LIMERICK BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held yesterday.

The Hon G. N. Fitzgibbon in the chair.

The other members present were:—Mr J. C. Delmege, JP; Major Howley, JP; Mr W. G. Gubbins, JP; Captain W. Westropp, JP; Colonel O'Donnell, JP; Mr W. Hosford, Doctor W. D. Murphy, JP; Dr Kane, JP; Ald E. O'Callaghan, JP; Alderman J. J. Cleary, JP; Mr William Spillane, JP; Mr P. Frost, JP; Mr T. McMahon Cregan, Mr J. G. Barry, JP; Dr T. G. O'Sullivan, Mr M. Millane, Mr M. Meehan, Mr J. F. Moloney, Dr Cullen, Mr P. Riordan, Mr J. Gubbins, Mr M. Lane, Mr J. Dunworth, Alderman Synan, Mr T. Sexton, JP; Mr S. Holmes, Mr P. Walsh, Mr R. M'Craith, Mr J. Enright, Mr P. Kavanagh, Mr P. Brennan, Mr J. Nolan, Mr D. P. M'Namara.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and signed.

STATE OF THE HOUSE

On Saturday, the 8th day of March, 1878; remaining on the previous Saturday, 1,701; admitted since, 112; died, 15; discharged, 97; remaining on the above date, 1,701; increase on the year, 30; in the general hospital, 571; in the fever hospital, 47; lunatics, 90; total sick, 708.

FINANCE.

From the treasurer's book it appeared that a sum of £985 13s 5d had been received during the week, £1,092 paid, leaving a balance in favour of the guardians of £1,808 7s 7d.

The Clerk read the following letters:—

"Veterinary Department,
"Privy Council Office, Dublin.

SIR,—The attention of the Lord Lieutenant having been drawn to a statement made at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of Limerick Union on the 29th January last, to the effect that three cows, the property of Mr Patrick Coffey, which had been ordered to be slaughtered by the local authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, as having been in contact with animals effected with pleuro-pneumonia, were on the 11th January last shipped by a man named James Blackwell from the port of Limerick for Liverpool, his Grace has caused inquiry to be instituted into the matter through the Local Government Board.

"The statutory declarations made by Mr Johnstone, V.S., Inspector of the Local Authority, and of James Blackwell, the butcher who bought the cattle, if trustworthy, seem effectually to prove that the cattle in question were duly slaughtered in Limerick on the 8th and 9th of January, and could not, therefore, have been shipped alive from there on the 16th.

"On a review of all the circumstances of the case, his Grace is advised that the evidence adduced in support of the statement respecting the shipment of cattle in question is insufficient to set aside the direct testimony advanced against the allegation that the cattle were shipped. Mr Johnstone's proceedings in the matter appear to have been very irregular and unsatisfactory; and his Grace considers that his conduct fully deserved the censure passed upon it by the committee of the local authority.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"HENRY ROBINSON."

"Veterinary Department,
Privy Council Office,
Dublin Castle, 10th March, '79.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Lords Justices to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th inst, intimating that the Loca Authority of Limerick Union, under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, had on that day dispensed with the services of Mr Peter Johnstone, V.S., their inspector, at the same time setting forth the reasons why such a course was adopted, and requesting that Mr Johnstone's dismissal may be sanctioned, and that the local authority may be authorised to appoint another person in his place, and with reference thereto I am to direct the attention of the local authority to section 11 of the Officers of Local Authority (Ireland) Order, 1878, from which they will observe that they have full power to dispense with the services of their inspector, subject to the conditions specified in that section—vii., that the inspector should receive a month's notice from the local authority, or a month's salary in lieu of notice. It will now be the duty of the local authority to proceed to the election of a person to fill the office.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.

"HENRY ROBINSON."

Mr Cronin said that if the guardians knew at the last meeting what they knew to-day they would not have censured Dr Johnstone.

The Chairman said it appeared from the communication which had been read that having dismissed Dr Johnstone, they should give him either a month's notice or a month's salary. If they were in favour of keeping him it would require a notice of motion.

Mr Barry said Mr Johnstone was only their officer for a month, and it was perfectly competent for them to give him notice now.

Mr Cronin said the guardians decided at the last meeting, only by a majority of one, to dispense with the services of Mr Johnstone. He did not think they would have come to that decision if they were really aware of the facts of the case.

Mr Barry wished to remind Mr Cronin that it was not at all in connection with the shipment of cattle that Mr Johnstone was dismissed. It was on other grounds altogether, and if the Board wished he could state those grounds.

Mr Cronin said that the only mistake which Mr Johnstone made was in having stated that he saw the cattle slaughtered, whereas he should have stated that he saw three of them slaughtered on the evening of the 8th January, and the other two on the morning of the 9th.

Alderman Cleary said Mr Johnstone got no official notice as to his dismissal.

