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Things That Matter

At a recent meeting of the City Council, Mr. G. E. Russell, B.C., moved a resolution requesting the Government to introduce legislation to provide for a contributory pension scheme for all wage earners. This resolution, quite properly, received the unanimous endorsement of the Corporation. In our Monday's issue Mr. Russell made a very interesting statement by way of amplification of his motion—a statement that is deserving of serious attention and careful study. Councillor Russell has rendered a signal public service by giving ventilation to a matter of primary importance and it is to be hoped that the lead he has given will be followed up by energetic action.

* *

That the initiative on this pressing social question should have come from the Chairman of the Limerick Employers' Federation is all to the good. It can be taken as an indication that employers now realise that provision should be made for employees who had spent the best years of their lives in the building up of industry, trade and commerce. It is, as Mr. Russell so aptly put it, a tragic sight to see men of advanced years obliged to continue working long after the normal retiring age because of the absence of machinery to give them an allowance sufficient to keep want and hunger away. But is it not more depressing still to find many of this class as inmates of public institutions?

* *

In justice and equity, workers who have given the best years of their manhood in the service of their employers should be made feel that in the evening of their lives they will not be cast adrift. To say the least, it must be a very disturbing thought to the average wage earner that when he has passed his years of labour he will be discarded, thrown on the scrap heap, as it were. Such a cruel system, a system devoid of all Christian charity, should not be allowed continue. It is to be sincerely hoped, therefore, that the Government will lose no time in bringing a Bill before the Oireachtas embodying the principles set out in Mr. Russell's resolution.

* *

There are so many striking and compelling reasons in favour of a contributory pension scheme for all workers that it is difficult to understand why our Government—one of the most democratic in the world—has not taken action in this direction long before now. Surely, men and women who have laboured for forty years or more in the building up of a particular industry are entitled to some reward—to feel that they are human beings and not mere chattels. True, a number of business firms have introduced pensions schemes on their own initiative. Unfortunately, however, the great mass of workers are still left to fend for themselves in their declining years.

CITY TRAGEDY NOT THIS WINTER BRITISH FORCES

Boy Struck By Motor Car

EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST

A painful tragedy occurred in O'Connell Avenue, Limerick, on Sunday, as a result of which one of a group of playing children, Stephen Barry, son of Mr. Michael Barry, a well-known citizen, lost his life. The deceased was struck by a Garda car, driven by Det. Officer McHugh, who was escorting an American motor wagon conveying diplomatic mails from Rineanna to Foynes. He received severe head injuries and died in St. John's Hospital on Monday, the eve of his fifth birthday.

The Deputy City Coroner, Mr. S. McNeice, solicitor, sitting with a jury, held an inquest last evening touching on the circumstances of the death of the boy.

Supt. Collieran conducted the inquiry on behalf of the State; Mr. J. B. O'Malley, solicitor, appeared for the driver of the car, and Mr. M. Leahy, solicitor, for the next-of-kin.

Dr. Anthony Crehan, House Surgeon, St. John's Hospital, said the deceased was admitted at 4 p.m. on Sunday. He was unconscious and died at 10.30 p.m. on Monday without regaining consciousness. Witness conducted a post mortem examination and formed the opinion that death was due to laceration of the brain. The injuries would be consistent with the deceased having been struck by a car.

Mr. O'Malley—With having been struck severely or lightly?—I could not answer that question.

Michael Barry, father of the deceased, gave evidence of identification. He said he saw his son in normal health at two o'clock on Sunday and a short time later he was brought back to the house suffering from head injuries.

Charles Slattery (13), Crescent new, O'Connell Avenue, said that between 3 and 3.30 p.m. on Sunday he was standing in Verona Esplanade and saw the deceased with other youngsters near the corner. There was another boy, Anthony Hackett, at the opposite side of O'Connell Avenue. A girl named Maria Foley went across the street to young Hackett, and ceased to follow. Maria Foley said to him "mind the car," and ceased to step back a bit. Witness saw a Foynes car pass and ceased then ran on to the road again. Witness barely saw the second motor car before it struck the deceased, who had his head down when running. Just before he heard a horn, and the sound of brakes being applied. The striking young Barry the car is pulled up in less than its own length. It was at its proper side of the road.

