Weekly Observer

Circulates in the Counties of Limerick, Cork and Kerry.

Vol. 3. No. 19. (Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper) NEWCASTLE WEST, DECEMBER 23, 1916. PRICE ONE PENNY

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TRY IT ONCE AND YOU WILL HAVE IT AGAIN.

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Ladies' and Children's Coats, Corsets, Underclothing, Millinery, Furs, Gloves, Stockings, Umbrellas, Overalls, Dress Materials, Costumes.
A Huge Stock of Neck Wear and Blouses.
Gent's Suitings, Serges, Whip Cords. Best Class Goods. Caps, in the newest shapes and colors. Collars, Ties, Mufflers, Cardigan Jackets, Jerseys, Vests, Drawers, Shirts, Socks, Braces.
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500 Pairs Cork-made Blankets, pre-War Prices. Best Class Boots and Shoes.
When in Town call and See the Bargains.
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Barley Meal Sediment.

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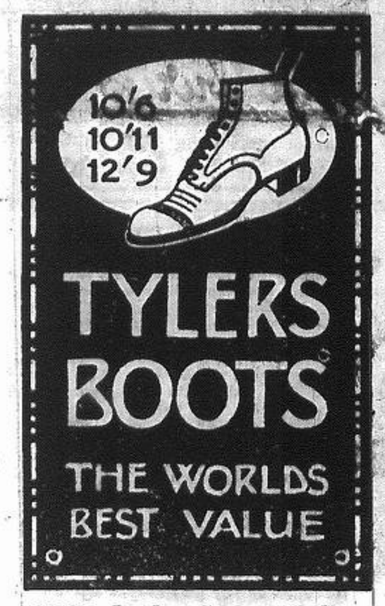

29-30, Bridge Street, Tralee,
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HAVE YOU A HOUSE, FARM, LIVE STOCK, MEADOWING, OR FURNITURE,
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Auctioneer,
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TAILORING.

The Scissors makes the man when handled by an expert hand such as
LACY, NEWCASTLE WEST.

Grand
Winter Display
This Week.

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COSTUMES, MILLINERY, FUR COATS. **ALL NEW GOODS** BLOUSES, HOSIERY, FURS.
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ALL WORK GUARANTEED.
TERMS MODERATE.
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☞ All orders promptly attended to.
The contract for the Newcastle West Board of Guardians of 100 Tons Best Orrell Coal was secured by this firm.

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Newcastle West.

Wheaten Flour

NOW IN STOCK.
WE SEND BY RAIL TO ANY STATION.

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WITH LEAST POSSIBLE DELAY.
See Our Samples of Flour.
Observe Our Returns.
COME ONCE! COME ALWAYS!

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CALL AND SEE SAMPLES FOR YOURSELVES,
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Now a Big Stock of this High Quality.
Also Best Orrell and Range Coal.
Prices and Quality Right.

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Latest Styles in Fancy Haircutting.
Hollow-Ground Razors, 4/- and 5/-.
American Safety Razors (12 Blades), 5/6 each.
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Ladies own Combings made up in Tails or Plaits.
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CLOCKS OF ALL KINDS. GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY. SOLID GOLD WEDDING & KEEPER RINGS.
A Large Variety of Suitable Presents. Repairs of all kinds guaranteed. Specialities—Pivoting, Staff-turning, Jewelling, Hard Soldering, and Case Jobs. All Executed on the Premises.
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WATCHMAKERS, JEWELLERS & OPTICIANS,
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COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Scheme to Encourage the Planting of
Apple Trees.

The County Limerick Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction have set aside the sum of
£100
to assist Persons to purchase Apple Trees for Planting.

The Apple Trees will be supplied at Half the Original Price to (1) Farmers whose total Valuation does not exceed £15, and (2) Labourers. Farmers and others whose Valuation exceeds £15 will be supplied with trees at Cost Price.
The apple trees are to be four years old, of the best description, both eating and cooking varieties.
Persons requiring apple trees under the above Scheme should apply to the undersigned, from whom Forms of Application for Trees and further particulars may be obtained.
T. A. HARTIGAN, Secretary,
County Committee of Agriculture,
82 O'Connell Street, Limerick.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

County Limerick Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

Farmers and Cottiers, your Duty, in your own Interests, Demands More
Home Grown Crops.

The above Committee desire to bring under the notice of Farmers and Cottiers in the County the Urgent Necessity for Increased Tillage. The time has come when you cannot, or should not, depend upon Imported Foods. See at once about Seed for Potatoes, Wheat, Oats, Catch Crops, etc., and
TILL MORE LAND.
T. A. HARTIGAN, Secretary,
County Limerick Committee of Agriculture.

Support Home Industry.

Largest Stock in Ireland. Hired Sacks, Rick Covers, Cart Covers, Binder Covers, Tents and Marquees.
Special Terms for Large Hirers.
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No fees or Beforehand Charges are made, and no Railway Fares.
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FUNDS EXCEED £7,500,000.
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Manager for Ireland.

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Festive Fables by Film Favourites

CHRISTMAS TWINKLES FROM THE STARS.

DON'T BITE YOUR NAILS!

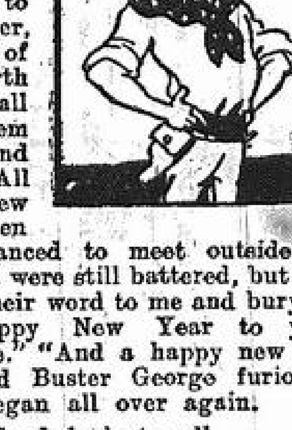
The funniest story I can remember that is applicable to this page concerns my dear old friend the late John Bunny. He was exceedingly fond of children, and at Christmas-time it was his invariable custom to give a merry party for the entertainment of his young friends. He himself would dress up and amuse them in his own inimitable manner, and his parties were the jolliest imaginable. On one occasion a little boy attended who had been warned by his nurse of the dreadful punishment he would suffer if he persisted in biting his nails. "You'll swell out like an air-balloon," she told him. At the party, while the others were shrieking with delight at Bunny's antics, the little fellow regarded him seriously and thoughtfully. "Well, sonny, what's the matter?" inquired the genial host at the conclusion of his turn. His small guest regarded him intently for a moment. Then he exclaimed, "My word, I guess you must bite your nails a lot!"

All good wishes,

Florence Turner.

WHY THE QUARREL RE-STARTED.

I used to have in my stock company at Chicago two of the queerest cusses you ever set eyes on. They were a couple of cowboys called, respectively, Red Jake and Buster George. Though they were general favourites with everybody else, for some reason they loathed one another, and rarely met without coming to blows, as the battered state of their countenances continually testified. Last Christmas Day, following a particularly savage encounter between them, I managed to bring them together, and in the spirit of "goodwill on earth and peace to all men," induced them to shake hands and become friends. All went well until New Year's Day. Then the two men chanced to meet outside the studio. Their faces were still battered, but they resolved to keep their word to me and bury the hatchet. "A happy New Year to you," grunted Red Jake. "And a happy new nose to you!" shouted Buster George furiously. Then the feud began all over again.



Good luck to all,

G. M. Anderson

(Broncho Billy.)

WHY THEY WERE STRONG.

The "picture" story I like best is that concerning a small relative of mine, who on being taken by her mother to a matinee of the Cherry Kearton African pictures, remarked, after some scenes illustrating the customs of a savage tribe: "Mummy, those black men must be very strong." "Why dear?" asked her mother, and was startled to receive the reply, "Why, mummy, didn't you read in the description that when they beat their tum-tums they could be heard for miles?"

Yours very sincerely,

Alma Taylor

A FEATHERED CHAPLIN.

This is the true story of Lottie, the Essanay turkey, whom, had not an attack of appendicitis hurried her off to a premature grave, you would have seen supporting me in one of my comedies. She was a most affectionate and intelligent bird, and the manner in which, under my tuition, she managed to pick up the "Chaplin" walk, was really amazing. She proved exceedingly useful, too, as a means of keeping the artists, in interior scenes, within the focus-limit of the camera. At each production at the Los Angeles studio, Lottie might be observed pacing up and down the line which was chalked on the floor to indicate the exact scope of action. Should an actor forgetfully trespass over the line, Lottie, with a gentle peck on the socks, instantly reminded him without disturbing the action of the film or disconcerting the other players. The week before Christmas Day last, Lottie became exceedingly depressed, and took to neglecting her food and to moping about on one leg in odd corners of the studio. One afternoon she was missing altogether, and was finally discovered in Miss Edna Purviance's dressing-room, trying to make up as a canary! It turned out that the poor creature's depression was entirely due to the proximity of Christmas and the consequent fear that she might be called upon to play the principal part in a Christmas tragedy of real life instead of in a comedy of reel life. I had to endorse her contract that she would not be required to play tragic rôles of any kind before I could induce her to resume her normal serenity, and she moped for days afterwards.

Thine cheerily,

Chas Chaplin

HOW I BECAME ENGAGED.

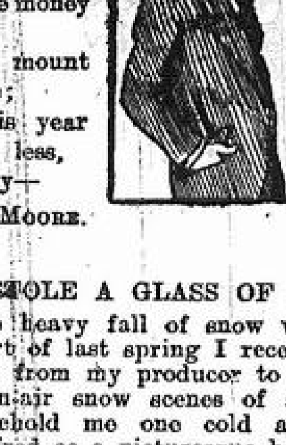
I am afraid I don't know any Christmas stories—at least, not new ones, and I am not going to inflict any chestnuts on you. But, as Christmas is the season of kisses, it may not be out of place if I tell you how I became engaged to my husband, whom you know as Owen Moore. It was in the days when we both used to play for the old A.B. Company. I had been with it some little time before Mr. Moore joined; but, as we happened to be cast for the leading parts in the films, in which we both acted, we were thrown a good deal into each other's society, and became naturally very friendly. In fact Owen became very attentive, and—but I am getting on a little too quickly. At last we acted together in a picture in which Owen had to play the part of a bad-tempered young husband, while I portrayed the long-suffering wife. In one scene he had to smash crockery and behave in a very violent manner to me, and he did this so realistically that, after the scene had been filmed, I chaffingly said to him, "I hope when you're married, Mr. Moore, you won't really treat your wife so brutally." "If I was lucky enough to have you for my wife in reality, little girl," he answered, "I would not, because I could not." And then he said several other nice things, which I don't propose to tell anyone. But he kept his word, for we've been married now for over three years, and he hasn't thrashed me once. And now it's his turn to tell you a story.—With all kind thoughts,

Mary Pickford.