Captain Vansittart did not consider that the evidence before them was sufficient to call for a dismissal of the officer. He thought an investigation should be held under the circumstances.

Dr O'Sullivan asked whether it was competent for him to propose a resolution to have Mr Johnstone reinstated in office?

The Chairman replied that a fortnight's notice of motion was necessary.

Dr O'Sullivan said he would give notice to have the resolution dispensing with Mr Johnstone's services rescinded. The correspondence which had been read clearly disposed of any insinuation which had been made as to the cattle having been shipped.

Alderman O'Callaghan said a regular bill of indictment had been made out against Mr Johnstone. He was anxious at the last meeting that an investigation should be held, but he was in the minority. It appeared that the Privy Council were more lenient to Mr Johnstone than the Board of Guardians. He could say from his personal knowledge that there was not a more correct young man in Limerick than Mr Johnstone (hear, hear); and he would have great pleasure in proposing that he be reinstated.

In reply to Mr Cregan.

Mr Bourke said he did not examine the witnesses at the inquiry on oath, because it was not competent for him to do so. Those who made solemn declarations were those who made voluntary statements.

Mr Cregan thought Mr Johnstone should have been afforded an opportunity of answering the charges of Mr Barry.

Mr Barry—Not my charges—the charges of the committee.

Mr Cregan—Yes, he might be able to answer them. I think the matter should not be dealt lightly or hastily with. I think it is very hard on a young man for his first *faux-pas* to have a slur cast upon his professional career (hear, hear).

Mr Barry thought it well to say in answer to Mr Cregan that every opportunity had been afforded Mr Johnstone to refute the charges. He was twice before the committee and once before the board, and nothing was done behind his back.

Mr Cregan—I say that when charges of so serious a character were made notice ought to have been given to all the guardians to be present.

Dr O'Sullivan then handed in the following notice of motion:—"I will move this day fortnight that a resolution dispensing with the services of Dr Johnstone, be rescinded."

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, sanctioning a superannuation allowance of £30 a year to John Hickey late lunatic keeper.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board, suggesting the advisability of prosecuting a number of defaulters under the Vaccination Act.

Mr Bourke said he did not think that merely prosecuting Mr Joshua Jacob or Mr Dowling would have the desired effect upon a great deal of the poorer people who had not complied with the act. Mr Jacob probably objected to vaccination upon conscientious grounds, and Mr Dowling might have other excuses. He thought that if ten of the most persistent defaulters were prosecuted, it would have the effect of inducing others to have their children vaccinated immediately.

It was decided to have 10 out of the 119 prosecuted.

The committee appointed to examine into the rate collector's book, and report thereon, met at 11 o'clock, but when the time for the ordinary meeting of the guardians had arrived they found that they had only gone through half the list of names and an adjournment for a week was decided on. The following gentlemen acted on the committee:—Mr. J. C. Delmege (chairman), Mr. M. Millane, Mr. Wm. Hosford, Mr. G. W. Bussett, Mr. J. Cronin, Mr. James Nolan and Mr. Patrick Riordan.

A letter was read from the Committee of the Catholic Literary Institute stating that they were prepared to pay certain rates which were due of the Institute. They had communicated with the solicitor of the board, but the solicitor referred them back to the board.

Mr Bourke said the plain course to pursue was to give instructions for the collection of such rates as were equitably due.

Mr Delmege said he knew a person as well dressed as any member of the board, who owed rates amounting to £250, and another who owed £266, although he had a publichouse and tenements in the Irishtown. These rates were uncollected for six or seven years. He thought their solicitor should be sharpened up and required to discharge his duties.

The Chairman believed they had other business to discharge and they ought to proceed to it at once.

Mr Spillane said this question of the rates was of more importance to them than the appointment of this man or that to a vacant office. If they gave certain instructions to their solicitor and if he did not obey them it was the duty of the clerk to report the fact to the board. It was perfectly absurd for the Board to direct to have certain proceedings taken if they were not taken, and if the proper officer did not report the circumstances to the board. He held it was the duty of the clerk to report every Wednesday whether the instructions of the board had been carried out or not. Between the sheriff and the solicitor the money was not got in, and the guardians were none the wiser of what had been done.

The Clerk stated it was the duty of the collector to inform the board as to whether the rates were collected or not.

Mr Cregan thoroughly agreed with Mr Spillane's observations. If the officers did not discharge their duties, there was no use in the guardians coming there and giving instructions. A certain order was made by the Barrister three years ago which was not carried out since.

The Chairman said Mr Spillane had used language which he did not think was quite in order. He (the chairman) did not want to stop the discussion, but he thought that the matter under consideration at the time had terminated, and he merely wished the board would go on with the business which was still on hands.

Mr Spillane said he had not the slightest intention of calling the chairman to order. He was certain whatever the chairman said was quite correct.

Chairman—I was under the impression that the discussion had closed.

The question as to what religion an abandoned child should be brought up in was next taken up.

