

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents sending in letters or reports for publication in Saturday's "Chronicle," and these should be brief, are requested to let us have them on Fridays, where at all possible. Otherwise publication in Saturday's issue cannot, owing to want of space, be guaranteed.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers will kindly send in all substitute standing advertisements on Friday mornings. We cannot guarantee to insert in Saturday's issue advertisements received after 2 p.m. on that day.

THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

(ESTABLISHED 1766)

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1925.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

One of the most pressing needs of social reform in the Free State is that relating to school attendance. It is a subject that has again and again been discussed by educational bodies and other authorities, and the fact is pointed out that to ensure that the advantages of instruction in the schools shall be fully availed of, something in the nature of compulsory attendance is absolutely necessary. The Government are fully alive to the importance of the subject, and but for very pressing business in the Dail it is probable that a measure of the kind would have been introduced ere this. But it is understood that the outlines of a Bill are at present being considered, and that legislation will be formulated at the earliest possible opportunity. This will not come a moment too soon, as it is time that steps should be taken to check a growing evil. Here in Limerick it is nothing uncommon to see large numbers of children roaming about the streets when they should be attending school. Attention has been called to the gravity of the matter by the National Teachers' Organisation, the Limerick Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment, and the Borough Council. What applies to Limerick as regards irregular school attendance applies to other centres, of course, as well. A report of the City of Dublin School Attendance Department for 1924, published in yesterday's papers, shows that the attendances are not what they should be. The housing problem is given as the chief reason for this undesirable state of things. It is pointed out that a large part of the population is

OBITUARY.

Canon O'Kennedy, P.P.

We regret to announce the death of the Very Rev Canon O'Kennedy, P.P., Fedamore, which took place this morning at the parochial residence after a lingering illness. The rev gentleman, who was in his 75th year, was born in the Parish of Coolcappa, and for some 32 years was Parish Priest of Fedamore, where he was highly esteemed by all classes and creeds. He was the author of several literary works, and also contributed to magazines. He was a keen temperance advocate. The obsequies will take place at Fedamore Church on Saturday at 11 o'clock.

Mr. William Mullen.

We regret to announce the death, after a few weeks' illness, of Mr William Mullen, which took place at his residence, 5 Crescent Avenue, this morning. The deceased, who came of an old Limerick family, was a familiar and highly-esteemed personality in the city. He was, formerly, prominent in commercial life here, having occupied the responsible position of cashier of Messrs Guinness Son and Co., Ltd., Cecil-street, from which he retired several years ago, owing to ill-health. In social life Mr Mullen was very highly esteemed for his genial and affable disposition, and as one of the oldest members of the Shannon Rowing Club he was very popular. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends will be extended to the deceased gentleman's sister in her bereavement.

The funeral will take place from the Wesley Chapel, O'Connell Street, at ten o'clock on Saturday morning for St Mary's Cathedral.

Dr G. M. Melville.

Many friends in Limerick will regret to hear of the death of Dr Gordon Moncrieff Melville, M.D., of Ashley Lodge, Basingtoke, which occurred on Tuesday, at a nursing home in London, following an operation. Deceased, who passed away at the early age of 42 years, was son of Mr E. F. M. Melville, who up to some years ago was manager of the Provincial Bank in Limerick, and with whom sincere sympathy is extended in his hour of trial.

Mr William H. Thompson, O.B.E.

The death, which we record with regret, took place suddenly at his residence, Cork, this morning of Mr William H. Thompson, District Superintendent Great Southern Railway. The news of Mr Thompson's death in its tragic suddenness was received with profound regret in Limerick City, of which he was a native, as it was known that he was attending to his official duties up to a few days ago. The late lamented gentleman commenced his official life at Limerick in the manager's office of the old Waterford and Limerick Railway Company, and at the time of the amalgamation with the Great Southern and Western Company, and for some years before that, he occupied the position of chief rates clerk. Under the altered conditions Mr Thompson, whose knowledge of railway duties, particularly as regards rates, was very extensive, was transferred to Tralee as District Superintendent, and was subsequently translated to the more important position of District Superintendent in the Southern Capital. He was held in the highest respect by his colleagues and enjoyed the confidence and goodwill of his superiors. A melancholy factor in connection with his death is that in a very short time he would be retiring on pension to enjoy a well-earned rest after a long and faithful service. After the Great War his railway work was suitably recognised by the British Government in bestowing on him the Order of the British Empire. His death, as stated, has been learned with extreme sorrow in his native city, and the greatest sympathy is felt for his widow, children, and relatives in their bereavement.

SHANNON POWE SCHEME.

LEGISLATION PROBABLE

Before Summer Recess

In the Dail yesterday, in the course of a discussion as to the business, Mr McGilligan, Minister for Finance and Commerce, said that legislation regarding the Shannon scheme might be necessary before summer recess. He was bringing before the Executive Council the terms of a resolution which, if they approved, would be moved in the Dail next week. It would be a general resolution of such a type that discussion could take place in the Dail corresponding to the discussion that took place on the second reading of a bill.

In reply to Mr Hewitt, he said that he would be glad to see the resolution to be regarded as commending the Dail to general approval of the expert recommendations for a partial development of the Siemens-Schuckert plan.

Views of Northern Ireland

Tribute to Limerick

The Belfast Correspondent of the "Chronicle and Money Market Review" writes: "Nothing can be heard through the length and breadth of the land except the rancorous voice of the electioneer. For the quiet student and the economist the hustings have few attractions. But some thoughtful people, not attracted by the beat of the political drum, have been struck by details of the Siemens-Schuckert Shannon scheme, now being exploited by the Free State. From this end of Ireland it looks as if industrial development of the country were being tackled.

"Naturally, the industrialists and engineers of the Six Counties admire the pluck and energy of the Free State rulers, who are not content to tackle a five or seven million scheme when its success so is highly problematical. Free Staters like the idea because it is a bold one and they are going to finance it, but the question we ask here is 'How is it going to be done?' The demand for electricity, either for lighting or for power, in the Free State is not met. If all the undertakings now using it were transferred to their own installations and become part of the Shannon scheme. In the neighbourhood of the power station industries might spring up, and Limerick is quite a decent port, might come in for its share of light. In this connection a shrewd business man who is doing business in the Dail made the assertion that Limerick is a cork to the wall. The writer of these lines has 'overdraft' in a branch of the Dail that helps the Limerick merchants to their financial goals, and he is rejoiced to hear of the Limerick entrepreneur with stories of Limerick enterprise. He makes him regret that the Southern Dail from Belfast Lough. Every awake man in the West will bring glad tidings to the Belfast man.

ARMED RAID ON BARRISROSCREA.

£10,000 Reported Taken

A Dublin message of Tuesday night between 2.45 and 3 o'clock this morning reporting a robbery was committed on the road between Roscrea and Carrigrohane, by three well-dressed men armed with revolvers, and a sum amounting to £10,000, it is stated, was taken.

It appears that the motor in