BOROUGH COUNCIL

Small Dwellings Act

TENDERS FOR HOUSING SCHEME

The Mayor (Mr. P. O'Connell) presided at a meeting of the City Council last night. The other members present were: Ald. D. Bourke, Ald. J. Reidy, Ald. J. Carew, Ald. M. Hartney, Messrs. P. Whelan, M. W. McGuire, J. Connery, Michael B. O'Malley, solicitor; J. C. Hickey, G. B. Dillon, P. J. Cusack, P. J. Donnellan, M. J. Keyes.

Mr. O'Malley said that he desired to congratulate the Manager on the improvement he had effected in respect of the collection of refuse.

Ald. Reidy—What districts are affected by the improvement referred to?

Manager—All the areas that had only a weekly collection have now a bye-weekly collection.

Ald. Reidy—That, certainly, is an improvement.

Mr. O'Malley—It is an improvement that is much appreciated.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACT.

Ald. Reidy said that some time ago the operation of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act was suspended in the city because the arrears had exceeded the aggregate of one penny in the £. He now saw from the departmental reports that the arrears had been reduced below a half-penny in the aggregate. That being so he thought that the Council should ask the Minister to have the Act again operated in Limerick. If the Act were operated people would be able to get financial facilities to enable them build houses. He proposed that representations to that effect be made to the Minister.

Ald. Bourke seconded and said that the Act would be of great benefit to people who proposed to build houses for their own use.

Mayor—This resolution will be passed unanimously.

WORK ON HOUSING SCHEMES.

Mr. Cusack said that he had complaints from different types of workers to the effect that they had been deprived of employment on city housing schemes to the advantage of workers who were not citizens.

Ald. Bourke said that similar representations had been made to him. City workers, when available, should get preference on city housing schemes.

The City Surveyor said that no direct complaint had been made to him. He would make inquiries from the contractors concerned.

PUBLIC LIGHTING.

Mr. O'Malley referred to the public lighting system and said that the lighting of O'Connell Street was very defective. Some people were of the opinion that there were still cowls on the lamps.

Manager—The whole lighting of the city is bad. I have already made representations to the E.S.B. and they state that the cowls have been removed. Whatever the cause, the lighting is very poor.

After some further discussion, the Council decided to invite Mr. Frank Algar, Public Lighting Officer of the E.S.B. to the nexxt meeting of the Corporation.

SHELTER FOR 'BUS STOPS.

Mr. McGuire asked if anything could be done to have shelters erected at the 'bus stops in the city. It was a shame to have queues standing out in the rain.

Manager—I dont' know if it would be feasible to erect shelters at 'bus stops as business people would object—and rightly so—to having their premises blocked up in this way. In Dublin they have shelters, but those are along the quays.

The matter was not further discussed.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

A letter was read from the Department to the effect that it was now decided that one set of traffic lights would be sufficient for Limerick. This set would be erected at the junction of O'Connell Street and William Street.

HOUSING TENDERS.

The Manager reported that the following tenders had been received for the Ballinacurra (Weston) Housing Scheme of 128 houses:—

Messrs. McCaffrey and O'Carroll, Limerick—£213,246 12s. 10d.

Messrs. G. K. Nevin and Co., Ltd., Tullamore—£195,806 3s. 7d.

Messrs. P. Molloy and Sons, Limerick—£193,910 19s. 7d.

Messrs. Lanigan Bros., Limerick—£249,254 5s. 2d.

Mr. J. J. Murphy, Limerick—£215,542 7s. 8d.

Messrs. Murphy Bros. (Cork), Ltd.—£184,105 16s. 1d.

The lowest tender (that of Messrs. Murphy Bros., Cork), the **Manager** added, had been accepted.

HONOUR FOR LIMERICK MAN

The Irish Association Chancellery of the Sovereign and Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, writing from Howth Castle, Co. Dublin, asks us to publish the following:—

The Prince Grand Master of the Sovereign Order has conferred the Donats Cross of the 3rd Class upon Mr. Teding Smalle, P.C., Glenville, Farranshone, Limerick, who is Secretary in Charge of the Order of St. John Ambulance Unit in Limerick City.

The Prince Grand Master is a Cardinal in Rome.

Mr. Smalle has also just been appointed a Visiting Justice to Limerick Prison. His grandfather, the late Thomas Smalle, of Kilmallock, a master cooper, was a Papal Volunteer in 1860 and a member of St. Patrick's Battalion of the Papal Army under Major Myles O'Reilly.

DEATHS.

