

CURRENT COMMENT.

Unemployment.

The returns issued by the Department of Statistics show that on the 31st December the total number of persons registered for employment in the Irish Free State was 34,459, showing a decrease of 2,620 compared with the previous week. In Dublin the numbers were 10,845 and 11,377 respectively; Cork, 4,683 and 5,467; Limerick, 1,594 and 1,821; Waterford, 1,244 and 1,304.

Registrar-General's Report.

The births and deaths registered in the Dublin Registration Area and in eleven provincial Urban Districts of the Irish Free State, with the annual rates per 1,000 of the population represented thereby, which, for the purposes of these returns, is estimated at 666,256, are given in Table I of the Registrar-General's report for week ending December 1st. The births are represented by 23.9 in the Dublin Registration area; Cork, 25.2; Limerick, 18.5; Waterford, 7.6. 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:—Twelve Town Districts, 14.9 and 14.8; Dublin Registration Area, 15.8 and 15.2; Dublin City, 17.4 and 16.1; Cork, 11.6 and 12.1; Limerick, 10.8 and 12.2; and Waterford, 20.4 and 20.4. The deaths from certain epidemic diseases registered in the 12 town districts during last week were equal to an annual rate of 0.9 per 1,000. Two of the 6 deaths from all causes for Waterford were from whooping-cough.

PORTRAITS IN OILS.

Mayors Clancy and O'Callaghan.

There have been executed for the Limerick Corporation portraits in oils of the late Aldermen George Clancy and Mr Michael O'Callaghan, B.C., by Mr Leo Whelan, Dublin, a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. The portraits are very faithful, and their treatment is decidedly artistic and convincing. Alderman Clancy, who was Mayor of the city in 1921, when he was murdered, is depicted in Gaelic costume, while Councillor O'Callaghan, who was Mayor the previous year, and met with a similar fate, is painted seated in the civic chair. It is the intention of the Corporation to hang the portraits in the Council Chamber at either side of the Mayoral chair.

LORD SHAUGHNESSY DEAD.

Montreal, Monday.

The death has occurred of Lord Shaughnessy, Chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Thomas George Shaughnessy was born of Irish parents in Milwaukee in 1853. His forebears were natives of West Limerick. He was identified with the Canadian Pacific Railway throughout his career. In 1882 he was general purchasing agent, and subsequently became Assistant General Manager and then President. He was also President and Director of a number of railway companies directly or indirectly associated with the Canadian Pacific system. He was created Baron Shaughnessy of Montreal in 1916, and is succeeded by his only son, the hon William J Shaughnessy, barrister, who was born in 1883.

A knighthood was conferred on him in 1901, and in 1916 he became Baron Shaughnessy "of Montreal, Dominion of Canada, and Ashford, Co Limerick."

Dean. The parishioners of St. Patrick's already presented Mr Howatson with silver, the Cathedral Choir gave him silver tea service, the Church Lads' Brigade him an afternoon tea set, and the B.C. Club an armchair. Mr Howatson has been of the Cathedral for eight years and 8,000 several years, during which time he has the esteem and affection of all by his faithful efficient work, which fact is borne witness the valuable presents given him. The Dean's remarks said that no Rector ever had a more loyal fellow-worker, or one who did his work so faithfully, and hoped he and Mrs Howatson be long with them.

DEATH OF MR R S WELSH

We regret to record the death of Mr Studdert Welsh, J.P., which occurred at his residence, Newtown, Clonlara, on Sunday in the 76th year of his age. Mr Welsh, who had been in failing health for a considerable time, belonged to an old Clare family, and his retiring and very courteous disposition, gentleness, and kindness of heart made him popular with all classes of the community in the district, where his life was spent, and the deepest sympathy with his widow and family in their bereavement. Mr Welsh farmed extensively, and was brother of the late Mr Welsh, Diocesan secretary of Killaloe, whose funeral will take place to-morrow (Wed) at 11.30.

RECTOR'S DEATH.

Lewes, Monday.—The Rev. Canon Pool, Dean and Rector of St John's, Lewes, died this morning from injuries received through being knocked down by a cyclist when returning from an early service at his church previously. He was 71 years of age.

BRUREE NEW CHURCH.

The gold watch raffled in connection with the above was won by Mr P. Lane, Esplanade, for a ticket, No. 821.

OUT AND ABOUT.

Six cottages built by the Thurles Urban Sanitary Authority at a cost of £750 each are to be sold for £1,000 each.

Military have evacuated Ballynahall, Limerick, where they commanded several months ago.

Ardinnan Woollen Mills, near Clonmeane, entered on Thursday night and robbed of hats of tweed valued at £120. The thieves smashed a door to obtain entrance.

At a meeting of the Meelick District Co. on Saturday, Mr Joseph Keane was elected in succession to Colonel Austin Brennan, and tendered his resignation at the previous meeting.

North Tipperary Farmers' Executive Committee have requested the Co. Limerick Association Government to grant a 10 years' lease to distressed tenants unable to meet arrears as demanded by the Land Act.

Entertainments in aid of the Limerick Protestant Orphan Society will be held at the Diocesan Hall, Pery Street, to-morrow at 3 o'clock, and on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock. A very bright dramatic production will be presented, and should attract large houses.