

LIMERICK LEADER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1944.

Things That Matter

Mr. de Valera delivered a striking address at Cavan on Wednesday on the food production campaign. His speech was one of the most important and impressive yet made on that subject. It showed clearly the urgent need for speeding up the tillage programme with as much thoroughness as possible.

Even if the war were to end to-morrow, as An Taoiseach emphasised, we will have to rely very largely on our own resources for a long time to come. This is specially true in regard to feeding stuffs for both human beings and animals. Fortunately we are in a position to raise these commodities at home in abundance and the task of producing them must be taken up with energy and in a spirit of real earnestness.

The farmers have on the whole done very well in this matter up to the present. When we take all the circumstances into account, their record is definitely creditable. They had many difficulties to face and they have so far surmounted them very satisfactorily. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to the success of the new effort necessary was the mental attitude created by the grass economy set up here years ago by England for her own selfish purpose and to our detriment.

Britain in the past wanted cheap beef from this country and in order to secure it she killed our tillage, just as she deliberately destroyed our manufactures, and turned Ireland into a depopulated grazing wilderness. This is the background to our present situation and it explains why so many amongst us some years ago thought it was extreme and absurd to embark on a movement for getting more of our land under the plough. Most of these people, we believe, have saner views on the question to-day.

What the present tillage regulations prescribe is the tillage of 37½ per cent. of our arable land. Even with this requirement fulfilled on every farm we will still have far less tilled land than any country on the Continent of Europe, where the percentage is an average of about 60 per cent. This is a very important point to bear in mind, especially when we remember that our soil and climate are far more suitable for crop production than those of most European countries, notably Denmark, which was always our most formidable rival in the British market.

CHILD'S DEATH

Evidence At Limerick Inquest

Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., Deputy City Coroner, held an inquest at Barrington's Hospital on Tuesday touching the circumstances of the death of a child, William Cahill, aged 3 years and 3 months, of 26 New Read, Killeely.

Supt. Collieran conducted the inquest. Mrs. Helen Cahill, mother of the deceased, said her husband was working in England and the deceased was one of four children, of whom the eldest was seven. On Saturday, 8th January, at about 7.15 p.m. she put the children to bed and remained until the baby went to sleep. She then left the house, leaving her lodger, Timothy Dillane, having his tea in the kitchen. She called on a neighbouring friend named Mrs. Bowman and they took the 8.10 bus into town to the pictures. Before she left she asked Mrs. Bowman's mother, Mrs. Walsh, to have an eye to the children. When they returned from the pictures at about 11.15 witness met Mrs. Walsh, who told her William was dying and when she went upstairs she found him dead in the bed. She took the body downstairs and put it in the cot and some time afterwards Dr. Tynan, who had been summoned by Mr. Dillane, arrived. Dr. Tynan told her report the matter to the Guards.

Continuing, witness said that about last March deceased lost his walk. He was never very strong and he could only creep around after that. Deceased often tumbled or fell when he tried to stand up. On the Wednesday or Thursday before his death he fell down the last three steps of the stairs on top of a tin box which he was playing with. He was very sore on his side after that and she kept him in his cot most of the time. The child had never been ill-treated by her or anybody else in the house.

Timothy Dillane said he was a labourer by occupation and stayed at Mrs. Cahill's from time to time. On Saturday, January 8th, about 7.45, Mrs. Cahill left the house after putting the children to bed. He went out at about 8.15 to get cigarettes and returned at 10 o'clock. He then heard a child crying and went upstairs, where he saw the deceased on the bed with his hands and feet working. He did not know what was wrong and went out and got Mrs. Walsh, who told him to go for a doctor. He knew deceased for about 12 months and he was always delicate. He never saw Mrs. Cahill ill-treat the child.

Dr. M. Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, said he carried out a post-mortem examination on the body of the deceased. There were bruises on the body and the child had a ruptured liver. As a result of these findings he asked for the assistance of the State Pathologist. On 10th January Dr. McGrath carried out a second post-mortem, at which he assisted. He had read the report made by Dr. McGrath and confirmed it. Death was due to shock and haemorrhage following rupture of the liver.

Dr. McGrath's report stated that the bruises on the body were consistent with tumbles or falls. The child was weak and under-developed and marks would show easily. Death was due to shock and haemorrhage following rupture of the liver. The Coroner said he did not for a moment believe that the child had been ill-treated in any way, but children so young should not be left without someone to mind them. He returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Worthies Of Thomond

NO. 31—

SIR JOHN FITZGERALD (BY ROBERT HERBERT).

The Chevalier Sir John Fitzgerald was born in 1640, son of Sir

CITY SESSIONS

Larceny Charges

Before Mr. J. M. Flood, B.L., D.J., at the City District Court to-day.

Mrs. Bridget Toomey, Treaty Bar, Thomondgate, was charged with a breach of the licensing laws on December 31st.

Supt. Collieran prosecuted, and Mr. N. Gaffney, solicitor, defended. Sergeant Mahony gave evidence of visiting the premises at 11.16 on the night in question and finding six men on the premises. The licensee was absent and Mrs. O'Donoghue, who was in charge, said she had difficulty in clearing the bar. She did not know that three of the men were present until the Guards came, and three of the men admitted finding the door open and walking in.

Mrs. Bridget Toomey said she gave instructions to Mrs. O'Donoghue to close at the regular time. She went to a dance with her husband.

