

from my point of view but that they thought the difficulty would be solved if he was appointed Assistant Engineer. I could not quite see through that argument but I thought I would probe the matter further, and then I was told that Mr. Thomas had stated openly in the Works that he was not going to stay in this joint for more than two years until the plant would fall around him, or words to that effect, and that if Mr. Banks was Assistant Engineer he could be promoted Gas Engineer. So I stated, as I had already stated, that this was a new position and that in my opinion it was certainly not a matter for the City Council and that I didn't believe it was a matter for the City Manager. The discussion developed in and around the same subject and I think they were to consider whether or not he would make gas under the Gas Engineer on the terms of an increase in wages, but candidly when I left Cruise's Hotel I had no hope that we were any further than we were on the evening we left the Works. That is a complete negation of the evidence that has been given here and reported in the Press as far as the Manager is concerned. That evidence was that Banks refused the increase because the people of Limerick might think he was looking for the Engineer's job."

Mr. Ferguson, in his evidence, denied that there was any talk about an increase of salary for Banks, that there was no statement that Mr. Thomas might not remain in Limerick. He stated that when the Mayor asked why Banks had not applied for the position of Engineer when it was vacant W. Imbuch stated that the terms of the advertisement precluded Banks from applying for the position.

### "A CLEAR LIGHT."

The Inspector states that on consideration of the reports he would accept Alderman O'Malley's statement in full, and he adds that the discussions which took place at the meeting throw a clear light on the attitude of the Foreman at this period and disclose the reason for that attitude.

According to the evidence the City Council met on 27th October, 1942, and went into committee to hear the report of the sub-committee which had visited the Gas Works, and that before the Council went into committee the Mayor (Alderman O'Malley) said that

"A statement had been made at the last public meeting of the Council to the effect that better gas was made by an employee of the undertaking when the Gas Engineer was absent from the Works. The committee who went to the Gas Works went carefully into that question. Personally, he was satisfied that there was no justification for that statement, good or bad, and he thought it only fair to the Gas Engineer to

man defences, a Moscow spokesman announces, are in the process of erection, in the Bratislava Plain, north and south of the Danube, covering the approaches to the Austrian Capital.

In Bratislava City, on the Hungarian - Czecho-Slovak - Austrian frontiers, all males between 43 and 50 are being impressed into the building of fortifications. The capture of Korarom on the Danube, by the Russians is reported. The Russian report adds that a large portion of Budapest is now in Soviet hands.

A report from Washington states that President Roosevelt has confirmed that he will meet Mr. Churchill and Marshall Stalin "very soon."

## DIED SUDDENLY

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### ANNACOTTY MAN'S DEMISE

While journeying by bus from Annacotty to Limerick this morning, Michael Crotty, labourer, Annacotty, collapsed and died. Deceased, who was in his usual health up to the time of his demise, was aged about seventy years and was married. He had been employed on the roads as a labourer up to last Saturday and was coming to the city this morning to sign for the dole. He was removed to Barrington's Hospital, where, on admission, he was found to be dead. It having been established that death was due to heart failure, an inquest was not deemed necessary.

### DEATH OF POPULAR FIGURE

With very deep regret we chronicle the demise of Mr. P. J. Graham, a member of a well-known and popular Coonagh family, which took place to-day after a long illness.

The late Mr. Graham was for a long number of years storekeeper at the Limerick Mental Hospital, but failing health compelled him to relinquish this important position. He was brother of Dr. Matt Graham, and of Mr. Michael Graham, Coonagh.

A gentleman of many sterling qualities, he was held in very high regard and esteem by all classes. In sporting circles, generally, but especially in the realm of coursing, his death will occasion profound regret and sorrow. Some years ago he bred some first-class greyhounds and usually he was represented at the leading coursing fixtures in Munster. He was a nominator for the Irish Cup and in that connection it will be recalled that for the 1929-30 season his nomination—Comrade Kiwi—owned by Mr. James Humphreys, Glenstal, won the blue riband of Irish coursing. To his widow, children and the

houses. Of that number been erected to re-house displaced from clearance. The remaining number being used for normal requirements.

### FORMIDABLE TASK

In August, 1944, the engineer, the Acting Manager, prepared and submitted to the Corporation a comprehensive housing programme for the eradication of slums in the city. The programme provided for the erection of the following additional houses: 36; Pennywell, Crosbie Row, 8; Tankerville, Crosbie Row, 8; Tankerville Scheme, 30; Probert's, Watergate, 72; Carey's, Park-Rhebogue, 300; Sineen, Ballynanty, 250; Old Cross, 80; Thomondgate, 69. It was proposed to erect 1,045 economic houses. It is seen, therefore, that in order to solve the housing problem the Corporation has before it with a formidable task. At present the Corporation has demolished 842 unhealthy slum clearance areas, housing 1,123 families, comprising 1,045 persons. Besides, it was proposed to demolish 82 individual houses occupied by 223 families, comprising 1,045 persons.

Answering Mr. O'Malley, the Acting Manager said that there were other areas in the city from which clearance could be carried out. He said when it would be possible to initiate the Pennywell scheme that would depend on the approval of the Department of Public Works. Tenders received for the town scheme.

Mr. O'Malley—In the case of the contractors were to buy nails from the Corporation at £240 per ton.

Mr. Dundon—What is to be done with the matter? Inquiry?—Why is this?

Mr. O'Malley—It has nothing to do with this matter, as the cost of housing.

Mr. Dundon—It has nothing to do with the acquisition.

Mr. O'Malley—I do not know what question has agitated you. It is a great deal.

Mr. Dundon—I look at the question as a red herring.

Mr. O'Malley—That is your view. It is not mine.

### EVIDENCE OF OBJECTION

The objector, Thomas, in evidence, stated that his intention to build five houses on the parcel of land to be cleared from him.

Mary Cross also stated that it was her intention to build five houses on the parcel of land. At present she is using the land as a garden and it was her intention to build five houses materially towards her living.

The City Surveyor (Mr. J. E. O'Sullivan, B.E.) stated that the land proposed to be cleared should not be used for a house.