is in hearty accord with Munster generally in support of that scheme, the details of which will be explained by Sir Bertram Windle, and they will be awaited with mush interest by the agricultural community in our own district. Another subject affecting agriculture, to which the annual report of the County Councils' General Council directs attention, is re-afforestation. A deputation waited in the earlier part of the year on the Vice-President of the Department, who stated he would urge the Government to introduce a Bill into Parliament making it compulsory on owners of woodlands felling timber to replant in the ratio of at least two trees to one felled. This, if carried out, would put tree-planting on a forward and definite basis, but a distinct scheme for Ireland is advocated. As stated in our last issue, the Limerick County Council is promoting a scheme of afforestation in this county under the Department of Agriculture. It is contemplated to plant six acres as an experiment, and the action taken by the Council deserves every commendation. Never has tree-planting been so essential as at present, considering that during the war the country was so greatly denuded of its timber. So that as a commercial enterprise, apart from any other point of view, re-afforestation has great possibilities of financial success, and of becoming a leading national asset in the years to come.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Ministry of Transport.

The Government plans for the nationalisation of railways are far more advanced than is generally supposed. The data collected by the Railway Executive during the war will dispose of much of the work which would otherwise have been necessary, and, in view of the all-important problem of transport reform, a Ministry of Transport will be an immediate feature of the Government reconstruction following on the General Election. Apart from the urgent needs consequent on war demobilisation, increased transport facilities must go hand in hand with the increased production at which the nation must aim if we are to sustain our industrial and commercial prosperity.

Registrar-General's Report.

The births and deaths registered in the Dublin Registration Area and in the eighteen principal provincial Urban Districts of Ireland, with the annual rates per 1,000 of the population represented thereby, which for the purposes of these returns, is estimated at 1,127,268, are given in Table II of the Registrar-General's report for week-ending 7th December. The births are represented by 23·4 in the Dublin Registration Area; Belfast, 25·3; Cork, 21·8; Londonderry, 19·6; Limerick, 20·3; Waterford, 9·5. The deaths from all causes appertaining to the undermentioned areas for last week and for the past four weeks, respectively, were equal to the following annual rates per 1,000 of the population:—Nineteen Town Districts, 32·0 and 43·6; Dublin Registration Area, 22·5 and 31·5; Dublin City, 23·2 and 33·2; Belfast, 41·7 and 55·7; Cork, 25·8 and 29·7; Londonderry, 35·2 and 36·8; Limerick, 35·2 and 64·6; and Waterford, 20·9 and 40·9. The deaths from certain epidemic diseases registered in the 19 town districts during last week were equal to an annual rate of 0·7 per 1,000. Among the 814 deaths from all causes for Belfast are one from scarlet fever and 3 from diarrhœa and enteritis of [illegible] (If the 32 deaths from

and Reid, and this was followed by a dance by Miss Patsy Quaide, whose movements were graceful and finished. Miss Shiela Quaide also supplied a very pretty dance, while Miss Waterstone's song, "So you want to be a soldier, little man," was received with applause. A recitation by Master J Thorp was a meritorious achievement. Miss Swain contributed a pianoforte solo, and Miss Eileen Pike danced with grace and accuracy. A very pleasing rendering of "Serenade" was given by Miss Waterstone, while Miss Irene Quaide's dance was novel and pleasing. The action song, "All Tickets Ready," was delightfully rendered by the pupils, and the entertainment concluded with a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which the children displayed ability and effective dramatic insight.

Associated with the entertainment was a fancy stall, where bric-a-brac, household goods, and other useful articles were exhibited, and met with a ready sale.

FUNERAL OF MISS A EGAN.

After Requiem High Mass at St Michael's Church yesterday morning the interment took place in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery of Miss Anne Egan, fourth daughter of the late Mr Michael Egan, Clare Cottage, Athlunkard, and Patrick street. The funeral was large and representative. It included the business and professional interests in the city, and demonstrated the esteem and affection in which the deceased lady was held, and the sympathy felt for her family in their bereavement.

The chief mourners were:—Messrs John, Michael, and Joseph Egan (brothers), John Egan, Boher; Patrick Egan, Ashroe, and Andrew Egan, Limerick (first cousins), and Mr M O'Sullivan (relative).