COFFEY—January 14th, 1948, at City Hospital, Phillip Coffey, 7 Mulgrave Street; deeply regretted by his brother and relatives. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. John's Cathedral this (Wednesday) evening, at 6 o'clock. Funeral on Friday, at 3 o'clock, to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

O'DWYER (Limerick)—At the City Home Hospital, Thomas O'Dwyer, 29 John Street. Deeply regretted by his family. R.I.P. Remains will be removed from City Home to St. John's Cathedral this (Wednesday) evening, at 6 o'clock. Funeral to-morrow (Thursday), at 3.30 to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

RYAN—January 14th, 1948, at his residence, The Bungalow, Raheen, Mungret, Limerick, Thomas F. Ryan, C.E. (late Co. Surveyor). R.I.P. Remains will be removed to Raheen Church this (Wednesday) evening, at 8 o'clock. Requiem High Mass on Thursday, at Raheen Church, at 11 a.m. Funeral immediately after to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

OLD MAN'S DEATH

Result Of Accident

DANGEROUS DRIVING CHARGE

A recent fatal accident on the Ennis Road, in which Francis Ernest Mason lost his life, had a sequel at the Limerick Liberties Court to-day, when Michael Ring, Sixmilebridge, was charged with driving a car in a manner dangerous to the public.

Supt. P. Colleran prosecuted and Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solr., defended.

The Superintendent explained that the accident took place near Coonagh Cross, on the Ennis Road. The injured party was going towards Ennis and the car involved in the fatal impact was coming from Rineanna.

Dr. Bridget Crawford, House Surgeon, Limerick Co. Infirmary, said that the deceased, Francis Mason, was admitted to the hospital on the 15th November at about 7 p.m. and died on admission. A post-mortem examination revealed a fracture of the temporal bone of the skull and both legs were also fractured. The injuries would be consistent with being struck by a motor car.

WALKING ON CENTRE OF THE ROAD.

Raymond Crowne, Beechy, Ennis Road, stated in evidence that on the evening in question he was cycling towards Limerick. He remembered meeting the deceased walking on the centre of the road and going in the direction of Ennis. Having passed the deceased, witness saw the lights of a car coming from behind. He then looked back to see which side of the road the man was going to move to, and almost immediately heard a screeching of brakes and then a thud. Witness would have been between 50 and 100 yards from the scene of the impact at this stage. On returning to the scene of the accident he found the deceased lying face downwards near the grass margin and on the same side as the car which was subsequently reversed. The deceased's feet were bare, his shoes having ben scattered on the road. Witness then said to the driver of the car that deceased was the man he had seen walking on the centre of the road a few minutes before. The driver then said that witness should wait until the Guards would come. When it was suggested that the injured party should be taken to hospital, the driver of the car said he did not think it was right. Subsequently a second car came on the scene and the driver went to summon a doctor and a priest.

To Mr. O'Malley, witness said that deceased was an old man and appeared stooped as he walked on the crown of the road.

HEARD SCREECH OF BRAKES.

Thomas Enright said that he was standing at Coonagh Cross on the evening in question and recalled having seen the deceased passing on the centre of the road. He was walking like a man that was very tired and was dragging his boots after him. Witness saw a 'bus and a small car slowing down and swerving to the right to avoid the man who had just passed. He subsequently heard a screech of brakes and then a crash at a distance of between two and three hundred yards. Witness then went to the scene of the impact and in his opinion the injured man was dead.

Frederick White said that on the evening in question he was driving a C.I.E. 'bus from Rineanna to Limerick. He recalled having seen a man walking on the crown of the road. Witness slowed down but the man crossed over towards the lights of the 'bus and witness had to swerve to the right to avoid him. He first saw the man at a distance of between 50 or 80 yards. It was dark but the night was dry.

To Mr. O'Malley, witness said that he did not get the impression that the man was deliberately walking into the 'bus. Rather did he gather that the lights had confused him.

HAD FAILING EYESIGHT.

Supt. Colleran then read a statement by Miss Dorothy Eager to the effect that she was matron of a Protestant Home. The deceased, who stayed there, was a widower and retired jeweller. He had failing eyesight and was in fact practically blind in one eye. When the defendant did not show up at 6 p.m. on the evening in question she had a feeling that he had been in an accident.

Sergt. O'Mahony, Mary Street, gave evidence of having visited the scene at 6.25 p.m. The width of the road was 30 ft. 6 inches and there were brake marks on the road for a distance of 77 feet before the point of impact. The defendant explained that his reason for reversing the car was to throw light on the body.

Sergt. Connolly gave evidence that the car involved in the accident was a Plymouth Chrysler 26 h.p. It was serviceable.

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT.

Supt. Colleran gave evidence of having taken a statement from the defendant. In the course of this statement he explained that he was employed as a hackney driver by Joseph Breen, Sixmilebridge. At 5.30 p.m. he was employed by an American Army officer to drive him from Rineanna to Limerick. The lights of the car were fully on and he was travelling at between 40 and 45 miles per hour. He applied his brakes immediately he saw the man on the centre of the road. The man, who was stooped, looked up and continued to walk towards the lights. Witness felt that he could pass him on the left, but failed to do so. The car stopped within two lenghts of itself.

