

CHARGE OF MURDER.

Aged Widow's Death.

Trial opened at the Old Bailey to-day of three men charged with the murder of Eliza Juliet Ray, widow, aged 76, who was found at her house in Handcroft Road, Croydon, with a handkerchief in her mouth.

The accused are Leslie Martin (32), Walter Henry Ansell (29), and Walter James Ross (24), and all three pleaded guilty.

The woman juror who objected to capital punishment was replaced by another woman.

The alleged murder occurred on February 11th.

The prosecuting counsel suggested that Ray was probably knocked down and a handkerchief stuffed in her mouth. The nature of the crime was robbery. But seven pounds in a drawer was missed.

Martin had made a statement in which he said he was told there were three hundred pounds in the house. He rang up Ansell and Ross. Martin stood outside. When Ansell and Ross came out they said they had tied the woman up and left her alone.

The counsel for Ansell and Ross said he knew nothing of this statement until to-day. The Judge said it was not evidence against Ansell and Ross.

DEATH IN A BLIZZARD IN WALKING TOUR.

One of Two Sisters Dead.

Two experienced Fell walkers, Miss Clara (41), and her sister, Miss Marion (38), of Southport, who were on a walking tour of Lakeland, were caught in a night's blizzard on Black Sail Pass. Miss Marion collapsed and died. Her sister was rescued by the body all night, and staggered to Wasdale Head to-day seriously ill. Miss Clara's body was recovered.

MURDER OF A LITTLE GIRL IN ABERDEEN.

Important developments are expected as a result of the police search at Aberdeen for the murderer of Helen Priestly, an eight-year-old girl, whose body was found in a room in the lobby of a tenement house where she lived early on Saturday. A net was gradually drawn closer. It is believed she was killed in the vicinity of her residence.

ENGLISH BY-ELECTION.

Polling took place to-day in North Shields by-election, caused by the death of the Hon. Mary Pickford. The candidates are—Captain Percy Davis (National Conservative), Mr F. R. West (Lab.), and Mr E. F. Bramley (Conservative). The result is expected shortly after midnight.

Figures at the last election were—Hon. Mary Pickford (C.), 18,815; Mr J. P. Cameron (Lab.), 11,838; Mr E. F. Bramley (Conservative), 697; Mr R. E. Braden (New Party), 1,000. Conservative majority, 6,977.

OBITUARY.

Mr W. Gabbett.

It is with feelings of deep regret we announce the death of Mr William Gabbett, which took place unexpectedly at his residence, Ard-na Lia, O'Connell Avenue, last evening. The deceased, who was in middle life, was at business up to midday yesterday directing the affairs of his firm with his customary energy and enthusiasm. He complained of not feeling well, and when he reached home a doctor was requisitioned, but he passed away some time later in the presence of his grief-stricken wife and children. Mr Gabbett was the only son of Mr Alexander Gabbett, Clontarf Place, and was from boyhood—a period of thirty-seven years—connected with the clerical staff of Mr W. B. Fitt, the well-known Auctioneer. Wonderfully enterprising and industrious in the prosecution of his duties he made rapid progress in the service of his employer, who had the utmost confidence in him. A man of ability and integrity, he was in addition courteous and obliging to everybody with whom he came in contact. For a number of years Mr Gabbett held an auctioneer's license, and in that capacity he was the greatest assistance to his employer in the conduct of the numerous and important sales entrusted to the firm not alone in the city but throughout the country. Only quite recently he was made a partner of the firm now known as Messrs William B. Fitt & Co., and with the added responsibility his untiring energy kept apace. He was as happy and alert in the rostrum as in the office, and on last Friday at the Paddocks he got through a heavy catalogue for the County Limerick Branch of the Irish Dairy Shorthorn Breeders' Society with characteristic despatch. Always bright and genial, with a cheery word, his familiar figure will be greatly missed by a host of friends and acquaintances, who deeply regret his death, and will extend sincere sympathy to his widow and two young children, as well as to his father and sister, and Mr Fitt in their bereavement. Mr Gabbett was an exemplary citizen in every respect, a kind father and husband, a dutiful son, a faithful and loyal employe, and a steadfast friend to those who sought his advice and help in their difficulties.