The clergy present at the Requiem High Mass were:—Rev J Hayes, C C, St Michael's, celebrant; Rev J Carroll, C C, deacon, and Rev M Hannon, C C, sub-deacon. In the choir were:—Very Rev Fr O'Driscoll, P P, V F, St Munchin's; Very Rev Fr Keane, President, St Munchin's College; Rev Fr Dwane, Adm, St Michael's; Rev Fr Thornhill, C C; Rev Fr Treacy, C C, and Rev Fr McWilliams, S J.

The same priests, with the addition of the Rev Fr Russell, P P, Parteen, afterwards attended the funeral.

P.Y.M.A LITERARY CLASS.

Mr E H Bennis will read a paper at to-morrow's (Friday) meeting of the P.Y.M.A Literary Class, entitled "Reconstruction and the League of Nations," commencing at 8 p.m.

OUT AND ABOUT.

Rev J M Sullivan, C.S.Sp, eldest son of Mr M M Sullivan, post office, Bere Island, died at the house of his Order at Valais, Switzerland.

Nenagh Coursing Club has passed resolutions of sympathy with Mr R Spain on the death of his sister, and with Mr W Hogan, U.C, on the death of his daughter.

The body of Mr W Smith, manager of the Northern Bank, Mohill, who was drowned over a month ago, has been found at Jamestown, Carrick-on-Shannon. An inquest will be held.

Lord Dunalley, H.M.L for County Tipperary, has, says the "Dublin Gazette," appointed Mr Darby Scully, Silverfort, Fethard, to be a Deputy Lieutenant, vice Lt-Col W A Riall, deceased.

There will be no tramway service in Belfast on Christmas Day. This is the result of the ballot of the National Amalgamated Union of Labour, when there voted for the holiday 503 and against 5.

The marriage arranged between Captain E Roche, M C, Royal Munster Fusiliers, and Dorothy, younger daughter of Mr Ernest Hatton, barrister, of the Inner Temple, and Mrs Hatton, 2 Heavitree Park, Exeter, will take place very quietly in Exeter, directly leave permits.

[illegible] dance in aid of comforts

Association and the Shop [illegible] Association, has issued his awa[illegible] ferred to the spirit in which the [illegible] both sides had put forward thei[illegible] Dundon said he entirely appro[illegible] ciple of a minimum wage, and [illegible] the purpose of his award, [illegible] spective as from 1st June. [illegible] minimum salary of £42 [illegible] assistants (save indoor assist[illegible] addition of 50 per cent of thei[illegible] assistants in receipt of less than [illegible] increase of £12 to all indoor assis[illegible] of £30 per annum to all assistan[illegible] assistants) in receipt of salaries [illegible] £60 a year, and an increase of £[illegible] all assistants save those living i[illegible] of £60 a year and upwards. Un[illegible] assistants are entitled to at l[illegible] business days free holidays annu[illegible] pression "indoor assistants" do[illegible] assistant who only receives di[illegible] door from the employer.

IRISH SHELL FACT[illegible]

To Close Down at the En[illegible]

A "Freeman" reporter was inf[illegible] that at the end of this month th[illegible] cartridge-case factories, started [illegible] Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and [illegible] closed down, and over two th[illegible] find themselves out of emplo[illegible] already the services of a good ma[illegible] have been dispensed with, and [illegible] number have been retained [illegible] factories, and leave the mach[illegible] working order in view of any [illegible] may arise for the utilisation of t[illegible] facturing purposes.

An official of the Ministry [illegible] formed the representative tha[illegible] would be only too glad to receiv[illegible] any source as to how the facto[illegible] being closed down might be [illegible] benefit.

EAST LIMERICK [illegible]

The arrangements for the [illegible] mentary representative for [illegible] completed, and will be foun[illegible] factory. Mr B K Lucas, S[illegible] ranged the polling stations a[illegible] confer the minimum of incon[illegible] There are in all thirteen poll[illegible] Parliamentary division.

MAIDEN PLATE AT [illegible]

Entries for the Maiden Pl[illegible] at the Limerick race meetin[illegible] May reach the fine total of 8[illegible] week.

NO MORE COM[illegible]

It is understood no more [illegible] be gazetted to command ran[illegible] arises it is probable they wi[illegible] the cadet battalions.

PROHIBITION OF S[illegible] IN-LAMB [illegible]

The Department of Agri[illegible] Instruction for Ireland dee[illegible] period of the year to direct [illegible] fact that the Maintenance o[illegible] Ewes) Order of 1918 remain[illegible] to render illegal the slaug[illegible] Owners and persons in c[illegible] salesmen, butchers, and o[illegible] meat trade, should, accor[illegible] infringement of the Ord[illegible]