A CHRISTMAS POEM.

Mary has "sprung" this on me at the last moment, and I have not got a story ready. So I'll perpetrate a little poem for you. Here goes:

When Christmas comes the money goes
And bills mount up galore;
May you this year be owing less,
Yours truly—
OWEN MOORE.



HOW I STOLE A GLASS OF MILK.

During the heavy fall of snow we had in the early part of last spring I received a sudden summons from my producer to take part in some open-air snow scenes of a picture. Therefore, behold me one cold and frosty morning, attired as a picturesque beggar-girl, half-fainting in the snow in a secluded lane not a hundred miles from Esher. This brief scene was successfully filmed, and the producer and camera-man then jumped in the car and proceeded three or four hundred yards further on to arrange the focus for the next scene. The other artists accompanied them, but I preferred to stand for a few moments and gaze at the lovely view, for the part we had motored to looked most exquisite in its winter clothes. I was aroused from my contemplation by a hearty country voice near me, which said: "Eh, but the poor young thing looks half-famished. Come with me, dearie, and if I can't find a sup of something hot to warm you may I come to want the same myself."

Turning, I beheld a rosy-cheeked country-woman of middle age, who stood regarding me with the most kindly and pitying smile imaginable. And no wonder, for I must have looked in the last stage of destitution! My feet showed through my ragged boots, my faded skirt hung in tatters, and my shockingly-battered hat would have disgraced the least fastidious of scarecrows. My whitened face and tousled hair completed the tout ensemble of picturesque misery. The old lady's invitation was so hearty that I was unable to refuse it, and so, without a word, I followed her to the door of her cottage, fifty yards away. She brought out to me a glass of warm delicious milk, and I had only just swallowed this when my friends dashed up in the magnificent motor-car.

"The place we have been looking at is no good at all," cried the producer, springing out. "We'll do the scene lower down the road. Quick, jump in, Miss Balfour."

Before I could explain to the old lady or even utter a word of thanks, the producer had whisked me into the car, and we sped away, leaving my kind new friend staring in helpless amazement.

Wishing you the Season's Greetings,
Yours very sincerely,

Eve Balfour

IN THE SAME LINE OF BUSINESS.

The following story relates to a true incident that happened to myself last Christmastide, and I venture to think it rather amusing. I am a Southerner, as you may have heard, and so at Christmas I took the opportunity of a short vacation to run home and see old friends. At various parties I met old acquaintances whom I had not seen for many years, but who nevertheless had frequently seen me—on the screen. That is, most of them. One chap, however, who, judging by appearances, was not altogether prosperous in life, had never heard of me in connection with my "picture" work, and in the course of conversation he asked me what my particular vocation was. "Moving pictures," I replied laconically. "Gee! I guess I am nearly in the same line myself," said my friend. "What is that?" I asked, and was very surprised when he answered, "Moving pianos."

Hoping we shall soon meet again in your favourite picture palace.

Henry B Walthall

"THE ONLY CHAP WHO'D FIGHT!"

I am afraid I don't know any good "picture" stories applicable to Christmas. But the following incident, which happened at a trade show held at a Manchester kinema, where a friend of mine was manager, strikes me as being exceedingly humorous. At most performances of this kind considerable annoyance is caused by people without tickets, who have no connection with the film industry, but who wish to come in for a free show, and sometimes contrive to slip past the doorman. The manager of the theatre in question, in order to strictly limit admission to those who had tickets, instructed his brawny new doorman to challenge every person who presented himself. A few minutes after the doors were opened the manager heard a scuffling in the vestibule, and, running down, found his official wrestling furiously with a stalwart member of the trade. He pulled his man away and asked the meaning of his behaviour. Judge of his astonishment when the doorman replied: "You told me to challenge everyone, sir, and I did; but this is the only chap who would fight!"

The best and brightest Christmas to you.

Charles Rock

TAKEN FOR A SPY!

I don't know a good "picture" story about Christmas, but, as it is a woman's prerogative to be contrary, I'm going to tell you instead about a very remarkable experience I had last summer. I was taking part in some scenes for "The Mother," by Eden Phillpotts, which were being filmed on Dartmoor, the company having gone down there specially for the production.

We put up at an excellent hotel, and the next day commenced operations. Judge of our surprise when the attitude of some curious natives began to get decidedly hostile. Stones began to fly, and at last we had to give up that day's work as hopeless.

The next day we learnt the reason of this reception — we had been taken for spies!

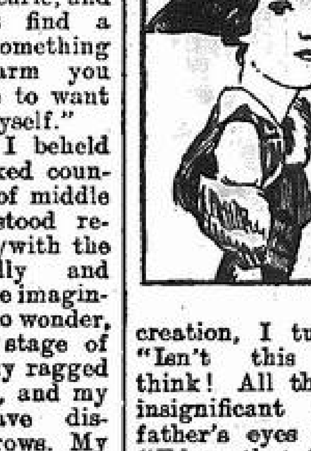
It was with the help of a more intelligent villager that at last our object on Dartmoor was made clear, but we had a difficult task in explaining to him the workings of the camera; and when we told him there were such things as moving pictures he did not believe us.

I send you my love and best wishes for a very cheerful Christmas.

Elizabeth Risdon

THE "WORM" TURNED!

I have always been fond of pretty clothes, and long before I had gained the reputation so kindly given to me by the public of being "the best-dressed girl on the screen," my principal hobby was fashions. I well remember the delight I experienced when my first ball dress arrived. It was during the Christmas holidays, and I was a flapper then who had just left college. I was rather proud of the knowledge I had acquired there, and, after admiring the beautiful creation, I turned to my parents and said, "Isn't this perfectly scrumptious Just think! All this silk came from a poor little insignificant worm." My hard-working father's eyes twinkled, and then he said, "Edna, that is not the way to refer to your father."



Hearty greetings to all picture-goers this season.

Edna Mayo

When is a young lady in the sulks like a pigeon?—When she is a pouter.

When is it perfectly right to rejoice in the fall of our best friend?—When bread falls—in price.

How can we make vinegar instantaneously?—Praise one young lady to another.

Why is it unnecessary for pastrycooks to advertise?—Because most of their goods are puffs in themselves.

Why is there no resemblance between a mathematical circle and an extravagant wife's expenditure?—Because you can never square either.

Why are the majority of public companies like clocks?—Because they are formed to be wound up.

What is the difference between a clock and a public company?—A clock, when it is wound up, will go again as well as ever; a company, when wound up, goes again never.

Which are the most inquisitive rivers?—The Wye, the Wen, and the Ware.

Why is a dancing-master like a tree?—Because of his bows (boughs).

Why is a blacksmith the most unsatifactory among workmen?—Because he is always striking for wages.

What must one do to make a fire thoroughly hot?—Keep it thoroughly coaled.

Why is an empty purse expressive of constancy?—Because you find no change in it.

Why should one never tell a man to take a back seat?—Because he is sure to take affront.

Why would an owl be offended at you calling him a pheasant?—Because you would be making game of him.

What curious fact is connected with the game of single-stick?—It takes two people and two sticks to play it.

What is the best definition of a good wife?—One who always takes care to have herself and her dinners nicely dressed.

Why were the Russians at the siege of Sebastopol good tailors?—Because, although the bombardment went on continually, the breaches were always repaired immediately.

What implement of war does kissing the wrong party resemble?—A blunder-buss.

What part of speech is "kissing"?—A conjunction.

Why is a man who always carries a watch about certain to fail to be punctual in keeping his appointments?—Because he is always behind his time.

LIFE IN NEW GUINEA.

The natives of New Guinea are among some of the most primitive left on earth. Some of their villages consist almost entirely of little houses built high up in the trees and palms that abound in that country. The little houses are neatly made with sloping roofs. They are chiefly constructed of wood, rushes, and leaves, and are entered by ladders, made from wood fibre and twisted grass. As a safeguard, when the last of the family has returned home for the night, the ladder is drawn up. Their domestic utensils are of the most primitive kind, being either of stone or wood, and as few in number as possible. Their weapons consist chiefly of bows and arrows and spears, some of which are still tipped with stone or flint heads, as some of the natives have not yet got beyond the stone age. But they are learning. Some of their ancient weapons show that at one time they must have come in contact with more civilised men, because their weapons were tipped with bronze and iron. But the use of these metals became a lost art. The New Guinea native is an extraordinary adept with stone slings. Some of them who live in the most remote parts are terrified of wind, thunder, and rain, and do all sorts of things to "appease the devil gods" whom they suppose are responsible for the storms.

FACTS ABOUT MUSK.

The musk of commerce comes, for the greater part, from Tachienlu, a town in China that is known as the "Gateway to Tibet." Three thousand pounds of this odoriferous substance is exported annually. The bulk of it goes to France, where it is used in manufacturing perfumery. Musk is an essential ingredient of almost all perfumes. Musk has certain radioactive properties that cause the odour of the perfume to be carried through the air in a very extraordinary way. The radioactive property of musk affects the natives who carry it to market very strangely. If a package of musk is held close to the body for any length of time it produces sores that are similar in character to those caused by pure radium. Musk is obtained from a sort of gland, or pouch, of the male musk deer, and it is secreted only during certain seasons of the year. The musk deer is a small animal, seldom more than three feet long and twenty-two inches in height. It is becoming more and more scarce every year, and at the present rate will eventually become extinct.

'LINSEED COMPOUND' for Coughs and Colds. Of proven efficacy. 9½d., 1/1½., 2/9. Chemists only.

A man told the Shoreditch Tribunal that if there was to be more than one hour's drilling in the V.T.C. he would rather turn the job up and join the Army.

A nurseryman at Camberley Tribunal said one British firm had received an order from America for 765,000 rose trees—an order that formerly went to Germany.

'LINSEED COMPOUND' is a good Cough Mixture. Effective and Economical. Of Chemists only.

A seaman summoned at Liverpool for failing to join a transport pleaded that no one would have him because he was a "regular Jonah." He has been in four shipwrecks and three torpedoings, has three times been injured at sea, and several times forced to relinquish his berth because of his shipmates' superstitious dread of his ill luck.

