture Palace cont audiences last night, when a highly bill of fare was provided by the prop outstanding feature of the perfor "Buffalo and the Circus Girl," a th which was very much enjoyed. instalment of "Judex" was a very taking film, and greatly appreciated.

SILVERMINES PRISON

Reported Hunger-Str

The three brothers, Patrick, Willia O'Brien, who are charged with the old man named George Sheehan, at Silvermines, Co Tipperary, on 2nd who were on Saturday remanded Gaol, have, a contemporary is inform hunger-strike.

Inquiries made to-day do not confir If the prisoners have resorted to h there is nothing officially known rate the statement that they have, th are reticent in the matter.

It was stated to-day that Michael was sent to prison at the City Petty Friday last for drunkenness, ob thoroughfare and assaulting the poli on hunger strike.

CHARGE OF CONSPIR