

**Fireman's Hours of Work**

**Application for Extra Pay**

Mr. John McCormack, Co. C., Chairman, presided at a meeting of the Limerick Mental Hospital, held yesterday. Also present—Very Rev. Canon Dwyer, P.P., V.F.; Ald. J. Reidy, Ald. McInerney, Messrs. J. J. O'Malley, M. Hurley, J. Ryan, J. Mackey, P. Bourke, C. T. Hannon, P. Roche, M. Hickey, I. O'Donnell, D. McAuliffe, J. Quin.

The officials present were—Dr. P. Irwin, and Mr. P. O'Flanagan, Sec. Dr. Irwin, in his monthly report, stated that the condition of the hospital was satisfactory generally. Since last meeting 9 patients were admitted, 6 died, and 10 were discharged. There were now in residence 693 patients.

A letter was read from the National Union of Railwaymen, asking that overtime be paid to James O'Keeffe, fireman at the Mental Hospital.

**55 HOURS A WEEK**

The Clerk said that the man was working 55 hours a week, and was paid trade union rates for a 47 hours week. Overtime was not paid in a Mental Hospital, but an allowance was given in respect of extra work.

Mr. Walsh—Were any hours specified in the advertisement?

Clerk—No. About £30 a year would cover the overtime under the Conditions of Employment Act. We cannot without permission of the Department, ask a man to work more than 47 hours per week.

Mr. Roche—This man is entitled to be paid for his work. I propose that he get an extra allowance of £30 per year.

Ald. Reidy—That will require a notice of motion.

Dr. Irwin—That would be the better course.

**NOTICE OF MOTION.**

Mr. Roche then intimated that he could hand in the necessary notice of motion.

The R.M.S. observed that he had received a file of correspondence from the Department concerning O'Keeffe's overtime. In a letter to the Department by the Limerick Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, it was alleged that the Committee had refused to consider the application for overtime, and that the Chairman vacated the chair.

Mr. Hurley—There is no foundation for that. The Union should be asked for an apology.

**NO FOUNDATION.**

The Chairman said it was due to the regular Chairman (Mr. J. McCormack) say that he did not leave the chair. There was no foundation for the allegation that the application was ignored.

Dr. Irwin said the application had been deferred until the question of hours be dealt with first. There was a question of a 48 hours week for the staff of the hospital, but he had communicated with all the Mental Hospitals in the county, and found that only in one was a 48 hours week recognised. The other hospitals were considering the question. At the Limerick Mental Hospital there is a male staff of 40, and if a 48 hours week was to be introduced it would mean that the staff would have to be increased by 12.

On the proposition of Mr. O'Donnell was decided to place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Sligo Mental Hospital submitted a resolution urging the Government to increase the capitation grant for Mental Hospitals.

The resolution was approved.

**A DEPRECIATION**

**TRAGEDY**

**Inquest Story**

The sad tragedy which occurred at Mungret on Sunday, when three men lost their lives during blasting operations, was the subject of an inquest opened at the County Infirmary, Limerick, on Tuesday, by Mr. J. S. McNeice, City Coroner, and a jury.

The three men are John Murphy, Bengal Terrace, Limerick; James McCarthy, Patrickswell, and John O'Donovan, Ballybrown, Clarina. They were killed on Sunday when a charge of gelignite, which they were compressing, exploded in the quarry attached to the new cement factory at Mungret.

Supt. J. J. Cooney, Adare, conducted the enquiry.

Mr. M. Tynan, solr., represented the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, to which the deceased belonged.

Mr. E. Treacy, solr., represented the next-of-kin of John Murphy; Mr. P. J. Collins, solr., the next-of-kin of John O'Donovan, and Mr. J. J. Sexton, solr., appeared for Cement, Ltd.

The inquest proceedings were attended by a number of witnesses and relatives of the deceased.

The first witness called was Alexander Gibson, quarry foreman, employed by Cement, Ltd. On the 10th April, he stated, he was in charge of a gang of men carrying out blasting operations in a quarry at Mungret. The group included the three deceased, Martin Sharman, and himself. Murphy, at the time of the blasting, was ramming the charge into a hole made in the rock. McCarthy and O'Donovan had been bringing damping clay to place on top of the charge, while Sharman and witness were engaged in opening the boxes of gelignite.

Supt. Cooney—What depth were those holes?—Eighteen feet.

Was there gelignite in the holes?—Yes; about eight feet.

Was there any difficulty in getting the gelignite down?

Witness—There was, owing to an open joint, about six feet from the top of the hole. Sticks were jamming in this joint.

Continuing, the witness said that the jamming of the gelignite was done with a wooden tamper. At the time of the accident a stick of gelignite was being put down in the hole. It had got to the joint, and caught there. John Murphy, the deceased, was using the tamper at the time, and the other two deceased were standing close by.

Will you tell the Coroner what happened.

Witness—It is hard; it was over in a second. I was standing next to Murphy in a stooping position. He was tamping the stick of gelignite. There was a roaring in my ears, and I was flung back about eight or nine feet. I saw Murphy immediately after. He had also been thrown back, but he had got the full force of the explosion, as he was standing immediately over the hole. McCarthy and O'Donovan had disappeared over the quarry edge. I went down into the quarry to them, and gave what assistance I could.