Cadbury's
ABSOLUTELY PURE THEREFORE BEST
Cocoa

EATERS OF BOOKS.

To literally digest a book is an accomplishment which few can boast of having performed. Nevertheless, a good deal of literature has been destroyed in this way at one time or another. Barnabo Visconti compelled two papal delegates to eat the bull of excommunication which they had brought him, together with its silken cords and leaden seal. As the bull was written on parchment, it was all the more difficult to digest. A similar anecdote is related of an Austrian general, who had signed a note for 2,000 florins, and, when it fell due, compelled his creditors to eat it. A Scandinavian writer, the author of a political book, was compelled to choose between being beheaded or eating his manuscript boiled in broth. Isaac Volmar, who wrote some satires against Bernard, Duke of Saxony, was not allowed the courtesy of the kitchen, but was forced to swallow them uncooked. Still worse was the fate of Philip Oldenburger, a jurist of great renown, who was condemned not only to eat a pamphlet of his writing, but also to be flogged during his repast.

CATARRHAL COLDS.

Retired Nurse and Soldier Son
Cured by
VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

Mrs. Cheeseman, 64, Blackstock-road, Finsbury, London, N., says:—"Having been a professional nurse I know the value of a reliable medicine like Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. I cured myself of catarrh with Veno's, and my son Gordon, now away soldiering, has also benefited greatly from its use. He is subject to nasal catarrh, but Veno's always keeps him well."

Trust Veno's to cure coughs, colds, catarrh, asthma, bronchitis, influenza, and whooping cough. Prices, 11½d., 1s. 3d., and 3s., everywhere.

WONDERFUL SEA-WEEDS.

Very large masses of seaweed are to be found floating about the oceans, especially in the Sargasso Sea, a huge expanse of ocean in the North Atlantic. That sea-plant which is known as gulf-weed is buoyed up by stalky floats resembling berries. These little bulbs are filled with air. A very large brown sea-weed which has been dragged up from the depths of tropical seas has been found to contain huge strands from three to four hundred feet in length. The stoutly-built, forking red sea-weed often found on our own coasts is quite edible. In Scotland one sometimes sees it for sale, and in Wales it is sometimes used by the poor folk and mixed up with dough and baked into a sort of bread.

'LINSEED COMPOUND' (Aniseed, Senega, Squill, Tolu, &c.). For Coughs and Colds, Influenza, etc.

Thomas T. Peters, of Ranelagh-avenue, Barnes, was fined £2 at Mortlake for refusing to receive soldiers billeted on him. He said that his wife was ill, and he had to take her away for change of air, and therefore shut up his house

'LINSEED COMPOUND' for Coughs, Colds, and Bronchial troubles. 9½d., 1/1½., 2/9. Of Chemists.

Sergeant Harold Chisnall, an old Ormskirk Boy Scout, who recently gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Military Medal, and the Russian Order of St. George, has been presented with a luminous wristlet silver watch and a number of Exchequer bonds, in recognition of the distinction he had gained.

IN THE POULTRY YARD.

By COCKCROW.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

The New Year is now almost with us. A few more days and 1916 will have passed away. With the coming of the New Year great resolutions in all directions by all people will undoubtedly be made. Poultry-keepers are among the people who should form resolutions and abide by them. Their resolve should be to give greater attention to their stock than they have ever given before. When you make a resolution, stick to it; not do as so many people do—keep to it for the first week of the New Year and then slip back into the old groove. Perseverance will bring its reward in due course, and all poultry-keepers should remember this. If you resolve to give closer attention to your birds it is just as likely that there is some point on which you will need enlightenment. Should that point be included in the hints dealt with below, so well and good, but should it not be included, write and ask for the hint you wish to know.

PROVIDE A DUST-BATH. A dust-bath is an absolute necessity for birds. It is as necessary for birds as soap and water is for human flesh. The fowls, by shaking the dust into their plumage and bringing it into contact with their skins, get rid of insect vermin and cool the surface of their bodies, thereby destroying feverishness and irritation. If you have ever watched fowls in a heap of dry dust, you must have noticed how fresh the birds looked. Some poultry-keepers treat the dust-bath as a trifling matter, but it is one that if you are anxious for the well-being of your birds must not be neglected.

GIVE BIRDS LIME. Lime must be given to all poultry in some form or other. The shells of their eggs are helped to form by it. Birds that are deprived of it often lay shell-less eggs, and these naturally are of no use. Old mortar pounded up very fine is excellent for this purpose, so are oyster-shells that are well-burnt in the fire and pulverised. The birds are very fond of the latter, and it is a good plan to keep a pan full of it in the poultry-yard. Should you neglect to give your birds lime do not be surprised if your birds lay soft, shell-less eggs. The quickest and best way of getting things back into proper order again is to add a little lime to the drinking-water, or pound up some oyster-shells raw.

WHEN BIRDS GO "LIGHT." Hens of heavy breeds are liable to lose flesh after they have been laying for some time, and if not carefully attended to they may become physical wrecks. These prolific layers are of special value as stock birds, because they will transmit their laying qualities to their offspring. When hens cease to lay they should be handled occasionally when they are roosting, and any that show signs of losing flesh should be placed in a pen by themselves and fed on soft nourishing foods. The birds that have produced a large number of eggs have naturally been compelled to eat large quantities of food, which has caused the digestive organs to become weak. After excessive egg production birds found to be losing flesh should be placed on a special diet of such foods as groats boiled in milk, bread-and-milk, biscuit-meal prepared with milk, and an allowance of lean meat. Twice a week give them a dose of Turkish rhubarb. As much as will lie on a sixpence is sufficient for four birds. This medicine will tone up the system, cause the liver to become active, and prevent bowel troubles. In addition, the patients should be liberally supplied with green food, such as dandelion leaves, boiled nettles, onion tops, and other vegetable matter which will act upon the digestive organs and purify the blood. Grit, crushed charcoal, and pure, cool water must be kept within reach of the fowls, and their sleeping quarters well supplied with air both night and day. Charcoal, powdered, is a fine thing for fowls losing flesh through digestive troubles, but they do not always readily take to it.

DON'T FORGET TO GIVE THE HENS COLMAN'S POULTRY MUSTARD. Mr. Ralph R. Allen, lecturer to the Herts County Council, and one of the foremost living authorities on poultry culture, is a firm believer in the efficacy of Colman's poultry mustard. Discussing the subject in one of his articles, Mr. Allen says: Publicity has been so frequently given to my original experiment with Colman's poultry mustard, not only by me, but also by others interested in similar products, that I do not propose its repetition here. It is sufficient to remark that the fowls fed in the ordinary way during the six winter months, October to March, yielded a profit of six shillings per bird after allowing two pence per bird per week for cost of feeding; whilst those similarly fed, but with the addition of Colman's poultry mustard (a teaspoonful daily to six birds), showed a profit of nine shillings and ninepence per bird, or an increased profit of three shillings and ninepence each over those which did not receive the mustard. The cost of feeding Colman's poultry mustard to a hen for six months is only fourpence."

WHEN PACKING EGGS. When packing eggs for market it is important that no packing which smells be used. Sawdust should be given a wide berth, as it often spoils the flavour of eggs. Bran is as suitable as anything, and is very useful for filling in any empty spaces and making all tight. Do not place a quantity of eggs loose in a box and then fill up the spaces with bran, for when the eggs are on the way to their destination, as they are heavier than the packing, they will work their way to the top, where they will most probably be crushed against the lid of the box. The eggs instead should be placed in such a manner in the box or case as will not permit of their moving at all. The first thing to do is to wrap each egg up separately in paper; strips of hay should be put between, and each end should point downwards. The corners should afterwards be filled in with bran; in this way the eggs will travel very well. A very reliable method of sending eggs is to pack them in a case specially constructed for this purpose, and for a large number of eggs you will find the felt-layer egg-box very successful. This consists of a strong outer case fitted with several felt-lined trays. Even should the box be turned upside-down in the course of the journey, the eggs will not be damaged or broken.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

S. E.—As you have pullets which are on the point of laying, it is a good plan to watch them, for they drop their first eggs anywhere. If the egg happens to drop on anything hard and breaks the birds will eat it. Then you have the egg-eating vice as long as you keep the birds.

The Frenchwomen who for months have driven and conducted electric trams in a town of Northern France without wearing headgear, have at length been obliged to wrap woollen scarves round the head and neck.

Miscellaneous Sales and Wants.

OLD FALSE TEETH Wanted.—6d. tooth paid; platinum £3 oz.—Kenworthy's, Jewellers, Ashton, Manchester.

RUBBER BOOT REPAIRS.—Try Bateman's Process, 18, Western Broadway, King St., Hammersmith, London.

MOLESKINS, Etc.—Britain's Record Prices unequalled anywhere. Postcard bringslist. Marcus, Conduit St., London.

RAGS WANTED, Cloth, Stockings, and Tailors' Clippings. State weight and price asked. Prompt cash.—Lewis and Co., Old Mill, Dewsbury.

PHOTOGRAPHERS and Others.—Wanted, Negatives for spot cash, films guaranteed destroyed. Send quantities, size, &c. Remittance by return. Price Plate Co., 8, Praed St., Paddington, W.

EXPLOSIVE CIGARETTES, BOMBS, ITCHYKOO, SNEEZING. 20 samples, 2/-.—BRITION, Linwood St., Manchester, W.

ELECTRIC POCKET LAMP. 2s. 6d. Ready for use. Guaranteed quality. Useful present. Post Free on receipt of 2s. 6d.—ALLEN STEWART & CO., LTD., 22, Dalmeny Avenue, Norbury, London, S.W.

FREE. On receipt of request, our Illustrated Catalogue of BEAUTIFUL PICTURES, and, if desired, a Specimen Engraving (worth at least 2s.), will be PRESENTED to any applicant enclosing two penny stamps for postage.—Address, ART GALLERIES, 63, Baker Street, London, W.

LUXURIANT HAIR.
GREY Hair Restored to its Natural Colour, Baldness Prevented and Positively Cured by using LUXUR HAIR TONIC. No dangerous ingredients. Trial package to readers of this publication 1s., post free.—Address, Martin R. Reid, 215, Ashley Road, Hale, Cheshire.