The Superintendent said he was basing his case on the fact that the 'bus driver and another person driving a car had succeeded in seeing the deceased and were able to avoid him. He felt that defendant had sufficient time to pull up in 77 feet.

NO NEGLIGENCE.

Mr. O'Malley said that assuming for the moment that defendant was travelling at between 50 and 60 m.p.h., it could be hardly termed unreasonable for this stretch of road. In fact he was never doing more than 45 m.p.h. The defendant saw the man alright but instead of doing as the driver of the 'bus did, in swerving to the right, he had swerved to the left. He submitted there was no negligence on the part of the defendant but that the pedestrian was definitely neglectful.

The Justice said that he did not think it would be fair to make a conviction. He did not think there was any criminal negligence and he would dismiss the case on the merits.

CLEARED AREAS

Sites For Houses

TO BE BUILT BY DIRECT LABOUR

That houses would be built under the direct labour system on some of the cleared sites in the city was a statement made by the **Manager** (Mr. M. Macken, B.A.) at the meeting of the Corporation last night, the **Mayor** (Mr. P. O'Connell) presiding.

Ald. Hartney said that he had read in the Press that in Waterford an all-concrete house was being built at a reasonable cost. These houses, it would seem, could be erected quickly and at a moderate cost. He wondered if a similar scheme could be started in Limerick.

The City Surveyor said that he would make inquiries as to what they proposed doing in Waterford.

Ald. Hartney—While on this subject, I would like to stress the need of building a number of economic houses for the benefit of young people who wished to get married.

The Manager said that his big difficulty was to get a suitable site. He was negotiating for a site, but he was afraid he would have to use compulsory powers.

THE CLEARED SITES.

Ald. Reidy said that there were plenty of open spaces in the city on which economic houses could be built. He was surprised that no steps had been taken to acquire these derelict areas. Everyone was asking why the cleared sites were not been taken over by the Corporation.

Ald. Bourke—I agree with Ald. Reidy that the cleared sites should be taken over and used for building purposes. There is a big area in Lady's Lane, and I have no doubt that an industry will not be established there; it should be used for housing.

Mr. Hickey—I also support the pleas for the acquisition of derelict sites. The city is dotted with derelict sites.

BUILDING AS FAST AS THEY COULD.

The Manager said that before he could use the derelict sites a number of fairly good houses would have to be knocked in order to get a proper lay-out plan. At present they were building as fast as they could, though progress is slow. He would have six houses built by direct labour at Crosbie Row.

Ald. Reidy—If you continued that policy a number of the derelict sites could be used in a comparatively short time.

Manager—That is my intention, but it will take a good deal of time to acquire these areas. When that is done plans and specifications will have to be prepared. At present we have on hands the Pennywell scheme and Palmerstown scheme. The Ballynanty scheme is being prepared and now we have accepted a tender for the Ballinacurra Weston scheme. However much we desire speed, I'm afraid we cannot get it because there is an acute shortage of skilled labour.

Mr. Whelan—Could not a number of Nessen huts be erected on the derelict sites?

Manager—I don't know if that would be of any great assistance because these would have to be taken down later on. I'm afraid the people of Limerick would not be satisfied with Nessen huts.

Mr. Whelan—Will you inquire into their possibilities?

Manager—I will.

SERVICES AVAILABLE.

Ald. Hartney said that the derelict sites should be availed of for building. All the services were available on these sites and he could not understand why they had not been acquired. It was all very well to build houses in open spaces, but it should not be forgotten that transport cost money. In that connection he should draw attention to the fact that workers in Limerick were not given any concession in fares by C.I.E.

Manager—If all the houses we have on contract were built there would be a great easing in the housing shortage. With regard to the economic house, the only sites available are the cleared areas and already a start with building has been made at Crosbie Row.

DIRECT LABOUR.

Ald. Reidy—I was very glad to hear the Manager say that a number of houses would be built on the derelict sites by direct labour. That policy should be continued.

Manager—And it will when we get a chance. It is very difficult to get labour for building owing to the many contracts on hands, both public and private.

After further discussion it was decided, on the proposition of **Ald. Hartney**, that the City Surveyor submit a report showing the number of houses that could be built on derelict sites.

PLEA OF GUILTY

BREAKING AND LARCENY CHARGES

"We throw ourselves on the mercy of the Court," declared two young men who, before Judge Barra O'Briain at the opening of Limerick Circuit Criminal Court yesterday, pleaded guilty to a series of housebreaking and larceny charges.

