

31st March, 1945 compares with the balance immediately before the loan was floated. Information on this matter would, no doubt, be welcome to ratepayers, and particularly to those who subscribed to the loan at the risk of capital depreciation, with a view of helping the city's finances.

The floating of this public loan makes it imperative that financial statements be published yearly. In due course, a further loan will be required to redeem the present one, and it is only natural that people with savings may hesitate to lend without knowing something of the financial structure of the Corporation.

I look on the publication of accounts as of extreme importance, both to the lenders and the borrowers. Money cannot be borrowed at a low rate unless the borrower has the lender's confidence.—Yours faithfully,

"RATEPAYER AND LENDER."

DEATH OF MR. M. C. BURKE, SOLICITOR

The death took place in Milford Nursing Home on Tuesday night of Mr. Michael Canty Burke, solr., after a rather protracted illness.

The late Mr. Burke, who was a member of a widely connected County Limerick family, was himself a popular figure and enjoyed the esteem of the general public.

He began his legal career as a barrister, but some years later he discarded the wig, and in 1920 he was admitted a solicitor. He practised in Limerick, having acquired the office and business of the late Mr. Thomas Kenny, solr.

Mr. Burke took an active interest in politics and about 30 years ago he contested, unsuccessfully, East Limerick as an independent against Mr. Thomas Lundon, M.P. Following the Treaty he joined the Cumann na nGaedheal organisation, by whom he was chosen as a candidate for the Dail on two occasions. Later he was attached to the Fine Gael organisation and was chairman of the Co. Limerick Executive for a period.

The interment took place in the family burial ground at Hospital to-day. The funeral was of very large proportions, being representative of the professional and farming classes.

are confident that they will be in a position to give a more or less continuous supply for the Easter week-end, official notice of which will be given in due time. The reconstruction of the retorts, it is expected, will be finished in the first week in April and, as a result, the public will have a service for the full round of the clock. Needless to say, much will depend on the coal deliveries, but present indications are that the position in this respect will be reasonably good.

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THAT ART GALLERY.

Early in January the City Council accepted a tender for £6,186 for the building of the proposed Municipal Art Gallery. Since then the tender is lying somewhere in the spacious offices of the Department of Local Government, awaiting Ministerial sanction. Here we are provided with a striking example of the festina lente policy. The question of providing for the city a repository for the splendid collection of paintings procured by the Art Gallery Committee is before the public for the past two years or more. In these circumstances it would be reasonable to expect that when a forward move was made locally to get on with the job the higher authority in Dublin would give a helping hand rather than prove to be a stumbling block.

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THE SAVINGS BANK.

The directors of the Limerick Savings Bank—one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the country—are to be congratulated for having made this service more popular with the masses. In passing it should be mentioned that the Savings Bank is being availed of by the small investor in very increasing numbers. Last year one hundred and twenty new accounts were opened, and there is reason to believe that at the end of 1945 further progress in thrift will be recorded.