

## LIMERICK CO. COUNCIL

### Recent Sworn Inquiry.

#### Summary of Inspector's Report

The report of Mr Sean McGrath, Local Government Board Inspector, on the sworn inquiry held by him as far back as January into the finances and administration of the Limerick County Council is now to hand. The Council on July 30th last discussed the report in private, and a summary of their findings on the Inspector's remarks was handed to the Press on Saturday last when the Council met, but did not contain the following passages from the report dealing with the contrast of the Council elected in 1920, which was called the Sinn Fein Council, and the Council elected in 1925, when more normal times prevailed.

In his report on the sworn inquiry held by him into the administrative and financial working of the Limerick Co. Council, Mr Sean McGrath, Local Government Inspector, writes in reference to Mr Quaide, who had resigned his position as Secretary about two months before the inquiry that "apart from what should be stated later about that officer, I am deeply indebted to him for his operation and untiring efforts in supplying me with the information upon which the report was based." In the light of the well-known facts concerning the political upheavals from 1920 to 1923 the administration of the county should not be subject to any critical examination. All services were maintained by the 1920 Council and at a higher cost than by their predecessors. Commenced early in its career with a shortage of funds, the Council should have economised its services, but only did so in the case of the union amalgamation. The refusal of the Council to avail of the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1923 in the matter of "the very exorbitant pensions and gratuities voted to union officers" was conspicuous. The refusal was most indefensible for the reason that even under the amalgamation Scheme the Minister could not interfere with the retiring allowance so voted. The 1925 Council entered on office at a normal period, pledged to considerable reduction in the rate, but there had been a tendency to reduce haphazardly the surveys' estimate. Bridge reconstruction was unduly delayed, and the unusual number of times the Council was involved in litigation was striking. They should have avoided such action, but when they were inevitable and damages assessed against the Council disciplinary action should have been taken as regards the responsible officials. The office staffs did not appear to have been duly increased under either Council. Office accommodation was unsatisfactory, and an arrangement was necessary. The absence of a general scheme of work prejudicially affected the quality and quantity of the Council's work, and the Secretary was by his inaction opposed to departmentalising

## LATE MR JOSEPH O'MARA.

### Funeral in Dublin.

The funeral of Mr Joseph O'Mara, the distinguished Irish tenor, took place yesterday morning after Requiem Mass in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown, to Glasnevin Cemetery. Very Rev. Canon Breen, P.P., Booterstown, was the celebrant of the Mass.

The chief mourners were—Power O'Mara and Rev. Joseph O'Mara, S.J. (sons); Dr Frank O'Mara (brother), Fonso J. Carton (brother-in-law), and Dr W. Cussen; James, Stephen, and A. O'Mara, James Ray (nephews). Other relatives—Frank O'Mara (junr.), Stephen O'Mara (junr.), Michl. and Stephen Rynne, Nicholas Power, Joseph Power, Senator Dr O'Sullivan.

Amongst those present at the church were—Rev. Nicholas Tomkin, S.J.; Rev. J. Potter, S.J.; Rev. F. Browne, S.J.; Rev. Charles Farrelly, S.J.; Rev. Andrew Macardie, S.J.; Rev. Lambert McKenna, S.J.; Rev. Charles Moloney, S.J.; Rev. Fr. Sutton, C.S.S.R., and Students, Rathfarnham College; Vincent D. Carton, Odo Carton, M. J. McCabe, H. Barnado, Miss O'Rahilly, Richard Humphries, E. McGrath, R. Butler, T. Brindley, Grecian Bourke, Vincent Crowley, T. and R. Morris, M. L. Flavin, N. Flavin, T. Crotty, Dr. May, Swords; and Mr and Mrs Alex. P. Spain.

The remains were received at Glasnevin by Rev. Father Fitzgibbon, C.C., and the last prayers were said by the Rev. F. Browne, S.J.

In the Catholic Churches in Limerick on Sunday last prayers for the repose of the soul of the late Mr Joseph O'Mara were offered up.

In our memoir of the late Mr O'Mara it should have been stated that in 1908, during the Mayoralty of the late Ald. T. Donnellan, the Freedom of Limerick was conferred on the distinguished Irish tenor, in recognition of his outstanding position in the musical world.

## FUNERAL OF MR JOHN DILLON

His Eminence Cardinal O'Donnell, Archbishop of Armagh, who celebrated the principal Requiem Mass; Most Rev. Dr. Morrisroe, Bishop of Achonry; Chief Justice Kennedy and other members of the judiciary; Mr J. J. Walsh, T.D., Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (representing Pres. Cosgrave); Mr E. de Valera, T.D., Chancellor; and Dr. Coffey, President of the National University; a number of his former colleagues in the old Irish Parliamentary Party; members of both Houses of the Oireachtas, many men occupying public and professional positions in the country, and a large concourse of clergymen, attended the obsequies of Mr John Dillon, ex-M.P., in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Upper Gardiner-street, Dublin, yesterday, and subsequently accompanied the remains to Glasnevin, where they were interred in the family burial plot.

A Requiem Mass was held yesterday in Westminster Cathedral.

## CIVIL BILL COURT.

Mr J. M. Flood, B.L., District Justice, presided, at the Limerick Civil Bill Court yesterday.

The City of Dublin Assurance Company brought a civil bill against Thomas O'Brien, Murroe.

Mr J. S. Gaffney, solr., appeared for the Insurance Company.

Plaintiff's case was that the defendant had been acting as collector for them, and collected £6 16s 5d on their behalf, which he failed to account for.

A decree for the amount claimed was granted.

Edward Gleeson, Castleconnell, sued John McGill, city, for £10 for the trover and conversion of a pony.

Mr A. Blood-Smyth, solr., appeared for plaintiff, and Mr M. Tynan, solr., for the defendant.

Plaintiff stated that about last July he purchased the pony from the defendant for £4. On the 10th of July the pony disappeared from his lands. He informed the Civic Guards of the matter, who later found the animal in the possession of the defendant at Garryowen. Plaintiff purchased grazing for the pony, and since the pony was taken off these lands in July he did not get back the £4 or pony.

In cross-examination, plaintiff stated that at the time the pony was purchased defendant's wife, who was a sister-in-law of his, was stopping at his house. The plaintiff, defendant, and Mrs. McGill were the only persons present when the pony was bought. Defendant's wife purchased lands from plaintiff for £90, and the pony was put on these lands along with cattle which she claims.

Detective Guard Sherry said that communication was received by the Guards as to the pony being missing. On the following day he proceeded to defendant's premises at Garryowen, where he found the animal. Defendant stated to witness that the pony was outside his gate that morning and that he took it in. Gleeson got the pony from defendant to work on the farm.

Patrick Buckley said that he worked on the lands at Castleconnell as caretaker for plaintiff. On the evening of the 9th July he saw the pony on the lands, and at 4.30 on the following morning the pony was missing. The fences about the lands were good.

Patrick Ryan, Gardenhill, stated that sometime after Christmas the defendant informed him that he sold the pony for £4 to plaintiff, and that he could make the most of him. One of the pony's legs was swollen.

Mary McGill, wife of the defendant, stated that the pony was her property, but it was her husband who bought the pony for her. The £4 paid then for the pony was belonging to her. About last April she informed her husband that she recovered £4 from Gleeson for the pony.

In reply to Mr Tynan, witness said that