

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Ragwort Menace

OVER-RUNNING COUNTRY, SAYS D.J.

A number of prosecutions for breaches of the Noxious Weeds Act, 1936, were brought at Pallas Court. During the hearing of these cases Mr. D. E. Gleeson, M.A., D.J., said that the Department of Agriculture would have to do something about Ragwort as it seemed to be overrunning the country.

Mr. J. J. Power, State Solicitor, prosecuted in all these cases. William Ryan (Harry), Greenane, Caherconlish, was prosecuted in respect of his lands at Tiermanagh being infested with thistle and ragwort.

FOUR ACRES INFESTED. Sergeant Blake gave evidence of inspecting the lands on the 1st of September, where there were four acres infested with thistle and ragwort.

Defendant, in evidence, said that he had the weeds cut before the Sergeant called a second time.

Remarking that the defendant seemed not to have done badly, his Worship found the case proved but dismissed it under the Probation of Offenders Act.

Jane O'Dea, Miltown, Pallasgreen, was prosecuted in respect of three acres of ragwort.

The case having been proved by Guard McMahon, the Justice imposed a fine of 40/-.

There was a similar prosecution against John Cummins, Farnane, Cappamore, in respect of 15 acres of his lands at Tiermanagh having been infested with thistle and ragwort.

Sergeant Blake gave evidence that the case was a bad one.

BAD WEATHER. Defendant said he never failed to cut the weeds until this year, and the weather was very bad. When it got fine he had to cut the corn.

A fine of 40/- was imposed. Hannah Wheeler, Killuragh, Cappamore, was prosecuted in respect of 8 acres of weeds (ragwort).

Guard Bourke gave evidence to the effect that when he called a week after 20th August (the date of the offence) all the weeds were cut.

The defendant, in evidence, said that she cut the weeds last year, but she was prevented from doing so this year owing to the severe floods on her lands.

The Justice applied the Probation of Offenders Act.

EX-CHAIRMAN OF SENATE FINED.

At Kilmallock Court before Mr. H. L. Connor, B.L., D.J., the Minister for Agriculture had a number of farmers summoned for failure to cut noxious weeds.

In the case of Thomas Bennett, Uregare, who was summoned for failing to cut weeds, the defendant, who is an Ex-Chairman of Seanad Eireann, appeared in person and in the course of an address to the Court said that instead of supplying a large number of inspectors, the Government would be better employed in providing workers for the farmers to help them to carry on in these difficult times.

Defendant was fined 1/- and ordered to pay 10/- expenses.

Other fines imposed were: James Twomey, fined 1/- and ordered to pay 30/- expenses; John Dooley, fined 15/-; Richard Power, fined 10/-.

QUESTION OF LIABILITY. In the case of John Moloney, Mr. M. Tynan, solicitor, for the defendant, said that his client had taken the lands in agistment from Mrs. Coll, Maidstown, Brurea, and that his client was not liable for the cutting of weeds, although he admitted that the Minister had the right to summon either the owner of the lands or the grazier.

The Justice adjourned the case for one month for the attendance of the defendant.

Mr. M. M. Power, solicitor (State Solicitor's Office) who prosecuted in all cases, intimated that he would also bring Mrs. Coll to Court.

TURF INDUSTRY

SOUTHERN LORRY OWNERS MEET

A largely attended meeting of Southern lorry owners and private turf producers was held in the Abbey Hall, Abbeyfeale (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent).

Mr. G. W. Leahy presided, and explained the objects of the Association of Southern Lorry owners and Private Turf Producers, and their efforts to conserve an industry which, he said, was of serious concern to the economic interests of the country, as well as the general turf producers and its distributors. It concerned the employment of 6,000 lorry owners; 6,000

GAELIC FOOTBALL

The C.I.E. Club

PROSPECTS FOR 1948

The annual general meeting of the C.I.E. Gaelic Football Club was held at the Station, on Sunday, 25th January.

It was one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings ever held by the club, and judging by the interest the members took in the proceedings, 1948 should be a great year for the club.

A HEALTHY SIGN. Mr. D. Sheehan, Dist. Supt., presided. He welcomed the members, and said it was a very healthy sign to see such a large number of men at the meeting. He (Mr. Sheehan) was very pleased with the way the teams got on in 1947, but it was a very unfortunate year for the club, due to a trade dispute in the 'Bus Dept. He urged the men on the teams to get together now and train as a team, because in his opinion too much individual play was the cause of their defeat on more than one occasion in last year's championships and tournaments. He promised to give all the help he could for the coming year. He also hoped that a field of some sort would be provided for the men to train in, because training together was the most important thing as far as C.I.E. was concerned.