To Mr. O'Malley, witness said that in his opinion deceased, from where he was standing in Verona Esplanade, could see an approaching car for about twenty-five yards. He was in O'Connell Avenue when he crossed the road the second time. Witness could not say if he was looking after the American

CROSSING THE ROAD

Noel Hackett (12), 8 Swanson Terrace, said he was with the children in Verona Esplanade. Witness, five-year-old brother, Thomas, was at the opposite side of O'Connell Avenue, and Maria Foley ran across to him. Witness saw Stephen Barry attempt to cross the road and heard Maura Barry warn him of an approaching car. Stephen stopped and stepped back and then an American car ceased towards Foynes. Deceased crossed the road, looking ahead and witness saw another car and heard brakes. Deceased was struck by the car. Mr. O'Malley—From where was he standing in O'Connell Avenue after the first car had passed could he see other traffic approaching if he looked up or down? Yes.

David O'Shea (9) said he saw the deceased running across the road. Apparently did not notice the second car.

Thomas O'Shea, Verona Esplanade, father of the last witness, said he saw young Barry darting across the road a few seconds after the American car had passed. Deceased stooped while running and was struck by the second car. In witness's opinion the cars were travelling pretty fast.

IN ESCORT CAR

Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Foynes, official driver employed by the Consul at the Shannon Air-Station, said he was driving a station wagon on Sunday, but at Rineanna it was taken over by Mr. McHugh, the Vice-Consul, and accompanied Garda McHugh in the escort car. When passing O'Connell Avenue, Limerick

STOUT AND TOBACCO SCARCE

For some days now there has been an acute scarcity of stout in the Hospital district, and publicans fear that there is not yet much prospect of immediate relief (writes our correspondent). Trade in licensed premises in Hospital is almost at a stand-still, stout being of course in more demand than any other beverage. Cigarettes have been, for some time past, also very scarce and even American brands are not available.

No Coal For Public

OUTLOOK NOT BRIGHT

From enquiries made in authoritative quarters to-day it was gathered that there are no prospects whatever of coal supplies being available for the general public this coming winter.

The fact that coal imports for July—84,743 tons—were almost double that of last year, has led many people to believe that stocks would be on sale in the merchants' yards before very long. As stated, there are no hopes whatever of this wish being realised.

A prominent importer stated that the people of this country will be fortunate if they are able to purchase coal for domestic use in twelve months time. The fuel situation, he said, was never more serious in Britain and on the Continent than at present, and he foresaw a very difficult winter for these people.

Giving figures to back his statement, the merchant said coal stocks in Britain at this time last year amounted to 65 millions tons; now they totalled 12½ millions; while the British Government stocks in dumps for householders were only a quarter of last year's total, which enabled the Briton to scrape through and no more. The British gas industries now had less than three week's supply, and the railways enough for a week and a half. Further, it was estimated that the return to full street lighting in those parts of Britain using gas for this purpose would absorb an extra million tons of coal during the coming year. With the supply position so acute in Britain, Irish householders had very little cause for optimism.

CAUGHT IN BOG HOLE

MONSTER PIKE LANDED

While fishing in a bog hole on Sunday last near Herbertstown, Mr. John Tydings, Cool Street, Limerick, caught a 30 lbs. pike, and landed it after a 20-minute struggle. Shortly after, at the same place, another pike was hooked but broke away from Mr. Paddy Higgins, Garryowen, Limerick. When Mr. Higgins mounted stronger gear he hooked the same fish again, and after half-an-hour he landed a 40 lbs. pike, and found in its throat the nine hooks that it had previously broken away with. The fish snapped savagely at the rod when it came to the surface. There were seven roach in its stomach.

This is the second biggest pike landed so far this season by these two anglers. The other catches included: one 44 lbs., one 29 lbs., one 32 lbs., and one 37½ lbs.

LATE MR. GUS O'BRIEN

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") Dear Sir—On reading the account of the meeting of City Vocational Education Committee, which appeared in your widely-read paper, concerning the appointment of a caretaker in succession to the late Mr. A. O'Brien, it was very pleasing to read the glowing tributes of the C.E.O. and members of the Committee to a loyal and faithful official, who had held the friendship and good will of everyone that came into contact with him during his life. Gus, as we know, was the man who organised and conducted the famous Institute Ceilidhe Band for a long number of years and through his untiring efforts (readily given by him in his spare time) brought the band up to its present state of perfection. It would be doing a great service to his memory if when the new caretaker is being appointed, that a qualified musician was chosen for the position, so that the high standard which the late Mr. O'Brien had brought the band up to would be maintained. By having a qualified music teacher appointed it would be an incentive to the pupils attending the classes to take advantage of the tuition which would be available and in time bring out latent talent which would do justice to the school in the years to come.