The accused were Michael Buckley of 11 Andrew Gardens, Thomondgate, Limerick, and Patrick Birch, of no fixed abode, but stated to be a native of Castleconnell. They were jointly charged with breaking and entering the shop of Charles Fulham and William Murphy and with stealing therefrom two overcoats, one sports coat, two pullovers, one pair of trousers, four shirts, two ties, one cap, two pairs of socks and one man's suit; with breaking and entering the shop of Mary, Augustine and Celina Nestor, and with the larceny therefrom of three Barber knives, two electric torches, two electric razors, one Valet razor, one scissors, one key ring, a quantity of cigarettes and 15/- in cash; and with breaking and entering, with intent to commit a felony, the shops in Limerick of F. W. Woolworth and Co., Ltd., and David Whelan.

When his Lord asked both accused if they were professionally represented, Buckley, replying, said: "My Lord, we throw ourselves on the mercy of the Court." Birch said he was not professionally represented.

Both were then put back, in custody, for sentence.

CHAPLAIN'S DEATH

Rev. J. Chawke Passes Away

FULL MILITARY HONOURS AT FUNERAL

It is with deep and sincere regret that we chronicle the passing of Rev. John J. Chawke, C.F., Chaplain of the 12th Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, which occurred on Monday last in St. Bricin's Hospital, Dublin.

A native of Castletown McEnery, Co. Limerick, the late Father Chawke, served in St. Michael's Parish for a number of years after his ordination and at the outbreak of the war was appointed military chaplain of the Seventh Brigade in the Limerick area. He was deservedly popular with all classes, and during his association with the members of the Defence Forces was held in very high regard, not only because of his priestly office but also, in addition, to his many sustained efforts to improve the lot of the ordinary soldier.

His death at the early age of 39 has removed one of the most estimable chaplains in the Army and is a severe loss to the Diocese of Limerick.

FULL MILITARY HONOURS.

Full military honours were accorded at the removel of the remains from Dublin to St. Joseph's Church, Limerick, where Office and Solemn Requiem Mass, presided over by his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. P. O'Neill, took place this morning at 11 o'clock.

Celebrant of the Mass was Rev. J. White, Adm.; Rev. Father Vaughan (deacon); Rev. J. O'Donnell, C.C., Rathkeale (subdeacon); Rev. R. O'Sullivan, C.C. (master of ceremonies), and the chanters were Very Rev. J. Cowper, D.D., P.P., and Rev. J. O'Dea, C.C.

His Lordship the Bishop gave Final Absolution. There were upwards of 60 clergy present.

The chief mourners included:—Mrs. L. Chawke (mother); Messrs. T. and M. Chawke (brothers); Miss A. Chawke (sister); Mrs. and Mr. D. O'Grady (sister and brother-in-law); Mr. S. Chawke, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dunne, Miss M. Dunne and Rev. P. Vaughan, C.C., Bray; Messrs P. Costello, J. White, G. Kelly and P. J. O'Brien (relatives).

As the cortege filed out of the church at approximately one o'clock on its way to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery it was headed by the clergy, followed by the military. Immediately behind came the bier with the coffin draped with the Tri-colour, and a Guard of Honour, drawn from officers and military policemen attached to Sarsfield Barracks, with the No. 3 Army Band.

A number of beautiful wreaths from the military were laid on the grave.

Mr. Oscar Traynor, Minister for Defence, was represented at the funeral by Col. J. Hannon, A/O.C. Southern Command.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY.

At the meeting of the City Council last night, the Mayor (Mr. P. O'Connell), who presided, said that by the death of Father Chawke the diocese had lost an excellent priest. On behalf of the Council and citizens he tendered sympathy to the Lord Bishop and the bereaved family.

The vote was passed in silence and the members of the Council decided to attend the obsequies as a body.

POPULAR FIGURE

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS F. RYAN

It is with very deep and sincere regret that we chronicle the demise of Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, which took place at his residence, Raheen, Limerick, this morning after a protracted illness.

The late Mr. Ryan, who was born at Limerick Junction, was a member of a prominent Tipperary family. Educated at Clongowes Wood College and the Old Royal University, he entered engineering as a profession. Having served for some years on the London Port Authority, he was appointed Co. Surveyor by the Limerick County Council in 1915, an office he held up to two years ago, when he resigned owing to ill-health. He was a member of the Standing Committee of the Irish Coursing Club, a Stipendiary Steward of the Irish Racing Board and Managing-Director of the Limerick Greyhound Racing Track. He was also prominently associated with the old Co. Limerick Coursing Club, which was responsible in the pioneer years for the Irish Cup Coursing at Clounanna. It should also be mentioned that he was one of the founders of the Limerick Bohemian Rugby Football Club.

An able administrator and a conscientious worker, he was frequently complimented by the Department of Local Government for the efficiency with which he discharged his onerous duties as Co. Surveyor. A few years ago he was requested by the Department to spend some time in a neighbouring county in which road administration had got into a rather chaotic state. This Mr. Ryan did with highly satisfactory results. Before his retirement he received special praise from the Minister for his wonderful achievements in connection with the turf cutting scheme.

