

# Limerick Tragedy

## Old Woman's Death Near Pallaskenry

### Visit of State Pathologist

The presence of bloodstains at the doorway out of a burned out cottage in which Mrs Brigid Drury (70), widow, lost her life, is a strange feature of a tragedy at Derron, near the village of Pallaskenry, on Saturday morning.

Her badly burned body was found in the smouldering debris of the cottage about 9 a. m. by neighbours. After the preliminary investigations by the Gardaí and the finding of the mysterious bloodstains it was decided to call in Dr McGrath, State Pathologist, who arrived at Pallaskenry on Saturday and made a post mortem examination of the body.

The results of the examination of the stains to ascertain whether they were made by human blood is not yet known. It is understood that there were no signs of violence on the body.

Mrs Drury lived alone on her widow's pension in the little cottage on the main road between Limerick and Foyens. Her husband, who had been an ex-soldier, died more than 20 years ago, and so far as is known she had no relatives living in Ireland.

She was an active woman and was well known in the neighbourhood. For years she had a strange mania for collecting firewood, and her one roomed cottage was packed from ceiling to floor with ferns, grass and pieces of old timber. A local resident said that there was only a pathway through it to the bed where she slept and around the hearth where she cooked. She even had some of the sticks packed under the bed.

When the fire started in the cottage it apparently spread rapidly and the dried sticks burned like tinder. Judging by statements of people who passed the cottage on the morning of the tragedy the house was burned down in an incredibly short time.

### The Inquest

At an inquest held by Mr R. E. Cullen, solicitor, coroner for West Limerick, the inquiry was adjourned on the application of Supt. Cooney.

Dr J. McGrath, State Pathologist, gave evidence that, following his post mortem examination, he concluded that death was due to suffocation.