A LOVER OF MUSIC

STOUT AND TOBACCO SCARCE

For some days now there has been an acute scarcity of stout in the Hospital district, and publicans fear that there is not yet much prospect of immediate relief (writes our correspondent). Trade in licensed premises in Hospital is almost at a stand-still, stout being of course in more demand than any other beverage. Cigarettes have been, for some time past, also very scarce and even American brands are not available.

NOMADS IN KILLALOE

Bands of the travelling fraternity, including gypsies, with their waggonettes, steeds and goats, passed through Killaloe last week en route for the West (writes our Killaloe correspondent). They encamped in the usual laneways within easy distance of fresh water. The inhabitants state that the nomads were law-abiding, created no annoyance, and did very little damage to hedges and trees.

Withdrawn From Japan

ADMIRAL

WANTED ELSEWHERE, SAYS

To-day's despatches from the Far East state that while American forces continue to pour ashore on the Japanese mainland, British forces are being withdrawn from Yokosuka naval base.

A week ago British troops were landed at Yokosuka and stood guard over stores that the Japanese had abandoned.

American forces are now assuming control over the area vacated by the British.

Admiral Sir Bruce Frazer, Commander of the British Pacific Fleet, explained that the British forces withdrawn from Yokosuka were required in other theatres.

The Japanese Premier, speaking in Parliament at Tokyo to-day, said that the war began to go against Japan following the loss of Guadalcanal.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

The United States Congress meets this evening for its first peace-time session since 1941. President Truman, who has put the final touches on his message to Congress, is now conferring with his chiefs.

DREWS COURT COURSING CLUB

A representative meeting of coursing enthusiasts from Milford and Ballyagran districts was held at the Hall, Ballyagran, when it was decided to re-establish the club's annual fixture, which had lapsed for the past couple of seasons (writes our Ballyagran correspondent).

The following officers were appointed, viz.:—Chairman, Mr. John Watson; vice-chairman, Mr. M. Walsh; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Watson (Milford); hon. secretary, Mr. Maurice Griffin. Ways and means of improving the club's financial position were discussed, and as a preliminary it was decided to hold a concert in aid early in October.

The new chairman is a nephew of the late Mr. Timothy Watson, who so ably occupied the position for many years, and his selection was a deserving tribute to the memory of one who did so much to promote the club's interests during his life long connection with it. The appointment of a working committee was deferred to a later meeting.

THE NEEDS OF GLIN

Test borings are being carried out in the land adjacent to the Glencarbary River by order of Mr. E. J. Sheahan, M.R.I.A., County Engineer, with a view to obtaining a sufficient water supply for Glin, writes our correspondent there. A new water service is very badly needed and it is to be hoped the new enterprise will be successful.

It is also hoped that Glin town will be lighted for the coming winter, as great danger exists in some streets, particularly Church Street, during the dark winter nights.

DIED AT RADIO

Patrick Carey (22), son of Mr. Michael Carey, Glenaree, Ballyntubber, Ballylanders, collapsed and died while listening-in to the All-Ireland Hurling Final on Sunday (writes our Ballylanders correspondent). His remains were removed to Glenbrohane Church on Monday, and, after Office and High Mass, the interment took place in Ardpatrick Cemetery next day.

HURLING AT BRIDGETOWN

The junior hurling re-play between Garranboy and Kilkishen at Bridgetown on Sunday last attracted a good attendance. Contrary to expectations, Kilkishen at any period of the game did not get going and were easily outclassed by their opponents, a far superior team. Full-time score: Garranboy, 9-9; Kilkishen, 1-2.

ON LOUGH DERG

Two Corofin anglers, Mr. Michael Hurley, N.T., and Mr. Michael Kelleher, N.T., spent last week fishing on Lough Derg, where they killed a goodly number of well-sized pike. It was their first visit to town and they were delighted with the lake and with the scenery of Killaloe. During their stay they were the guests of Rev. W. Hartly, C.C.

BRUFF G.A.A. CLUB

Mr. T. Bultin, Vice-President, presided at a meeting of the Bruff G.A.A. Club. He welcomed Very Rev. D. Canon O'Riordan, P.P., V.F., Bruff, on his first appearance at a meeting of the club, and paid tribute to his work for Gaelic games, and hoped he would continue to show interest in the affairs of their club. Canon O'Riordan suitably replied.

SCARCITY OF STOUT

The Killaloe and Ballina publicans have been badly hit for the last month by the scarcity of stout (writes our Killaloe correspondent). The occasional boat load that arrives is eagerly looked forward to and speedily disposed of.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2).