

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL BAD FACILITIES A BUSY TIME

BRUFF COURT FOG TRAGEDY

INCIDENT IN LICENSED PREMISES

At Bruff District Court on Thursday, 19th inst., before Mr. H. L. Conner, B.L., Mr. R. Fox, solicitor, made application for a new dance hall licence on behalf of Mrs. Margaret O'Donovan and Mr. William B. O'Donovan (junct.), both of Bruff, the executors of the late William B. O'Donovan, Bruff, in respect of The Hall, Bruff, the property of the late Mr. O'Donovan, and in respect of which the late Mr. O'Donovan had a dance hall licence.

Mr. M. F. Noonan, solicitor for the Limerick Co. Council, objected on behalf of the County Council to the granting of the licence on the grounds that proper toilet accommodation for men had not been installed. Evidence having been given on behalf of the applicants that the necessary work was in progress to complete the accommodation mentioned, and the applicants having given an undertaking to complete same, the Justice granted the application.

INCIDENT IN LICENSED PREMISES

Timothy Tierney, licensed vintner, Dromin, summoned Thomas Dwyane, of Ballynammagh, for assaulting complainant in his complainant's licensed premises at Dromin on 13th October last. At the outset of the case, Mr. R. Geary, solr., for the defendant, said that the defendant was admitting the offence and was prepared to give an undertaking to keep away from the licensed premises of the complainant in the future.

PUBLICAN FINED

Patrick Ryan, of Bruff, licensed vintner, was summoned for a breach of the licensing laws on Sunday, the 27th October last. Mr. M. M. Power, solr., for the defendant, said that the offence was admitted. Three of the people found on the premises were cousins of the licensee, while the other two were from Limerick, with the result that had it not been a Sunday night there would have been no breach. The Justice imposed a fine of 11/- on the publican.

FINED FOR UNLICENSED BULL

The Minister for Agriculture summoned John Curtin, Tullaboy, Rossetemple, for having in his possession an unlicensed bull, contrary to the Livestock Breeding Act. After hearing the evidence of the Inspector, the Justice imposed a fine of 1/-, with 12 weeks expenses.

DECREE FOR TRESPASS

Patrick Hehir, of Stonepark, Bruff, claimed from John Moloney, Ballynanty, Limerick, a sum of £10 for damages caused by the trespass of the defendant's cattle on the plaintiff's cottage plot at Stonepark. Mr. R. Fox, solr., for the plaintiff, and Mr. Martin Tynan, solr., for the defendant.

MANY CALLS FIRE BRIGADE KEPT BUSY

The Christmas tide was a busy period for the members of the Limerick City Fire Brigade. Many householders, it would appear, had their troubles with chimney flues, for no less than seventeen phone calls were received at the Fire Station. There were other numerous calls, too, the majority of which appertained to the conveying of sick persons to the various city hospitals.

Two fires figured in the requisition list. On Christmas Eve, at approximately 5.20 o'clock, the Brigade was called to a fire in a bedroom of a two-storey house at 3, Singland, Dublin Road, occupied by Mr. Powell, an American, his wife and family. There they observed some clothing in flames, but quickly got the situation under control.

On St. Stephen's Night, at about 8.25 o'clock, the engine of a saloon car became suddenly ignited opposite the Augustinian Church, O'Connell Street. Members of the Fire Brigade, who were called to the scene, applied the C.T.C. chemical on the blazing carburettor and distributor to good effect. The car, it was learned, was being driven at the time of the sudden "flare-up" by its owner, a Mr. Lucy, from Co. Cork.

This afternoon the Brigade were summoned to quell a small outbreak in the house of Captain Phelan, Ballykeefe, Mungret. They found some articles of clothing and furniture ablaze and the fire was extinguished before any damage was done to the premises proper. Captain Phelan and his wife were at Limerick races when the outbreak occurred.

BRISK BUSINESS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Brisk business was done in Limerick in connection with Christmas shopping. Trade was seriously interrupted, however, by the dense fog that enveloped the city on Monday. On Christmas Eve the emporiums were packed until closing time and it is stated that, despite the dislocation caused by the fog on the previous day, the turn-over was up to expectations. Some traders say that business was more brisk last Christmas, but this opinion is not shared generally.