Mr. D. Max said that in the year past the teams at times surprised everybody with the fine displays given, and he hoped that in 1948 they would get down to hard training, and that when the next annual meeting comes around a few trophies would be in the hands of the C.I.E. Club.

The balance sheet was considered satisfactory considering the heavy commitments the club had during the year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. The Secretary (Mr. J. Lucid) in his report said 1947 was a very good year, as it was the first year they had a senior football team. In their first matches they gave grand displays of football, but towards the end of the season, due to no fault of the club, they had to withdraw from some competitions. He hoped that the year starting now would see the players getting more serious at training. In the year past it was most discouraging to see the small number that turned out for training, and he hoped that in the coming year this state of affairs would not exist.

In referring to the teams entered for 1948 competitions, the Secretary said they had a senior and junior football team, and he could see no reason why they could not beat the best teams in the county and be worthy of the name C.I.E.

The Chairman for 1948, Mr. D. Sheehan, Dist. Supt., then thanked all present, and again appealed to them to be more serious in their training and in their matches for the coming year. He saw no reason why they should not be successful in this year's competitions. He finally appealed to each player to train, and if each did his best they could look forward to a most successful season in 1948.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The election of officers for the current year then took place and resulted as follows:—Chairman, Mr. David Sheehan; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Denis Max; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Lucid; Team Secretary, Mr. Daniel Mulcahy; Treasurer, Mr. Thomas McLoughlin. Committee—Mr. P. Cox (Loco); Mr. Peter Darcy (R.F. Dept.); Mr. John Cloughery (Rail); and Mr. Michael Griffin (Workshops).

Captain of senior football team, Mr. P. J. Begley; Vice-Captain, Mr. John Maher. The selection of a captain and vice-captain for the junior team was left over to a later date.

RED CROSS

THE GIFT AUCTION

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") Dear Mr. Editor—In spite of the very inclement weather, and the distractions of the elections, the Red Cross gift auction was a success.

My Committee wish to pay tribute to the Limerick auctioneers for their goodness in organising and conducting this sale, gratuitously—and at considerable inconvenience. Our very best thanks are due to them for this, and for the example shown as a vocational group.

Also it is the privilege of the Limerick Red Cross to thank and pay tribute to many donors who by their co-operation and generosity backed so practically the good deeds of the auctioneers. Last, not least, we wish to thank those who supported the sale as purchasers.

To all, the Limerick Red Cross Society extends its grateful thanks. F. G. O'REILLY, Hon. Secretary, Limerick Co. Committee.

CANON'S TRIBUTE TO NEW

GRIM BUT HISTORIC

BOY'S DEATH

Inquest Adjourned

UNUSUAL ELEMENT

A very unusual element arose at an inquest held in Barrington's Hospital, on Monday evening, by Coroner J. S. MacNeice, solicitor, and a jury, into the death of a nine years old boy, Michael O'Donoghue, Rhebogue, who died on Saturday morning last, after he had been struck by a van while playing ball on the Dublin Road.

After the evidence had been completed, Inspector T. Griffin, who represented the Garda, produced a statement alleged to have been made by a man named Michael Corey, of Taylor Street, Limerick, categorically contradicting an important feature of all the evidence given. After consultation, the jury decided they could not bring in a verdict until they had heard this evidence, and the inquest was accordingly adjourned until Friday evening next at 6 o'clock.

Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solicitor, appeared for the driver of the van involved in the accident in which the boy was killed.

Dr. Francis Crowe, House Surgeon in Barrington's Hospital, deposed that the deceased boy was admitted, unconscious, to the Hospital, at 4.15 p.m., on Friday last. Without having recovered consciousness, he died at 3.50 o'clock next morning. Witness performed a post mortem examination, which revealed the existence of a skull fracture and consequential haemorrhage. He also found abrasions on the dead boy's face and knees. Death was due to shock and haemorrhage resulting from the fracture of the skull.

COMRADE'S EVIDENCE. Bernard Redmond (11), Rhebogue, said he was with deceased when he met with the accident at about 3 p.m. on Friday last. The two boys were on the Dublin Road, near Singland, witness being on the right hand footpath facing Limerick, and the deceased walking on the opposite side of the road. A lorry came along from the Castle-troy direction and passed out the two boys. Immediately after the lorry had passed, witness saw deceased run on to the road behind it, following a ball. A van came along from the Limerick side, struck deceased and knocked him down. Witness added that the van and the lorry were passing each other, almost, when deceased ran across the road. He heard the noise of brakes being applied in the van, and saw the lorry stop and its occupants return to the scene of the impact.

Daniel O'Donoghue, father of the deceased gave formal evidence of identification. His late son was in perfect health on the morning of the accident.

Garda O'Connor gave measurements taken at the point of impact as pointed out to him by the driver of the van, Denis Giblin.