In private life Mr. Ryan was held in very high esteem and regard and his death will be learned of with profound regret and sorrow in all parts of the country. We join with the general public in tendering heartfelt sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

LIMERICK GARDA "45" DRIVE

The annual "45" Drive in aid of the Garda Siochana Benevolent Fund Society was held on Monday night last, when 1,200 patrons attended. Three halls—the Mechanic's Institute hall, the Dominican Hall and St. Michael's Temperance Hall—were filled to capacity. The Drive was an outstanding success and this was due to the efficient manner in which it was organised. First prize, £20, was won by Mr. C. McNamara, Singland, and partner, with eleven games. Second prize, £10, was divided amongst four pairs who tied with ten games, and third prize, £5, was divided between six pairs who tied with nine games. In addition, there were fifteen consolation prizes of £1 each and thirty-five spot prizes.

COAL PRICES

Disclaimer By Ald. Reidy

TRANSPORT SUBSIDY SUGGESTED

Reference was made to the price of coal at the meeting of Limerick Corporation last night, the Mayor (Mr. P. O'Connell) presiding.

Answering **Mr. Dillon**, the Gas Engineer (Mr. F. K. Thomas) said that the American coal in the Gas Works cost £8 15s. per ton.

Mr. Dillon—Are you paying that price for coal now?

Gas Engineer—No, because we are not buying any more American coal, but this American coal cost us £8 15s. per ton in the yard.

Mr. Dillon—What are you paying for the British coal?

Engineer—The costings are not complete yet.

Mr. Dillon—Could you give us an approximate cost?

Engineer—I should say about £6 2s. per ton.

BIG DISCREPANCY.

At a later stage, **Mr. Whelan** adverted to coal prices and said that the discrepancy in price as between Limerick, Dublin and Cork was extraordinary. Coal in Limerick was costing £2 4s. per ton more than in Dublin. It was stated that this discrepancy was due to the transport costs. If that were so the Government should be asked to subsidise transport charges to Limerick in respect of coal.

The Mayor said that when the Minister for Industry and Commerce was in the city on Monday night a deputation discussed with him the cost of coal in Limerick. The Minister stated that the only difference there should be as between coal prices in Limerick and Dublin and Cork was the increased cost of transport.

Mr. Whelan—That is an argument in favour of my suggestion that transport costs to Limerick should be subsidised.

"SLANDEROUS CAMPAIGN."

Ald. Reidy said that he was very slow, for obvious reasons, to take part in the discussion. He would not have said anything at all were it not that some people who were keenly interested in his candidature for the Dail were conducting a whispering campaign that he (Ald. Reidy) was in some way responsible for the high price of coal in Limerick. That was a slanderous campaign. At the moment he was not in the coal trade because of the high price of coal and also because of the poor quality of American coal.

When talking about the price of coal they had to bear in mind the heavy extra cost of transport to Limerick from Dublin and Cork, together with wastage and loss from pilferage. It often happened that a half ton of coal disappeared while on transport to Limerick by rail. He agreed that the price in Limerick should be based on these considerations, plus a margin for profit. Personally he was not concerned as he was not trading in coal for the reasons he had already given, and, therefore, the rumour circulated by certain parties that he was in some way responsible for the price of coal in the city was unfounded and malicious.

Mayor—I did not hear anyone mention your name in this connection.

NOT THE FIRST TIME.

Ald. Reidy—Well, I have heard it, and it is not the first time that a similar campaign was conducted against me. I was slandered before by an individual who said that he considered that he was entitled to say anything he liked about a political opponent. That man, who is a friend of Councillor Hickey, apologised to me in the presence of others for his slanderous words.

Mr. Hickey—Is the man you refer to Daly, chairman of the Hired Carmen's Society?

Ald. Reidy—Yes.

Mr. Hickey—And why do you refer to him as a friend of mine?

Ald. Reidy—Because I wanted to identify him to you.

Mr. Hickey—He is as much a friend of yours as he is of mine.

Ald. Reidy—Do you say so? He happens to be chairman of a Fianna Fail Cumann.

Mr. Hickey—Oh, is he? That shows all you know about Fianna Fail.

Mayor—We are going a bit too far now.

UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION.

Mr. Whelan then proposed that the attention of the Minister be directed to the high price of coal in Limerick, and requesting him to subsidise transport costs in order that the price to the consumer in Limerick would be on a level with that obtaining in either Dublin or Cork.

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

EXTENSION LECTURE

As may be seen from our advertising columns, the second of this season's Royal Dublin Society's Extension Lectures will be given at the Technical Institute on Friday next at 8 p.m. The lecturer on this occasion is Dr. A. E. J. Went, Inspector of Fisheries, who will have as his subject "Salmon and Trout."