Messrs Fitt & Co's offices are closed as a mark of respect and deep sympathy. The funeral arrangements appear in our obituary column.

Mr J. Shortt.

Mr John Shortt, whose death we record with regret, occurred at his residence, 77 Catherine street, on Saturday evening. He had only been ailing a few days, and his death was not expected. Mr Shortt, who never married, was about sixty years of age, and occupied the position of foreman of the municipal gas undertaking for many years. He was a capable mechanic, and enjoyed the confidence of his employers as well as of the general public. Courteous and painstaking in the discharge of his duties, he made numerous friends, who deeply regret his passing, and extend sympathy to his relatives in their bereavement.

Mr F. Carr.

We announce with regret the death of Mr Frank Carr, which took place at his residence, 66 Clare street, on Saturday morning, after an illness of some duration. The deceased, who was about fifty years of age, was a boiler maker by trade, having been connected with the firm of Messrs Harrison Lee, where he served his apprenticeship. For some years past he carried on his occupation at the Markets, Cathedral Place, and his efficient workmanship was recognised by numerous patrons. He was brother of the late Mr James Carr, superintendent of the municipal waterworks, and was, like him, a well-known member of the Mechanics' Institute and a trades-unionist. He leaves a young family to mourn his loss.

THE COUNTY FINANCES.

HIKING ROUND THE WORLD.

Arrival at Bombay.

A Bombay message says:—A young Manchester man who left England last July in a canoe to paddle round the world has arrived here—on foot.

He is Mr G. W. K. Savage—who set out only with a canoe, a companion and 4s. in his pocket. He lost his canoe in Belgium, where it was crashed between a barge and the side of a lock. He and his companion then decided to "hike" the rest of the way. They walked through France, Switzerland, and Italy, and then worked their passages to Tunis, via Malta. There Mr Savage lost his companion, who decided to go home.

Undaunted, he took the ship to Egypt, visited Cairo and the Pyramids and eventually reached Port Said, where he embarked on a boat carrying pilgrims to Mecca.

At Jeddah, however, he was warned that he could not go to Mecca, so he boarded an Arab dhow, which took him to Port Sudan. "a romantic, but uncomfortable journey." Thence he worked his way to Bombay via Aden.

Now, with the temperature 100 degrees in the shade, Mr Savage is going on his way via Poona, Bangalore and Madras to Colombo and thence to Singapore and the Dutch East Indies.

From there he intends to go on to Australia and New Zealand and work his way back to Europe via the Panama Canal and New York.—Reuter.

TRINITY CHURCH.

Commemoration Service.

The commemoration of the Centenary of the founding of Trinity Church closed with the Services in the Church last Sunday, at which the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Derry, whose first visit to Limerick this was, was the special preacher. There were crowded congregations, especially in the evening when all Protestant denominations in the city were represented. The Bishop, in the course of his address at Morning Service, referred at the outset to the important work done by Trinity Church since it was built through the exertions of the Rev Edward Newenham Hore, a Limerick citizen, who, far and near, gathered in money for the erection of the sacred edifice. The Bishop also mentioned Mr Hore's successors as Incumbents, viz.—the Rev Benjamin Jacob, Very Rev. Dean Gregg, and the present Incumbent, the Ven. J. T. Waller, Archdeacon of Limerick. Dr Peacocke expressed his pleasure at being present and taking part in that day's commemoration Services. The Bishop of Limerick was present at both Services, and the Archdeacon also officiated. Holy Communion was celebrated after morning Service.

In the evening the clergy present were—The Bishops of Derry and Limerick, the Dean of Limerick, the Archdeacon, the Precentor, Rev. Canon Davis (Castleconnell), Rev. T. de C. Studdert, Rev. J. H. Craig, Rev. T. J. Westrepp, Rev. T. B. Nicholson (Abington), and Rev. W. J. Hall.