BILLIARD AND BAGATELLE TABLES. Large Stock of New and Second-hand Tables on hand; also convertible Billiard and Dining Tables. Write for List. G. Edwards, Ltd., 134, Kingsland Rd., N.E. Tel.: 4780 Central.

REGIMENTAL SOUVENIRS.—Gilt and Enamel Brooches of Crest of any regiment, post free, 1s. 1d.—ASHWELL, 59, High Street, Slough, Bucks.

24 CHRISTMAS-GREETING CARDS, 2s. High-class. Latest Designs. Worth double. Post Free.—British Card Supply, 7, Phipp Street, Finsbury, E.C.

GRAMOPHONE, £25 hornless mod. inlaid Sheraton cabinet, height 4 ft., with records, 94s.—Wayside, Shipton, Oxford.

WANTED OLD NEWSPAPERS, Magazines, Ledgers, &c. Best prices given. Write for particulars, &c. 104, CLOUGH ROAD, ROTHERHAM.

FOREIGN STAMPS.
SHEETS ON APPROVAL, to responsible parties, containing rare Cameroons surcharged, also South African King's Head and other good stamps. Approval sheets of cheaper stamps at ½d. each and upwards. Fine set of 50 South African, 1/3. Good opportunity for medium collectors or beginners. Stamp Mounts 2½d. per 1000.—S. POWELL, 286, DALSTON LANE, HACKNEY.

"CHILVER'S PULMONIC BALM".
A positive CURE for Coughs, Colds, Influenza, and all Lung troubles. Act like magic in Whooping Cough and Bronchitis.
Send to-day P.O. 1/3 for Sample Bottle and prove for yourself.
F. E. JOHNSON & CO., Ltd., MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS, HULL.

WOMAN'S UNFAILING FRIEND.
TOWLE'S PILLS
Immediately you notice any irregularity of the system take Towle's Pills. They will quickly remove all suffering. Boxes, 1/1½, 2/9, 4/6, of all chemists, or sent anywhere on receipt of P.O. for 1/3, 2/10, by
E. T. TOWLE & CO., Ltd.,
8, Long Row, NOTTINGHAM.
Write for booklet containing most valuable information for Married Women. Post free.

WIDOW C. & G. Kearsley's Original Awarded Certificate of Merit at the Tasmanian Exhibition, 1891. 100 Years' reputation. Prompt and Reliable for Ladies. The Only Genuine.
WELCH'S PILLS.
Ordered by Specialists for the Cure of all Complaints. Sold in boxes, 1/3 and 3/-, of all Chemists, or post free from
C. & G. KEARSLEY (Depot C.C.P.), 42, Waterloo Bridge Road, S.E.

The Treatment that Cures

Sufferers from all Diseases, no matter from what cause arising or how long standing, send me a full description of your complaint and stamped envelope and I will send you FREE particulars of my Celebrated Herbal Treatment. Note address: Mr. GEORGE, Medical Herbalist, 113, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD. I have permanently cured thousands of cases that have been pronounced incurable. I use no Drugs or Minerals, but Nature's Herbal Remedies that travel direct to the seat of disease. QUICK RELIEF and Permanent Cure in all cases. 30 YEARS' SUCCESS.

Cures that are Permanent

FISH TUMBLE UPWARDS.

The deep sea fish are subject to a pressure internally by gases, and externally of over two tons to a square inch, and under this pressure they are quite solid. When these fish are brought to the surface in nets their bodies become puffy, their bones loose, and their eyes start out of their heads; very often they burst. This is because the pressure is released. When these fish of the deep sea chase their prey or rise for some reason high above the ocean bed, the gases of their swimming bladders expand, and they become light. The fish whose muscles are not strong enough to take it down deeper into the ocean expands more and more until it rises upwards to the surface and is killed, so that it really "tumbles upwards."

THE LLAMA'S TENT.

That strange-looking creature, the llama, which hails from Mexico, Peru, and Patagonia, can be trained to be a most useful and intelligent beast of burden. It is a long way from Thibet to Peru, but in the former enormous country species of the llama are used by the natives for domestic purposes as well as for beasts of burden. The llama is a very strong and sure-footed beast, it being very much at home in the mountains, which, in Thibet, is its natural environment, though sometimes, if it is excessively cold, it is found in the plains and valleys. It is not an uncommon sight to see a llama carrying two children, each slung across its back by a band. The little ones are firmly held in a sack each side. Besides the children, the patient beast will carry big loads of wood, eatables, and other requisites. The Thibetans, when using the skin of the llama, with which to make tents, very often leave the head on the skin, prepared in some way so that the camp, when pitched, has the curious appearance of being dotted all over with llama's heads. The tent is a low affair, bell-shaped, and supported by sticks.

'LINSEED COMPOUND' with warm water is an excellent gargle for Sore Throat, Colds, Coughs, &c.

Cardiff City Council has unanimously resolved that after New Year's-day no conscientious objector shall remain in its pay.

The Tauo natives have set aside more than 25,000 acres of their land, including 2,000 stocked with sheep, for Maori soldiers.

In numerous aerial combats which have taken place between Italian and Austrian airmen during the last three months twenty Austrian machines have been brought down, while only four Italian aeroplanes have been lost.

'COAGULINE' Transparent Cement for Glass, China, etc. 7d, and 1s. post free.

Women cinema operators are now at work in several of the halls at Leeds, and it is stated that they are doing their work very well.

The Y.M.C.A. has served during the past six months 160,000 hot drinks, all free, in its refreshment dug-outs quite close to the Front.

Local Questions IN Parliament.

TRAIN SERVICE—(LIMERICK AND TRALEE.)

Mr O'Shaughnessy asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists among business people and others in the counties of Limerick and Kerry of the bad train arrangements that at present exist between Limerick and Tralee under which people who travel to Limerick in the morning from the western part of the county and from Kerry have to remain in the city all day, while a similar state of things exists in travelling to Tralee; and, having regard to the fact that at the time of the amalgamation of the old Waterford and Limerick Railway Company with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company a guarantee was given to the public that at least the railway service between Limerick and Tralee would be as good as the old service, he will take steps to see that a proper train service between these places is established?

Mr Roberts—The attention of the Railway Company was called to this matter, and I have now received a reply, of which I am sending the hon. member a copy.

(Copy).

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 4,765, of the 30th ultimo, enclosing copy of a question which Mr. O'Shaughnessy, M.P, proposes to ask the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on Tuesday next, relative to the train service between Limerick and Tralee.

I beg to reply that, in consequence of the war, the Company have found it necessary to reduce the train service on this branch, as well as on other parts of the line.

With regard to the implication that the service is not so good now as before the amalgamation, I have pleasure in enclosing for your information, a comparison of the existing passenger train service on the Tralee and Limerick Branch with that in force in the year 1900, from which you will observe that in that year there were only three passenger trains each way per day, whereas there is now, in addition to the same through service, an extra train on two days a week between Limerick and Newcastle West. You will also notice that prior to the amalgamation the first train left Limerick at 4.50 a.m at which early hour it was of very little value to anyone.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

E. A. NEALE,
General Manager, G. S. & W. R.

Mr O'Shaughnessy asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, having regard to the fact that the Dublin train to Limerick conveying the English mails is sometimes late, and that the train from Limerick to Tralee which should convey some of these mails that are intended for people in towns between these places departs before the arrival of the Dublin train, he will take steps to see that in future there is no break in the mail service?

Mr Pease—My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this question. The mail train from Dublin is due at Limerick at 10.50 a.m., and the train from Limerick to Tralee is timed to leave at 11 a.m. The Railway Company inform me that the latter train cannot be detained for more than five minutes without causing serious inconvenience on other parts of the line. Neither the Post Office nor the Board of Trade have any statutory control over the timing of trains to or from Limerick.

Newcastle West Union

—:o:—

The Sugar Contract.

At the meeting of the Newcastle West Board of Guardians on Thursday, Mr. Thomas Hurley, J.P. (Chairman), presided. Also present—Messrs. John Magner, David Flynn, P O'Mahony, T Nelligan, M O'Connell, J Quaide, J O'Kelly, M Dalton, P Downey M Flynn, E D Liston, T Ryche, T McEnery, J Ambrose, Daniel Curtin.

It was decided to double the allowance paid to persons in receipt of out-door relief during Xmas week, and to give healthy infirm inmates and children the usual Xmas breakfast, dinner and supper.

The Master reported that no tenders had been received for the supply of haricot beans, lentils and onions ingredients for the making of the soup in the new scale of dietary. If no tenders can be got the new scale could not be carried out.

It was decided to re-advertise.

The Master reported that the contractor for the supply of sugar had notified him that he could not get sugar from Cork, Limerick or Dublin. He had looked into the amount of sugar supplied to the workhouse from 1st April, 1915, to 1st April, 1916, and found it to be 8,636 lbs, from 1st April, 1916, to 9th December, 1916, 5,848, leaving a balance of 2,788 lbs, which the Guardians would be entitled to up to 1st April next.

A letter was read from Mr Michael Culhane contractor, stating that he was compelled, owing to the Government restrictions on sugar, to surrender his contract for same.

In connection with the same matter a letter was received from the Royal Commission on Sugar stating that the proper course would be to take the matter up with those who supplied the Union in 1915 on the basis of a new arrangement, and if the contractor declined to act accordingly the correspondence in the matter should be submitted to the Commission.

The Chairman said that Mr Brouder was the contractor last year, and not Mr Culhane.

It was decided to invite Mr Brouder to supply the sugar, and to cut down the scale of sugar allowed the inmates by fifty per cent.

The resolution of the Rathkeale Union condemning the action of Lord Dunraven in his efforts to force the Government to extend the Military Service Act to this country was adopted.

Limerick Asylum Board.

—:o:—

The monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of the Limerick District Lunatic Asylum was held on Wednesday. Mr. M P O'Shaughnessy, J.P, Chairman, presided. The other members present were:—Rev. D O'Driscoll, P.P, St. Munchin's; Messrs. M. Quinlan, J.P; P F M'Namara, B.C; L O'Donnell, B.C, and Thomas Hurley, J.P.

Dr. Irwin, Resident Medical Superintendent; Mr Wm. O'Shaughnessy, Clerk; and Mr. J. J. O'Malley, Engineer, were also in attendance.