Mr Delmege thought the child should be baptized in the religion of the person who had found it.

Mr Spillane was of a similar opinion.

Mr Cregan was under the impression that in a case of this kind the *loco parentis* was the person in whose religion the child be brought up. In this instance the guardians were the *loco parentes*. It was for them to determine the religion.

Mr Enright said it was evident the child was born of Roman Catholic parents, for the Protestants were too rich to abandon their children

The Master said that if the parents at any time should turn up, they could alter the religion if it was not their own. If the godfather or godmother were found they could also alter the religion; and in their absence the duty developed upon the guardians.

Mr Delmege proposed that they write to the Local Government to ascertain the law of the case, and Mr Hosford seconded the motion.

Mr McNamara observed that, while they were ascertaining the legal bearing of the question, the child might die without being baptized.

Mr Cronin proposed that the child be baptised a Roman Catholic.

Mr Lane seconded the proposition.

After some discussion the latter resolution was agreed to, and it was also resolved, amid much laughter, that the child be named Mary Cronin.

Mr Delmege, in pursuance of notice of motion, proposed that in future out door relief be administered wholly in kind or partly in kind and partly in money. His object in making the proposition was that the laws of relief to the poor might be made as easy as possible. In giving out door relief to people it was intended that they might be enabled to remain out of the house and retain possession of their homes. Hitherto the relief was altogether administered in money, and he believed experience showed that the system did not work well, that the money was not applied in many cases to proper purposes. By giving the relief wholly in kind or partly in kind and partly in money they would be merely adopting the system of that excellent charity—St Vincent de Paul Society—which distributed about £1,200 in the year in the manner in which he had described. The Guardians spent fifteen or sixteen hundred every year in out door relief, so that the difference was not much. From the report of the St Vincent de Paul Society it appeared that in 1878, 1,110 families were relieved, or 6,820 individuals. Three fourths were given in kind and one fourth in money. It was however a matter of detail as to how much relief they would give in kind or in money. He believed the new system would work well and very advantageously for the poor. All he asked for it, however, was a trial. He was speaking to one of the relieving officers, who said it would give him far less trouble to administer the relief in kind than in money.

Mr Cregan thoroughly approved of Mr Delmege's proposition. He believed it would work well.

The Chairman could not understand how the relieving officers would have less trouble in administering the relief in kind than in money.

Mr Hosford suggested the appointment of a committee to arrange as to the practical working of the system, and report to the Board.

Mr Nolan said that the St Vincent de Paul Society, when awarding 3s a week to a poor person, gave 2s 6d in kind and 6d in cash, and so on.

The resolution was unanimously passed and a committee appointed in accordance with Mr Hosford's suggestion.

The Clerk read a letter from the Veterinary Department stating that they could only pay half his (Mr Wilson's) remuneration for his services in connection with the Cattle Diseases Act from the 11th of March when the order of the Board of Guardians was made. The guardians intended that he should be paid from the 1st of Oct. last.

The Clerk was directed to write again to the department stating the circumstances, the guardians promising to pay their share of the remuneration from the 1st of October.

THE GRANT TO BARRINGTON'S HOSPITAL —POPULAR REJOICING.

Few events of late years produced so much public interest or enlisted more heartily the feeling and enthusiasm of the populace, and particularly of the working classes and the trades, than the recent vicissitudes through which a noble institution has passed. The people might have faults; they might have their likings and dislikings, antipathies and prejudices, but of one thing they cannot be accused, and that is ingratitude. When the fate of the hospital lay in the balance they thought but of one thing—of the incalculable benefits which for over half a century it had conferred on suffering humanity—of the incalculable injury which must result if the sphere of its usefulness were limited, or, as it might hap, totally removed. They rallied at once round the public benefactors, watched with jealous care the progress of the bitter opposition which was given, and hailed with delight the victory which had been won. Scarcely had the shades of darkness set in on Tuesday evening than busy crowds were observed passing in all directions, and ere an hour had passed the principal streets of the town were aglow with lighted tar barrels. They were placed opposite the residences of the following gentlemen who had particularly distinguished themselves by their advocacy of the grant—Mr James Spaight, J.P.; Alderman John Quin, Mr Robert Hunt, J.P.; Mr Michael Sellors, solicitor; Dr T G O'Sullivan, and also before the *Limerick Chronicle* Office, Town Hall, Barrington's Hospital, the offices of Messrs J. N. Russell and Sons, Mr Jas Alexander, Mr John Godsell, President of the Congregated Trades, and the Mechanics' Institute. The rooms of the Boherbuoy brass band, Edward-street, were brilliantly illuminated in honour of the triumph, and the band with an immense number of the working classes of the locality, headed by three lighted tar barrels, marched at half-past 7 o'clock to Bank Place where they were cordially received by Mr Godsell on behalf of the Trades. The united guilds of the Institute then turned out, the Mechanic's band also added to the harmony of the occasion, and with a fresh addition of tar barrels a mighty mass of men proceeded from Bank Place through Rutland street, Patrick street, and George street, where they halted before the residence of Mr Michael Sellors, and acknowledged his successful advocacy of their cause by a cheer that was loud and long. Resuming the march the procession passed the O'Connell Monument, went by the Military Road, Cologney street, Edward street, Nelson street, and back to Bank Place. The people subsequently marched round through William street (cheering lustily opposite the residence of Dr O'Sullivan) High street, Mungret street, Broad street, over Ball's Bridge, past the Hospital, and again reached Bank Place, where the vast crowd were addressed from the windows of the Mechanics' Institute.

