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**CITY COUNCIL**

**Arrears Of Rates**

**THE GAS SERVICE**

The Mayor (Mr. J. C. Hickey) presided at the meeting of the Limerick City Council last night. The other members present were: Ald. D. Bourke, T.D.; Ald. James Reidy, T.D.; Ald. Michael Hartney, Ald. J. Carew; Councillors P. J. Cusack, M. W. McGuire, J. Conery, P. O'Connell, G. B. Dillon, Michael B. O'Malley, solr.; M. J. Keyes, T.D.; P. J. Donnellan.

Mr. O'Malley inquired if the Manager was satisfied with the position of the rate collection. The Manager said that he was not satisfied with the general position in respect of all classes of arrears. In respect of artisans dwellings, the accumulation of arrears was not as bad this year as the previous year, but there was an increase in respect of the water rate. The collection of the general rate showed an improvement as compared with last year. He proposed to appoint an officer for one year to wipe out the arrears in the water rate collection.

Answering Ald. Hartney, the Manager said that a sum of \$1,500 under the heading of irrecoverable rates was wiped out last year. These arrears accrued partly in respect of condemned property and in respect of property against which the Sheriff had returned nulla bona notices.

Ald. Hartney—I'm very glad to hear there is no laxity in the collection of rates.

Manager—So far as I'm concerned nothing is being left undone to bring in the rates.

Ald. Reidy—The rate collectors are on the verge of a breakdown.

Manager—And so am I.

Ald. Reidy—At this stage I may say that the people are appalled at the prospect of a rate of 25/-.

Manager—When the Council comes to deal with the rate the whole position will be clarified.

**CITY GAS SERVICE.**

Mr. O'Malley asked if there was any improvement in the position at the Gas Works. From the departmental report it would appear that the works had supplies for only a fortnight.

The Gas Engineer said that he was in constant touch with their suppliers in England and with the Department for Industry and Commerce. It was not possible to say at this stage what was going to happen. Some small parcels of coal had arrived and Messrs. Rakhs were good enough to give them 50 tons of coal.

Mr. O'Malley—If the works had to close would there be danger to the plant?

Gas Engineer—There would be a definite danger. The plant is very old and in my opinion it is being kept together by reason of the fact that an even temperature is being maintained.

Mr. O'Malley—As much as I would regret it, it might be desirable to increase the rationing hours.

Gas Engineer—That is under consideration.

Mr. Donnellan—With wet turf, wet timber and wet everything else the people are depending on the gas for cooking.

Gas Engineer—We fully appreciate that and I can assure you that we are doing our very best. The position might improve. The Department is being kept fully informed and I'm sure they will not let us down.

Mayor—We can leave this matter in the hands of the Gas Engineer.

Gas Engineer—Further rationing will not be introduced unless it is absolutely necessary. It would be better to have a trickle of gas than none at all.

The question was not further discussed.

**GYMKHANA FOR BOHER**

At a meeting of Boher Guild of Muinntir na Tire, it was decided to hold a Gymkhana at Boher for the purpose of raising funds for the seating and repair of Boher Church.

**FOUND DROWNED**

**Evidence At Inquest**

**CITY GIRL'S TRAGIC END**

The circumstances of the death of Annie Tracey (29), of 2 Barrack Hill, Limerick, whose body was recovered from the Shannon near Mount Kennet Quay on Saturday last by two dock labourers, were told at an inquest into her death held in Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, yesterday evening by Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., Deputy Coroner for Limerick City.

The examination of witnesses was conducted by Supt. P. Coleran, on behalf of the Gardai.

Dr. Frank Crowe, R.M.O., Barrington's Hospital, swore that, as the result of a post-mortem examination of the body of deceased, on Monday last, he concluded that death was due to asphyxia, following immersion in water. The body was admitted to the hospital on Sunday last.

