

In the distribution of old-age pensions has been entirely arranged within a very month, and according to present indications seems likely to work smoothly enough. Weekly payments cannot be managed, then a weekly arrangement would be an immense improvement upon the present method, and would be welcomed by everybody who has had experience in this matter.

Contempt of Court.

The Labour Party in the United States are beset with a genuine sensation in the offence passed on Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell, Morrison, who have been condemned by the Supreme Court to terms varying from six to twelve months' imprisonment. The situation is the same as if Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had been relegated in this country to corresponding terms of confinement—except that the ordinary process of judicial appeal in America is an open question whether any of the men will live long enough to undergo their punishment. The offence in question is that of contempt of Court, Messrs. Gompers and Co. being refused to conform with an injunction forbidding the enforcement of boycotting and picketing methods in connection with a trade dispute. The Labour leaders endeavoured to make this one of the test questions in the late elections, but failed to obtain any endorsement of their position from the electorate at large. It is important to know that the civilised opinion in America, as in this country relegated boycott to its proper place amongst the methods of barbarism.

Mark Twain's Latest.

Mark Twain has followed the example of the Duke of Plaza Toro and other distinguished personages by turning himself into a company. The capital is only £1,000, which seems small enough, but the principal at any rate is sound. The company is intended to take over all rights under the name of "Mark Twain," by which name Mr. Clemens is known throughout the human-civilised world, in order to secure future benefits to his family. Presumably, therefore, the public will not be allowed to come in, though there are plenty of innocents abroad, as well as in the United States, who would be delighted to have a share or two. Mark Twain, we believe, has always shared the natural resentment felt by other stars of literature against the law's failure to secure to their descendant's property rights similar to those which heredity confer. In the case of other things than literature and art, meanwhile the transformation of himself into a company will, it is to be hoped, provide him with one more congenial theme for extravagant

Old Moore's Prophecies.

Though Old Moore is apparently no believer in the aphorism, "never prophesy unless you can see it," he is not above prophesying occasionally with a certain certainty. He tells us, for we are, doubtless, included in his "millions of readers," that the wars and rumours of wars will be frequent in 1909. There is no year that does not produce its crop of rumours regarding impending wars, and, unfortunately, the years in which wars are not in evidence, are far too few. The prophet Moore is not, therefore, jeopardising his professional reputation until he tells us in advance to be prepared for wars and rumours of wars. The wars of the coming year are, however, it is well to know, to be of brief duration, for the Beer announces that 1909 will close with all the nations at peace. The aged Moore was

sense completed by the presence of a watchman as a central figure to preside over the proceedings.

IN THE WRONG SEATS.

A good story, which has the merit of truth, is going about the City of London. About eighty city publicans decided to make a protest at a meeting called in support of the Licensing Bill at Wesley's Chapel. They went in solemnly altogether, and instead of finding themselves in what they believed would be a political meeting, they were asked to join first in the singing of a hymn, then in prayer, and finally, after an address, in a collection. That was the last straw, and eighty publicans in the city have been unmercifully chaffed by their customers.

MARY ANDERSON ON MODERN PLAYS.

In an interview published in the "New York American," Miss Mary Anderson (Mme de Navarro) the celebrated actress, expresses the opinion that far too many morbid and unhealthy plays have been placed on the stage during recent years, and deploras the paucity of playwrights who inculcate healthy and optimistic views of life. She ranks Rostand as the foremost playwright of the day, and places Mr. J. M. Barrie, Mr. Stephen Phillips, and Mr. A. W. Pinero next in the order given.

OUT AND ABOUT.

The marriage arranged between the Robert Douglas Johnston, of the Hampshire Regiment, and Cecil Violet, youngest daughter of Sir Alvo and Lady Staw, will take place early in February.

Garryowen beat Constitution at Cork on the Mardyke grounds yesterday by a try to nil.

A labourer named William Fitzsimmons was returned for trial at the Dublin Police Court yesterday on a charge of having broken into a tobacconist's shop in Talbot street on Christmas Eve with intent to commit a felony.