"If," said the manager of one big warehouse, "we had a variety of goods to offer we would have no difficulty in disposing of them, as money was very plentiful." Miss P. Connolly, Chiropodist, will be out of town until the 3rd January, 1947.

Motion To Increase Officials' Salaries CLAIMS OF THE ROAD WORKERS

Improved Conditions For Nursing Staffs

Mr. M. O'Dwyer, Chairman, presided at the meeting of the Limerick Co. Council on Saturday. The other members present were—Senator D. J. Madden, Messrs. J. Quaid, D. J. Grady, P. T. McCarthy, J. J. McNamara, Michael O'Donnell, D. McAuliffe, T. O'Connell, P. Fitzsimons, T. Hennessy, J. W. Canty, P. H. Donegan, P. Clancy, R. M. Cleary, D. Clancy, P. M. O'Connor, P. Lillis, J. Mackey, J. C. Barrett, M. J. K. Dore, solr., P. Maguire.

The setting up of a committee who would go into the matter with the Manager, together with the demand made on behalf of the road workers. Chairman—What are the views of the Council on the suggestion to set up a committee? Mr. McNamara—What can a committee do when they have no information? Chairman—I think it would be just as well to wait for the Manager's report. Then the question can be discussed by the whole Council.

Manager—There will be a meeting of the Council in Croom on 11th January. Chairman—We can deal with the Manager's report that day. Manager—I would like to have it decided now that any increases given will be made retrospective as from 1st January. The Council unanimously agreed to the adoption of this suggestion, and further consideration of all the proposed increases was adjourned to the 11th January.

NURSING STAFFS

A circular letter from the Department (already published) recommending increases in salaries for nurses employed in public institutions was read. In addition to the granting of increases, it was further recommended that local authorities should take steps to provide certain amenities for nursing staffs. In connection with this matter, a letter was read from the Irish Nurses' Organisation requesting that the recommendations made by the Department be given effect to at once.

Mr. Quaid suggested that the Department's recommendations be circulated amongst the members. Mr. Dore proposed that the recommendations of the Department be adopted. Actually similar recommendations had been made by the Hospitals Commission to the voluntary hospitals. It was his opinion that nurses were very badly paid for the work they did. Wasn't it true, he asked, that they were experiencing considerable difficulty in getting a full nursing staff for the County Hospital?

DIFFICULTY IN GETTING NURSES

Mr. King (Chief Public Health Officer)—Yes, we are meeting considerable difficulty in getting a nursing staff there. Mr. Dore—That is not surprising, seeing that much higher salaries are offered across Channel. Mr. McCarthy seconded Mr. Dore's proposition. The Manager said that the Council could accept the recommendation, as it would not mean a great deal to the ratepayers. If they in Limerick did not "keep in line with other counties they would find it impossible to get nurses. The whole increase would not mean more than £1,200, but all that would not go to the hospital nurses. The nurses in Croom would benefit to the extent of about £500, while the midwives, who were very badly paid, would benefit to the extent of about £600.

MOTIONS PASSED

Pursuant to notice, Mr. Donegan moved that a pump be erected at Mountmennett. This was seconded by Mr. Clancy and passed unanimously. On the motion of Mr. Hayes, and seconded by Mr. Donegan, it was decided to declare the road from the Cross of Doon to the Church Gate a public road. It was proposed by Mr. Hayes, and seconded by Mr. Donegan, and passed unanimously, that a water supply be provided for New Pallas. On the motion of Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Hennessy, it was decided to give a special repair to a road at Ballygrogan. Mr. Dore proposed and Mr. McAuliffe seconded that a pump be erected at Castlemashon. The motion was passed unanimously.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION

It was unanimously decided to apply for an overdraft of £25,000 for the quarter beginning 1st January in respect of the general account and for an overdraft of £40,000 for the same period in respect of the turf account. Mr. Canty—How do we stand in respect of turf. Acting County Surveyor—In respect of last season's turf we estimate a profit of £600. Mr. McAuliffe—That is very good. Mr. McNamara—And why this overdraft of £40,000? Manager—We have a lot of turf on hands, but I feel that in the end we shall be at no loss.