In the course of his lecture, Dr. Went will deal with the life history, migrations, and quest for food of these two fish, which form in this country the most important members of our fresh water fishes. He will deal with the methods used in their capture, both now and in ancient times, and the methods used to determine age and other details of their life history. He will also make known some recent researches on these fish in Ireland.

The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides.

To the many people in Limerick and district who are interested in fish and fishing, this lecture should make a special appeal.

BRITISH M.P. AND SIX COUNTIES

Major Geoffrey Bing, a British M.P., who has come over from England to assist the Irish Labour Party in the General Election campaign, told a Press Conference in Dublin to-day that the Six-Counties State was wrong, immoral and evil.

TILLAGE LETTING

At an auction held by Mr. McDonnell, auctioneer, Broadford, at Killaloe last week, Mr. Patrick Coady, Ballybroghan, O'Gonnoltoe, received £15 10s. for a two-acre tillage field.

DISAGREEMENT

Jury's Long Absence

LIMERICK FLOUR CASE

In the case at Limerick Circuit Court to-day in which Denis Clarke was charged with unlawfully receiving a quantity of flour, the jury retired at 1.20 p.m. and returned to Court at 5.20 with the announcement that they had disagreed. The accused was allowed out on continuing bail to stand trial at the next Circuit Court.

THE TRIAL.

The re-hearing of the case in which Denis Clarke, 34 William Street, Limerick, was charged with unlawfully receiving a quantity of flour, the property of Messrs. P. Keane & Sons, Wickham Street, Limerick, and value for about £24, "well knowing same to have been stolen," opened at the Limerick Circuit Court yesterday before Judge Barra O Briain, S.C.

At the last sitting the entire evidence in the case was heard, the jury disagreed, and Clarke was put back for trial, being allowed out on bail.

Mr. T. Donovan, B.L. (instructed by Mr. J. J. Power, State Solicitor), prosecuted, and Mr. K. Liston, S.C. (instructed by Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solr.), appeared for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty on twelve counts.

At the outset, Mr. Donovan explained that there would be evidence to the effect that the accused had in his possession last July flour which was stolen from Messrs. P. Keane & Sons. He had started to get that flour as far back as March, and the jury need not have any doubt as to the fact that it was stolen. The net question involved was—did the accused know that the flour was stolen? Would anyone, as a business man, accept that Flannery, a mere van-driver, and Gleeson, a messenger boy, would be in a position to get honestly such large quantities of flour so often?

FLOUR TAKEN FROM TURF STORE.

David Gleeson said that last year he was employed in the capacity of a messenger boy for Messrs. P. Keane & Sons. He recalled having seen William Flannery, who was also employed as a van-driver, covering a half-sack of flour with some turf dust and taking it towards the turf shed. That night after work witness had a conversation with Flannery, and some days later Flannery took another half-sack of flour away in the van to the turf store in Sexton Street. Witness had helped to put the flour in the van. There was a Baby Ford car outside the turf store and witness knew this as being the property of Denis Clarke. He was not sure, however, who was driving the car. In the month of May witness had transferred about four half-sacks of flour from the flour store into the van for Flannery. On each occasion he was paid £1 by Flannery. In all, he would say he received about £9, before Flannery went on holidays early in June. During this time the accused had approached witness and asked as to the whereabouts of Flannery. He replied that Flannery was on holidays, and asked if he would do.

TOOK HALF-SACK OF FLOUR TO RESTAURANT.

Clarke asked if he would be able to get him some flour and witness replied in the affirmative. There was no mention as to where he was to get the flour, nor was there any mention of price. Following this conversation he took a half-sack of flour from Keane's and carried it on his back to Keogh's restaurant, Gerald Griffin Street. He told one of the girls it was for Clarke and then went to the accused's place of employment at 3 Upper William Street, where he was paid £2 by Clarke. This was the first week in June and on the following week witness asked Clarke if he wanted some more flour, to which he replied in the affirmative, saying that it should be left at Keogh's for him. After this incident, Clarke told witness that whenever he had flour he was to bring it to Keogh's and leave it for him.

Witness went on to give details of further deliveries to Keogh's. On one occasion the accused asked him to bring a half-sack of flour to Hayes's in William Street. Witness, however, found that it was too heavy and he had to leave it in Humphreys' yard. Apart from the £9 Flannery gave, he was paid £14 by Clarke. Subsequently when he asked Clarke if he wanted another half-sack, the accused said that he could not take it, as the Guards were after it. Clarke asked on one occasion how he was getting it out and witness said on his back. The accused then said to be careful and not to be caught.

WITNESS CROSS-EXAMINED.