The Resident Medical Superintendent reported that since the last meeting 11 patients were admitted, 4 died, and there were 7 for discharge. There were 659 patients in the Asylum.

Mr. Wm Kidd, sugar contractor, wrote asking to have the supply curtailed in the Asylum in view of further restrictions by the Sugar Commission.

The Clerk mentioned that a cheque was passed to Mr. Kidd, but it was withheld lest there might be a surcharge. Mr. Kidd had written stating that if there was any surcharge he would refund the amount.

The Chairman said they could refer the matter to the solicitor, and the question was allowed to stand over.

The meeting unanimously adopted the resolution from the Waterford Corporation calling upon the Government to fix a standard weight and price for the sale of bread and to prevent the exportation of food.

A letter from Messrs. M'Guire, flour contractors, stating that white flour would not be available in future, and that the price of war flour would be £24 8s per ton, and they asked the Committee to entertain their claim for loss.

Dr. Irwin said the contract price was £22, and the letter was referred to the solicitor.

Dr. Irwin stated that a cheque for £1,200 had been received from the Corporation out of £1,750 for the current three months.

Mr. Quinlan said he supposed they would want to get an overdraft to pay the balance.

The Chairman—Write and explain you want the money.

Father O'Driscoll—Have we a balance in the bank?

Mr O'Shaughnessy—None whatever. We have £2,090 to meet this month, and no funds at present.

The Chairman said they could explain that to the Corporation.

Mr O'Donnell proposed that a superannuation allowance be granted to Miss H M'Evoy, on retirement, after 20 years' service, through ill-health.

Mr Hurley seconded the proposition.

A retiring allowance of £23 9s 7d was unanimously granted.

Mr O'Donnell next proposed a vote of condolence with Dr. Irwin on the death of the doctor's mother, and with Mr Robert Frost, B.C., a member of the Committee, on the death of his son.

The resolution was passed unanimously and Dr. Irwin returned thanks.

Tenders for the supply of 200 tons of steam coal were received from Messrs Sutton at 57s. per ton, and from Messrs Wallace at 47s. 6d. The tender from Messrs Sutton was looked on as too high, and that from Messrs Wallace as not being from one of the collieries stated in the advertisement.

It was agreed in the circumstances to re-advertise, coals to be purchased in the meantime for the Asylum.

James O'Brien, fitter in the Asylum, was, on the motion of Mr M'Namara, after some conversation, allowed a war bonus of 2s per week to his wages.

The meeting adjourned.

Death of District Inspector Meredith R.I.C., Adare.

Very general regret is felt in Constabulary and other circles in Limerick at the death in Dublin on Friday of District Inspector C G Meredith, after a long illness. He had been in charge of the Adare Constabulary command for a number of years. The deceased officer was in his fifty-fifth year, and had thirty-three years service in the Royal Irish Constabulary, doing duty, among other places, at Newpallas and Tralee, whence he was transferred to Adare.

Defence of the Realm Act.

Arrest of Mr. T Barry.

Early on Sunday morning Mr Tadg Barry was arrested at his home, Blarney street, by members of the Constabulary from the Shandon street police station, acting under direction of the military authorities, under the Defence of the Realm Act. He was conveyed on a car to the Victoria Barracks, and lodged in the military detention prison there. It will be remembered that some time ago he was "restricted" by the Military authorities to Cork City and Cork Rural District. Mr. Barry was, until recently, a member of the "Cork Free Press," and a well-known writer on G.A.A. matters.

Expenditure on Weddings in War Time.

The National War Savings Committee has had its attention drawn from many quarters, and particularly by women who are seriously trying to economise on patriotic grounds, to the lavish expenditure which is still taking place in connection with weddings. It is often asked whether the need for national economy can be as urgent as is represented when such expenditure is being incurred. The Committee wishes to bring to the notice of all concerned the desirability of celebrating weddings quietly and without undue expense in this time of national stress. It appeals to them to remember that the publication broadcast through the Press of descriptions of expensive gowns and lists of presents, including costly jewels, creates a very bad impression. In the face of such an example it is hard to convince all classes of the nation that it is now unpatriotic to spend money on anything which is not necessary for health or efficiency.

LOOK OUT!

FOR THE

NEW JOURNAL,

"IRISH NOTES"

To be Published

EVERY WEDNESDAY.

First Issue:

17th JANUARY, 1917.

"IRISH NOTES"

will be controlled and published by supporters of the Irish Language and Industrial Revival Movement, and will contain articles on those matters, and on Agricultural and other subjects suitable for the farming community, besides general news every week.

To encourage our readers to take an interest in those matters we propose to offer the following Prizes for the best essays or articles on the following subjects—

£1 1 0—Industrial. On the best means to establish local industries, or to improve existing industries, to give employment locally during the War.

In nearly all our Southern Cities and Towns we have electric installations, and with the aid of electric motors industries such as Shirtmaking, Laundries, etc., could be established, and the existing industries improved.

£0 10 0—Irish Language. The best means to be adopted by a Newspaper to aid the Irish Language and Industrial Revival Movement.

£0 10 0—Agricultural. The best means to obtain sufficient food for the country during the War, and the means to be adopted to attain this end.

All efforts which the Editor considers worthy of publication will be published weekly in the "Irish Notes" in order that we may have the advice of some of our intelligent readers in arriving at a decision in awarding the Prizes. The Names of the Winners will be published in the issue of the "Weekly Observer" of the 17th March and "Irish Notes" of the 21st March next.

ADVERTISERS:

As our advertising space is limited—a large portion has been reserved for manufacturers—we will ask local advertisers to make application for space at once.

For Particulars apply to—

The Advertising Manager,

"Weekly Observer" Office, Newcastle West.

State Control of Irish Railways.

Big Strike Averted.

The threatened strike of engine drivers and firemen employed by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company has happily been averted by the decision of the Government to take over control of all the Irish railway companies. We understand that the State will enter into possession of the Irish railways on the 1st January, 1917.

The following communique has been issued in connection with the matter:—

The Government having decided to take possession of the Irish railways, under the Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871, the Great Southern and Western Company's locomotive men, who had given in their notices, have withdrawn them, and will continue to work as usual. Deputations of the companies and the men will be received by the Board of Trade early next week.

The adoption of State control in Ireland is viewed with general favour. It is felt, however, that the Government's decision should have been taken before a situation such as that in regard to the Great Southern and Western Company's men was allowed to develop. The men, without the sanction of the National Union of Railwaymen, handed in notices of their intention to strike, and the company were unable to meet their demands for an increased war bonus. It was only at the eleventh hour that the Government's decision was conveyed to the company and the men, and a grave situation averted.

The announcement of the Government's decision, which was made on Saturday evening, not long, in fact, before the men's notices were due to expire, came as a great relief to all concerned. The prospect of having a large volume of traffic held up for Christmas week was very disquieting, but after a crowded day of conferences and negotiations that prospect was dissipated with dramatic suddenness. The men, on being apprised of the Government's intention immediately withdrew their strike notices, and passenger and goods traffic proceeded as if a strike had never been contemplated.

Coursing.

THE IRISH CUP.

The Irish Cup of the current season was a series of disappointments, despite the fact that never in the history of the event did it hold out such promise of great things. Certainly few people expected to find such improvements made at the Clounanna meadows, and that the event was not crowned with huge success was not the fault of the executive. Their efforts had been directed towards providing genuine trials, and beyond question they had succeeded; but it was not in their power to control the elements. The accident of frost caused the disappointment referred to, and the accident of an overflow from the drains, which caused part of the ground to be flooded on Thursday, was the only reason why all the trials were not perfectly uniform in nature. It was a big set back to those in charge, but they are, each and every one of them, genuine enthusiasts, who are heart and soul in the game, and "once down is no battle" will be their motto. An enormous amount of credit is due to Mr R. R. Ballingall, Adare, under whose supervision the grounds have been laid out, and if the pleasure of being able to claim that this year's Cup was the most successful yet run was denied him, "apples will grow again." The heavy frost of Friday night made coursing look very doubtful, even though there were only seventeen trials to be decided, and on Saturday morning the doubt was all the greater, but nothing could be decided until the ground was visited, and once there it was not difficult to come to a decision. A finish was entirely out of the question, and it was also decided that the events should not be carried over to this week. A question as to what should become of the Cup arose, and this was quickly settled when on the suggestion of Mr. Trant, junr., the four nominators left in were unanimous in agreeing that it should be handed back to the generous donor, Mr. D J Garry. They then drew lots as to which of the four should fill the nomination of Mr. P J O'Sullivan in the Waterloo Cup, and Mr. Fitzmaurice Peet, who represented Mr. O'Halloran, and, incidentally bred Osprey Hawk, being the last to draw from the hat, won the nomination. The Cup, Purse and Plate were accordingly divided. The four diviners in the Cup were: Fawn Queen, nominated by a Kilkenny courser, and the property of a sportsman from Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary; Outlaw VII, a Kerry dog, nominated by Dr. Trant; Lady Charming, nominated and owned in Belfast, and Osprey Hawk, nominated and owned by Mr. Martin O'Halloran, Tralee.

Those left in for the Irish Plate were—General Smut II, Glendahilion, Captain Simon, Homethrust, Artificial Structure, King's Courier, Bright Nurse, Memory's Milestones, and in the Irish Purse—Two-to-One, Maid of Freedom, Knockfield Girl, Magician, Kate Fisher II, Magister, Kerry Coast, Malaria.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Lands of Mayne to be Let.

To be Let, from the 25th of MARCH Next, the Lands of Mayne, either to a Dairyman, or for Grazing.—Apply E. D. DALY, Woodfield, Drumcollogher.

Situations Vacant.

A CARETAKER WANTED.—Apply CATHERINE McCOY, Bridge Street, Newcastle West.

YOUNG MAN required; knowledge Tin Stamping Machine.—Apply CROSSE AND BLACKWELL, Ltd., Morrison's Quay, Cork.

Auctions by O'Connor and Stokes.

Dromcollogher FAIR,

1st JANUARY, 1917.

Auction OF In-Calf Heifers.

O'Connor and Stokes

Have been instructed by William Noonan, Esq., of Woodmount, Milford,

TO SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

At above Fair,
At the hour of 10 o'clock,

30 Splendid In-Calf Heifers, of beautiful shape, size and colour.

Bona-fide Calving Engagements at Sale.