"APPROVED" COUNCIL

An application from the Kilmallock Town Improvements Committee to be recognised as "an approved Council" was agreed to unanimously. TOLLS ON FAIRS. The Chairman said that at the last meeting of the General Council of County Councils a resolution from the Limerick County Council suggesting that tolls on fairs be purchased by the Government was referred back for further consideration. Mr. Dore proposed that the Government be asked to bring in legislation to abolish tolls. This relie of feudalism should be abolished. Mr. Hayes seconded this proposition. Mr. McAuliffe—I don't think this is fair to people who bought toll rights. Chairman—Let us ask the Government to vest the tolls in the County Council.

TOLLS ON FAIRS

Mr. Dore—I agree to that. It is absurd to have tolls going to individuals. The resolution, as amended, was passed unanimously. BOUNDARY EXTENSION QUESTION. A letter was read from the City Manager stating that the Corporation had adopted a new resolution

THE ROAD WORKERS

Mr. Hayes asked that a deputation be received from the road workers, who were seeking an increase of 70 per cent. on the 1939 scale of wages. That was a very just demand having regard to the increase in the cost of living, which had gone up by 100 per cent. since 1939. If the 70 per cent. increase was given the workers would be paid 51/- per week. Mr. Michael J. Keyes, T.D., who headed a deputation representing the road workers, said that the wage of 30/- per week paid in 1939 was not economic. Yet if a wage of 51/- was granted now it would have only the same purchasing power as the wage of 30/- paid in 1939. He would like to stress the fact that the Limerick Co. Council had paid the lowest rate of wages in Munster. The Council would be sure, give very favourable consideration to the very reasonable demand of the road workers.

Mr. McCarthy said that the demand made was reasonable and modest. No man could to-day rear a family on 51/- per week. Ordinary employees of the Council should be entitled to a small pension when they had passed their years of labour. Mr. Fitzsimons supported the claim of the workers for an increase of 70 per cent. During the war years many of those men had to walk long distances when boots were almost unobtainable. MANAGER'S STATEMENT. The Manager said that he would like the deputation to bear in mind that the Minister would have difficulties to contend with when he came to deal with the claims of the road workers. The Minister would have to bear in mind the prevailing scale for agricultural labourers. The road workers were entitled to an increase and he was sure the County Council would deal with the matter sympathetically when they came to deal with it. With regard to the question of a pension allowance for road workers, he understood that the Minister had that matter under consideration.

Mr. Mackey remarked that the road workers had a grievance in respect of broken time. Mr. Donegan—If you don't give a man a living wage he cannot work, nor can he meet his obligations. Mr. Keyes thanked the Council and the Manager for their cordial reception and said that he was sure the Council would give the claims of the workers very favourable consideration. QUESTION OF COMMITTEE. In connection with the motion dealing with salaries, Mr. Clancy withdrew his motion in favour of

CRITICISMS OF RAILWAY COMPANY

Complaints that the facilities for the transport of cattle from fairs were very bad were made at the meeting of Limerick County Council of Agriculture on Friday, 20th inst. Mr. John Quaid, Co.C., Chairman, presiding. A letter was read from the Department of Agriculture acknowledging the Committee's complaint (proposed by Mr. McNamara) regarding the lack of facilities throughout the country for the transport of cattle from fairs. The Department's acknowledgment pointed out that the C.I.E. were dealing with this problem as adequately as supplies of fuel for trains permitted.

Mr. McNamara said that it was almost impossible to get cattle transported from the last fair at Newcastle West. Mr. McAuliffe—They had to get old lorries there from around the place to take the beasts away. It is not fair at all. It is destroying the town. Chairman—It seems the C.I.E. can do what they like. Mr. McAuliffe—Where did the wagons go to? They are running a passenger train with a few wagons new to Kerry and surely they could bring in a few wagons with that of Newcastle West. Their system is all wrong.