Replying to Mr. Tynan, who appeared for the I.T. and G.W.U. and for the next-of-kin, Gibson said the men had been working when he arrived at 9 o'clock. He would not disagree if it was stated that they began work at 8.5. They were to finish about one o'clock, although the actual manual work might finish before that.

Mr. Tynan—You are aware that men cannot be employed more than three hours on a Sunday under the Conditions of Employment Act?—I am not aware of that.

You are sure there was only timber used in this tamping. Was there anything in the nature of a steel tube used?—Not on this occasion.

**Movement in Limerick.**

**Progress Reported.**

At a meeting of Limerick Regional Savings Committee, Mr. M. Coleman presiding.

Mr. P. J. Stundon stated that a deputation consisting of Mr. J. F. Shanley, State Savings Officer; Mr. Champion, and himself, addressed the recent annual meeting of the Limerick Distributive Workers' Union, regarding the formation of Saving Associations in places of employments, and were very favourably received.

Prior to the meeting referred to, Mr. Stundon went on, the deputation waited on some of the city's biggest employers. Circulars explaining the objects of the movement, through the courtesy of the managements, were issued to their employees. The efforts to establish Savings Associations did not meet with the desired result. It was hoped, however, the example which had been given by other leading city firms might later be followed.

The State Savings Officer was instructed to call on the management of Messrs F. Spaight & Sons, and the Garda Síochána, and submit a report on his interview at the next meeting.

With a view to enabling employees in small shops to avail of the movement, it was suggested that an Association be operated through the Distributive Workers' Union, and the Chairman was delegated to interview Mr. C. McClean, Organiser.

In connection with the proposals recently submitted regarding broadcast talks and advertising on cinema screens, it was decided to make further representations to the Central Savings Committee.

**DESIRABILITY OF CO-OPERATION**

Mr. M. P. Riordan expressed the view that regarding the activities of the various County Committees, some form of co-operation was very desirable, and suggested the establishment of regional conferences.

After discussion, he proposed the following resolution—"That the Limerick Regional Savings Committee considers that the promotion of the savings movement in the Saorstát would be definitely encouraged and facilitated by the exchange and intercourse of opinions between the County Committees at periodical regional conferences, the personnel of the meetings being two or three delegates from County Committees, covering an area comprising from three to six counties, to be convened once or twice each year."

The proposal was seconded by Mr. J. Benson, and adopted.

Following a discussion on the recent statistics, it was decided to request the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, through the Central Savings Committee, to supply the Limerick Regional Savings Committee with figures relating to the sales of Certificates and Saving Stamps for Limerick City. It was considered that this information would enable the Committee to accurately determine what progress the movement was making in the city.

pathy, and said that as a gesture of sympathy Cement, Ltd. were anxious to pay to the widow of Murphy £100, and £50 each to the next-of-kin of O'Donovan and McCarthy.

Supt. Cooney also joined in the expression of sympathy.

**Work on Sunday**

**Limerick Board's Reference**

At a meeting of Limerick Mental

(Established 1766).

THURSDAY, APRIL 14,

**MINISTERIAL "ZEA"**

The Minister for Industry & Commerce is apparently perturbed by the delay of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners in relation to the construction of the works necessary for the completion of the dock extension scheme. "zeal" was displayed in a letter to the Board and read at Monday's meeting. He asked the nature of the works, the steps intended to be taken to secure extension, of the ten year plan laid in the Limerick Harbour Act of 1926, and probable cost of the additional improvements. A little elucidation of the Ministerial anxiety will demonstrate the position and the way the Board has been treated by the Government and last Government. When the Board was being sought twelve years ago to promote a scheme of dock extension, it was on the expressed understanding that the Government guaranteed a £100,000 for the full scheme. This guarantee was never honoured. Matters hung fire until the Fianna Party assumed the reins of office. The Commissioners thought the work was clear now, and a fresh start was made with the object of obtaining a guarantee. They were, however, doomed to disappointment, and were informed by Mr. Lemass that the partial project which the Board had financed from their own resources was not embarked upon, measures were instituted to revise the dues and view to reduction. That was the intention to be used to bring the Board to a standstill, and it succeeded, as there was no alternative. The former Minister, Mr. McGilligan, was as acute enough when he had a clause inserted in the Bill that it be a condition that the Harbour Commissioners should be subject to Government audit if they guaranteed the loan. The Board is well aware of how the promise was kept, and we have the spectacle of the Bill was enacted, of the scheme being audited by officials of the Government Department. The business is, to put it mildly, unfair and an imposition. In the light of the circumstances, a Government which has no locus standi where the Harbour accounts are concerned, and the question should be contested in law, the Statute of 1926, which empowers the Commissioner to extend the dock, has lapsed, new legislation in the form of a Provisional Order will be necessary to carry out the remaining works—and the construction of a western extension and the closing of the existing one. The work can be put in hands if it is possible to save, but some time