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Spectator Gets Damages Against Limerick Soccer Club

A CORK man who visited Limerick for the first time happened to meet with head and finger injuries at the Limerick v. Cork Athletic soccer cup match at the Markets Field on the 11th March, 1951, when a shed collapsed. This was told to Judge Barra O Briain, S.C. in the Limerick Circuit Court to-day, when he heard about the invasion of the pitch on that occasion and the abandonment of the match, and had before him a claim by Michael Browne, 10 Hogan's Building, Cork, for £100 damages for personal injuries, brought against the Limerick Association Football Club and Sports Company, Ltd., in their capacity as occupiers of the ground on the occasion.

Mr. M. G. Lee, B.L. (instructed by Mr. M. J. C. Dempsey, solr.) was for the plaintiff and Mr. J. Kenney, B.L. (instructed by Messrs. M. Tynan and Co., solrs.) appeared for the defendant.

SPINE INJURY LEADS TO ACTION FOR DAMAGES

WHILE a young man was travelling from Scariff to Limerick last October in a lorry containing a load of timber, the load slipped with the result that the man sustained, as alleged, a dislocation of his spine. The injured man, Patrick Cronin, of Upper Coonagh, Limerick, brought a claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act against his employer, T. McInerney and Sons, Ltd., building contractors, housing scheme, Bailinacorra Weston, Limerick, before Judge Barra O Briain, S.C. in the Limerick Circuit Court to-day.

At Limerick In Co Irish

THE Limerick Council and controlled Union workers. This was strikingly extended an invitation affiliate. THE third annual general meeting of the Limerick Union held recently in the Catholic Institute Hall. Mr. J. McInerney, presided. Also present were the following: Mr. W. J. O'Sullivan (I.U.D.W.C.), Hon. Treasurer; P. J. O'Sullivan (I.T. & G. Secretary).

PLENTY ROOM ON THE GROUND

Continuing, witness said they were expecting 10,000 at the match in question and there was plenty room on the ground if everyone stayed in their positions. A small section of the Cork crowd got up on a wall in line with the shed and they moved up on the shed that way. He saw this happen 15 minutes before the match and he advised Stewards Kelly and Alta to tell these people to come down as it was dangerous. He saw some of them coming down but they went up again.

SUFFICIENT STEWARDS

Cross-examined, witness said that there were sufficient stewards and that it was not reasonable to expect that people would go up on the shed because they had not gone there before. He did not know whether the steward ordered the men off the shed because he was on the ground at the time.

DID NOT SEE THE DANGER

Cross-examined, witness said that it was his first time in Limerick. He agreed that, against the wall there was a narrow shed, and he agreed that it was not designed for people to be on it. The people on the shed got up before the match started and he did not hear any steward telling the people under the shed they ought to come out from under it.

START OF EXCITEMENT

Mrs. O'Mahony, Cork, told the Court that she was keen on soccer matches and was present at the match in question. The roof crashed at the time of the excitement of the penalty shot.

COLLAPSE OF LORRY

Patrick Cronin (22) gave evidence that he was a builder's labourer with the respondents. On the 1st October last he was travelling on a lorry carrying timber to Limerick, when they had a number of poles on it. He was sitting at the back of the lorry on the instruction of the "boss", when the load collapsed and fell on top of him and caused him certain injuries. He first thought that his back was broken. He was afterwards six weeks in Ennis hospital, and three weeks in the Co. Infirmary. He was paid the maximum compensation of 50s. per week up to the 11th April, 1952. At the moment he felt very weak in his back. When he lifts a bucket of water he gets weak. He was not now able to do work as a builder's labourer.

DOCTOR'S EVIDENCE

Dr. Tadhg Foley gave evidence of examining the applicant. He agreed that the applicant, when examined at the time, would not be able to do work with a pick and shovel. He would be fit for most work except bending. He considered that he should get massage treatment first.

FOR THE DEFENCE

Michael Tubridy, Secretary of the Limerick Club, gave evidence that the grounds were open at 1.30 p.m. on the occasion. He had 15 official stewards, together with the voluntary stewards from the junior clubs. They also had extra Garda's, seven in all and one plain clothes man. The shedding in question was on the Infirmary side.

FOR THE DEFENCE

Witness gave official figures of attendances at the Markets Field in recent years as follows: In 1946 600

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