Chairman—It seems the C.I.E. can do what they like. Mr. McAuliffe—Where did the wagons go to? They are running a passenger train with a few wagons new to Kerry and surely they could bring in a few wagons with that of Newcastle West. Their system is all wrong. NOT SATISFIED. Mr. Fitzsimons said he would like to propose a resolution telling the Minister that the Committee were not satisfied with his attitude to their request that better facilities be afforded cattle traders in the country. He pointed out that the last fair at Newcastle West—one of the most important fairs in the country—coincided with the sugar beet strike, which left the C.I.E. reasonably idle for nearly a month. Despite this fact the transport of cattle—and especially of milk cows—to Dublin took between thirty and thirty-six hours, and during this journey the beasts suffered so much that when they arrived at their destinations they were worth practically nothing. Besides the loss to farmers through this dilution in the value of the beasts, veterinary inspectors who examined the beasts in Dublin and found them in bad condition, took the matter up with the original owners of the beasts and not with the C.I.E. who were responsible for their condition. Farmers in Co. Limerick had lost an enormous amount of money through this neglect on the part of the C.I.E.

Chairman—Their excuse is that they have no coal. Mr. Fitzsimons—We sent cattle to Dublin when there was nothing but turf and timber as fuel, and we got them there all right. The cattle are standing for eight or nine or ten hours at the station before they are out into wagons, and the journey to Dublin takes anything up to thirty-six hours or more. I have been asked to talk about that here. I think it is time that the persecution of the farmers in this matter ceased. Mr. Hayes said he agreed with Mr. Fitzsimons' attitude on the question of the transport of cattle from fairs. "We have reached a stage in this country where we have to make comments on the procedure of the C.I.E.," he said. "They have got a monopoly of transport. People in the country areas who want to take their cattle to the Limerick markets have to depend on private lorry owners. I, personally, am sorry that C.I.E. ever got a monopoly of transport in this country."

MATTER FOR DAIL. Mr. O'Connell expressed surprise that this matter had not been raised in Dail Eireann, the proper place for such a discussion to take place. It was the Dail, and not in Limerick, that important issues of this kind should be discussed. He suggested that the T.D.s. of the county be requested to interview the Minister with a view to improving transport facilities at fairs throughout the country. Mr. McNamara—The Dail should see that the people get proper facilities for the transport of goods and chattels. Mr. Fitzsimons said it was impossible to estimate the amount of revenue the C.I.E. derived from the transport of cattle from fairs. On that account alone, the C.I.E. should be more careful on how they treated the source of their revenue. He proposed that the Committee forward another resolution to the Department asking that the complaints of farmers with regard to transport from fairs be investigated. Mr. O'Connell seconded this resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

RAISINS ARRIVE

About 2,000 tons of Californian raisins arrived yesterday in Dublin from New York. They came on the "Old Dominion State," chartered specially by Irish Shipping in an endeavour to get the cargo to Dublin for Christmas, but labour troubles and bad weather delayed the arrival of the vessel. DISASTROUS FIRE. Damage estimated at £125,000 was done by a fire which broke out on Christmas Eve at a U.S.A. Army Transport Station at Howley, near Grand Lake, Newfoundland. The establishment was an important radio station and a weather station for air lines between Canada and Gander Airport. FERGUS STUDIOS. As may be seen from our advertising columns, the up-to-date Fergus Studios at 72 William Street specialise in good photography of groups, weddings, and children, in black and white, sepia and full colour. Mr. Frank Fergus gives his personal attention to all work relative to the city boundary extension.

Secretary—This means that the Corporation is applying for a slightly greater extension than previously. Manager—There is a likelihood that the Inquiry concerning the Corporation's proposal may come on sooner than was anticipated. That being so authority should be given to our Law Agent to brief senior and junior counsel. Mr. Dore—Certainly. The Council made an order giving authority to the Law Agent to brief senior and junior counsel. The Chairman extended the comment on the season to the members and the proceedings concluded.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Charles Rossan, residing at 29 Elm Park, Ennis Road, and employed as chef in a city hotel, was knocked down by a motor car at the Union Cross Junction last night. It would appear that he had just alighted from the 9.20 bus when the accident occurred. He sustained head and leg injuries and was removed to Barrington Hospital. On inquiry at the hospital to-day, it was learned that his condition is not serious. As a result of being run down by a motor car in the Cratloe district during Christmas, Thomas McInerney, a native of that neighbourhood, was removed to Barrington Hospital with a fractured leg. He is progressing as well as can be expected. Another motor accident is reported from Crusheen, where a collision between two motor cars resulted in the overturning of one, but the occupants escaped serious injuries.

