

CHRISTMASTIDE IN LIMERICK.

The weather on the whole round Xmas was favourable. It was on the soft side, but that people were enabled to move about with ease and comfort was quite a contrast to the boisterous atmospherical conditions which prevailed just twelve months ago.

Xmas day was, as usual, observed with all the solemnity and thanksgiving associated with the hallowed Festival. The Churches of all denominations were attended by very large and devout congregations, and the special music appropriate to the day was excellently interpreted.

At the morning service at St. Mary's Cathedral the anthem was Gounod's "Nazar-th." The Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. White was the preacher. At Evensong there were selections from the "Messiah" (Handel), which included the Pastoral Symphony; the Recitative "There were Shepherds"; the fine chorus "Gloria to God"; and the majestic "Hallelujah" as the finale. Mr F. Muspratt presided at the organ.

In the Catholic churches, Masses were celebrated from an early hour. There was a large attendance at the midnight Mass, in the Franciscan Church, where the Holy Sacrifice was offered for the first time at the beautiful new High Altar, which is included in the church extension scheme. In St. John's Cathedral the ceremonies began with Mass at seven a.m. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at twelve o'clock, at which the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, presided.

Christmas Day was, after the religious services, spent in the home, and there were comparatively few out of doors during the evening.

Yesterday, St. Stephen's Day, the weather was again fine and mild, and the races at Greenpark attracted a large attendance of sporting folk from the city and county. A new arrangement was the parking of a big number of motor cars on the main road from Lifford Avenue outwards. The plan worked exceedingly well, and there was no congestion of traffic.

To-day (Saturday) the holidays were continued in the city. Business was practically suspended, but the Banks remained open. The streets presented a deserted appearance during the day. The weather though cold, a south-westerly breeze prevailing, with occasional heavy showers, was on the whole nothing to grumble at. Monday morning next will see a general resumption of business in the city.

It was on the whole a quiet Yuletide, with no untoward incident that could be said to infringe on the joyous and happy spirit of the time.

LATE MR F. GUBBINS, KNOCKLONG.

At a meeting of the Knocklong Cow Testing Association, held at Harris' Hotel, Knocklong, on the 18th inst., in the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr Maurice Raleigh occupied the chair.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Sean O'Carroll said since they last met Mr Francis Gubbins had died, and he believed it was the desire of the members to show the great loss they had sustained by the passing away of such a benefactor of the Association, as he accrued no benefit from it, for he was always possessed of valuable pure-bred stock. He proposed: "That we tender to Mrs Gubbins our sincere sympathy in the great loss she has sustained by the death of her esteemed husband."

The Chairman seconded the proposal, and paid a tribute to the qualities of the deceased.

Mr T. O'Regan (Cow Testing Instructor), Mr T. Hickey (Livestock Inspector), and Mr J. Ryan (Supervisor), begged to be associated with the resolution.

DEATH OF VERY REV. CANON DUGGAN, P.P.

The Very Rev. Canon John Duggan died in the small hours of Christmas morning. Born in the Parish of Cappamore, Co. Limerick, over seventy years ago, he entered the Diocesan College at Thurles, passing afterwards to Maynooth, where he entered the priesthood in 1885. He devoted his life largely to the assistance of missions to the heathen, and in this connection he received a special letter of thanks from Pius XI. for the financial assistance he had given to foreign missionary effort.

COUNTY LIMERICK TRAGEDY.

Ex-R.I.C. Man Killed by 'Bus.

A shocking tragedy occurred at Sunville Upper, situate between Kilmallock and Kilfinane, last night, the victim being an unmarried man named Michael O'Donnell, aged 40, an ex-R.I.C. pensioner.

It appears that the deceased was after leaving his house, and was hurriedly crossing the road, when he was struck by an I.O.C. bus travelling from Cork and due to arrive at Kilmallock at 9 o'clock. The night being dark and blustery, he was unobserved by the driver, who promptly pulled up after the accident and found the unfortunate man dead a short distance from the car. He was removed to his house near by, and the tragedy was reported to the Civic Guards at Kilfinane.

An inquest was opened this evening by Dr. Clery, Kilmallock, into the circumstances connected with the fatality.

FREE STATE COURTS.

Extracts of Evidence Before Joint Committee.

Extracts are published from the evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Irish Free State Courts of Justice Act, 1924. Amongst those examined was

MR PATRICK LYNCH, K.C.

Mr P. Lynch, K.C., who was one of the Special Commissioners appointed in 1927 to deal with the arrears that had arisen in the hearing of Circuit Court appeals, said that they heard between 500 and 700 of these appeals. Some of them were two years old. The hearing was for the most part based on the stenographers' notes, but in a few cases witnesses were sent for, as had been done occasionally in the High Court.

