

Justice—I will fine this man £1, but in future it will be £5 or £10.

## COST OF LIVING

### WHAT OFFICIAL FIGURES SHOW

An official statement issued yesterday by the Department of Industry and Commerce says that the cost of living figure at mid-November was two points higher than in the same period of 1947.

The relevant figures are:—November, 1948—99; November, 1947—97. At mid-August, 1948, the index was also 99.

## 'PLANE CRASH

As the result of a 'plane crash yesterday on Basalt Island, near Hong Kong, thirty-three people lost their lives. All on board were evacuees from war-ravaged areas of China. Among the victims was Mr. Quentin Roosevelt, a grandson of Theodore Roosevelt, a former United States President.

### RATHKEALE "41" DRIVE

Result of "41" drive in aid of the G.A.A. funds, held at Rathkeale on Sunday night:—1st prize, a fat pig, and second prize, a turkey, divided between Mr. Sean Lynch and Mr. Sean Guiry. Third prize, a goose, Mr. P. Flynn. Fourth prize, 10/-, Mr. T. Daly.

### RENT TO BE WITHHELD

Because their purchase offer terms had been neglected, the tenants on the Harewood estate at Portumna have decided to withhold rents until a more reasonable attitude was adopted by those acting for the estate. The late Lord Harewood was husband of Princess Mary, sister of King George VI.

### FLOUR FOR GREYHOUNDS

At Ballina (Co. Mayo) District Court, a shopkeeper named Patrick Ruttledge, Currabogan, was fined £7 for offences in respect of flour rationing. It was stated that the flour was fed to greyhounds in Dublin.

### MUNICIPAL DINNERS

Gifts of food for "Penny Dinners" on Christmas Day will be gratefully received. Kindly send parcels to Stokes and McKiernan, Bedford Row, Thursday, 23rd December.

Nash came out before them and witness heard him speaking to two chaps as they all approached the dance. Next thing witness told Nash to come away as things were getting a bit hot. Witness then intervened and separated Nash from the other men, and he told Guard McDermott when he came along that the whole affair was a bottle of smoke.

Justice—If you said a bottle of stout you would be more accurate.

Continuing, witness said that one of the Downses came across to him and asked if he hit his brother, and he (witness) replied that he did no such thing. The next thing, witness was struck.

### JUSTICE'S DECISION.

The Justice considered that a serious breach of the peace might have been committed on the occasion but for the timely intervention of Guard McDermott. Having regard to the good characters of the Downses and Murphy he would strike out the summons against them with a caution, but he wanted the other defendant, Nash, to be brought before him for the next sitting of the Court, as it appeared to him that he was the chief offender.

## WARNING TO MOTORISTS

Justice C. S. Kenny, B.L., at Askeaton Court on Monday last, issued a warning that in future he would impose a fine of £3 on any motorist convicted of having no lights on his or her vehicle during lighting up time and who did not attend the Court to answer the summons. In all other cases the fine would be £2.

Dealing with summonses of this kind, on Monday, the Justice imposed a fine of £1 in nearly all the cases.

## PORT OF LIMERICK

Arrivals—December 19th — s.s. "Grit," from Sunderland, with coal. Dec. 20th—s.s. "Shelbrit 8," from Swansea, with fuel oil. Dec. 20th—s.s. "Kilfenora," from Liverpool, with coal and general cargo.

Sailings — December 17th—s.s. "Monaleen," to Liverpool, with general cargo. Dec. 21st, s.s. "Shelbrit 8," to Heysham (light).

### COURTS OFF DURING NEXT MONTH.

During the month of January there will be no Courts held at Shanagolden, Glin, or Ballyneety.

### DEATH.

KNOX (Caherconlish, Co. Limerick)—December 22nd, 1948, at her residence, Bridget, beloved wife of Peter Knox; deeply regretted by sorrowing husband and family. R.I.P. Office and High Mass at Inch St. Laurence Church, at 10.30 a.m. to-morrow (Thursday). Burial immediately afterwards to adjoining cemetery.

(American papers, please copy).

Tuesday next. The banks, too, will remain open to-morrow, but will close at 11.30 a.m. on Friday. These institutions will re-open on Tuesday morning.



### CHRISTMAS HOLLY.

If our emporiums are not as busy as they would wish, vendors of holly are surely reaping a rich harvest. Though large quantities are being brought daily into the city, the demand for the sprig continues to increase. Everyone, it would seem, wants holly—price does not matter. Those engaged in the "trade" have to go far afield, so they state, to procure the berried variety, with the result that prices are now somewhat higher than usual.



### IN ANCIENT TIMES.

Ever since the dawn of Christianity holly is employed for decorative purposes in churches and houses at the Yuletide. Even before the Christian era this very popular evergreen was used for a somewhat similar purpose. When the Romans observed the festival of Saturnalia holly was very much in evidence—and it would seem that this custom has been handed down from generation to generation. In any case, no house is now without a sprig or two of holly at Christmas time. If this decoration were not to be seen something very intimate would indeed be missing.



### CHRISTMAS BOXES.

But it is remarked that one old Christmas custom—the giving of what used to be called Christmas boxes—is dying out. Nowadays we prefer to refer to Yuletide gifts as presents, but, somehow, the present is not a substitute for the Christmas box. In the halcyon days of old boxes for the reception of offerings were to be found in places of worship. These were opened at Christmas and the contents distributed to the poor. Again, apprentice boys, with box in hand, used to go around to their employers' customers, soliciting contributions. This is brought to mind by the old ballad which says:—

"Gladly the boy, with Christmas box in hand,  
Throughout the town his devious route pursues."