Mrs. Bridget Sexton, 2 Barrack Hill, Limerick, deposed that the deceased (Annie Tracey), who was her niece, lived with her for the past few years. Deceased was aged 29 years of age. Nine years ago she was badly burned and since then she had been of a nervous disposition. On Thursday night last deceased undressed and went to bed at about 9 o'clock. Witness went into the same bed an hour later. When she woke the next morning at 6.10 she found deceased gone and two hours later she notified the Gardai that she was missing.

**WAS AN INVALID.**

Witness added that she saw deceased's body after her death and identified it. Since she was burned some years ago she was practically an invalid and had been in and out of hospital during that period she had never threatened to take her life. On the night before witness missed her, deceased complained of a pain in her head.

Martin Wallace, 6 Castle Barracks, said that while at the docks on Saturday last, at 1.35, near Mount Kennet Quay, he noticed a coat floating on the water about twelve feet from the quay. With the assistance of two other men he pulled in the coat with a hook and found there was a woman's body also in the water. He took up the body and removed it to Russell's Quay. He recognised the body, which was dressed in a coat and knickers, but with no shoes or stockings or cardigan, as that of Annie Tracey.

Witness added that he knew the deceased well and he thought she was simple. She was always "on her own" and appeared to be fond of going to the pictures. There was a depth of only 2½ feet of water where he found the body, face downwards on the bed of the river, with the coat floating on top of the water.

Michael Slattery, 18 Broad Street, who was with the last witness when the body was found, corroborated his evidence. He assisted Wallace in removing the body and in later putting it into an ambulance at Russell's Quay.

**REMARKS BY CORONER.**

The Coroner said that it was apparent from the evidence of deceased's aunt that the deceased had been a nervous invalid since she sustained serious burns nine years ago. In view of the fact that she left her bed either in the late hours of Thursday night or early on the following morning, dressed only in coat and knickers, and of the fact that her body was later recovered from the river, it seemed perfectly clear that she had wended her way from her aunt's house to the docks. The circumstances warranted but one verdict, that death was due to asphyxia following drowning while of unsound mind. He would accordingly return that verdict.

**RULE OF COURT**

**SETTLEMENT IN APPEAL**

**TOWN TO**

**BUSINESS PROBLEM**

Some important local matters are now seriously affected by a situation that has arisen as a consequence of the fuel crisis and consequent dislocation of the transport system. Should the abnormal state of affairs continue for any length of time there is grave danger that unemployment will become widespread. A number of industries are being closed for a short time and during the period end notices of termination of employment were served on a number of workers engaged in certain factories. Conditions in respect of transport might so impede the time limit given in the notices that they would be inoperative. Let us hope for the best.

**THE MUNSTER CUP**

Rugby "fans," and in this matter, all lovers of the game, are looking forward to the meeting between D. Young Munster in the Senior Cup competition. It will be an exciting game and there will be no doubt whatever that the teams are of the highest standard. The result of this match will indicate the ultimate destination of the Cup and, consequently, the Park will be taxed to its capacity for this great encounter. We must not forget that the clock are to get a week-end and that the fixture is fixed for 4 o'clock (Sunday). Patrons would be well advised to bear this fact in mind and to make a general rule, people should be much about the change-over on Monday morning comes.

**IS IT FORGOTTEN?**

What has become of the Corporation's investment in the Corporation's re-surfacing might be a matter of public expense? For the past the embankment—a most popular walk for citizens—is almost impassable as a consequence of wear and tear coupled with neglect. One could expect that the Corporation should maintain it as a promenade for the benefit of the general public. That is unreasonable, but it was as a result of negotiation of interest of the lessees transferred to the Corporation. That, evidently, has not been done.

**NEED FOR TRANSFER**

The Chamber of Commerce is playing a leading part in the carrying out of the negotiations in respect of the proposed transfer. As far as published statements are concerned, the matter has remained to be dealt with. The public would like to know if the negotiations have been completed successfully and, if not, a hiatus has occurred. We are entering the long days of winter and would like to stroll by the sea. But this pleasure and amusement will be denied them if the embankment is not re-surfaced. The Corporation to do that is the Corporation's duty. This authority cannot expend public funds on private property without the necessity for the transfer.

**REGIONAL HOSPITAL**

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