Mr John Godsell, President of the Congregated Trades, having been introduced by James Kett, Secretary to the Institute, said that one of the most pleasing duties of his life devolved on him in announcing to the thousands, who were now listening to him, that a great victory had been achieved that day by the grant of £100 a year, which had been fixed by Judge Fitzgerald towards the support of that noble Institution—Barrington's Hospital which was standing opposite to where they had assembled to commemorate their triumph. The people when united were a power in themselves, and judging from their intelligence, and of the many opportunities afforded them of improving their minds, the power vested in them would not be abused, and he could say that the trades and working classes of Limerick should never be allied to anything which would reflect discredit on them (cheers). Those who opposed the Barrington's Hospital grant had shown themselves unworthy of representing any section of the people, and they should be excluded from all public boards. The hospital was essentially the working man's, and those who liked to take refuge in a Workhouse Hospital could do so, but he, for one, would sooner die than go there, and thousands were of the same opinion. It was false to say otherwise (cheers).

Mr William Abraham, who was greeted with much enthusiasm, said that the people of Limerick had much reason to rejoice at the victory attained that day, when the judge of assizes fixed the pesentment of £100 a year for the benefit of Barrington's Hospital. For some time the question had engaged the attention of the people of our city, and it was gratifying now to find that victory was on the side of the people. They should never forget the services rendered by those kind hearted gentlemen who, in rallying around the working men, had no earthly object in view, save the keeping open of an institution where an eminent staff of surgeons were giving their professional services to relieve the bodily sufferings of others. Their feelings had been respected and their wishes complied with, and now they might fairly say that Barrington's Hospital was placed on such a footing that its doors should never be closed against those who might have to seek admission (cheers)

Mr Cornelius Fitzgerald next came forward and was heartily cheered. He said—The demonstration this evening through the city, and the thousands who are now assembled before us, are convincing proofs that the fixing of the presentment of the grant made by the Corporation has met with the entire approval of the people of Limerick (cheers). Our opponents have not shown themselves to be truly wise in their persistent opposition to the wishes of the people, and we trust that they will in future try to aid in supporting an institution like Barrington's Hospital which the working classes are anxious should be maintained. They can, as I said on a previous occasion, contribute to make it even more effective than it has been, and I should be glad to find them doing so. Private contributions with the Corporation grant would materially aid towards the carrying out of this object. It has been stated that in the event of any accident or sudden illness happening to any one of us there should be no objection to our being conveyed in the workhouse vehicle to be treated in the Workhouse Hospital. But we emphatically declare that the working classes and others have an objection (hear, hear). And I am sure that, if our opponents had spoken out honestly, they would say that if they had received an accident they would prefer being treated in Barrington's Hospital than in the Workhouse Hospital (cheers).

The proceedings then terminated.

COUNTY PETTY SESSIONS.

The County Petty Sessions were held to-day, before Mr Hugh Massy (in the chair) Dr Murphy, Mr J C Delmege, Mr T F Sexton, Col. Maunsell, Mr F J McCarthy, RM, Mr T McSheehy, Mr Brown, and Mr J Vanderkiste. Mr McNamara, solicitor, applied that the case of Edmund Hayes against John Riely for assault and threatening language, be adjourned till next court day. He appeared for the defendant and the summons was only served on him yesterday. The application was granted. Michael Ryan, for being drunk while in charge of a horse and car on the public road at Newcastle, was fined ten shillings and costs. A like penalty was imposed on a man named Michael Sullivan, for a similar offence. A middle aged woman named Mary Ryan, was charged by Sub-constable Harold with being drunk and disorderly in the Lunatic Asylum on the evening of the 1st of March last. The constable stated Dr Courtney called him in and gave the accused in charge to him. He said she was disturbing the business of the establishment by her drunken conduct. He removed her. She was quiet when arrested. It was stated she was temporarily employed in the institution, and discharged. It having been stated it was her first offence, she was fined by a majority of the magistrates the sum of 2s 6d and costs. On the application of Mr M'Namara, solicitor, a case of the Guardians of the Limerick Union against an inmate of the workhouse for assault on the officials was adjourned until next court day, to enable the defendant's solicitor to summon witnesses. A married woman named Bessie Nash, for being drunk while in charge of an ass and cart on the Corkanree road, was fined 15s and costs. Three road contractors named Edward Monaghan, Patk. Hayes, and Edward Mahony, were summoned at the suit of Mr Fosbery, County Surveyor, for non-completion of their contract, in neglecting to keep the road at Mungret in repair. Mr Pierce, assistant to Mr Fosbery, attended, and stated that since the last court day much improvement had been made, but the work was not yet completed. It was decided to give the defendants a further week to complete their work. The Court were engaged for some time in the disposal of several cases of simple drunkenness, in which minimum fines were imposed.