Mrs. C. O'Donoghue said she got instructions from Mrs. Toomey to shut the premises at the regular hour. At closing hour there were three men on the premises and she served them a "quick one" to get them out. She did know the other three men were present.

Supt. Collieran, in reply to the Justice, said there was no previous conviction against the licensee.

The Justice imposed a fine of 10/- and 2/6 on each of the men found on the premises.

RECEIVING A PRAM

Patrick de Lacy, Augustinian Lane, was charged with receiving a pram, knowing it to have been stolen.

Supt. Collieran prosecuted and Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solicitor, defended.

Supt. Collieran said that a Mrs. E. McNamara, while down town recently, left her pram outside the Post Office, taking her child in with her. When she came out she found the pram gone and reported the matter to the Guards.

Sergeant Hanrahan gave evidence of visiting de Lacy's premises and finding the pram. De Lacy told him he had bought the pram from a young boy who said his mother wanted money to pay the rent and sent him to sell it. De Lacy told him he paid 10/- for the pram.

In reply to Mr. O'Malley, witness said that when he called on defendant he told him he was a bit worried about the price he paid for the pram. The pram was outside the premises for sale.

Defendant said he bought the pram for 10/-. He took the name and address of the boy but could not trace him.

The Justice said the Guards were perfectly right in bringing the case, as there was some suspicion. Defendant would hardly expose the pram openly for sale, however, if he knew it was stolen, and he would accordingly dismiss the case.

GOODS TAKEN

Mrs. Mary Danagher, Tankards-town, Kilmallock, and Mrs. Alice Hederman, of the same place, were charged with the larceny of goods to the value of £7 16s. 6d. from various city business houses.

Supt. Collieran prosecuted, and Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solicitor, defended.

Supt. Collieran said that the two women came into town on January 22nd and went into Todd's and Roche's Stores and stole various articles. They took these goods to the 'Bus Office, and then went to Woolworth's and stole other articles. The manager saw them and reported the matter and the defendants were apprehended. They admitted the offences.

Mr. O'Malley said the facts were as stated by the Superintendent. The defendants were both married, and in view of the fact that they had never been in court before he would ask the Justice to deal as leniently as possible with them.

The Justice said he took a serious view of cases of this kind. There was really less excuses for people of their class than for very poor people who were often forced by circumstances. He really felt that these were the kind of cases which deserved imprisonment, but in view of Mr. O'Malley's appeal he would strain a point and impose a suspensory sentence of three months imprisonment on each of the defendants.

GAS ENGINE

INCIDENT A

Mr. Liston

A remarkable incident took place. Engineer, left his seat in the Town public gallery.

Previous to this Mr. T. K. Liston, in inquiry, he said, related to matters were some fundamental matters with administration of the Gas Works.

Referring to the Management that the status of the Gas Engineer could be affected similarly.

During his examination of Mr. Liston, which he served, all stating that Gas Engineer.

When the Sworn Inquiry into the administration of the Limerick Municipal Gas Works was resumed this morning by the Inspector (Mr. T. C. Courtney, M.E.), Mr. Christopher Barry, Chief Clerk at the Gas Works, was again under examination.

The witness handed in a certificate of the gas made for April, 1938 to September, 1941.

Inspector—You were giving me last evening comparison of measurements of coal stocks as between the returns of Mr. Quin and the official stock-taker?—Yes, Mr. Quin's total on 1st May, 1943, was 1,198 tons and the official stock-taker's, 1,344 tons. For June Mr. Quin's return was 1,352 and official stock-taker's, 1,512½ tons.

The witness gave figures for subsequent months.

Inspector—The figures you gave me for Mr. Quin were they arrived at after measurements on the ground?—Yes.

Did you ever see him measure it?—Yes.

So he measured the volume of the coal in each case?—Yes.

How did he convert the volume into weight?—He took 43 cubic feet to the ton for all coals. The previous Engineer gave us that figure for gas coals.

Did Mr. Quin ever weigh a cubic foot of any of the coals?—No.

Wouldn't that be an easy way of finding out how many cubic feet to the ton?—Yes.

Did you ever see the official stocktaker measure?—No; he deals directly with the Manager, but I think he works on the 43 cubic feet basis.

Are the figures given by both Mr. Quin and the official stocktaker strictly comparable as to the heaps of coal measured?—Yes.

And they arrived at entirely different figures?—Yes; that is a very great difficulty.

Do you deal with correspondence at the Gas Works?—No.

Who would deal with overdue accounts?—I would go to Miss Moroney and she would write to the consumer.

Does the same thing apply to complaints?—I don't deal with them. Mr. Purcell in the showroom, in William Street, deals with the complaints.

Do you know how he deals with them?—The gas fitters go in there at 2 o'clock and he gives them the complaints to deal with.

Is Mr. Purcell under your control?—Yes.

How does he deal with correspondence?—He does not deal with correspondence. All correspondence go to the Gas Works.

Letters dealing with complaints would go to Miss Moroney?—Yes. Is your work mainly accountancy?—Yes.

Are you shown the correspondence that arrives at the Gas Works?—No, sir.

A statement was made to the foreman about the measuring of a wall into a coal measurement?—I heard that, but so far as I know a wall was never taken into the measurement. Mr. Quin is most careful and if he had to take in a