BRAKES SATISFACTORY. Garda P. McKenna said he tested the van on the day following the accident, and found the braking system in a satisfactory condition.

John Giblin, 3 Denmark Street, Limerick, said he was sitting beside his brother, Denis, who was driving their motor van out the Dublin Road from Limerick on Friday afternoon last. As they passed under the railway viaduct near Singland, they met a motor lorry, travelling slowly, in the direction of Limerick. Immediately on passing the lorry, witness saw a boy cross the road about six feet behind the lorry. He ran against the front mudguard of the van, and witness's brother immediately pulled up by applying the brakes. The brakes had actually been applied before the boy was struck. The lorry which they had met also pulled up, and the occupants returned to the scene of the accident. The boy was taken in the van to Barrington's Hospital.

MUST BE GIVEN ON OATH. At this stage, Inspector Griffin said he had a statement from Michael Corey, who said he was driving a lorry towards the city immediately following the impact. He saw a boy lying on the road beside a van. He passed by and returned. He saw no other lorry or mechanical vehicle near the scene of the accident at that time.

The Coroner remarked that this statement was contradictory to all the evidence given about the circumstances at the scene of the accident when the boy was struck down, and thought it might be better to have this witness's evidence on oath.

The jury agreed, and the proceedings were adjourned to Friday next, at 6 o'clock.

Before the adjournment, the Coroner paid a tribute to the intelligent manner in which young Bernard Redmond had given his evidence.

MEMENTO OF BLACK '47

GRIM BUT HISTORIC

THE COURT OF THE PEOPLE

Giving Its Decision To-Day

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Heavy Poll All Round Expected

The court of the people—the ultimate democratic tribunal in such matters—is giving its decision to-day in one of the most vital and important general elections held in this country since our native Parliament was set up. The voting began at 9 o'clock this morning and is to conclude at 9 o'clock to-night. Throughout the country during the day there was in most places a steady stream of electors to the booths, but the main rush will be after business and working hours this evening. Reports received from several areas seem to justify the expectation that the poll all round will prove to be heavier than at any general election for many years. The arrangements in Limerick worked out very smoothly and satisfactorily, and accounts received this afternoon indicate that in the bigger booths in the city about 25 per cent. of the electors had voted up to 3 o'clock, and in the smaller booths something like 30 per cent. An exceptionally big rush is expected from 6 o'clock onwards.

The sun shone out in most districts throughout the country to-day, and the majority of the polling population looked forward to exercising the franchise in the 13th and most vital General Election, with greater interest than ever before.

In Limerick City and the suburban areas before noon the percentage of voters to the booths was rather low. From that hour onward, however, voting steadily improved, with the result that by 3 o'clock this afternoon an average of 25 per cent. in the big booths and 30 per cent. in the small booths, had recorded their vote. This showed that the slogan: "Vote Early" did not manifest itself with any prominence, and it was the general indication later in the afternoon that there would be a last minute rush to the booths.

Those who had not voted up to 3 o'clock were mostly of the working class. They are likely to throng in large numbers to the booths from 6 to 9 o'clock, and it is thought in knowledgeable circles that the general vote will be very high in the East Limerick Constituency.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES. As usual the big parties had preparations made for facilitating their supporters. A steady stream of transport was plying to the various booths, and it was noted that old people availed readily of the cars placed at their disposal. The Fianna Fail party in the city had between 60 and 70 cars on the road, while Fine Gael were served with half that number. The Labour Party had between 6 and 10 cars operating, and it was the opinion of most of the drivers that they would be far busier in the evening. The customary stories were told of people being taken far distances to record their vote. In one instance a Fine Gael supporter residing in Ballinacorra was taken to Rathkeale to record her vote in the West Constituency.

EVIDENCE OF GOODWILL. At all the booths there was evidence of goodwill, and no unruly incidents were reported. In St. Michael's Temperance Hall, where there are two polling stations with 1,025 names on the register, about 250 had voted before 3 o'clock. At the Rangers' Club, Boherbuoy, the number was 40 out of 154. At St. John's Temperance 230 people had gone to the poll, which was an approximate 30 per cent. of the number entitled to vote in that district. A tour of many of the other polling stations showed that the average varied from 25 to 30 per cent. In the Corporation Housing Scheme areas, the pumber who had voted was comparatively small, but it was anticipated that there would be a vast improvement as the day advanced.

