

SCHEME.

Having dealt with the widespread activities of the Department of Local Government, the Minister said that the L.G.D. Officials' Union was all-embracing and, therefore, was in a position to speak for all officials, from the top to the lowest rank.

"I can assure you," he said, "that in my capacity as Minister, I will give due and sympathetic consideration to the claims of your Union, and I might go so far as to say that where any doubt lies the benefit of it will accrue in your favour. I might say also that there are so many problems arising from

Mr. T. F. Broe, Limerick County Secretary, thanked the Minister, the Mayor and City Manager for their complimentary references to the staffs, compliments that were very much appreciated because they came from people who had an intimate knowledge of their work. A word of recognition now and again was most encouraging and he could assure the Minister that his tribute, and that of the Mayor and City Manager were very much appreciated (applause).

A most enjoyable dance followed and the proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

Mr. Quish—In all the years we have been here we have been very well able to segregate the applicants with the best qualifications. Mr. Maguire put this Committee on the cart wrongfully, although I don't believe for a moment he intended it. Actually, the statement was laudable and I agree with it, but then he didn't vote for the best qualified man. In fact he didn't vote at all.

Mr. Maguire—Did anybody tell us that Mr. Frost was the best qualified man?

C.A.O.—The qualifications of all the candidates were read out to you.

Mr. Maguire—I asked the Committee to be unanimous in appointing the applicant with the best qualifications, irrespective of what pull, before or behind, he had. I promised nobody my vote. The day Mr. Frost called to me I told him the man with the best qualifications should have my support.

Mr. Hayes—It would be very wrong on Mr. Maguire's part if this man—the best qualified—lost the job through one vote, because Mr. Maguire refused to cast his.

The Chairman closed the discussion at this stage.

HOUND KILLED AFTER KILLING TWO HARES AND FOX

When hunting with a hound and two dogs on Friday of last week on the Red Bog at O'Brien's Bridge (writes our Killaloe correspondent), Mr. Wm. Slattery, O'Brien's Bridge, killed two hares and a fox. On returning in the evening he raised another hare, which ran towards the Canal Bank, and the hound, in giving chase, dashed against the bank and was instantly killed.

DEATH OF MRS. SHEPPARD, BALLINGRANE

At her residence, Fort View, Ballingrane, the death took place of Mrs. Sheppard—wife of Mr. Julius Sheppard, well-known farmer and cattle dealer and President of Askeaton Cow-Testing Association. Of a charitable and kindly disposition, the deceased lady was loved and revered by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Members of the Rathkeale Branch of the Irish Red Cross hold in grateful remembrance her generous hospitality to them during the emergency. Very sincere sympathy is extended to her sorrowing husband and relatives in their irreparable loss. The funeral, which took place to the local cemetery, was one of the largest and most representative seen in the district for many years. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. D. W. Morrow and the Rev. F. J. Harte, B.A. Many beautiful floral tributes were laid on the grave by relatives and sympathising friends.

HOSPITAL COURT

Hospital Court, held on Friday of last week, before Mr. H. L. Conner, B.L., D.J., was perhaps the shortest on record. The business, with the exception of a case held in camera, only lasted a short time. The matters otherwise disposed of were only of a minor nature.

The solicitors engaged were:—Messrs. M. M. Power, Thomas M. Mitchell, E. M. Power and L. Walsh (Messrs. Bennett & Walsh).

RATES QUESTION CALL FOR 5 PER CENT. REDUCTION

The following resolution has been passed by the National Federation of Ratepayers and a copy sent to each local authority in the Twenty-Six Counties:—"That having regard to the high level of local rates, which the majority of ratepayers are finding unbearable, we, the Central Council of the National Ratepayers' Federation, request that each Urban, City and County Council should endeavour to secure that the rate for the coming year shall be 5 per cent. less than that struck for the current year."

SIRIUS, OUR BRIGHTEST STAR

Any of these clear evenings is an opportune time to view Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, because it is now well above the horizon. It is so bright because it is the nearest star to our earth, a little less than nine light years' distance. Light travels 5,874,683,760,000 miles in a year, so it is no wonder that even in powerful telescopes Sirius appears as only a point of light. In size it is small compared to most of the visible stars. Its diameter is only one and a half times the diameter of the sun, and its heat about double, that is 11,000 centigrade as compared with the sun's mean of 5,600 centigrade.—Ernest H. Bennis.

DIED IN AMERICA

The sad news reached his native Dromcollogher of the death, following a brief illness, at a comparatively early age, of Mr. Gerald Fitzgibbon, New York, and formerly of Knockacraig, Dromcollogher (writes our Dromcollogher correspondent). Over a quarter of a century back he was a prominent member of the old Dromcollogher Hurling Club, and took a prominent part in the national and social activities of the period. His passing at a comparatively early age is deeply regretted in the locality.

DUBLIN 'BUS STRIKE

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Our Dublin correspondent wires—No developments took place to-day in connection with the strike in a section of the C.I.E. 'bus service in Dublin, now in progress since Monday.

All the parties concerned were to-day awaiting any suggestions or proposals that might be made by the Labour Court, following interviews that took place yesterday.

It is unlikely that the Court will hold any regular sitting, as all the available data has been placed in the possession of the Court.

A day or two may elapse before the Court makes any public pronouncement on the dispute.

AMERICAN A.O.H.

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Sir—The above heading, which appeared in your issue of the 28/1/50, brought to mind a speech delivered many years ago in West Limerick.

The speaker was introduced as an Irish-American. His opening remarks were: "I am proud to speak to the people of West Limerick. At home in the U.S.A. I am a member of the A.O.H., Michael O'Hara Branch, named in honour of that unconquerable and patriotic Fenian from West Limerick. He died that his gallant comrades might live."

I wonder if any of your readers can throw any light on the speaker's remarks. I am still wondering who this man, Michael O'Hara, was.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for inserting this query in your valuable paper. Yours truly,

J. D. L.