The name of Mr. Michael O'Callaghan, who attended as one of the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, was inadvertently omitted from the list of those attending the funeral of the late Sir Thomas O'Levee, D.L.

Much regret is felt in the South of Ireland at the death at the age of 67, of Mr. Ignatius S. Kelly, which occurred on Saturday at Crosshaven. Deceased for a time was manager of the Cork branch of the Provincial Bank, where he became most popular because of his business qualities and genial manner.

On Christmas Day a young man named William Williamson, residing at Cullinstown, was admitted to Hospital suffering from a gunshot wound, which was accidentally inflicted. He had been treated by Mr. J. S. Gil, English House, who advised his removal to hospital.

THE CHURCH.

St. Mary's Cathedral.

Close of the year, Thursday, 31st December.—Special Service at 11 p.m.—(Opening Hymn, 90 (2nd version), Psalms, 149, Hopkins in O, 160 Humphreys in O; Nunc Dimitts. Garrett in D; Actæm, "In the Beginning," and "The Heaven's are Telling" (Haydn), Hymns, 506, 508. Preacher, The Dean.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY.

Christmas Day passed off very uneventfully in the city. The weather was of a most enjoyable character, and though the skies were grey and snowy-looking there was no break until St. Stephen's Day, when snow fell in large flakes. As is usually the case the great Festival was observed in the city churches of all denominations with ceremonies that partook of a special solemnity. In the various hospitals rules and regulations were dispensed with, so as to allow the patients whose lot it was to remain in these institutions at this season of festivity, "a good time." In Barrington's, St. John's, the County Infirmary, the Maternity, and Union Hospitals, everything possible was done to brighten the lives even for a short time of the sick and suffering ones. All the patients who could partake of it without harm to themselves were given plenty of Xmas fare and some sort of pleasant beverage suitable to their case and taste.

THE LATE SIR THOMAS H. CLEEVE, D.L.

REFERENCES AT HARBOUR BOARD.

Adjournment of Meeting.

Mr. James Ellis Goodbody presided at the fortnightly meeting of the Harbour Commissioners yesterday, which was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the late lamented Sir Thomas H. Cleeve, D.L.

The other members present were:—Messrs. J. N. Russell, J. H. Roche, J. P.; W. L. Stokes, and Alderman J. O'Brien; with Messrs. J. Boyd, secretary; H. V. Morony, engineer; J. Fitzmaurice, harbour master.

After the minutes had been read and signed, the Secretary said it became his melancholy duty to report the vacancy that existed on the Board by the death of Sir Thomas Cleeve. His death left a vacancy in the list of those members representing the harbour ratepayers. Sir Thomas Cleeve occupied a dual capacity on the Board inasmuch as he was a representative of the harbour ratepayers since 1890, and by reason of being President of the Chamber of Commerce he was an ex-officio member. As secretary it became his melancholy duty to report these circumstances to the Board. Sir Thomas was always an active member of the Board; he was on most of the special and all the general committees, and on these he did very good work. He (secretary) felt sure that the Board would miss his presence from amongst them. He was a good business man, and his loss would be felt by the entire commercial community of the city.

The Chairman said he had only to say that it would be the unanimous wish of the Board to adjourn out of respect for the memory of Sir Thomas Cleeve. He suggested that some member should propose a vote of condolence with Lady Cleeve and family.

Mr. Stokes said he had a melancholy duty to perform in proposing a vote of condolence with Lady Cleeve and family in the irreparable loss they had sustained. He had been intimately associated with the late Sir Thomas Cleeve for a long number of years, both in Public Boards and in various business capacities, and he could say a more thorough business man he never met. In addition Sir Thomas Cleeve was one of the most genial of men, and was always approachable. In everything appertaining to the welfare of the city he took a deep interest, and he (Mr. Stokes) felt sure that the citizens would recognise that the Harbour Board in particular had sustained a grievous loss by his demise. A vacancy had been created in their midst which it would not be easy to fill, and now that he had passed away he thought the least compliment they could pay his memory was to adjourn the meeting, and express their sympathy with his family in their bereavement. He then proposed the following resolution:—Resolved—"That we, the representatives of the Harbour Board at our usual meeting held on this date desire to place on record our sense of the deplorable loss sustained by this Board on the death of Sir Thomas Cleeve who had been so long and so honourably associated with same; the loss that this Board has sustained will be keenly felt, not alone by the commercial community of the city and county of Limerick but throughout the whole of the south of Ireland, where his industrial ability had been so eminently displayed; and we desire to tender to Lady Cleeve and every member of the family our sincere and most heartfelt sympathy with her and them in their sad bereavement."