INQUEST ON MR. JOHN JOSEPH FURLONG.

An inquest was held to-day by Mr Coroner DeCourcy on the remains of the late Mr John Joseph Furlong, apothecary and pharmaceutical chemist, George street.

The following jury were sworn:—Messrs James Fife (foreman), Willam Connery, Thomas Moloney, James Goodwin, George Boyd, Patrick Herbert, John Crouin, Michael O'Connell, C. Cromer, John Clune, James Sexton, William Wilson Vokes, James Delany, and Joseph Bennis.

Mr Thomas Furlong deposed—I saw the body of the deceased, John Joseph Furlong. I am a brother of the deceased, who is a native of Waterford; he was at Homan's Medical Hall for the last two years as an apothecary; he was about 32 years of age and unmarried; I don't know any circumstances whatever with regard to his death.

Mr William Lawlor deposed—I reside in this establishment; I know the deceased; I saw him last alive about a quarter to 12 on Tuesday night; He was in the dining room; there was no person with him; he was then sober; he did not complain of anything then; I left him in the room and went up to bed; I am residing in this establishment about eight months; I was an apprentice to the deceased; from my intercourse with him I was conversant with his habits; his mode of living for some time previous to his demise was regular.

To a Juror—I saw him under the influence of liquor a few times; the last time he was intoxicated was about four months ago.

To Head Constable Chalk—For two or three months previous to his death he was steady; he had not complained during that time of any illness except head ache, and a feeling of drowsiness generally after dinner; I saw the body of deceased; I searched his room afterwards; Mr. Abraham and Dr. Parker found a bottle in his bed; there was no label on it; irrespective of that bottle I saw nothing else in the room

To a Juror—There had been persons in the room before I went there.

To the Head Constable—I think it was prussic acid that was in the bottle; we have a bottle similar to it in the shop; he complained of suffering from sleeplessness; he occupied the room himself; he was in the office for about two hours before he went to bed; I do not know that he met with foul play at the hands of any person; he was not in the habit of taking medicines; I do not know that he was injured by any person.

To a Juror—When I wished him good night he returned the salute; I did not notice anything the matter with him then.

Margaret Sweeny deposed—I am servant in this house; I know the deceased; I saw him last alive about 10·30 on Tuesday night. 11th inst; on Wednesday morning at a quarter to 10 I called him but got no answer; I again called him and got no answer; I then opened the door, and from the appearance he presented I believed he was dead; sometime before he died his habits as far as I know were regular; I took care of his room; his room presented no signs of his having been drinking, except one porter bottle; he took a bottle of porter every night, but the bottle was uncorked on the morning in question; I don't know anything that would cause his death; I did not find any medicine bottle any time.

Edward H Wright deposed—I reside in this house; I knew the deceased; when I saw him last alive it was 8.30 in the evening. I saw him the morning he was discovered dead about 10.30; I sent for the doctors; for the last two months he was very regular in his habits; he was very quiet; he used stop up every night previous to his death until 11 or 12 o'clock; he never complained of ill-health; I never knew him to take medicine; I have not the slightest suspicion of his having met with foul play; no one could have any animosity towards him.

James McCarthy deposed—I am messenger to this establishment; he did not send me for any medicine previous to his death.

Dr Elmes deposed—I happened to be in Thomas-street yesterday morning about ten o'clock; Mr Wallace called me, and asked me to come in, as he thought Mr Furlong was dead; as I was entering the house I met Dr Bourke also entering; we both went into the bedroom where Mr Furlong lived; a single glance showed us that he was dead; however, we made a superficial examination of the body; we looked about the room; we saw nothing that would lead us to expect that his demise was other than a natural death; we saw an unopened bottle of porter beside the bed; there was nothing else to excite suspicion; the appearance of the body was extremely pale; the pupils of the eyes were dilated, but there was nothing uncommon in that; I knew nothing of the man previously as regarded his mind or body; death appeared, from what I saw, to be presumably a natural death; there was no external mark except what would occur after death.

To a Juror—I should think he was dead a few hours; there was no appearance of suffering.

Mr Lawlor was re-examined—I was sent for half an ounce of prussic acid to Laird's. We had to make up some things and it was for that purpose that it was bought. There was about a drachm used. It was by direction of the deceased that I was sent for it; it was about 11 o'clock at the time; about a drachm of it was used in making up prescriptions; the deceased could have used the remainder of it without my knowledge; it was not usual for apprentices to deal with poison; deceased might record these prescriptions on the book without my knowing it.