One particular case, said Mr Lynch, I have in mind. It was a case where my colleague and myself came to the conclusion that the case was tried on an entirely erroneous basis in the Circuit Court; that some particular outstanding fact which we considered, in giving the case, should determine it, had not been accentuated or dealt with before us. The case was heard and dealt with by us, and, as we anticipated, it turned—at all events, in our estimation—upon a document which was in existence within a distance of fifty yards of the Circuit Court, and which had never been produced in the Circuit Court.

Replying to a question as to the time occupied by the hearing of appeals on stenographer's notes, Mr Lynch said that in the old days the hearing of civil bill appeals was very fast. Some judges heard eight or nine a day. That could not be done on notes. Some of the appeals on notes occupied a day or two or more. He was of opinion that there was no saving of expense to the litigants. If there was to be an appeal on a question of fact at all, the appellate tribunal should have the opportunity of hearing the people and studying their demeanour. He favoured the abolition of appeal on notes, and giving the appeal judges the opportunity of both seeing and hearing witnesses.

On the question of jurisdiction of the Circuit Court, Mr Lynch was opposed to their hearing cases up to £300.

CHURCH SERVICES.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.—Sunday after Xmas Day.—Holy Communion, 8 a.m. Matins and Holy Communion at 11 a.m. Matins.—ProceSSIONAL Hymn, 85; Venite, Stainer in C (Appendix, 736); P. 254; Psalm 145, Goss in D (231); Te Deum, Goss in F; Jubilate, Kelway in D; Anthem, "Sing Praises" (Gounod); Introit; Kyrie-Credo, Goss in F; Hymn, "Bread of the World"; Preacher, the Dean. Evensong, 3.30.—Carol Service.—Carol No. 9, "Like Silver Lamps"; P. 26; Psalm 8, Turle in D (17); Deus Misereatur, Woodward in D; Carol 4, "As Joseph was a-walking"; Carol, Luther's Cradle Song; Carol 12, "See amid the winter's snow"; Offertory; Carol 14, "When the crimson sun"; Preacher, Rev. J. G. Russell, B.A.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.—1st Sunday after Christmas.—Holy Communion, 8 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion, 11.30; Preacher, the Rector. 6.30 p.m., Carol Service.

TRINITY CHURCH.—1st Sunday after Christmas.—Morning Prayer and Holy Communion at 11.30; Preacher, the Archdeacon. Evening Prayer at 6.30; Preacher, Rev. O. S. Daunt, B.A.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—1st Sunday after Christmas.—Morning Prayer at 11.30; Preacher, Rev. O. S. Daunt, B.A. Evening Prayer at 6.30;

THE POPE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

Rome, Wednesday

After receiving Christmas greetings to-day from the Sacred College of Cardinals, the Pope delivered a remarkable address, in which he touched upon many controversial topics. He referred to the growth of Protestant propaganda in Italy, of the Lateran Treaty; and also to the question of mixed marriages. This matter, he said, should be dealt with in an encyclical to be issued shortly. The encyclical had been suggested, by the mistaken construction put upon the arrangements sanctioned at the marriage of King Boris of Bulgaria and Giovanna of Italy.

Referring to the movement to end the war, the Pope expressed his strong opinion that another war was impossible, as the nations were still suffering from the use of conflict, but he declared that it was less to prepare for peace by re-education and "egotistical, hard nationalism for a genuine love of country."

His Holiness deplored the universal economic depression affecting the world, and the as the poor countries of the world, and the prevailing widespread unemployment, which showed the need of "a better inspired by international organisation, Christian charity, greater justice and of an organisation which, with divine Providence, the order established by operation possible would make fraternal classes and peoples, between the different, bridled rivalry and instead of basing are harmful to all and competition, which would lead to disaster."

He declared that those who foresaw revolution, were excessively pessimistic; though disturbances in the souls of people who turned to subversive and anti-religious propaganda in a too avid search for material benefits.

CITY BOY'S DEATH.

Pinned Beneath Donkey Cart.

An inquest was held by the City Coroner, Mr J. S. McNeice, and a jury at Barrington's Hospital last evening on the body of Martin O'Brien, aged eight years, who died in the institution on Christmas Day, following injuries received in the capsizing of a donkey cart.

Sergeant Ryan, William street Civic Guard station, conducted the enquiry, and evidence of identification was given by the boy's father, Martin O'Brien, a labourer, living at Crosbie Row, Nicholas street.