Further particulars and conditions at Sale, or from

O'CONNOR & STOKES, Auctioneers and Valuers,
Kanturk and Dromcollogher.

Knockballymartin,

Kilbrin, Kanturk.

Important Letting by Public Auction of Land on the 11 Months' System, as well as

Dispersal Sale

OF

Horses, Machinery, Farming Implements, Hay, Straw, Farm Produce, Traps, Carts, &c.

Having disposed at last Kanturk Fair of her Dairy Cattle, &c., Mrs. Lynch has further instructed

O'Connor and Stokes

To Sell by Unreserved Auction in the Farm Yard.

On Thursday, 28th December,

At 11 o'clock sharp,

Her Entire Stock, comprising:—

LIVE STOCK—1 aged horse, 1 aged brood mare, believed to be in foal; 1 four-and-a-half years old mare by Galgrena; 1 three-and-a-half years old by Galgrena; 1 two-and-half years old by Banquet, dam by Crackenthorpe; 1 foal, 1 aged mare, 1 two-years-old filly by Grange King; 1 chestnut cob 14½ hands, 6 years, by Shooting Star, a splendid mover; 1 grey cob 14 hands, 5 years, an excellent harness pony.

FARMING IMPLEMENTS and MACHINERY—1 pulper and slicer, 1 turnip-sower, 1 threshing machine, four-horse power; 1 iron zig-zag harrow, 1 skeater, 2 tankards, 20 and 17 gallons; 2 stone rollers, 1 grubber, 1 drill roller, 1 Bamford mowing machine in perfect order; 1 hay float, 2 hay tossers, 1 eight-baulk harrow, 2 tumbling butts, 1 Scotch car, with crib and guards; 1 sociable trap, almost new; 3 sets common harness, 4 metal pig troughs, 2 timber calf troughs, 1 winnowing machine, 1 Ransome chill plough, 1 drill plough, 1 furrow plough, 1 horse hoe, 1 grinding stone, 1 pair of new horse wheels, 1 oats bin, smith's anvil, smith's vice, etc.

FARM PRODUCE—20 Tons of hay, 10 tons straw, 2 pits of mangolds, 52 drills of turnips, and a lot of other miscellaneous Articles too numerous to mention.

The Grazing of above Farm containing 160 Acres, on the 11 months system will also be let on same day.

Sale at 11 o'Clock sharp, commencing with Farm Implements.

Further Particulars and Conditions at Sale, or from

O'CONNOR & STOKES, Auctioneers and Valuers,
Kanturk and Dromcollogher.

A Christmas Chant.

—:o:—

This life is not hollow or aimless,
Nor is mortal a clod of clay;
With the flower of the Lily stainless,
The Gem of the purest ray.

Let us wake from our lethargic dreaming,
This night full of peace and of prayer,
The lights in the temple are beaming,
It is good for us to be there.
With the blessing of Faith we are able
Our souls and our lives to adorn,
And our church symbolizes the stable
Where Jesus Our Saviour was born.

They came from the East to adore Him,
Inspired by His Father above;
They flung themselves prostrate before Him,
Their hearts full of piety and love.
With joy all creation was riven,
Exultant the angelic train;
The Son-God's descended from Heaven,
To wipe out humanity's stain.

He has come to deliver His people
From the bondage of death and of sin,
As the joybells from church-tower and steeple,
Proclaim the glad tidings to men.
Then the offerings of love and goodwill
To the Heavenly Babe let us bring,
Our Souls with good things Who will fill,
For He is our God and our King.

Oh! had I the tongue of Isiah,
Or the voice of King David I'd sing
The praise of the glorious Messiah
Adown through the ages to ring.
May He breathe His sweet spirit of peace
On the cold hearts of mankind once more,
Bid the conflict of nations to cease,
And His love to this world restore.

P. J. AHERN.

Carrickerry, December, 1916.

BREAD is the Staff of Life!

:o:

Nutriment is the First Essential to be looked for in BREAD.
It is not contained in air spaces, or inferior ingredients, therefore Closeness and Quality are indications of the Food Value of BREAD.
Nutriment Value is the Root Principle in the Composition of

NASH'S MACHINE-MADE BREAD.

:o:

Made to Scientific Formula, by Up-to-date Machinery, under the most Hygienic Conditions, it is the BREAD for those who insist on having only the Best.

:o:

NASH'S Steam Bakery, Newcastle West.

NASH'S
MINERAL WATERS,

MANUFACTURED BY THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MACHINERY AND UNDER THE BEST CONDITIONS,
ARE ABSOLUTELY THE PUREST AND HAVE NO SUPERIOR.

:o:

— SPARKLING —

DRY GINGER ALE,

THE BEST OF TABLE WATERS,
IS EXCEEDINGLY PLEASANT AND REFRESHING.

:o:

RICHARD NASH,

MINERAL WATER WORKS
NEWCASTLE WEST.

The man who knows, and knows that he knows, is a wise man.

:o:

THEREFORE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT

MULLIGAN BROS. AND TODD'S,
Is the Best House in the South of Ireland for

CYCLES, MOTOR CYCLES, TYRES, GUNS, AMMUNITION, FOOTBALLS, HOCKEY STICKS, AND ALL SPORTING AND CYCLING GOODS.
Cycle Repairs by Skilled Mechanics.
Agents for Humber, Rudge-Whitworth, Triumph, Sun and B. S. A. Cycles and Motor Cycles; also "Douglas," "Sun Villiers" and "Calthorpe" Lightweight Motor Cycles.

:o:

Note Address:—

Mulligan Bros. & Todd,

124, O'Connell Street, Limerick.

Branches:—ENNIS and TRALEE.

Loans Granted from £5 and Upwards

TO ALL CLASSES OF PEOPLE.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Farmers, Shopkeepers, and all responsible persons in town or country, distance no objection, on their own approved personal security. Repayments by weekly or monthly instalments, or as may be arranged to suit the convenience of borrowers. Persons requiring Loans would benefit to apply to this Office before going elsewhere. The proprietor desires particularly to draw the attention of borrowers to the fact that all communications are treated with the strictest privacy and confidence. First letter of application will receive prompt attention.

N.B.—NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER LOAN OFFICE.

Call or write to

M. MAISSEL, 15 Lower Shannon Street, Limerick.

13/5/1y

Auctioneering!

Complying with the request of a large circle of friends, we have entered the

AUCTIONEERING BUSINESS

and have taken out the necessary licence.

Persons who entrust us with their business will find we have the interests of our patrons at heart, as we intend to spare no expense or trouble to bring our Sales under the notice of intending purchasers, and in providing for our patrons' needs.

BYRNES and HUGHES,

Newcastle West and Kilmeedy.

NEWCASTLE WEST MARKETS

THURSDAY

Potatoes	10d to 1s. 0d per st.
Black Oats	1s 7d to 1s. 8d per st.
White Oats	1s 9d to 1s. 10d per st.
Parsnips	8d to 9d. per st.
Reed	10s to 13s per cwt.
Straw	55s. to 60s. per ton.
Turnips	27s. 6d to 30s. per ton.

PIG MARKET
Friday.

Bacon Pigs —67s. per cwt.
Berwicks „ 63 per cwt.

"Weekly Observer."

Rates of Subscriptions.

:o:

STAMPED.

Yearly, 6s. 8d. Half-Yearly, 3s. 4d. Quarterly, 1s. 8d.

UNSTAMPED.

Yearly, 4s. 4d. Half-Yearly, 2s. 2d Quarterly 1s. 1d.

For Sale.

MARE PONY, 13-2 hands high; quiet to drive; very fast. Would suit professional gentleman.—Apply T. T., OBSERVER Office.

Apprentice Wanted.

WANTED an Apprentice to the Printing Trade. Good opportunity for smart, intelligent boy.—Apply to Manager, OBSERVER Office.

Lost

On SATURDAY, 9th Inst., A POCKET-BOOK, containing a Sum of Money, between Deel Bridge and Ballinakill. Finder will be rewarded by bringing same to OBSERVER Office.

Rooms to Let

ROOMS TO LET in respectable locality Newcastle West, with or without board, and use of sitting room. Terms moderate.—Apply 95, OBSERVER office.

CO. LIMERICK.

FAIR DAY, Newcastle West
January 3rd, 1917.

Ten Splendid Dairy Cows
For Sale by Auction

— AT —

The Market Square,

AT 10 O'CLOCK.

And 2 Useful Donkeys,

The property of DR. CREMIN.

MAURICE CURTIN, Auctioneer, Newcastle West.

Grazing to Let

FOR ELEVEN MONTHS.

70 Acres

Of the well-known Fattening Lands of

Killard, Ardagh,

And 70 Acres at Ballygeele,
All well watered and sheltered,
On a Day to be Named, for Dr. Cremin.
MAURICE CURTIN, Auctioneer,
Courtenay Arms Hotel,
Newcastle West.

Glin Rural District Council.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Glin Rural District Council will, at their Meeting to be held in the Courthouse, Glin, on TUESDAY, the 9th JANUARY, 1917, at 12 noon, consider Tenders from suitable, competent, and properly qualified tradesmen and contractors for carrying out repairs to the undermentioned Cottages, in accordance with report, estimate, specification and general directions of the Engineer to the Council.

Townland.	Occupier.
Cloonoughts	Mary King
Coole	Michael Scanlan
Killacolla	Timothy Mangan
Ballygoughlan	John Leonard
Kilteeny	Thomas Carroll
Do.	John Hartney
Cahara	Michael Egan
Tullyleague	Mary Looney
Killeany	Patrick Collopy
Do.	Edmond Hanlon
Ballycullane	Margaret Harnett
Cloonlahard	Timothy O'Connell
Direen	Thomas Casey
Tennakilla	Philip McGrath
Do.	Patrick McGrath

The Engineer's report, estimate and specification may be seen, and forms of tender procured at all reasonable hours at my office in Main street, Glin.

A deposit of 10s. must be lodged with me with each tender (otherwise the tender will not be accepted), which will be returned in all cases where tenders are not accepted by the Council, and upon the bond being perfected in the case of tenders accepted, but not otherwise.

Bonds for the contracts will be signed on the day of the above Meeting, and all contractors should be in attendance at the Meeting, with two solvent sureties, for the purpose of completing their bonds and contracts.