Cross-examined by Mr. Liston, witness said that he was not acquainted with Clarke until the first flour transaction. He did not know anything about the stolen flour until he had seen Flannery removing a half-sack in the van. Following this incident Flannery was paying him to keep his mouth shut. On one occasion he had seen the flour being put quite openly into Clarke's car. When Clarke first approached witness he was on the opposite side of the street from Keane's and he beckoned him to come over. He then asked about Flannery. Keogh's restaurant was a type of depot for country people. It was quite possible that when witness said the flour was too heavy that it was then that Clarke asked him how he was bringing it out. Witness could not recall Clarke asking to be told truthfully where the flour was coming from, nor did he remember him saying that he was getting suspicious as to where they were getting it and would not take any more flour. He did not remember Clarke mentioning that Miss Keane was making inquiries, but was satisfied that he said the Guards were after it, meaning the flour.

VAN DRIVER EXAMINED.

William Flannery said he was a van driver in the employment of Messrs. Keane, in whose employment his father had been for many years. He corroborated Gleeson's evidence as regards the manner in which Clarke was given the flour by him. He was unable to recall the exact dates on which he gave Clarke the flour, but could state that on two occasions Clarke called for him and had a fellow employee of his (witness) bring him outside Keane's premises, where Clarke waited to ask him to get him more flour. He knew Clarke as a barman from whom he purchased drink. He was paid £2 for each sack of flour supplied by him to Clarke.

James Keane, director of the firm of Messrs. P. Keane & Sons, Ltd., formally proved that neither Gleeson nor Flannery had a right to take flour from his premises.

Edmond Dunne, Knocklong, said that last year Clarke gave him a greyhound to train and a sack of flour with which to feed it.

John Ryan, Murroe, gave evidence that Clarke supplied him and a friend of his with a sack of flour each, for which they paid £2 apiece.

Thomas Hehir, a labourer, swore that, on the instructions of Clarke, he collected a sack of flour from a store in Sexton Street and delivered it at William Barry's publichouse in William Street, where Clarke worked.

STATEMENTS BY ACCUSED.

Inspector P. Pender proved statements made by accused in July, in which he admitted having purchased flour from Flannery and Gleeson, but denying that he was aware it was the property of Messrs. Keane. Had he known the flour was stolen, he would not have bought it. He considered he was paying the controlled price for this flour and he sold it to friends and neighbours in the country, including his mother and brother, at the same price as he paid for it. Actually, when he became suspicious that the flour might be stolen, he refused to take any more.

Clarke gave evidence along these lines, mentioning that in the whole transaction he had made about £3 or £4 profit.

At this stage, the Court adjourned to this (Wednesday) morning, when the accused's cross-examination by Mr. Donovan was proceeded with. Accused said that, up to the time he had been told that inquiries were being made about the flour, he did not have any suspicion about its source. He admitted that, in his statements to the Guards, he had misrepresented certain facts, because he didn't want to involve certain persons, when he became aware that the flour was stolen.

After a brief address by Mr. Liston and the Judge's charge, the jury retired at 1.20 p.m.

LEASE OF LAND

Cork Firm And Limerick

PROPOSED NEW INDUSTRY

A Cork firm—Messrs. Eustace and Co.—have secured a lease of seven acres of land at Corkanree, where, it is stated, they propose to set up a creosoting industry.

At the meeting of the City Council last night, the **Mayor** (Mr. P. O'Connell) presiding, the **Manager** said that he had received, through Mr. Roger O'Sullivan, solr., one tender for the leasing of seven acres and fourteen perches of the lands of Corkanree at £160 per annum.

Mr. Whelan—Who is the tender from?

Manager—Messrs. Eustace & Co., Ltd., Cork.

The Law Agent said that originally an offer was made on behalf of this firm to purchase 40 acres of Corkanree at £4,000. The Corporation refused to sell the land and after several conferences it was decided to lease seven acres at a pro rata price.

Mr. Hickey—I thought we were to have an industry at Corkanree.

Mr. O'Malley—A supposed aeroplane factory.

PROVISION FOR INDUSTRY.

Manager—An industry will be there. Provision is made for that in the covenant. I understand timber will be creosoted there and that surely will be an industry.

Mr. McGuire—If the timber is brought by sea it will be an advantage to the port. Do I take it from that covenant that an approved industry must be started there within a period of two years.

Manager—Yes.

Mr. McGuire—I would never agree to the giving of the entire 40 acres to any one firm. I'm glad that the area has been reduced to seven acres, and having regard to the assurance given in the covenant I propose that the tender be accepted.

Mr. Keyes said that he was not satisfied with the position as it stood. He would like to have a little more information as to the nature of the industry to be established. The use of the land as a dump for timber could not be regarded as an industry.

CONDITIONS OF COVENANT.

Manager—It is a condition of the covenant that an approved industry must be started within two years.

Mr. O'Malley—A clause should be put in to penalise these people if they don't start an industry within two years.

Manager—What loss will you be at? At present you are getting £35 per year for the whole of Corkanree and those people will give you £160 per year for seven acres.