Mr Joseph Wheats deposed—I saw him take prussic acid several times in the workhouse, as he said for his stomach; I never saw him vomit; about five minims he used take; I knew him since September last; there was a large bottle of Cynide of Potassium which was in the shop gone.

Dr Bourke deposed—I was called on Wednesday morning last to see deceased; as I was entering I met Dr Elmes; I asked if deceased had been taking any medicine lately, or been complaining of any illness; I was told that he had a great tendency to sleep, and a gloomy taciturn state of mind, refusing to answer any question; he used drink nothing except a bottle of porter at night; there were no signs whatsoever of his having taken medicine. He appeared to have been suffering from a great depression of spirits.

Dr Parker deposed—I have known the deceased intimately for nearly three years; I have had almost daily communication with him in ordering prescriptions; I always considered him an intelligent man of business, but during the past year his habits underwent a remarkable change; I regretted very much to have found him in the establishment frequently under the influence of drink, but about December last he evidently became strictly sober and temperate; since that time he also became very gloomy and silent; I spoke to him very often about it, and tried to cheer him up, but all to no avail; the last time I saw him alive was on last Saturday, when he sent for me to consult me on a matter of business; although capable of transacting his business he was still sadly melancholy; I next saw him on Wednesday morning, dead; he was lying on his back; I examined his body very carefully; first, as to the state of his eyes, which were closed, but on elevating them there was a remarkable glistening appearance of the eyes which I had never seen before in any case of natural death; in addition the pupils were enormously dilated; the muscles of his body were entirely flaccid, and the right side of his body was maculat d all over. These four points evidenced that it was a clear case of poisoning; I made an examination of the room, and could see nothing but a bottle of porter; at a subsequent period of the day myself and Mr Abraham again visited the place; on searching the bed Mr Abraham found a cork, and immediately after a two ounce phial, with a small quantity of fluid; this fluid was composed of prussic acid and cynide of potassium; I dipped my finger into it and touched my tongue with the fluid, and I had four hours of intense headache; I went down with the deceased's apprentice, Mr Lawlor, to the shop, and asked him had he any prussic acid; he replied that he got two ounces yesterday, some of which was used in prescriptions; I then asked him for the bottle containing the remainder; he went to where it was usually kept, and found it was gone; I then asked him for the bottle containing the cynide of potassium, and that was also gone; from the appearance of the deceased it is my opinion that he was poisoned while in an unsound state of mind.

To a Juror—These chemicals are not as a remedy for producing sleep.

Mr Laird deposed—I am a chemist; my assistant sold Mr Lawlor on Tuesday morning last two ounces of prussic acid; I keep a record for the sale of poison for the general public, but not for professional men.

Mr Abraham—I have known the deceased for over two years; he was never under the influence of liquor to my knowledge; neither was he an immoderate drinker; on the contrary he was a very regular living young man; but I noticed since the Winter Assizes, held in Cork last December, he has been very melancholy, so much so that you could not by any means make him cheerful.

Dr Goggin gave corroborative evidence.

After some deliberation the jury returned a verdict—"That deceased died from a dose of poison while in an unsound state of mind."

CHEAP MEAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I should feel much obliged by your giving insertion to the following letter, which speaks for itself. How is it that we have no business man among us with sufficient enterprise to give to the public the advantage of the colossal importations of beef, bacon, and butter which daily pour into the United Kingdom? In Liverpool and London the householders are much better off than we are.—Yours faithfully,

A LARGE CONSUMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STANDARD.

SIR,—I am not now in the American trade, though I have sold largely of American provisions both in England and America for the English market. Perhaps tradesmen and consumers will feel interested in the remarks of a looker on.

Calculated in sterling, the cost of American produce, free in the Thames, is now as under, on through bills of lading from Chicago or Cincinnati—i.e., "cost freight and insurance":—

	Per lb.
Refined lard in buckets, not adulterated with water, as most English is	4d.
Long and short clear middles	2¾d.
Short rib in middles	2¾d.
Long rib and "Irish cut"	3d.
"Cumberland" bacon	2¾d.
Hams	3¼d.

If 20 per cent be added to those figures, I know, having had occasion to calculate for several large arbitrations, that will pay for landing charges, cartage, &c., and the loss in weight and trouble of either "Apale drying" or mild smoking.

The varieties above named are supplemented at similar figures by "Wiltshire," "Staffordshire," and "Yorkshire" cut bacon; "Irish," "Preston," and "Yorkshire" hams, &c. The import into England will this year not fall far short of the product of 3,000,000 pigs. What becomes of it? Allow me to say.