The Council will not be responsible for any accident which may occur during the progress of the works, and they do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
M. O'SHAUGHNESSY,
Clerk to the Council.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY.

Limerick Races, 26th Dec., 1916.

On above date a Special Train will leave Tralee for Limerick at 8.40 a.m., returning at 5.40 p.m., taking place of 6.25 a.m. train ex-Tralee and 6.40 p.m. train ex-Limerick.

E. A. NEALE, General Manager.

Dublin, December, 1916.

BIRTHS—MARRIAGES—DEATHS.

Births, Marriages and Deaths charged 2s. 6d. for five lines. Every additional line 3d., and should always be accompanied by remittance in full.

Persons sending by post announcements of this class are particularly requested to give their names and addresses as a guarantee of authenticity. Should the name and address of sender not accompany the advertisement, it will have to be held over for the purpose of inquiry.

The Weekly Observer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1916.

A Tragic Year.

:o:

THE year which is now drawing to a close has been one of the most tragic in the history of this country. Many a wife will miss her husband and many a child is an orphan this Christmas. Easter Week has added hundreds of Irishmen to the long roll of martyred patriots, but their children who survive them can, in the midst of their sorrow and loneliness, hold their heads high and boast that their parents have died in no ignominious cause. Others are confined in English dungeons, serving sentences of imprisonment because of their devotion to a cause which has been sanctified by the blood of Irish patriots. While our countrymen are in chains and our people are in mourning we cannot wish our readers a Happy Christmas, but we sincerely hope that the Irish people will, ere another Christmas comes round, see the cause for which so many Irishmen have suffered and died carried to a glorious victory and Ireland enjoy the full blessings of liberty and freedom.

Gaelic Notes.

(By "Geraldine.")

:o:

On Sunday last Wexford again annexed the All-Ireland Championship honours from Mayo at Croke Park by a comfortable margin. Trains were run on the occasion, but seemingly the Government will allow no more excursions for any such purposes. Therefore the hurling final between Tipperary and Kilkenny will have to be brought off without those excursion trains.

Of course this is the greatest blow the British Government could inflict on our national pastimes, and it behoves us now, notwithstanding the difficulties under which we labour, to see that no efforts will be spared to get as many new teams as possible registered with the County Board this coming year. It is well to let our oppressors see that the spirit of the Gael is as true to-day as it was in '67 and '98, and that the coming New Year will be an historic one for Ireland as was its predecessor.

I daresay that owing to the closed season the camans are gathering dust. Perchance the holidays with the frosty fields might entice the boys to take down their hurleys, and the thud of the football might, too, reverberate on the rocky slopes.

For those who would prefer to remain by the fireside I propose a merry little song which every Gael should know. It was written by Brian Na Bauban, and can be sung to the air of "Clare's Dragoons" with which practically everybody is familiar:—

IRELAND'S HURLING MEN.

Who say our country's soul has fled?
Who say our country's heart is dead?
Come, let them hear the marching tread
Of twice five thousand hurling men.
They hold the hopes of bygone years,
They love the past, its smiles and tears,
But quavering doubts and shrinking fears
Are far from Ireland's hurling men.

Chorus.

Hurrah! hurrah! the stout caman!
Not English steel can match its blow;
Hurrah! the arms of might and brawn,
And heart with freedom's flame aglow.

They sing the songs their fathers sung,
When to the breeze the green they flung;
They speak their own sweet Gaelic tongue,
That fires the blood of fighting men.
When all around was dark as night,
With scarce a gleam of cheering light;
When traitors fled their country's fight,
She still had hopes and hurling men.

Chorus.

On Irish fields when heroes died,
And foemen thronged on every side,
Our leaders joy, their hope and pride,
Were gleaming pikes and hurling men.
And if God wills that war's red train
Shall sweep once more o'er hill and plain,
Our land shall call, and not in vain
For fighting lines of hurling men.

Chorus.

But, meanwhile, let each true heart toil,
The foeman's every plan to foil,
And raise, like strong plants from the soil,
New hosts of Irish hurling men.
To guard their name and love their land,
With her through gloom and joy to stand,
And each one's gift—a heart and hand
And will to strive with Irishmen.

Chorus.

When comes the day, as come it must,
That England's rule of greed and lust
Shall be all broken in the dust,
We'll still have Irish hurling men.
Then here's to her, the land we love,
Each grand old hilt and glen and grove,
Her plains below, her skies above,
And, best of all, her hurling men.

Chorus.

Price of a Cow.

At the Gorey fair on Saturday a six-year-old milk cow, the property of Major Richards, D.L., fetched the high price of £45.

Christmas Extras.

The Monaghan Guardians will allow special food for the Workhouse inmates at Christmas, and 1s. 6d. extra to the recipients of outdoor relief.

The Kingdom of Kerry

By "KERRYMAN."

IRELAND AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

At the last meeting of the Killarney Guardians Mr. Spring proposed a resolution expressing delight that an Irish representative had been appointed to attend the Peace Conference to watch and advance Irish interests. Mr. J J Coffey, Mr. J Lucey, Mr. James O'Shea and others warmly supported the resolution.

THE KNOCKANISH FARM.

The law suit over the well-known Knockanish farm between Rev. J Foley, and Mr. Pierce Godley, Ballyheigue, has been decided by the Master of the Rolls against Mr. Godley with costs.

CONSTABLE AND FOOTBALLER.

A most exciting scene occurred at Killarney Station on Saturday night between a well-known Constable and a better known footballer. The Constable charged the footballer with having his parcel, which the footballer indignantly denied. The Constable brought up a sergeant, and in the presence of a number of people the footballer had to open the parcel which was found to contain meat! The Constable collapsed. More will probably be heard of it.

CHARGE OF FIRING INTO A HOUSE

A man named Cornelius Mulvihill has been arrested and remanded charged with firing into the house of a man named Keane at Kilconly.

A NORTH KERRY PRIEST.

The people of Killarney are presenting a nice address to Father Pat Carroll (Ballybunion), who was a teacher at St. Brendan's, and has been appointed C.C. at Caherciveen.

A LADY TO THE FRONT.

At the Listowel School Attendance Committee Miss Mary Hayes was appointed Secretary and Attendance Officer by 4 votes to 3 for Mr. Thomas McAuliffe, Town Surveyor.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF WORKS AT LISTOWEL.

There was a big debate at last meeting of the Listowel Board of Guardians. Mr G. Fitzgerald proposed that the order made on 23rd November appointing Mr Denis J. MacMahon be rescinded, as the position was not yet vacant, being filled yet by Mr J. McCarthy. Mr J. Costelloe seconded. Mr John Boland, J.P., moved, and Mr Sheehy seconded, a direct negative. 19 members voted for Mr Fitzgerald's motion and 28 for Mr Boland's, so Mr MacMahon is still continued.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

Don't bring any coals to Newcastle,
Which lies far away on the Tyne;
Or take any news to it's namesake—
The OBSERVER does that very fine.

THE WATERLOO CUP.

Mr Martin O'Halloran, of Tralee, who is well known as a sportsman, has secured a free nomination for the Waterloo Cup.

BUTTER v. MARGARINE.

There has been a big controversy over the merits of these articles. The asylum attendants refused to eat margarine. Dr. Grillin, R.M.S, the Most Rev. Dr. Mangan, Messrs D M Moriarty, sen., F O'Sullivan, M.C.C., and T Foley, M.C.C. (who is married to a sister of Mr. Pat Murphy, Brosna), were all loud in their praises of margarine. The matter was afterwards discussed at the Killarney Guardians. Dr. William (who is Alderman S O'Mara's son-in-law), declared of margarine:—"'Tis rotten stuff," and all the Guardians approved of his statement. After that Mr. Henry Cronin (of Messrs. Dominic Cronin and Sons, butter merchants, Cork), wrote letters stating that in taste and smell the difference between butter and margarine could not be detected. A local joker suggests the end of the controversy by deciding:

"If you give margarine for butter,
It would be trying to cheat;
And all those who go for margarine
Should get it alone to eat."

I can't tell if those who favoured margarine wished to use it themselves. We must wait and see as the controversy develops.

"The Warblers."

The Management of the popular Picture Palace are to be congratulated on their latest find—the troupe of singers and humourists known as "The Warblers" Pierrot Concert Party. They will fill the bill at the Palace for two nights—on December 26th and 27th—and we have no hesitation in recommending a visit, not only to the regular theatre-going public, but to all the general public who do not, as a rule, visit places of amusement. This troupe come to Newcastle direct from the Opera House, Cork, and this is "some" criterion of their merit. The Press of Cork contained very complimentary notices of "The Warblers," and the "Examiner" says that they are far superior to any imported companies in their special line of "act." Wholesome good songs, amusing interludes, pleasing ensembles, clean humour, all making for colour, stage craft, and interest that should be enjoyed by all who pay them a visit.

G.A.A.

Hurling Tournament at Knockaderry in January,

IN AID OF

NEW GAELIC LEAGUE HALL, CLOUNCAGH.

Particulars late.

Sales by William Costelloe & Son

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Heathfield, Kilmeedy
(Newcastle West, 6 miles: Rathkeale, 7 miles).

Annual Sale
BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF
45
In-Calf, Black Kerry Heifers.

WM. COSTELLOE & SON have been instructed by E. L. Lloyd, Esq., to Sell by Public Auction, at Heathfield, on

Saturday, 6th January, 1917,
at One o'clock sharp,

45 In-Calf, Black Kerry Heifers.

The above are a nice lot, well selected, and engaged to be clear calved the 10th May.
Terms and Conditions at Sale.

Wm. Costelloe & Son,
Auctioneers, Rathkeale.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Tulligmacthomas,
Dromcollogher;
(Newcastle West, 6 miles; Rathkeale, 9 miles).

Important Sale by Public Auction
OF
Dairy Cows,
One and Half-Year-Olds, Calves,
And the LETTING OF 95 ACRES, GRAZING LANDS.

WM. COSTELLOE & SON have been instructed by Mr. John Murphy to Sell by Public Auction,
AT TULLIGMACTHOMAS,

On Thursday, 11th January, 1917,
at One o'clock sharp,
The following Property:—
20 Prime Dairy Cows, 15 One and Half-Year-Olds, 15 Calves.