Ald. Reidy said that as he did not see any rush of industrialists to Limerick he could not understand why the Corporation should hesitate to accept the tender before them.

Mr. Keyes—All I ask is that we get more information now as to the industry to be established. The Manager has referred to the creosoting of timber.

"ONLY AN ASSUMPTION."

Manager—This is only an assumption. Industrialists are not disposed to show their hand at an early date.

Mr. Keyes—If I was sure that a creosoting works would be set up in Limerick I would be satisfied.

Manager—I feel that the City Council would not be doing badly by accepting this tender.

Mr. McGuire—If we do not accept this tender to-night you can be sure that Messrs. Eustace will be inundated with applications from other centres for this proposed industry. That is an aspect that we must not overlook.

Ald. Reidy—I second Mr. McGuire's proposition, that the tender be accepted.

There was no other proposition and the tender was accordingly accepted unanimously.

USEFUL ACTIVITIES

Writing in reference to the useful activities of Knocklong Guild of Muintir na Tire, our Ballylanders correspondent says:—Last Christmas the Guild expended from their own funds over £40 towards the relief of the poor of the parish. Great work has been done during 1947. A public water pump has been sunk, electricity has been installed where needed, roads properly looked after, gardens rented free to those inclined to till them, and various other useful amenities secured. There is still a lot of work on hands to be completed, but backed with sound financial aid, enthusiasm and unity, there is every hope that with very little difficulty all will be ably and competently dealt with.

TOWN TOPICS

BISHOP AT "IULANTHE."

The Lord Bishop, Most Rev. O'Neill, attended at the ope night of the production "Iolanthe" by a group of stud of the schools of the Chris Brothers. His Lordship evidently highly pleased at the formance given by the juv artistes, who rose to great and histrionic heights. It w masterly presentation; delig lilting music, excellent choral w charming solo singing and actin its best. Gilbert and Sullivan they were alive, would, no d feel proud of this "Iolant because the genius of these collaborators was captured by cast, each member of w sparkled in his respective role.

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BIG HOUSING SCHEME.

Work on the erection of hundred and twenty-eight ho on Blake's land—situate bet Prospect and Rosbrien Road be started almost immediately. tender of a Cork firm at £18 has been sanctioned by the De ment for this particular sch and all that remains now to done is to have certain formalities complied with, project is part and parcel of Carey's Road slum clear scheme, by which is meant tha new houses will be reserved families who will be require leave insanitary houses in particular area.

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

From details furnished Corporation, the city contin enjoy a clean bill of health. D November and December we something in the nature of epidemic of scarlatina and me but these ailments, like sc have practically disappeared. is a highly satisfactory stat things. Notwithstanding our climate, Limerick is usually from serious diseases. Tuberc is, however, rearing its ugly amongst us. Latest statistics that from the city, fifty patients are in hospital, te sanatoria, while many more pa are receiving domiciliary treat

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THE GAS WORKS.

The Municipal Gas Works many years past, has been a s of worry to those in charge. truth is, it would appear, tha Works are nothing more th ramshackle. Every other da retorts are collapsing, and if not the retorts it is something To get away from all this, i been recommended that a Works be erected on a new But as this scheme, canno accomplished overnight in room fashion the old plant mu kept going at all costs. Ther it is now proposed to carry o following programme during Installation of auxiliary carbo plant, reconstruction of bution system, reconstructio existing carbonising plant an stallation of auxiliary plant.

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A TIDY BILL.

Needless to say, all this struction will cost money. I we are told that the outlay w between £120,000 and £150,000. not disclosed how this expen will be defrayed, but it is pres that it will be passed on t unfortunate consumers. The will surely come when users in Limerick will kick "ove traces." Already many of the preparing, at the very first tunity, to go over to electrici this tendency should becom fectious it must be obvious th demand for gas will decrease siderably. In any case, consumers feel that for too they have been in a defen position.

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WATER SERVICE.

A scheme to improve the water service, estimated to c the region of £80,000, has b progress for some time. This will be carried out in sectior first part of which is now n completion. The job on includes the salvaging of yards of a sixteen inch mai was rendered obsolete b Shannon Scheme, and the down of 3,624 yards of a sixte main from the reservoir at castle to the "tank" at Garr These works will result in a higher pressure of water al the city, particularly on the levels.

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INTERNAL DISTRIBUTIO

In order that the inc volume of water to be brougl the city from Clareville can b availed of, it is proposed to i the internal distribution As a matter of fact, the pla this have been approved Department and it is likely contract will be entered into course of the next few week citizens, who have been clam for an improved water welcome the starting of the referred to. Those in a state that when the whole is finished every househo have water in abundance. way, the State will give a s tial grant—the amount b yet been determined—towa capital sum required fo financing of this badly scheme.