

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents sending in letters or reports for insertion in Saturday's "Chronicle," and these should be brief, are requested to let us have them on Fridays, where at all possible. Otherwise insertion in Saturday's issue cannot, owing to want of space, be guaranteed.

## TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers will kindly send in all substitutes or standing advertisements on Friday mornings. We cannot guarantee to insert in Saturday's issue any advertisement received after 2 p.m. on that day.

## THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.

(ESTABLISHED 1766)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1929.

## THE LIFEBOAT SERVICES.

Never, perhaps, in living memory have the services of the lifeboat been so prominently in the public mind as during the past two weeks. Fierce storms, one after the other, raged off our coasts, causing abnormal casualties to shipping and serious loss of life. But it is needless to remark that the loss would have been infinitely greater but for the heroic and utterly self-sacrificing efforts of the lifeboat crews, who, ever ready at the post of duty, were there to come to the rescue of shipwrecked mariners whose vessels were tossed about by merciless seas. The work of the lifeboat is once more brought to our notice in the November number of the official publication of the Institution, which may be read with interest not alone by mariners but by the general public, who realise its lofty ideals and true philanthropic and humane instincts. Various topics are dealt with in the current issue—one relating to the very important question of life-belts. It would appear that, following the inquiry into the Rye lifeboat disaster a year ago, the Board of Trade set up a committee to examine the question of life-belts. This committee has found that the Institution's present life-belts are the best for their purpose in material and design and it has no alterations to suggest. In reporting this conclusion the secretary of the Institution tells the history of the life-belt from the first experiments in 1854. It was the Institution which took the initiative, made the first experiments with life-belts, and recommended their use, not only in the Lifeboat Service, but in the mercantile marine. Experiments were made with cork, cork shavings, hair and air filled belts. In the end cork was adopted, and the cork life-belt remained in use until the discovery at the beginning of the present

## FUNERAL OF MR JAMES GRENE BARRY.

The funeral of the late Mr James Grene Barry, J.P., D.L., took place from Sandville yesterday at 11 o'clock for the family burial place at Rockstown, about a mile distant. The cortege was representative of all classes and creeds from the surrounding districts, many people also going out from the city to pay a last mark of respect to the memory of a venerable gentleman, a member of an old county family, and of sympathy with his relatives in their bereavement. The coffin was borne by relatives and residents of the district from the house to Sheehan's Cross, where it was placed on a waggon and conveyed to its last resting place. Numerous wreaths were sent by relatives and friends.

The chief mourners included—Mrs Grene Barry (widow), Miss Grene Barry (daughter), James T. Barry and Captain John N. Barry (sons), Nicholas J. Barry (brother), Philip Harold Barry, Captain Creagh Barry, Nicholas Grene and Francis Grene, H. Standish, Leamlara, and T. G. Barry, Carrigtwohill (relatives).

The clergy present included—Rev. Father Fahy, P.P., Ballybricken; Rev. Father Lee, C.C., do; Rev. John Rea, P.P., Fedamore.

The Thomond Archaeological Society and Field Club, of which the deceased gentleman was President, was represented by Canon Abbott, Vice-President; Mr Edward Tracey, solicitor, Hon. Secretary, and Mr M. P. Riordan, Hon. Treasurer.

It would be impossible to give a full list of the general public, but amongst those present were—Lord Emly, Peter Fitzgerald, Judge McElligott, K.C.; Capt. J. J. Ryan, Emly; Rev. Precentor Atkinson, Capt. Denis Lyons, Croom; Col. Gubbins, Lismullane; Rev. J. H. Moran, Cahernarry; James McDonough, Clino; J. W. Hackett, Agent, Bank of Ireland; George Blackall, Manager Munster and Leinster Bank; A. Blood-Smith, solr.; Capt. H. Place, B.C.; Capt. Ormond Power, B. Woodhouse, J. P. Hartigan, Major Clarke, Foynes; G. E. Farmer, P. Kelly, H. Russell, Capt. Finch, T. Russell, Glenview; James Welply, A. S. Welply, junior; Capt. W. Lyons, Croom; Col. Furnell, Ballyclough; Philip Furnell, Courtney Croker, D.L.; W. Shine, C. A. Slade, T. Clifford, B. Lucas, T. B. Mitchell; the Prior, Glenstal; Dom Francis, O.S.B., Glenstal; M. Mitchell, R. Dunworth, P. Kelly, M. O'Meara, Jas. Kelly, G. Peacocke, George Bennett, T.D.; P. Shee, National Bank; Major George Furnell, R. Furnell, Ed. Leahy, J. McGarry, W. Brown, Joseph Lynch, Harold Nash, R. Harris, B. Woodhouse, G. Butler, J. O'Kelly, R. Meany, E. Raleigh, J. Halpin, W. Gabbett.

The following sent wreaths:—"All at Sandville"; "All at Leamlara"; Dr. W. F. Butler, Mrs Freeman, Huddersfield; Mrs Turner, Oxford; Mrs Gavin, Captain and Mrs Lyons, Mr and Mrs P. Fitzgerald; "All at Glenview"; Mrs Shine, Ballymaearee; Mr and Mrs Farmer, Mr and Mrs McNamara, Ballycabane; Miss Shine, Eagle Lodge.

Father Fahy officiated.

## CITY HOME ASSISTANCE.

## Letter From Ministry.

## The Commissioner's Difficulty.

In reference to the application made by the Corporation to the Minister for Local Government dealing with the administration of home assistance in the County Borough by Mr J. P. Geraghty, Home and Hospital Commissioner, a letter has been received by the Town Clerk from the Secretary to the Minister enclosing extracts from the Commissioner's report setting out the circumstances dealing with the subject. The letter observed that when the Commissioner took over control of the institution the Corporation representatives on the Health Board had overspent the amount available for home assistance during the past six months of the present year. There were at the time of Mr Geraghty's appointment persons in receipt of relief who were not deserving of it, and the amounts paid were not regulated proportionately to the merits of the different cases. It was apparently his aim to give full and adequate consideration to all applications for assistance from eligible persons, with due regard for the interests of the ratepayers. The Minister was satisfied that home assistance was receiving careful attention, and trusted that in his admittedly difficult duties the Commissioner would be accorded the sympathetic co-operation of the Corporation.

In the course of his statement to the Minister it was pointed out by Mr Commissioner Geraghty that £10,000 had been made available for home assistance for the current year, that was £4,000 roughly for the first six months, the summer or high period, and £6,000 for the remaining period. The £4,000 had been overspent, and the rate of expenditure such as to anticipate an overdraft of close on £2,000 by the end of September. There were on the relief lists many whose circumstances did not warrant their being granted home assistance, and further the amount being given individually did not appear to be graded in such a way as to afford relief in proper proportion to the most needy. It would consequently be seen that very close scrutiny of the position was called for, and not being satisfied that one home assistance officer could hope to make the minutest investigation into the merits and demerit of each case a second officer was appointed temporarily.

Having referred to what the Commissioner described as primarily the rate of expenditure in the absence of any abnormal distress he proceeded to state that where incidences occurred a searching investigation was necessary in order that undue hardship would not be inflicted on the destitute measured by the degree of their destitution. He had met a deputation of five members of the Corporation, and discussed the situation with them. Thirty cases of alleged hardship were selected, and six sponsors by one member of the Borough Council were dismissed by the deputation as frivolous. Of those remaining only four months