

liminary estimates were received from several firms, as a result of which the Engineer arrived at a figure of £37,537 as a safe estimate covering the requirements outlined above, omitting the items of the gas holder and scientific equipment.

The evidence showed that the Manager was not prepared to undertake an expenditure of this amount and that he was not satisfied as to the necessity for six 5-ton retorts. He gave as one of his main reasons for not accepting the Engineer's recommendation the fact that the Engineer based his estimate on a figure of 13,500 cu. ft. of gas per ton of coal carbonised, whereas the normal figure would be 18,000. The Engineer stated that he used the figure 13,500 cu. ft. of gas per ton because that was the actual yield of gas produced by the coal which they had been receiving since the start of the war and he did not wish to base his calculations on any higher figure and to find that the plant installed was inadequate during the war period. The Engineer, in his report of 2nd July, 1942, made it clear that he was basing his estimate on this low figure calculated as an average yield of gas at the time. When questioned at the Inquiry, the Engineer agreed that it would have been better if he had based his design on the quantity of gas produced by a ton of ordinary gas coal. He could then have pointed out in his report that the plant so designed could not give its full output until gas coal was again available. He agreed also that on the normal basis of design nine 5-ton retorts would be sufficient against the 12 recommended by him, and that if his recommendation had been accepted by the Manager it would still have been less than the full requirements of the works. It must here be mentioned that the Engineer recommended the erection of only half of his proposal in the first instance, i.e., six 5-ton retorts. This proposal could, however, have been reduced to four or five on the proper design basis.

#### MANAGER'S EVIDENCE.

The Manager stated in evidence that he never told the Engineer that he was not satisfied with a design figure of 13,500 cubic feet of gas per ton of coal, nor did he ask the Engineer why he adopted a design figure of 13,500 cubic feet per ton. If he had done so an understanding could have been reached at once on the question whether the plant should be designed for normal conditions or for emergency conditions. Instead, in a letter to the Engineer, dated 27th February, 1942, the Manager wrote as follows:—

I have carefully perused your report of the 11th instant regarding new plant, etc. In view of the fact that you are at present in the middle of turf carbonisation I consider it is well to defer making any decision on your recommendation.

kian front Russian spearheads are gathering round Kosice, while Malinovsky presses on across the mountains and through the valleys above Miskolc.

## DEATH OF MR. JOHN DALTON

It is with deep regret that we chronicle the demise of Mr. John Dalton, a highly esteemed and respected citizen, which took place to-day after a lingering illness. For upwards of 40 years he represented the Irishtown Ward on the Corporation, but failing health compelled him to retire from public life a few years ago. In his youth he was prominently identified with the advanced nationalist movement, and in that connection it should be mentioned that he was a confidant of the late John Daly, the Fenian leader. It will be recalled that Mr. Dalton served a term of imprisonment at the beginning of the present century for hauling down a Union Jack that had been flown from a building in the city in connection with a British Empire celebration of these days.

Though he expressed himself with vehemence—a sign of sincerity and honesty of purpose—he never gave offence intentionally, and it can be said in all truth that at all times he commanded the esteem of all sections of the community. Possessed of a rare sense of humour, and an unusual gift of repartee, his sallies always provoked good humoured laughter, and on many occasions his ready wit was responsible for bringing a speedy termination to brewing demonstrations of disorder at meetings of the City Council.

We join with the general public in extending to the members of the family our deep sympathy in their bereavement.

## CITY LIGHTING

The Mayor (Ald. J. Reidy, T.D.) suggested at a meeting of Limerick Corporation on Friday night that they should ask the E.S.B. to supply all-night public lighting in the city during the mid-winter period. "Will they give it to us?" asked Mr. McQuane, and the Mayor replied "Yes."

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Will all those holding blocks for above raffle in aid of Dominican Priory please return same and cash before 6 p.m. to-morrow (Tuesday), as draw takes place to-morrow night at the Dominican Hall. (—)

## SCHOOLS RUGBY.

In the final of the under 17 Limerick Schools Cup yesterday Mungret defeated Crescent by the only score of a hard game on uneven

collection, rates, etc., and how it would amount to 17s. 7d. per week. It is the usual practice to make a contribution from the rates towards 'uneconomic' houses schemes, so as to keep the rent at a figure which the tenants could be expected to pay. The highest rent charged up to the present for 'uneconomic' houses is 8s. per week. If this rent was fixed for the Palmerstown Scheme it would mean that the rates would have to be raised to a loss of 9s. 7d. per house per week or £897 per annum for the scheme.

"It will be seen, therefore, that if we take the tenders received for the Palmerstown scheme as a basis, the line we are faced with is a very serious financial problem in relation to our housing programme. I understand that it was contemplated that the building of 300 houses would be undertaken during the emergency. Taking the figures I have given for the Palmerstown scheme, the matter requires very careful consideration.

"Before, therefore, taking any action on the tenders received for the Palmerstown scheme, I would like to have the views of the Committee."

## PRICES OF MATERIALS

Mr. Hartney said he understood that contractors were asked to tender specific prices for some materials, namely, glass, at £12 per case, the current price being £10 per case; solder, at £22 10s. per cwt., the current price, £14 per cwt.; nails at £210 per ton, current price £80 to £100.

The City Surveyor said that on Mr. Hartney's information was correct. The builders were asked to tender certain prices for these materials. The Corporation had bought materials for the erection of houses at a time when materials could not be got. These were the actual prices they paid for the materials, and they had got to pay them now.

Mr. Hartney said the Engineer's answer explained the difference in the prices.

The Mayor asked to what extent the prices of these materials affected the cost per house.

City Surveyor—Very little. The biggest is in nails.

Mr. Hartney—Even outside the city, materials, there seems to be a contribution against us somewhere.

Mayor—When these purchases were made they were made with the best possible intentions.

Mr. Hickey—We understand that in the present emergency. I propose we go ahead with the Palmerstown scheme, as there is a considerable amount of unemployment at the moment.

Ald. Bourke seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

## WHAT RATES WOULD THEY HAVE TO BEAR.

Mr. Casey asked if they could have the usual rent for these houses. What would be the total cost of the rates would have to bear.