

**AIR RECORDS.**

**Year of Unparalleled British Successes.**

Press Association says—This has been a year of constant and unparalleled successes for Great Britain in the air—not only in speed, but in long distance flights and in aerial construction. British airmen in 1929 have obtained a Schneider Trophy, the 100 kilometre record, and the 1000 kilometre record.

Royal Air Force officers have just won the 1000 kilometre record. They had previously made a non-stop flight from England to India, and another British machine had completed the journey from England to India, a distance of ten thousand miles, in ten and a half days. We have just won the two giant airships—R100 and R101—the former the fastest dirigible in the world.

Schneider Trophy was retained for Great Britain by Flying Officer H. R. D. Gurney, with an average speed of 328.63 miles per hour. It was during this thrilling flight that all previous world flying records were beaten time and time again. Flying Officer R. Atcherley, who was regarded as the ace pilot of the British team, established a new 100 kilometre record with an average speed of 331.75 miles an hour, and a new 1000 kilometre record with a speed of 299 miles per hour.

Two airmen who were trying to capture the world's long-distance record were Lt. Leader A. G. Jones-Williams and Lt. N. H. Jenkins. In April this year they flew from Cranwell to Karachi, in a distance of 4,130 miles, in fifty-three and thirty-eight minutes. That effort, however, was surpassed by French pilots, who now hold the record with a flight of 10,000 miles.

It was only in August that the Duchess of Bedford, with a British pilot and a British machine, flew from Croydon to India, a journey of ten thousand miles, in ten and a half days. Early in the New Year it is hoped to create still further records with the two airships, one of which will make the flight to America and back, the other to the Far East. All these successes are helping the public to realise more vividly than ever how air communication is making the world a smaller place. They are also a wonderful tribute to the British Empire.

**FARMER KILLED ON RAILWAY LINE.**

Charleville, Thursday.—A painful tragedy took place near Knocklong railway station on Tuesday night, Christmas Eve, when a farmer named John Barry, residing near Knocklong, was knocked down and killed by a passing train.

The body was found lying on the railway line on Wednesday morning, about half-a-mile on the Kilmallock side of the station. He was apparently proceeding home by the railway line at the time, and as the night was stormy, it is presumed that he failed to hear the approach of the train.

Charleville, Friday.—At Knocklong the inquest was opened and adjourned until Monday next, by Coroner Cleary, Hospital.

The jury having viewed the remains, the Coroner, after evidence of identification was taken, decided to adjourn the proceedings for the production of the engine driver of the goods train, by which, it is alleged, the deceased was knocked down and fatally injured.

The deceased, a young man, aged about 35 years, was owner of a small holding adjoining the railway line about half a mile from Knocklong. It appears that early on Christmas morning the deceased having foddered some cattle on the farm, was returning to his home, some distance away, by the railway line, accompanied by a sheep dog, when he was knocked down by a goods train coming from the Kilmallock direction. The dog was also found dead near the body of his master.

At the time the deceased left to return home his brother had already preceded him, and was horrified on returning some time later, to see John lying dead on the water-table.

The deceased, who was employed for some time at the local coal stores, was a quiet and respectable young man, and his death under such tragic circumstances caused great regret locally where he was held in high esteem.

**LUXURY LINER LAUNCHED ON THE CLYDE.**

**An Advance in Electrical Equipment.**

In foggy weather, the "Empress of Japan," the latest addition to the Canadian Pacific fleet, was launched at the Clyde yards of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company last Tuesday after-

flowed the quays. The water level at 2.33, was again very high.

In several parts of the town the roofs were blown off houses, and in many places were wrenched from their foundations.

Telegraphic wires were broken in Counties Limerick, Tipperary, but the dislocation was quiet and as it was holiday time there was practically no inconvenience to the community. Yesterday morning working from Limerick to Dublin with a little delay.

In Pennywell an electric light was blown out Tuesday night, but caused no damage to the body. It was subsequently replaced to transmission standards.

A motor car proceeding from the O'Connell Monument to the city, damaging the railing in front of the statue. The car itself was also damaged. It was in semi-darkness when the accident occurred. It would be a good idea if two lights were placed on the statue to surrounding the statue for the convenience of vehicular traffic.

While motoring from Limerick to Dublin on Christmas Eve, Mr Michael Martin, of the address as Ormonde Quay, Mullaly, a passenger, were returning, three miles from Limerick, a tree fell across the road. The wall of Sir Vincent Nash's residence was a large space of about thirty feet wide itself and the roadway. The tree fell strongly and raining heavily. Mr Martin's car got wedged between the tree and road, and was practically crushed. Mullaly and himself were taken by Sir Vincent Nash to their residence, where they received first aid before being conveyed to St. John's Hospital, where they are receiving treatment.

Heavy seas are running in the Shannon and some vessels are shelving the shores.

Unusually large tracts of water are to be seen to the Shannon and its tributaries by the incessant rains. Much of the appearance of an inland sea.

**Christmas Day in**

Despite the extreme weather, the Christmas services in the churches of all denominations were attended by very large congregations. In the Cathedral the Bishop presided over the service, and the special music and evensong was excellently rendered by the augmented choir. Mr. F. J. O'Connell was at the organ. At the close of the anthem, which consisted of a setting of "Messiah" (Handel), in-