

again after the defendant assaulted him, and she made a complaint to him. He was examined by Mr. O'Malley, and Byrne said he considered it wrong to approach the couple, but he heard arguing on the bank that night, because he saw the woman was being pushed into the canal. He denied striking the defendant six times with the baton, but said that as a result of the assault he suffered a severe head and face injury. He agreed that the defendant was in leaving Limerick on the morning following the assault was quite openly done and should not be interpreted as an attempt to evade arrest. He understood the defendant was on his way back to his unit in the British Army when arrested at Maryboro'. This was the only evidence submitted by the State and the Justice considered it was not sufficient to convict the defendant on the charge of the assault on the woman, which he would accordingly

#### DEFENDANT EXAMINED.

The defendant, in evidence admitted that he was on the Canal Bank on the night of the assault. He had had some drink and was drunk. He confessed to the Garda's right to approach him on the occasion and told the Garda to go away with him. When the Garda told him to go away with him he took off his coat and defied the Garda to take him away. The Garda took out his baton and hit the defendant, who fell to the ground, and the Garda with him. After the Garda had struck him about five times with the baton, witness took it from him and ran away, leaving the woman with him. That night he threw the baton into the canal. As his leave was up next morning, he took the train for Wexford and was arrested at Maryboro'. Since then he received an extension of his leave was granted for a week on account of St. Patrick's Day.

He was examined by Inspector Browne who denied that he saw the woman on the mouth of the canal on the occasion of the assault on the defendant. He had no intention of pushing her into the canal as charged by Garda Byrne.

Inspector Griffin then made the defendant quoted at the outset and asked the Justice to take a serious view of the case.

Mr. O'Malley said that the defendant had seen much active service since he joined the British Army in 1941. He did not come to Limerick looking for trouble, as suggested by the State; in fact he had never previously been involved in a row with the subject matter of the charges. He (Mr. O'Malley) asked the Justice to take these facts into consideration, as well as the fact that the defendant was in custody for almost a week. He was willing to pay all expenses incurred in the case.

Inspector Griffin said he would be satisfied if the Justice adopted the course suggested by Mr. O'Malley. The Justice imposed a fine on the defendant of having assaulted the woman and a suspensory sentence on the defendant on the charge of the larceny of the

community by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

## FOUGHT WITH I.R.A

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### OVER 90 DAYS ON HUNGER STRIKE

Mr. Sean Hennessy, who died suddenly in Wexford, was a member of a well-known Limerick family, being son of Mr. Sean and Mrs. Hennessy, Carey's Road. Though his work took him from his native city some years ago, in 1918, he was assistant secretary of the Gaelic League in Limerick. He was prominently identified with the Anglo-Irish struggle, during which he was wounded in an ambush in Limerick, and was arrested by British forces. Imprisoned in Cork Jail, he was on hunger strike for 94 days there in 1920. He went to Wexford in 1923 as Irish teacher and organiser. Last year Mr. Hennessy was appointed organiser of dramatic art. He was also a teacher at Ring College. He was first District Leader of the L.D.F. in Co. Wexford. Former I.R.A. comrades formed a guard of honour at the funeral in Wexford. An oration at the graveside was delivered by Mr. T. D. Sinnott, County Manager. Widespread sympathy has been extended to Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hennessy on their sad loss.

## WOMAN DEAD

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### IN BURNING HOUSE

At 7.30 yesterday morning smoke was seen coming from the window of the drapery and stationery house of Annie Conlon, widow, Henry St., Kilrush, who lived alone. Sergeant Lawlor and a party of Gardai and the local Fire Brigade were immediately on the scene and the door was forced open.

They found the owner lying dead at the foot of the stairway.

It would appear that she fell downstairs when fleeing from her burning bedroom. The body was removed to the mortuary, where a post-mortem examination was held by Dr. Walsh and Dr. Coughlin. An inquest was not deemed necessary.

The Fire Brigade had the fire under control within a short time.

## R.A.F. 'PLANE CRASH

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### TWO DEATHS REPORTED

Our Dublin correspondent wires: At midnight last night a Royal Air Force Lancaster crashed into the sea off the County Antrim.

Some hours later four of the crew of nine were picked up, but two of them died in hospital from the effects of exposure.

British destroyers are carrying out a search for the missing members of the crew.

on which, compared with present costs, has been very reasonable. I am glad to know that contracts have been placed for the building of more municipal houses. If private builders are again getting into their stride. We all look forward to this policy being continued and intensified in the coming year. I would like to reiterate as far as possible all cleared spaces within the city boundary, should be built upon without delay. There are many of those sites and the Council should make their intentions known if they intend using them. Otherwise they should be made available for private building. Housing is a pressing necessity. The cleared spaces and derelict buildings are a disgrace to any regulated community and should be turned profitably to house-building, adding considerably to the rateable property of the city.

Much has been said and written on town planning. It is right that there should be well regulated thoroughfares and houses pleasing to the eye and with proper amenities, but the restriction of eight houses to the acre within city boundary does not add to the solution of housing for the working classes. Terrace buildings such as we have had in the past would mean lower building costs, warmer houses and more economical rents, with the convenience of proximity to the occupants. The old terrace houses have provided comfortable accommodation and were always appreciated by the tenants, so much so, that there are hundreds of applications when one becomes vacant.

#### "SERIOUS PROBLEMS."

I have referred year by year to the want of houses for the salaried classes and wage earners who are outside the scope of obtaining houses under special grants. In a city like Limerick, situated as it is in close proximity to one of the world's great airports, the demand for housing accommodation is beyond what is available, with the result that these very deserving people are absolutely unable to procure living accommodation at exorbitant prices. This state of affairs surely should be remedied.

The City Council has some serious problems confronting them. If you are aware, there is a proposal for very heavy expenditure on a new gas plant. I think that the members and the City Council as a whole acted very wisely in asking advice on this important matter from the Government. I am particularly concerned on this question. We have it on the authority of the Gas Engineer (Mr. Thomas) that our gas supply is in a very precarious position and some drastic action will have to be taken in the immediate future. The whole matter will require the unremitting attention of the City Council and the active interest of the citizens generally.

#### HOSPITALISATION QUESTIONS

Hospitalisation is another matter that closely concerns Limerick ratepayers, and I am of opinion that the Hospitals Trust should act generously towards the City