

a promised. The "Gazette" adds that in particular is this true of the more important items, such as wheat, oats, and potatoes; each of these three crops have made laudible progress, the oats, perhaps, most of all. Wheat would seem to promise a fair average crop, as also does barley, while the outlook for the potato crop is in most parts excellent, though it will be observed that in spite of all warnings many failures have to be recorded through neglect of spraying. For other root crops—turnips and mangels—are more difficult to gauge; 'patchy' is the description given in many cases, for rooks, the fly and other pests have been exceptionally active this season. Least satisfactory of any, however, are flax and hay, the former the result probably of inexperience on the part of many growers, being very variable in quality, while hay was mostly a light crop, though well saved. Pastures have come on splendidly of late, and are now providing excellent feeding." If suitable weather for reaping is vouchsafed during the next few weeks, there can be no doubt, our contemporary concludes, "that a rich harvest will be gathered in, to the benefit both of the farmer and the nation."

CURRENT COMMENT.

Limerick and Sunday Mails.

Some time since the Harbour Board, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, entered a protest, and one which has been re-echoed by the citizens generally, against the action of the Railway Executive depriving the city of a Sunday train service. The result of this withdrawal is that, far as Limerick is concerned, it is isolated from the outer world on Sundays, and those who have business to transact in Dublin and Cork are obliged to travel by car to the Limerick station on Sunday to get a connection to these centres. Inconvenient and annoying as that is to the business community, there is still a worse feature of the isolation which adversely affects the merchants and traders of the city, and that is the non-delivery of Monday morning mails. Prior to the coal economy campaign, the cross-Channel mails were delivered in the city early on Monday mornings, but under the new regime that has been discontinued for the simple reason that there is no train service to Limerick from Dublin before 11.20 a.m., and by the time the mails are delivered merchants and traders have scarcely any time to reply to even pressing correspondence, as the afternoon mail train leaves at a quarter to three. This is an undoubted evanescence in the case of a large mercantile community like Limerick, and demands a remedy. At yesterday's meeting of the Harbour Board the matter was again discussed in the absence of a deputation which waited on the Railway Executive recently with a view to having the Sunday train service to and from the Limerick station restored. We can only hope that the authorities will recognise the justice of the claim forwarded by an important distributing centre in Limerick. At all events it is evident, judging from the discussion at yesterday's meeting, that there is no intention of allowing the subject to drop. We feel assured the Corporation will support the Harbour Board in the action that has been taken in the interest of the entire community.

Mr Walter McNally in Concert and Opera

A crowded and appreciative audience renewed acquaintance with Mr Walter McNally, the popular Irish baritone and his gifted artistic support at the Theatre Royal last night. As a concert singer Mr McNally has gained a reputation of no inconsiderable renown, and when he made his appearance last night he was greeted with a very warm and spontaneous welcome. He sang with feeling purity of tone and artistic conception the ever popular ballad, "The Minstrel Boy," and for an encore his selection, which was given with equal effectiveness, was a romantic number of distinct Irish flavour. Mr Harry O'Dempsey's nicely modulated tenor voice was heard to advantage in the exquisite numbers, "I hear you calling me," and "Remembrance." Miss Kathleen McCully, a soprano of brilliant voice and culture, sang with tenderness and perfect artistic insight "Eventide," and was recalled. The well-known Dublin violinist, Miss Rosalind Dowse, displayed technical training and skilful execution in two solos, while Miss Florrie Ryan's contralto voice was greatly admired. Irish dancing was given a fresh impetus and graceful bearing by Miss Anne Sander, while a favourite with local audiences, Mr W J Lemass, contributed two pleasing songs, which were heartily applauded. Irish honour, rich and racy, was portrayed in inimitable fashion by Mr Norman Carol, whose sketches were happy and pleasing. The accompaniments were played with skill and taste by Miss Lucy Leenane, who also showed artistic training of a high order in solo numbers. The Prison Scene from the evergreen opera, "Maritana" was as near perfection as possible. The music associated with this excerpt was sung with delightful effect, while the acting was gifted and clever to a degree.

The engagement of Mr McNally will last for the week, and lovers of ballad concert and operatic recital should not overlook paying a visit to the Royal.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT T. G. O'SULLIVAN.

At the meeting of the Limerick County Council on Saturday, Mr W R Gubbins, J.P., chairman, proposed that the Council offer its sympathy and condolence to the family of the late Lieutenant T George O'Sullivan, R.E., who was killed in action in France on the 21st August, and who was brother-in-law of Mr J J Quaid, J.P., Secretary of the Council. The resolution was passed.

THE CORPORATION.

A special meeting of the Corporation is convened for Thursday night, when the principal business to be transacted, according to the agenda, is the making of a closing order under the Shops Act in so far as it relates to chemists' shops in the city; to strike a general purposes rate of 1s 4d in the £ to cover the statutory period ending the 31st March, 1919; to confirm the recommendation of the special Coal Committee fixing the retail prices of coal in Limerick, and to confer the freedom of the city on Mr E de Valera, Mr J McNeill, and Mrs T Clarke, "as a protest against the recent action of the British Military Governor in proclaiming certain Irish National Associations."

Swiss Pressmen are to visit America, on the invitation of the United States Government, with the object of making the two countries better known to each other.

THE GAS WORKERS'

The terms of reference to be sent to arbitrators deputed to enquire into the dispute between the Gas Workers' Society and the Corporation were discussed at a conference held to-day, and agreed upon. The arbitration process held to-morrow at 11 o'clock will issue in dispute, namely the claim of a further increase of 4s a week in wages. When the men went on strike a week ago the demand was for an increase of 20s a week, and this was settled on the basis of conceding them 16s a week, the remainder to be arbitrated upon. The arbitrators will investigate the question at issue at 11 o'clock to-morrow, and Messrs D Griffin, Stevenson and Messrs D Griffin, Stevenson the men, an umpire to be appointed if necessary.

COMPULSORY EARLY CLOSING TO SAVE LIGHT.

At the B Gas Corporation meeting to-day, the Mayor (Ald Si J Johnston, J.P.) and the Chief Secretary had informed him that the Corporation of Trade were about to make an order for compulsory early closing of shops during the winter months, and thus effect a saving of coal in the gas and electricity departments. The Corporation U.D.C. decided that the Corporation would be supplied for dances in the city elsewhere, and no public lamps would be lit during this winter. The price of gas was 5s 10d to 6s 8d per 1,000 cubic feet.

COOKED FOOD DEPOSIT.

The Limerick Cooked Food Depot gratefully acknowledges the receipt of amount realised as the result of the "Home" and Scratch Races held by the Boat Club. They also desire to thank the committee and members of the Boat Club ladies and gentlemen who so kindly and assisted at making the "At Home" a success.

THE ATHENÆUM.

Training a London Fireman constitutes a remarkably instructive film shown at the last night, when large audiences partook of a double programme. It proved a picture of the technical skill of a fire-fighter with great force, and demonstrated the value of training to equip him for his perilous work. The dramatic subject, "The Circular Exhibited in three parts, and was an excellent good film. The fifth episode of the picture, "The Ball's Eye" featured Eddie the central figure in the story, in a characteristic feature of "The Swing Comedy" was represented in the bill. "Janitors' Vendetta," a sparkling affair over with merriment. The Athenæum always a helpful factor in the success of the cinema exhibitions, and very familiar and taking music.

COL LYNCH'S CAMPAIGN.

Among the visitors at Dublin Castle were Colonel Arthur Lynch, M.P., and Mr O'Grady, who, it is understood, had a long conference of some duration with his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.