The bulk, carefully selected and dried in England and Ireland, becomes bacon of a British name, christened to suit the local market. I have sold hams at 40s per cwt, and after they have travelled to Ireland, the same hams have been resold in England at 96s as "Belfast hams," "Long rib" in the same way is transmuted into "Irish rolled" bacon. "Cumberland cut" has become "Farm fed," and the hams anything you please.

I have sold long clear middles at 32s 6d per cwt, and seen it cut up on a customer's counter, who kept "no Yankee rubbish," at 8d the pound in the precise same state in which I sold it. I doubt whether I ever knew a retailer who had the courage to sell the bacon under its real name. The reason was that the customer of the retailer would have it so; and, remarkable as it may be, were and are much more prone to judge an article by its brand than a real knowledge of the quality.

Some years ago I sold a customer a parcel of really prime Canadian butter at 8d per pound, and persuaded him to turn out one of the kegs of about 100lb., cut the butter in two, and put it on his counter, one half labelled "Canadian," at 8d, the other "Best Dairy" at 1s 6d. In a few hours the "Best Dairy" was gone and the "Canadian" untouched. The same experiment was tried with some "American" at 5d and "Home-cured" bacon at 10d, with the same result. The fact is, as I have heard the low class customer say, "could not be good because it was so cheap." As a rule, they are totally incapable of judging the quality until it is cooked. Hence, though the average shopkeeper would take a less profit, my experience has been that the public will not let him, and their own prejudice is to blame.

"Corn fed" bacon, by the best American packers, is as good as the average English bacon prepared in the English way, and it proves nothing more than carelessness or mischance that our tradesman buried some in his garden.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
BACON.

New Southgate, March 8.

THE WELLESLEY-BRIDGE TAX.

A deputation, consisting of Lord Emly, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P.; Mr Synan, M.P., and Mr Spaight, President of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, waited on Sir H Selwin-Ibbetson on yesterday for the purpose of asking a remission of a debt of £3,000, due on the Wellesley-bridge in Limerick.

Lord Emly introduced the subject, and stated the former proceedings as to the Harbour and Bridge, which occurred some twelve years ago.

Mr O'Shaughnessy, M P, read the Corporation memorial, to which the City Seal was attached, with the Mayor's signature. He explained some of the points referred to, and urged the remission of the tolls.

Mr Spaight, J P, next addressed their Lordships, and pointed out the works which the city had accomplished. He urged that the heavy interest already paid justified a remission of the claim, and pressed for the relief asked by the memorialists.

Mr Synan then spoke on the subject of the memorial, and held that the remission of the debt would be a gracious act on the part of their Lordships and which concerned so many of her Majesty's subjects.

Their Lordships promised to give the Memorial addressed them, every consideration, and to communicate their decision as soon as possible.

COUNTY CLARE INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
Kilrush, Wednesday.

KILRUSH PETTY SESSIONS.

These sessions were held on Monday, before Major Studdert, Mr Nicholas O'Gorman, and Mr Thomas Butler, R.M.

A shoemaker named Quinn, and one Driscoll, a sawyer, were brought up by the police on similar charges, being drunk and disorderly in the streets, refusing to leave Mr Casey's publichouse, and using obscene language to his wife.

Some of the charges were not substantiated to the satisfaction of the magistrates, but for the other offences the defendants were fined 10s each and costs.

At the prosecution of the Queen, a married woman named Keane was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for stealing a shawl from Patrick Cullinan, a haberdasher, in Kilrush.

BALLYVAUGHAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The guardians held their weekly meeting on Thursday the 6th instant—John H Christy, Esq, presiding.

Other guardians present were—Messrs. V. J. Skerrett, Fergus Curtin, Mortimer McCarthy, James Comyn, Patrick Davoren, and Michael Murphy.

State of the House—Number in house at commencement of week, 208; admitted since, 2; born 0; discharged, 3; died, 0; remaining in house at close of week, 207; general average cost, 2s 10d; average cost in hospital, 3s 7d. Cost of provisions and necessaries received, £38 5s 7d, ditto consumed, £30 15s 6d.

The board proceeded to consider tenders for the usual half-yearly supplies. The competition for the several articles was unusually keen, and the prices of the accepted articles are somewhat lower than those paid during the past half year. Mrs Bridget Comyn, of Ballyvaughan, secured the lion's share of the contracts. Her brandy, whiskey and wine, were pronounced by connoisseurs at the board to be very superior, and were finally accepted after undergoing a severe process of palatial and scientific testing. Mr O'Donohoe, of Ballyvaughan, was declared contractor for hardware.

The board adjourned at 4 o'clock p.m.

Ennis, Wednesday.

MEETING OF GUARDIANS.

Consequent upon the election of a Relieving Officer for Ennis, there was a very full attendance of the Guardians at Wednesday's meeting of the Board, numbering 23. The Right Hon Lord Inchiquin presided. For the office, the salary for which is £35, with £8 additional annual, for extra duties, there were six candidates, only four of whom were proposed and seconded. The usual graduation votes were taken, reducing the competition between two, Patrick Carmody and Michael Considine. The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Carmody, who was accordingly declared elected.