FIGURES OF PREVIOUS ELECTIONS. Though the Limerick Constituency has been divided on this occasion, the number of deputies to be elected remains unchanged. With so much interest invested in the current General Election the figures appertaining to some previous elections provide useful information. How the people of Limerick City and County voted in 1938 will be gleaned from the following first preference votes cast:—

Ald. J. Reidy (F.G.) ... 9,812
Ald. D. Bourke (F.F.) ... 9,058
D. O'Brien (F.F.) ... 8,099

Mr. M. J. Keyes, B.C. (Lab.) ... 8,159

Mr. D. O'Brien (F.F.) ... 7,481

Mr. R. Ryan (F.F.) ... 5,885

Ald. J. Reidy (F.G.) ... 5,762

Mr. G. C. Bennett (F.G.) ... 5,291

Mr. T. Crowley (F.F.) ... 5,182

Mr. P. Fitzsimons (F.F.) ... 4,950

Sen. M. Colbert (F.F.) ... 4,852

Sen. D. J. Madden (F.G.) ... 3,754

The following were elected—Ald. D. Bourke, Councillor M. J. Keyes, Mr. D. O'Brien, Mr. R. Ryan, Ald. J. Reidy, Senator M. J. Colbert and Mr. G. C. Bennett. Again Mr. P. Fitzsimons figured in a great tussle for the last seat, but was beaten by Mr. G. C. Bennett. The distribution of Ald. Bourke's surplus votes resulted as follows:—Mr. R. Ryan (162), Ald. J. Reidy (73), Senator M. J. Colbert (491), Mr. T. Crowley (201), Mr. G. C. Bennett (14), Mr. P. Fitzsimons (5), and Senator D. J. Madden (5).

PARTY POSITIONS.

The party positions as a result of the last four General Elections were:—

	1937	1938	1943	1944
F.F.	69	77	67	76
F.G.	48	45	32	30
Farmers	—	2	14	12
Labour	13	9	17	8
Nat. Lab.	—	—	—	4
Others	8	5	8	8

LIMERICK'S VOTING STRENGTH.

In the 1938 General Election the Fianna Fail nominees in the Limerick Constituency (7 seats and embracing West Limerick), received numbers of first preference votes: 1943, 30,344; in 1944, the number was 31,795.

Fine Gael candidates in the Limerick area received the following numbers of first preference votes: 1938, 22,936; 1943, 18,302; 1944, 14,807.

Labour's vote was:—1938, 8,015; 1943, 11,333; 1944, 8,158.

The Farmers' candidate received first preferences as follows:—1943, 4,796 and 1944, 4,950.

The total electorate for 1938, 1943 and 1944, was:—
1938 ... 81,051.
1943 ... 84,814.
1944 ... 84,036.

On this occasion the electorate is divided, and the register shows that the following numbers have votes:—East Limerick Constituency, 49,565; and West Limerick Constituency, 35,766.

POLLING STATIONS.

Throughout the city there are 80 polling stations on this occasion, and the number of candidates is ten, as follows:—
Fianna Fail—Ald. D. Bourke, Senator T. Crowley, Mr. R. Ryan.
Fine Gael—Ald. J. Reidy, Mr. G. C. Bennett.
Clann na Poblachta—Mr. S. Carroll, Mr. T. Malone, Councillor G. E. Russell.
Labour—Councillor M. J. Keyes.
Farmer—Mr. P. Donegan.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST.

Our Dublin correspondent wires:—Reports to hand from various parts of the country, indicate generally that the interest in the election to-day surpasses not only that shown in the recent bye-elections, but the degree of enthusiasm in any election in this country for many years.

In Dublin City and County and throughout the country the number of old people to the polling booths early was unusually high. It was

CANAL

Wrecked

CURRENT

Six tons of ... went cruising Shannon yesterday result of a G coming to Bridge, have recovered. Some which were co Arthur Guinness be seen floati stream. They w lookers on eit Shannon proceed rington's Pier, ception took plac

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STRUCK C. Careering along position, it stru near Mathew L submerged. The sacks of flour a amounted to 12 t

To-day the b cynosure of hun it lay like a help in the Abbey riv It is expected all, of the carg within the cours

DISCOVER TI

OUTBREAK KILF

On last Saturd our Kilfinane co was observed in Kilfinane, by M C.I.E., who was work. With t O'Connor, whom mediately proced fire with water source, and succe a short time. So wall and a large were destroyed. F for another ha would have got s the timber that sible to save it.

DEATH OF

The death in Lord Derby, pr public figure in visit to Dublin in the Anglo-Irish s height.

Lord Derby ce the time to see found of ending arriving at an u was in disguise, by a Dublin nev fore he left Dubl was said to h Valera and the la Collins.

DRAMA

Arrangements under way for na Scoil, which March 10th. Ent mise to surpass a The Felle will be the Playhouse, an for the greater p Further details v columns of this p

FOYNES

The ss. "Shell-Foynes last week spirits and keros Shell Co. Ltd Hound," with 1.1 spirits for the I Company, also a were detained fo because of weath

BANK APP

Mr. Michael B of Mr. Thoma Principal of passed at the ag ination for the