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LIMERICK CHRONICLE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1899

Union has attained a most unhappy fate for corruption and mismanagement of every kind. Last Thursday Mr Justice did not use language stronger than that of the case justified when he naming up for the jury that "from Carrigahelt and along the line of the coast were bought and sold, and as far as the officials were concerned Kilrush Union was a pestilence." Bribery was carried on to the most unblushing description. The voters possessed votes never appear to be bought that a public and important trust was entrusted to them which they were bound to discharge to the best of their ability, and for the public good. They sold upon their vote as a commodity to the highest bidder. As Mr Justice described the state of affairs "there was to be a sort of Stock Exchange in the district where they had quotations at different prices every day. One time the votes were worth £30 and £40, and then up to £50, and the candidate retired and the votes came down to £50 to £40. He wondered that there was a local journal published in the district on the day of the election to give quotations were fluctuating, so that the guardians might better know the value of their votes." The business of the district have been active there during the election, and the corruption and disclosed is astonishing. A fact was disclosed that at a certain election no more than seven guardians received £30 each. As elections have been brisk much to suppose that some of the guardians found the sale of votes quite profitable to their usual means of making a living. It is to be hoped that the sentence of the court will put some check on this trade. What has been disclosed at Carrigahelt is only a small part of what was going on all over the district during this election. The parties seem to be ashamed, but they now learned that it was to reach the guilty parties, those who were bribed, as well as those who are bribed. The district will shortly be afforded the opportunity of clearing out of office all

reading, and there are also poetic contributions, anecdotes, etc. The conundrums and puzzles are very humorous, and examples of "hand shadows" will suggest many more finger pictures to an ingenious mind. A diary, specially contributed by a member of the Royal Society of Antiquarians, is given of Limerick in 1848.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE OF A FARMER.—Yesterday the dead body of a man named James Meers, a small farmer, about 70 years of age, was found by his son floating in a pond of water a short distance from his house, at Drummin, Darragh. The old man had gone to bed apparently in his usual spirits the previous evening, but his son, with whom he slept, missed him in the early hours of the following morning, and a search resulted in the finding of the body as described. The Coroner for the district, Mr F F Cullinan, solicitor, held an inquest yesterday, when a verdict of suicide while suffering from temporary insanity was returned.

DEATH OF MR E B LEAHY, CULLINA HOUSE.—The announcement of the death of this esteemed gentleman which took place at his residence, Cullina, yesterday, was received with feelings of profound sorrow by the people of all classes in Newcastle West and district. For many years his influence in the Estate office of the Devon property in Newcastle West, was exercised with due consideration for the tenants, while his action proved also best in the interests of the property under his control. The deceased gentleman also held the position of poor rate collector for the Western Division of Newcastle Union. His unassuming and genial disposition won him many hosts of friends. The sincerest sympathy is extended to Mrs Leahy and family by the people of the town and district in their great sorrow. The interment will take place at 1 o'clock to-morrow at the family vault, Churchtown.

THE HON J FFRENCH, R.M.—At Glin Petty Sessions, the magistrates presiding being Mr James Wolfe Flanagan, R.M. (in the chair), Mr Francis Fitzgerald, and Mr Stephen Pegum, Mr Fitzgerald proposed the following resolution:—"The justices presiding at Glin Petty Sessions on this day, having heard of the transfer to the district of Newcastle West of the Hon John Ffrench, R.M., are unwilling to allow him to depart without bearing testimony to the judicious, able, and impartial manner in which he discharged his duties during the lengthened period he was attached to this district. His relations with his brother magistrates were always of the most cordial and harmonious character, and he carried away with him their best wishes for his future happiness and prosperity." It was adopted unanimously. The magistrates directed that the resolution be entered on the court minute book, and that a copy be forwarded to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

DEATH OF MAJOR AUBREY O'BRIEN, CURRAGH CHASE.
We regret to learn of the death of Major Aubrey O'Brien, which occurred suddenly on Sunday, at his residence, Curragh Chase, County Limerick. Major O'Brien, who was brother to Mr R V O'Brien, Ballyalls, was for some years Adjutant of the Clare Militia, and his demise will be deeply regretted by many Clare friends. He was Resident Magistrate in the West of Ireland, but retired from the magistracy about six months ago on going to live at Curragh Chase. Major O'Brien was married to a daughter of General Wynne Royal Engineer.

may be nominated between the 2nd and 5th January, the papers not to be laid down five o'clock on the evening of the 5th. The latest hour for withdrawal of the papers in the evening of January the 6th. The arrangements for the elections will take place on the 10th, 1899. The following figures, showing the numbers on the Burgess Roll:—

Castle Ward	...	...
Abbey Ward	...	...
Iishtown Ward	...	...
Custom House Ward	...	...
Market Ward	...	...
Shannon Ward	...	...
Glentworth Ward	...	...
Dock Ward	...	...

ELECTION OF ALDERMEN

A few days ago two deputations to the Local Government Board in regard to the mode of electing Aldermen under the Government Act. One of the deputations, representing a committee of the Dublin Corporation, asked that the old system should be retained—viz, the holding of separate elections for the office of Alderman. The other deputation, representing labour bodies, asked that the new system should be adhered to—viz, the holding of the office of Alderman by the highest number of votes in the election. The decision of the Local Government Board has been communicated to the Corporation in a letter from Mr Thomas A. Moore, who in the course of the communication said: "I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that, having given consideration to the views expressed by the deputation, they have come to the conclusion that they must adhere to the provisions of the draft order regulating the election of Aldermen and Councillors in the several boroughs. The Board, while acknowledging that there is some force in the argument advanced by the gentlemen representing the Corporation, feel that in the interests of the Corporation and the people of the County of Dublin, they are not warranted in departing from the order as originally framed on November last."

THE RAILWAY AMALGAMATION

To-day, a further conference on the subject of Amalgamation was held at the Chamber of Commerce, between Mr Colhoun, Traffic Commissioner, the Great Southern and Western Railway, and the several Committees representing the Harbour Board, Chamber of Commerce, Traders' Association. The proceedings were private, it was decided to publish an official report later on to the public while in view of this decision we published an *ex parte* statement, which was misleading and unsatisfactory. It was noted by the Great Southern Committee that the bill introduced on the 21st inst. So far as the County of Limerick are concerned the committee of the matter will be well received by the opposition when the bill is brought before the select committee of the House of Commons.

SLIGO AND RAILWAY AMALGAMATION

The Sligo Harbour Commission met last week to consider the subject of Railway Amalgamation and decided to publish a report on the subject.