

pensioners

was announced last night by the Minister for Transport Power, Mr. Childers, that he authorised C.I.E. to grant, on a gratia basis an increase of 10 per cent in the pensions of 1,900 pensioners who retired before January 1, 1963. The increase is effective to January 1 last.

The revised pension, together with the contributory old age pension, will bring the income of a single man or woman to £4 10s. 12d per week, and, in the case of a married man, to £7-2-6 per week, with effect from January 1. From January, the contributory old age pension will be increased by 7/8 per week for a single man or woman and by 15/8 per week for a married man.

The Mayor of Limerick, Mr. Jack Bourke, pictured presenting the Jack Bourke Cup to Mr. and Mrs. J. Downey, 13 Cedar Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick. Mr. and Mrs. Downey came first in the Kennedy Park annual tidy gardens competition.

Soccer star jailed for one month

JUSTICE M. DE BURCA warned at Limerick City Court yesterday that "players or spectators who misconduct themselves at these matches will receive prison sentences."

He was speaking in the case in which Kevin Blount, 25 Kylesmore Drive, Ballyfermot, Dublin — the Dundalk goalkeeper — pleaded not guilty to assaulting Limerick player-manager, Alan Fox, during the Limerick-Dundalk league game at the Markets Field on March 24. Blount, a former League of Ireland goalkeeper, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Recognizances of £50 were fixed in the event of an appeal. Sgt. Frank Cotter, Mary Street Station, said that he was on duty at the Markets Field on March 24. During the second half of the game, he saw Blount, the Dundalk goalkeeper, leave his goal and go up to the other end of the field.

"There was a disagreement between players of both sides. Blount struck somebody and the player fell," stated the Sergeant.

DISAGREEMENT

Det./Garda T. G. Keating, William Street Station, said that he was a spectator at the match. Midway through the second half there was a disagreement in the Limerick penalty area. He saw Blount walk the length of the pitch and go over to Alan Fox who was standing in the penalty area. "The referee was speaking to some players and had his back to Blount who was coming up-field," he stated.

Det./Garda T. G. Keating said that he did not see Blount strike Fox, but he saw the Limerick player-manager fall.

Garda Anthony Kiely, Mary Street Station, said that he saw Blount approach Alan Fox and strike him with his fist. Fox fell to the ground holding his head.

Garda Kiely thought that it was a deliberate act by the defendant.

Alan Fox, in evidence, said that he was not assaulted by Blount.

Inspector Donal S. Kavanagh, William Street Station, prosecuting, asked: "Are these Garda liars? Yes or no."

Alan Fox — "They are — as the question is put to me."

At this stage of the case, Jus-

tice de Burca asked Fox to leave the box.

Kevin Blount, the defendant, said that the game reached boiling point in the first-half. "At the interval, in the dressing-room we were instructed by the Dundalk coach to leave the pitch together if trouble started."

"When I saw the flare-up in the Limerick goalmouth I went up to leave the field with the players together," Blount explained.

When Inspector Kavanagh pointed out that the dressing-room was at his end of the field, Blount remarked: "It is better eleven players to leave together than one facing 400 people. There was no trouble when I was leaving the pitch."

Blount went on to say that when he went up to the other end of the pitch he said: "What's happened, Alan?" Fox replied: "Leave me alone." I asked captain Fran Brennan what was happening. He told me "Dundalk is getting a penalty. Get back to your goal. I went back to the goal."

Blount said that he did not strike Alan Fox. He could not say how he fell to the ground.

Justice M. de Burca said that it was clear from the Garda evidence that Blount assaulted Fox. "Alan Fox denies that. I could comment on this denial but I leave it as it stands," he said.

Justice de Burca said that he had no hesitation in accepting the evidence of the Garda. "I dislike the way the defendant met the case and I dislike the evidence of Mr. Fox."

Imposing a one month's sentence on Blount, Justice de Burca ordered that the papers be sent to the Attorney General in respect of Fox's evidence.

Telegram

Ald. S. Coughlan, T.D., has sent a telegram to the Minister for Labour asking him to intervene in the dispute affecting employees of Avery Scales.

Ald. Coughlan states that the dispute is causing hardship to hospitals and other essential institutions.

'Help Us' plea to Aer Lingus

Aer Lingus has sent a message of support to Czechoslovakian Airlines in reply to an appeal received yesterday.

The Aer Lingus message read: "Dear friends, the civil aviation branch employees of Aer Lingus Irish Airlines abhor the ruthless rape of Czechoslovakian sovereignty by the armies of the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany."

"Irish anger widespread. Will do all possible to assist return of freedom to Czechoslovakia."

The Czech message read:

"Dear friends, employees of Czechoslovak Airlines urgently request you for immediate help. Our country is occupied against the will of our people and legal government by the enemy armies of Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and German Democratic Republic."

"Our citizens are being killed, our culture and monuments are being destroyed, and there are even signs of looting. Please help us to keep our freedom. Please inform your government and all your working people to organise actions for support of occupied Czechoslovakia."

The message was signed: "Working people of Czechoslovak Airlines."

Given Canadian films

The Canadian Embassy in Dublin has deposited ten films with the National Film Institute of Ireland. One film deals with new techniques in education and others deal with the changing way of life in Canada. The films are suitable for the school room, particularly for the geography classes.

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The SECRETARY of the Garda Representative Jack Murrinan, said he rejected any suggestion that a man's pay should be absolutely with that.

He called for an inquiry to be set up to establish what an equitable rate of pay for Garda should be.

He was giving his opinion on the acceptance of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire men of the Labour commendation giving parity with Gardai. He had not had an opportunity to consult with his colleague the Representative.

In his statement, he said the firemen are satisfied with their pay increase. He said he was glad they got an increase in pay. He said, however, he utterly rejected the suggestion that fire should be tied absolutely to that of Gardai. If the details are correct, they are now to be paid considerably above the Gardai.

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