Mr. Roche seconded the resolution, and said that every member of the Board would miss the genial presence of Sir Thomas Cleeve. The Board had certainly suffered a great loss by the death of such a worthy member.

The resolution was then put and carried in silence, and the Board adjourned.

FEARED CITY

FATALITY.

An old man named William Nicholson, an employe on the cleansing staff of the Corporation, has been missing from his home since Christmas Eve, and fears are entertained for his safety. He is reported to have been last seen alive about five o'clock in Thomondgate, and then to have gone in the direction of one of the river slips in the North Strand. The assumption is that while sweeping the steps he

HOWTH CLIFF

Sensational

Shortly before noon on Monday, the 15th inst., a man named Richard L. Lloyd, of the City Police, was seen in the body of a respectable dress in the Dodder River a short distance from Ballsbridge, Dublin. He had fallen out of the water and conveyed to London Bridge road, where a property found in a pocket of his coat—a linen handkerchief bearing the name "Earls." Later in the day the body was identified by Richard L. Lloyd, Adelaide Earls, his sister, who was present, and numbered, attempted to jump over the cliff at Howth. She was on that occasion by Mrs. Earls, who struggled to restrain her from jumping, but she stumbled over the rock and was killed.

Since then Mrs. Earls has been in the Highfield Lunatic Asylum, from which she mysteriously disappeared, and no trace of her whereabouts until her body was found in the river.

Mrs. Earls was 52 years of age when she died somewhat suddenly some time since then her mind was much affected, and she frequently expressed a wish

The Inquiry

This afternoon, Mr. Charles J. O'Connell, Coroner, held an inquest on the body of Adelaide Caroline Earls, who was found in the River Dodder, Dublin, on the 15th inst. The deceased lady was the wife of Mr. Hugh A. Earls, who died some time ago. She had been confined in the asylum of Dr. Eustace at Dublin, and had been in the institution since Christmas. Earls had been one of the Howth cliff tragedy on Monday last, when her sister lost her life.

Superintendent Grant, in the proceedings on behalf of the Coroner, Mr. Price, of the firm of Shannon and Co., solicitor, and Mr. Lloyd, brother-in-law of the deceased, were on the committee.

The Coroner, in opening the inquest, said that until quite recently Mrs. Earls was in the Howth cliff tragedy. It was conjectured how Mrs. Lloyd, the theory put forward for the death of this poor lady, Mrs. Earls, was somewhat unbinged on account of her husband, endeavoured to save her life. After that Mrs. Earls was in the care of two doctors, he believed of unsound mind, and was kept in the asylum kept by Dr. Eustace. The ordinary man in the world would have thought that she was perfectly sane, and that she would have wandered out, and been discovered on the previous day. She had been missing since a previous occasion she had been on her life. There was no doubt that this poor lady's death since the death of her husband, destroyed herself by drowning in the Howth tragedy she gave no one at the time credit, and the sequel would corroborate what she had stated. She had stated in-law had been at the top of the Hill of Howth, and gave credence to the story of the police, after the fullest investigation, that the story emanated from the mind of this unfortunate.

Mr. Richard Longfield Earls, and husband of the deceased, was killed in the Howth cliff tragedy. The Coroner, in the course of the proceedings, stated that Mrs. Earls, on the night of the Howth cliff tragedy, she was in the care of the Court of Lunacy, and a previous attempt had been made to save her life. Sergeant Michael Haughey, who was passing along the Dodder side the night of the Howth cliff tragedy, stated that he was passing along the river at twelve, when