It appears that on Christmas Eve O'Brien and his wife left their house to do some shopping in the city, and, meantime, left the donkey and cart outside the door. In their absence the deceased, with another brother, and a neighbour's child, got into the cart, and drove the donkey some distance down the laneway. In turning, the donkey fell and the cart toppled over, pinning Martin O'Brien underneath. His screams attracted the attention of some people, who had the cart righted and the boy removed and taken to Barrington's Hospital, where he succumbed.

The medical testimony, which was given by Dr T. A. Morris, House Surgeon, showed that there were no external marks on the body, but the heart was affected. In his opinion death was due to shock, accelerated by the affection of the heart.

The jury recorded a verdict in conformity with the medical testimony, and expressed sympathy with the parents of the boy.

COURSING.

Caheroonlish Club.

The members of the Caheroonlish Club, who were very unlucky in having their grounds almost covered with water for their last meeting have decided to take no more chances, and have moved to a higher ground. Through the kindness of Mr John Looney, of Punt House, they have secured a fine new stretch, on which a good deal of work has already been done. It is beside the public road, and only a short distance from the village, and has been passed by the I.C.C. inspector. An application will be made for permission to run a meeting about the first week in February, when owners and visitors will find this ground one of the best in the

PRINCE GEORGE INJURED IN HUNTING FIELD.

Taken to Hospital.

Shoulder Severely Bruised.

Prince George, while out with the Belvoir Hounds to-day, was thrown while galloping across a field. He was heavily thrown, and was taken to Melton War Memorial Hospital, examined, and after an anaesthetic was administered, his shoulder was found to be severely bruised, but he was not detained.

SPORTING.

LEOPARDSTOWN MEETING.

THREE YEAR OLD PLATE.

Gomar (2 to 1) ... 1
Limousine (3 to 1) ... 2
Lady Frival (100 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Snood, Redgrave, Clytus.
Won by six lengths; 2½ Redgrave and stood fell.

SHANKHILL PLATE.

Reilly (Evens) ... 1
Jurat (4 to 1) ... 2
Pensionary (100 to 14) ... 3
Also ran—Buckna, Hysterics, The Little Widow.
Won by six lengths; 15.

STILLOGAN CHASE.

Columbus (5 to 1) ... 1
Old Bachelor (3 to 1) ... 2
Shepfitter (3 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Cultrumer, Bib, Dreamy Knight.
Won by 6 lengths; 8.

DUNDRUM CHASE.

Suttwallups (100 to 14) ... 1
Matador (5 to 2) ... 2
Hy-Spy (5 to 4) ... 3
Also ran—Polonius (3 to 1).
Trained by R. Cleary. Won by a length.

BRAY CHASE.

Sea Fisher (evens) ... 1
Ballyhook (100 to 6) ... 2
Fair Bess (4 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Sanders, Tangmalangaloo, an Rathdrin. Trained by Arnott. Won by 3 lengths.

CORINTHIAN FLAT RACE.

Punchestown (100 to 12) ... 1
Little Blackbird (5 to 2) ... 2
Pucka Shikhari (4 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Tais Toi, Rathbeg, Itah, an Superplane.
Won by a length.

WOLVERHAMPTON MEETING.

STANTON CHASE.

Polange (3 to 1 agst) ... 1
Golden Light (11 to 10 on) ... 2
Also ran—Count Volta.
Won by 20 lengths. Only two finished.

COMPTON HURDLE.

Lenglen (100 to 8) ... 1
Confrere (6 to 1) ... 2
Angel Pavement (5 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Theology, Queensland, Tetrace Lembury, Taximeter, Benburb, Queen Be Infidel, Water Main, Santa Giustina.
Won by 4 lengths.

OPEN THREE-YEAR-OLD.

Solfaggio (6 to 4) ... 1
Abelard (9 to 4) ... 2
Maitre (20 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Park Rat, Bem, Sweet Swa Priory Lad, Misprint, Rappel, Irish League Knockie Boy, West Curragh, Buddy, Fi star, Carwood, Pretty Cool.

H'CAP HURDLE.

Sandro (5 to 1) ... 1
Pompion (100 to 8) ... 2
Kerosene (4 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Baron John, Knight Bachelor Duke of Florence, Black Armstrong, F Pauline, Master Billie, Flown Away
Won by a head.

OTELEY H'CAP.

Wise Don (2 to 1) ... 1
Cherry Duck (7 to 1) ... 2
Meleaston (9 to 4) ... 3
Also ran—Gold Flake, Crockanoir.
Won by 3 lengths.

DUNSTALL CHASE.

Iceland (11 to 8 on) ... 1
Tidenham (4 to 1) ... 2
Carre (4 to 1) ... 3
Also ran—Gartly, Master Poacher.
Won by a length.

KEMPTON MEETING.