

HEAVY POSTAL TRAFFIC

Christmas Trade In Limerick

40,000 MONEY REMITTANCES

CHRISTMAS shopping in Limerick did not come up to expectation, generally, traders are reported. Soaring prices, with the rail strike, against business. Christmas was unusually slack, but in connection traders state the public had done most of shopping early in the week.

POSSIBLE EFFECT OF RAIL STRIKE.

A representative was informed by G.P.O. that the C.I.E. rail had a serious effect on postal traffic this year.

At the commencement of the strike the Postal authorities were reported to refuse the acceptance of parcels, except those for local delivery. As a result of this decision, there was a source of keen discontent to the public, letter parcels to all parts reached a new level, as people who intended to send parcels sent letters and instead, to show their appreciation and friends that they had not forgotten.

ROAD TRANSPORT.

Letter traffic was conveyed by a network of road transport to mitigate the difficulties involved, disposal was effected, and the idea of the volume of traffic

handled in this way will be gained when it is stated that upwards of half a million letters were posted in the city during the six days preceding Christmas. In addition, over one million airmail letters from the U.S.A. were received during the same period.

REMITTANCES FROM U.S.A.

Remittances from the U.S. were well up to last year's total and advised for approximately £40,000 for residents in the Counties Limerick, Kerry, Clare and portions of Tipperary passed through the G.P.O. during the week preceding Christmas.

Gift turkey parcels to Great Britain, which were accepted up to the 17th December—on which date the C.I.E. strike commenced—were as numerous as in previous years. All such traffic was disposed of before the cessation of the rail transport service.

EXTRA HANDS.

In order to cope with the increased traffic a number of extra hands were employed at the Post Office through the medium of the Labour Exchange.

A tribute is due to all concerned for the expeditious manner in which deliveries were effected despite obvious difficulties.

A GREAT RECORD

Late Mr. John Curtin

AN APPRECIATION

(BY T. P. D.)

MANY are not given what is termed a long life, and fewer still there are who attain it in harness to the end. On 20th inst., at his residence, Denmark Street, passed away, in the person of Mr. John Curtin, a man of four score and ten, of which seventy-six were spent in the widely-known and century-old firm of J. and G. Boyd, Ltd. Verily an outstanding, and, perhaps, unique record.

"Jack," as he was called, remembered the founders, for it was from the brothers James and George Boyd he got his first small job. Down all those vanquished years he laboured unselfishly and conscientiously, for if ever a human justified his existence, it was the subject of this little appreciation.

"LONG DAY" WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

Nature, however, it is that ordains when our period of usefulness is over, when we shall give way to others, who will fill our place. So did "Jack" Curtin. A few short months ago it became apparent that the "long day" was drawing to a close, and he retired "for the night" to work no more.

Now he is dead. Last Friday afternoon to a little cemetery in storied Mungret his remains were borne, a place where in Spring, from their cloisters in nearby trees, birds will sing a requiem, and wild flowers bloom in May. Amongst the many who paid a final tribute was the genial managing director of the Company, himself now almost old, and who can recall the days when "Jack" was wont to drive him to a local primary school. In the deceased servant he had reposed a trust which was never broken. Also in attendance were Mr. Holliday's co-directors, while the staff, of which "Jack," of course, was the doyen, was well represented.

And so in that secluded spot, with the benediction of the Church of which he was an exemplary member, under a cold sunless sky, there was laid in a grave lined with neither moss nor lichen but with Christian hope in a future resurrection, the grand old man of Boyd's.

PASSPORT TO ETERNAL BLISS.

The books are thus closed, and we who knew him intimately cannot but believe that when his life's balance sheet was drawn up, and presented to the Great Auditor for signature, it was "Jack" Curtin's passport to eternal bliss.

Requiescat in pace.

MAN DROWNED

TRAGEDY NEAR LIMERICK DOCKS

At about 8 o'clock on Saturday night, a number of people saw a man, who had been walking along the river front near the Limerick

TOWN TOPICS

MIDNIGHT MASSES.

IN many city churches Midnight Mass was celebrated on Christmas Eve. There were over-flowing congregations, and the inspiring devotional scenes witnessed created a deep impression. The Lord Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, was celebrant of the Midnight Mass in the Cathedral, where the congregation included the Mayor (Mr. Kevin Bradshaw) and other members of the Corporation. On Christmas Day there was a continuous flow of people to the churches to pay a visit to the crib.



TALKING IN CINEMAS.

For what purpose do some people visit cinemas? Is it to see and enjoy the pictures or to have a chat? Indeed, it seems as if the programme—let it be good, bad or indifferent—is of no interest to many, judging by all the tittle-tattle that goes on all round. Gossipers can make themselves an intolerable nuisance, but in a cinema, when most people are relaxed and set, as it were, to get full value for their money by way of extracting enjoyment from the programme, distraction is most exasperating. Nothing is more annoying to others than chatter between two or more people at a performance of any kind. And ladies, by the way, are not the only gossipers in cinemas. Members of the opposite sex often indulge in a spate of verbiage, quite oblivious of the annoyance they cause to those within earshot.



HORSE CAME HOME.

A story is going the rounds that a horse sold by a Limerick dealer to a farmer living twenty miles away returned home, after a week, to its old master. There is nothing very remarkable in this, for many similar instances have been recorded from time to time. Australian bushmen say that horses are known to have travelled, without any guide, five hundred miles and more from strange surroundings to their native habitat. Somewhat like stories can be told of other animals. A local sportsman on one occasion conveyed a dog in a box to a spot ten miles from its home. When given its freedom the dog sniffed the air and disappeared across country. Two hours later it was back home again.



AN INJUSTICE.

The ratepayers of Limerick are labouring under a grave injustice. Following the ill-starred Union

THE LAST OF THE BALLAD SINGERS

By A. J. O'HALLORAN

Saturday some weeks ago, I passed through William a young man with a good voice was giving a very rendering of a popular to the accompaniment of and an accordion. The was such that it occurred that I had often heard in the variety stage that not quite as good. Then my thoughts flew back days of my childhood, when of the ballad singers supreme in that thorough- I wondered what their would be could they re- scene where they had their calling, and listen efforts of their successors. not for them the sloppy of the tin-pan-alley they sang of Ireland's

of their technique though I only saw and heard them on one occasion. All others are vague shadowy figures. Poet Hannan had only one eye, and the lids of the other being closed up, and sunk, caused him to wear a sinister look. He had a gift for repartee, and at the end of his song there was sure to be an exchange of back-chat with his audience, in which he was certain to come off best. Poet Lovat had no legs, though whether he was born without them, or lost them in battle, I do not know. He was to be seen enclosed in a little go-cart like-a converted soap box, which was well cushioned in hay. I have a most vivid recollection of him because he had a highly inflamed face, and blood-shot eyes, and as he bawled his ballads presented an awesome spectacle. At this time there were some men who made a living by carrying light loads on their donkeys