There was another escape from injury when two motor vehicles were involved in a collision at the junction of O'Connell Street and Newenham Street at about 12.45 p.m. yesterday. However, both cars were badly damaged. SOME HOLIDAY SMASHES. The Lord Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, celebrated the 8 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral where he presided at High Mass at 12 o'clock. In the course of a brief address his Lordship dwelt on the significance of Christmas and expressed the hope that his people would be inspired by the spirit of the great Festival. RELIGIOUS FERVOUR. The great Festival of Christmas was observed in Limerick in a manner in keeping with the dignity of the great and solemn occasion. Midnight Mass was celebrated in different churches and overflow congregations were the order in all cases.

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Lord Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, celebrated the 8 o'clock Mass in the Cathedral where he presided at High Mass at 12 o'clock. In the course of a brief address his Lordship dwelt on the significance of Christmas and expressed the hope that his people would be inspired by the spirit of the great Festival. RATHKEALE WHIST DRIVE. An enjoyable whist drive, at which there was a good attendance, was held on Sunday last at the Library, Rathkeale, in aid of the Fund for the Curates' Residences. Winners—Ladies—1st, W. Seymour; 2nd, Maeve O'Leary. Half-time, W. Seymour. Gents—1st, John Cronin; 2nd, M. Fitzgerald. Half-time, M. Fitzgerald. MORE OIL AND TIMBER COMING. Further supplies of petrol, oil and kerosene are due soon from Arabu West Indies, on a 10,000 ton Royal oil tanker, while the Trebol has nearly 1,000 standards of timber from Canada. A further 2,000 tons of timber is due from New Orleans. Mr. John N. McGrath, B.D.S., will be absent from 18, The Crescent, Limerick, until Monday, December 30th.

THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

Our representative was informed at the G.P.O. that the Christmas postal traffic dealt with reached new heights in point of volume. The relaxation of the export regulations in the matter of gift turkeys, threw an additional volume of work on the staffs, and the gift turkey scheme had proved a boon to exiled friends across the water. This traffic is measured in tons rather than in the number of birds posted. During the peak period, our representative was afforded an opportunity of inspecting the sorting and despatching of these parcels in the Sorting Office, and from his observations one would gather that the traffic reached "mountainous" dimensions.

MATTER FOR WONDER

Incoming parcels from America containing ingredients for the Christmas fare and a variety of consumable goods and wearing apparel were also numerous, and it was a matter for wonder how the staffs could dispose of them—each to its own particular destination. The greetings card traffic, it was learned, reached a new high level and the meter attached to the electric stamp cancelling machine recorded more than half a million items posted in the city during the five days preceding Christmas. It was gathered that the public did not respond to the "post early" appeal as well as on previous occasions, with the result that late postings on the 23rd placed a very heavy burden on the staffs to effect clearance by all means.

The unfavourable weather was no doubt, partly responsible for this, and if readers' gifts and cards did not reach the addressee in time for Christmas they cannot blame the Post Office staffs or organisation. Air mail from the U.S.A. arriving via Rineanna was particularly heavy and it was noted that letters posted in New York were sent out for delivery from Limerick on the following day. REMITTANCES FROM THE U.S.A. Our representative was informed in response to his query that on the 21st advices of remittances received for Limerick and the Counties Clare, Kerry and portion of Tipperary totalled upwards of £8,500. Relatives temporarily exiled across Channel also contributed handsomely, and traders in the city and county must have had a bumper season as a result of these unexpected gifts.

The Telegraph and Telephone Departments were also heavily taxed to cope with the Christmas traffic, and staffs had to be retained well into the night on Christmas Eve to dispose of an accumulation of messages. The Telephone Exchange was staffed continuously night and day, and a special word of praise is due to the staffs who had to continue at work while the citizens relaxed and made merry. TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT. A large number of temporary sorters and porters was engaged through the medium of the local Employment Exchange—the number being upwards of 100—and a not inconsiderable sum was paid out in wages. The homes of many men who would have otherwise been unemployed, no doubt, reflected that bread-winners had been provided with work.

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