The Guardians unanimously adopted the petition sent down from the Dublin Temperance Association for early closing of public houses on Saturday night.

THE LAHINCH SEA WALL.

The remnants of the Lahinch Sea Wall, which have from time to time sustained damage by incoming waves and tremendous billows, is now completely washed away, and the village peasants such an appearance, that it is feared few frequenters of that long established favorite watering place will be again induced to visit it.

THE REPRESENTATION OF CLARE.

Considerable talk was in town to-day, consequent upon a report founded upon information, which originated through a respectable solicitor, to the effect that the Committee of the House of Commons had decided upon declaring the seat held by Sir Bryan O'Loghlen as representative for the County of Clare vacant, and that a new writ of election is to issue forthwith. Every where the intelligence spread was received with the greatest satisfaction. There are four candidates again in the field.

PATRICKSWELL PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY.

Before Captain Massey Westropp, in the chair, Mr McCarthy, R M, Doctor Murphy, and Mr P Spillane.

Sub Inspector Phillips was also in attendance.

Doctor Murphy summoned an old woman named Bridget Malone for possession of a house held by her husband as caretaker to him at Mungret.

Mr Dundon appeared for the defendant.

An order was made defendant to give up possession in 14 days.

LARCENY OF BOOTS.

Sub Constable Kirwin charged a woman named Hanora Guerin, and her son, Michael, aged nine years, with the larceny of a pair of boots the property of an old woman named Mary Fosbery, on the 7th inst.

The Constable proved to arresting the prisoners and to finding the boots in the possession of Michael Guerin.

Mary Fosbery identified the boots, which were produced, as her property.

The mother pleaded ignorance of the theft of her son.

The Bench ordered the son to be imprisoned in the County Limerick gaol for 14 days, and at the expiration of that period to be sent to reformatory for five years.

Adjourned.

The three-masted schooner Dove, Captain [illegible], from Pernambuco with a cargo of sugar, arrived in the harbour to-day. It appears that since the departure of the vessel from Pernambuco small pox broke out on board, and one man died. The remainder of the crew are convalescent. The captain states that smallpox was raging in Pernambuco before he sailed.

The proprietors of the Sydney Exhibition offer a prize of 100 guineas for the best [illegible] upon the Sydney International Exhibition. The competition is open to all British subjects.

LATEST

(SPECIAL TEL

THE ROYAL

One of the Press Associations at Windsor telegraphs that brilliantly fine. The town is and is profusely decorated with of welcome.

Metropolitan Police guard, while the 1st Berkshire Volun of honour at the Great Wes The band of the latter con through the streets. The have entered the Castle on g

Beautifully bright weather marriage at Windsor took with more than the anticipat Kiley played a magnificent procession moved slowly u George's Chapel; the Queen's and then the bridegroom's pr the bride with her retinue the being carried out precisely. T songs having been arrang the Lord Chamberlain and H the ceremony of the marriage the Archbishop of Canterbur prelates. Guns were fired in ing the ceremony and the churches pealed merrily. A fired at the same by a det Artillery in St James's Park, were fired by the different gar country.

The bride's costume was white blossoms.

The marriage ceremony wa usual manner, and when D thou, Prince Arthur, have thi wedded wife?"—he answered

The Princess's reply was no heard.

The service being over the Prince Frederick Charles, who the bridegroom.

The gorgeous procession th The crowd cheered the bride with extraordinary heartiness the chapel was brilliant in Maharajah Duleep Singh literally blazed with jewels. Teck wore green, and the Duc pink. The Queen was dres Tulle veil, surmounted by Beatrice attired in blue, and in light green.

The Crown Princess of Ger dress with pink head dress a room, supported by the P the Duke of Edinburgh, won uniform. The Princess of Wal firs all wore white and forme diately behind the Queen, Pri Prince Albert Victor. With o all the ladies caried magnifice

SNOW STORM IN S

An Aberdeen telegram sa has recommenced and severe blocked.

STORM WARN

The following cable message from New York at the Lond Ford *Herald*:—

"Depression will reach Norwegian coasts, probably Irish coasts, between the 16th north-west winds, gales, rain higher temperature; it will be north of 40 degrees until the

MISCELLAN

Mr Cowley will to-night as of the Admiralty if it be co sports Russia, France, En Spain have been prevented their voyage to the Cape in want of proper coaling facilit and why they were not coa directs.

Mr Edward Jenkins will to of the Government propose command in South Africa in

MONETA

Bank rate reduced to 2½ p

LIMERICK MARKETS—Th

BREADSTUFFS.—1st flour, 36s 0d to do, 33s 0d to 00s per do; extras, 34s 0d per do; No. 1 shds, 30s 0d to 00s 0d; 00s 0d; 3rds, 28s; bran, mix