

NA TIRE BATTLE STILL ON!

de Chat

Great Naval Fight

CLAIMS AND COUNTER CLAIMS

It was announced in Washington, London and Tokyo to-day that a big naval battle is proceeding in the South-West Pacific.

Units of the United States, British and Japanese Fleets came into contact on Monday off the north-east coast of Australia and operations were at once initiated.

The United States Navy Department states that nine Japanese vessels have been sunk and that many others were badly damaged.

According to a Tokyo message the Japanese claim to have sunk five Allied ships.

The British Admiralty announce to-day that there was no truth whatever in the Japanese claim to have sunk the British battleship, "Warspite." This ship or any other British vessel had not been lost in the engagement, the statement concluded.

STILL IN PROGRESS.

Later messages state that the battle is still in progress in the Coral Sea. So far the Allied Governments have not admitted any losses. It is expected in London that more details concerning the battle, the biggest to have yet taken place in the present war, will be issued later to-night.

Mr. Curtin, the Australian Premier, speaking in the House of Representatives to-day, referred to the naval battle in the Pacific and said that its outcome would be of the greatest importance to Australia. The battle itself, he said, would not end the war, but it would determine immediate questions of tactics.

The British authorities in Madagascar announced to-day that units of the British Fleet have now entered Diego Suarez following the forty hour lightning campaign.

It was stated in Vichy to-day that in other parts of the island resistance is still being offered, but no confirmation for this statement has come from any British source.

It is reported from Chungking to-day that the Japanese are attempting to enter China through the border province of Yunan from Burma. It is claimed that Japanese were repulsed.

EASTERN FRONT.

Moscow wireless stated to-day that nothing of very great importance on the Eastern front occurred during the night. In local engagements heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans.

The Berlin communique states that Russian counter attacks were continued to be broken up at strategic points.

RAIL TRAGEDY

West Limerick Accident

EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST

Sitting at Newcastle West Railway Station on Wednesday evening, Mr. R. J. Cussen, solicitor, Deputy Coroner for West Limerick, held an inquest into the circumstances connected with the death of Mrs. Mary Woulfe (65), Glendaragh, Devon Road, who was killed instantly on Wednesday morning when run over by the Tralee-Limerick passenger train.

Supt. Mulcahy represented the Gardai.

Evidence of identification was given by William Woulfe, son of deceased, who said that she lived with her husband and family at Glendaragh. That morning she left home to visit her daughter and witness followed on a bicycle, as he saw she was going by a short cut over the railway line. When he arrived he found she had been killed on the line.

DRIVER OF THE TRAIN.

Michael Murphy, Tralee, driver of the train, said when approaching the scene of the accident he saw a woman standing on the water table at the side of the track leaning back against the embankment. He blew his whistle, and believing everything was clear proceeded on. Just as he passed he saw a black object fall on to the line, and pulling up as quickly as possible he found deceased lying partly across the track. She was then dead and was removed to the station at Newcastle West.

Dr. H. O'Connor, M.O., Newcastle West, who performed a post-mortem, said deceased sustained extensive injuries and death was instantaneous. The injuries could have been caused by being knocked down or falling under a train.

Sergt. Daly, Newcastle West, produced a map of the scene of the accident, and said there was a path leading up to the line about thirty feet from where he found blood marks on the track.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and exonerated the driver of the train from all blame.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

The Coroner, formen of the jury, Supt. Mulcahy and Mr. Donovan, stationmaster, joined in a sincere expression of sympathy with the relatives of deceased.

THOMOND FEIS

THE FIXTURE THIS YEAR

Preparations for this year's Thomond Feis, which will be held the first week in June, are now nearing completion. Beginning on

CITY COURT

Many Larceny Cases

BIRTH CERTIFICATES ALTERED

To-day, at the Limerick District Court, before Mr. J. M. Flood, B.D.J.,

Patrick Jones, 18 Eilen Street, was charged with housebreaking and larceny.

Supt. Colleran said that the defendant broke into a house and stole a wireless set, a clock and other articles.

Mr. E. A. Alban Ryan, solicitor defending, said that he would plead guilty to the charge of larceny, not to the charge of housebreaking. The premises concerned were a hut and not a permanent residence.

Supt. Colleran—The place was locked.

Sergt. Hanrahan stated that he found the stolen goods in Jones' house.

Mr. Ryan said that his client was never in Court before.

Justice—He did very well this time.

Mr. Ryan—He is a married man with two children.

Justice—I cannot help that. These crimes cannot be condoned. I sentence him to four months imprisonment.

LARCENY OF HATS.

James Regan, 1 Little George Street, was charged with larceny of two gents hats, value 16/5, from the shop of Thomas Murphy, 4 Upper William Street.

Supt. Colleran, prosecuted, and Mr. N. S. Gaffney, solr., defended.

A shop assistant stated that the defendant called at the shop and witness showed him some hats. The defendant said that he would not purchase now as he wanted to go home first to change his clothes. Later two hats were missed and witness saw defendant with the hats outside the shop. These hats were the property of Mr. Murphy.

Regan said that he had nine ten pints taken before he entered the shop. He had no intention of stealing the hats, which he was merely showing to another "chap" outside the shop.

Justice—This is another "fish" story, but as you have a good character I will not send you to jail. I pass a suspensory sentence of six months.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES.

Bridget Kelly, 2 Castle Barrack and Mary Kerley, 14 St. Munchin Street, Island Field, were charged with fraudulently altering their birth certificates.

Supt. Colleran said that the girls altered their age on their birth certificates in order that they might procure a travel permit to England.

The girls pleaded guilty and explained that they had no criminal