The music, including hymns appropriate to the occasion, was brightly and very effectively sung by the choir, which in the evening was augmented by that from St. John's. Mr T. H. W. Bayly presided at the organ.

IRISH INLAND FISHERIES.

Interesting Statistics.

Interesting statistics of the quantities and values of salmon, sea trout, and eels captured in Free State inland waters have been issued by the Minister for Fisheries for the years 1931, 1929, and 1927.

The figures show a substantial decrease in the quantity and value of salmon, and slight decreases in the value of sea trout and eels.

The number of rods licensed in 1931 was 3,857, as compared with 3,381 in 1929 and

HARBOUR BOARD.

Quarterly Return.

Increase in Trading.

The Mayor presided at a meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board yesterday. The members were also present—Alderman P. O'Flynn, Messrs S. J. K. Roycroft, E. Holliday, J. McMahon, P. Moore, B.C., Capt. E. Shaw, M. Doyle, Alderman T. J. Waller, P. N. Treacy, Alderman P. J. Donnell, T. J. Loughrey, with D. McNeice, Secretary and T. F. O'Sullivan, Engineer.

QUARTERLY RETURN.

The Secretary (Mr D. McNeice) submitted a report of income from ships' dues and goods rates for the quarter ended the 31st March last.

In 1934 tonnage dues amounted £1,588 16s. 10d.; dock, £1,296 5s. 10d.; light, £176 0s. 8d.; quays, £36 13s. 11d. Goods Rates—Imports, £2,396 1s. 11d. and exports, £95 7s. 1d. Total, £2,491 10s. 10d. making a grand aggregate of £5,588 10s. 10d.

For 1933, tonnage dues amounted £1,494 12s. 3d.; dock, £1,160 15s. 11d.; light, £161 19s. 3d.; and quays, £38 11s. 11d. Total, £2,856 3s. 7d. Goods Rates—Imports, £2,251 9s. 9d.; and exports, £188 4s. 4d. Total, £2,351 8s. 1d. making a grand aggregate £5,214 11s. 8d. The crease was £374 4s. 2d. for the 1st quarter.

The Mayor—That is very satisfactory and shows that the port is more than holding its position.

The report was adopted.

CITY MANAGEMENT BILL.

A resolution was read from the Citizens and Ratepayers' Society asking that municipal elections be postponed until the City Management Bill was passed into law.

Mr Loughrey said he understood that a similar resolution had been passed by the Corporation.

The Secretary—Yes, on the proposal of Alderman Reidy. The resolution as the Minister for Local Government to postpone the elections so that the next Council would function under the change in administration.

The Mayor—That is correct.

Mr Loughrey proposed the adoption of the resolution.

Mr Doyle—That will be passed unanimously.

Mr Loughrey said he desired to avail the opportunity to extend congratulations to the Mayor and Corporation in reducing the city rate by 6s. 4d. in the £. That a substantial reduction, and for which citizens felt grateful. He had said so many harsh things of the Corporation that it was now a real pleasure to him to offer a word of congratulation to that body. They could only hope that a reduction would continue until the rates fell to a normal level.

The Mayor thanked Mr Loughrey for expression of congratulation, and said that as Mayor he had done everything possible to reduce the rates, and received the full support of his colleagues. With regard to approaching elections—that they should be postponed—he desired to say that the Corporation were anxious for a postponement. The Council had passed a resolution asking that the elections be postponed, and which showed their anxiety for reform. He had very little doubt that under municipal reform the rate levy would continue to fall, and that view was shared by the Corporation. It was only right to say that the Council were desirous that the Bill would become law in the interests of the city.

Mr Loughrey—We are pleased to do that.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The Secretary submitted the audit report of the accounts of the Board for the year 1933, and which has already been published.

Mr Roycroft—Are there any surcharges? The Secretary—No.

The Mayor—There are no adverse comments, and we should congratulate