The Dairy Cows are of the right stamp, well shaped and of good colour, all calving in due time.

Immediately after Sale of Cattle, will be Let:—
95 Acres, Grazing Lands, in One or Two Lots,
Fenced, sheltered and watered, and in good heart.
Conditions at Sale.
Usual Commission of 5 per cent.

Wm. Costelloe & Son,
Auctioneers, Rathkeale.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Lisaniska, Knockaderry
(Newcastle West, 2 miles; Rathkeale, 5 miles).

Important Sale by Auction
OF
Dairy Cows
AND
In-Calf Heifers.

WM. COSTELLOE & SON have been instructed by the Representatives of the late Michael G. Barry, Esq., to Sell by Public Auction,
AT LISANISKA,

On Tuesday, 2nd January, 1917,
at One o'clock, the following:—
10 Prime Young Dairy Cows, 15 In-Calf Heifers.

The Dairy Cows are a level lot, fresh and young and calving in due time. The In-Calf Heifers are well selected, good colour, shape and quality.
Conditions at Sale.
Usual Commission of 5 per cent.

Wm. Costelloe & Son,
Auctioneers, Rathkeale.

— TRY —

"THE WEEKLY OBSERVER"
FOR ALL CLASSES OF
HIGH-CLASS PRINTING,
LITHOGRAPHIC, AND
GENERAL COMMERCIAL WORK.

SMALL PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY-FOUR WORDS FOR 6d.

Three Consecutive Insertions for the Price of Two.

Under the following Headings:—
Business Notices, Lost and Found, Situations Vacant and Wanted Houses to Let and Wanted, Apartments to Let and Wanted, Meetings and Fairs, and other Miscellaneous Advertisements.

Persons answering advertisements addressed to the office are strongly advised not to send their original testimonials, as we cannot be responsible for their return. "Apply" means "Write," not to call.

Advertisers who require that replies to their advertisements be forwarded to them must send stamped addressed envelopes or stamps to cover postage.

WAR POLICY.

German Peace Proposals.

Universal National Service

The Irish Problem.

Mr Lloyd George (Prime Minister), in moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, in the House of Commons on Tuesday, outlined the policy of the new Government.

He said that the responsibilities of the Government had been suddenly accentuated by the declaration made by the German Chancellor in the Reichstag, which declaration had been followed by a Note, presented to us by the United States of America, without comment,

The Government would give a clear and definite support to the statements on the subject already made by France and Russia.

There were no proposals of peace formulated.

To enter on a conference with Germany proclaiming herself victorious, without any knowledge of her proposals, would be like putting their heads in a noose with the ends of the rope in the hands of Germany.

The only terms on which it was possible for peace to be obtained and maintained had been frequently stated. The restitution must be complete, the reparation full, the guarantees effective. Without these, peace was impossible.

There must be an end to Prussian swashbuckling in Europe. Meanwhile we should put our trust in an unbroken army rather than in broken faith. The Allies' reply to the Note would be delivered in the next few days.

Here he sounded a note of warning. Those who expected a speedy victory as the result of the new Government's policy would be doomed to disappointment.

Painting what he called not a gloomy, but a stern, picture of the military situation, he directed attention first to the worst aspect. The Rumanian blunder was unfortunate. It would prolong, but would not alter the fundamental facts of, the war.

In Greece the Allies were taking strong action and no risks, and they had decided to recognise the agenis of M. Venezelos.

In the West the situation was very hopeful. After an eloquent tribute to the New Army and its achievements, he said he was convinced of victory if the nation proved as steady and as valorous as the brave men in the field.

Discussing the new Ministry, he justified the separation of the functions of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House of Commons on the ground that the war had cast so great a burden on the holder of the former office.

Three characteristics of the present Ministry were departures from precedent—(1) The concentration of the Executive in very few hands; (2) the choosing of men of administrative capacity, rather than men of Parliamentary experience, for the headships of departments; (3) the fuller recognition of the partnership of labour in the Government of this country.

What we wanted was quick decision; and for this purpose the old Cabinet was not so effective. "You could not win a war with a Sanhedrin."

The problems of shipping, of excessive freights, of food, of profiteering would be vigorously grappled with. Over-consumption by the affluent must not be allowed.

Every man must be called upon to render to the State such service as he could best give, and every man not taken into the Army should be employed on work of national importance.

The War Cabinet had, therefore, unanimously adopted the principle of universal national service. Mr. Neville Chamberlain had consented to accept the office of Director of National service. Industries could be rationed under this system, and people would be enrolled and their employment regulated as in the case of munition work.

Touching on Ireland, he said he wished it had been possible to remove misunderstandings. But in a quagmire of suspicion and distrust progress was impossible. They must have a better atmosphere, and the Government and Parliament were willing to run many hazards in order to secure it.

After announcing that an Imperial Conference would be summoned in order to give opportunity for consultation on matters of war and policy, he emphasised the need for organisation with a view to quicker action between the Allies, and concluded by expressing his own personal regret that he had been obliged to tender his resignation to Mr. Asquith.

Mr. Asquith congratulated the Prime Minister and pledged loyal support in prosecuting the war.

Mr. Redmond protested against the Premier's failure to declare a definite policy in regard to Ireland, and urged the liberation of the interned prisoners and a general jail delivery of rebellion prisoners.

Eggs 5d. Each in London.

New laid eggs were quoted at 5s. per dozen in London on Monday.

Dear Turnips.

An acre of turnips sold by auction at Killucan (Co. Westmeath) on Saturday realised £80.

Peace Meeting Sequel.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mrs C. Greig were each fined 40s., or seven days' imprisonment, at Poplar on Monday for obstructing the highway by holding a peace meeting. Mr and Mrs. E. Lanbury, similarly accused, were discharged.

High Price for Oats.

At the Newtownstewart (Co. Tyrone) market on Monday 150 bags of oats were sold at 2s. per stone.

G. A. A.

Football Final.

Despite terrible conditions, the All-Ireland Football Final G.A.A, Wexford v. Mayo, was played in the presence of fully 3,000 spectators. The special trains from the various districts were largely patronised, but a number of intending spectators were deterred from making the journey to Croke Park owing to the prevailing conditions. Those who did attend were amply repaid, as they were treated to a splendid contest—in fact very much better than we were prepared for when the teams lined out. The frost-bound nature of the ground seemingly had very little effect on the players, who went to work with a will, and a hot pace was maintained throughout. It is also very pleasing to be in a position to state that not a single accident occurred to mar the enjoyment of the match, which was contested in a truly Gaelic spirit. Wexford as the result of their victory regained their proud title of champions, and by so doing established a record for their county. Mayo put up a magnificent fight, and have every reason to feel proud of the stand they made against their more doughty and experienced opponents. They never yielded an inch of ground without putting up a tough fight, but they lost many opportunities owing to the lack of cohesion. Taken all round, the contest was well worthy of the occasion, and both teams richly merited the applause which greeted them on leaving the field. The massive silver cup, presented by the G S and W Railway Co., which goes with the championship, was on Sunday won outright by Wexford, they having won it two years in succession. Half time score was :—Wexford, 2 goals 2 points; Mayo, 2 points. A strenuously contested game in the second half saw the final whistle going with the score :—

WEXFORD	...	3 goals 4 points
MAYO	...	1 goal 2 points.

EFFIN v. GARRIENDERK.

On Sunday last, at 2.30 p.m., teams representing Effin and Garrienderk met at Bluett's Cross, in an excellent site, to give a display of their skill in the football arena. This was the initial match between the two teams since the formation of the Clubs about six weeks ago, and a great deal of excitement was centred in the contest, not alone by those in the parish but also by lovers of Gaelic pastimes from the outlying districts. The match was played under propitious weather conditions, and large contingents travelled from Ballinagoul, Bruree, Kilbreedy, Rathmarkey, Ballymuck, Ballyhea and Charleville to witness the interesting event. When the play commenced there was a fine gathering in the field, including a large percentage of ladies, and the enthusiasm did not flag for a moment. The Garrienderk team had some excellent players. Joe Ahern is a typical footballer, combining, as he does, strength with dexterity; but the Garrienderk "gentry" are a far more practised team, as was quite evident from the excellent display which they gave. Details of the match are given hereunder.

During the opening stages Effin had the best of matters without however recording any score. Garrienderk then got on the alert and when the game had been twenty-five minutes in progress, Neenan registered a goal. Effin made excellent efforts to equalise, but the defence proved very sound. For a few minutes play was kept within close proximity to the Garrienderk goal, and the Effin boys made many efforts to improve their position, but this second attack also proved unsuccessful. They again made a number of good combined attacks near the Garrienderk goal when "Merchant" M'Guire eventually placed a point to the credit of the team. Good footwork on the part of the Garrienderk forwards removed operations to the Effin territory, where a tough struggle was witnessed At this point Sheehy ("Thatcher"), one of Effin forwards sustained a sprained ankle and had to retire. Half-time was now announced which left both teams with only the scores already stated to their credit. During the resumption of the play in the second half Effin, with one man short made a strong attack, but there was no chance of penetrating the Garrienderk defence. After ten minutes play the latter made a combined attack on the Effin defence, and Mahony shot a goal this excellent performance was subsequently repeated when Foley getting possession of the ball in mid-field passed it on to Forde, who immediately registered a full score. Effin now got somewhat despondent and played with much less vigour. Five minutes before the full time score was announced two more goals were registered against Effin by Kennedy and Jones respectively. When the whistle went full time was announced with the score :—

Garrienderk—5 goals.
Effin—1 point.

The following were the teams :—

Garrienderk—T Mahony (captain), J Ahern (goal), M Fitzgerald, J Kearney, D Foley, W Jones, J Forde, T Neenan, P Burke, M Leahy, J Kennedy, C McCarthy, P Molloy and E Finn.

Effin—J McGuire (captain), P Flynn (goal), J Copps, W Copps, D Kelly, J Moloney, W Ahern, D Herlihy, P Farrell, J Barry, J Quinlan, J Tracey, J Sheehy, J Burke and M Cullity.

Mr William O'Brien, Thomastown, refereed the match, and gave entire satisfaction to both teams.

Irish Prisoners and Doctor's Suicide.

The Irish prisoners in the South Camp, Frongoch, describes as "monstrous" a charge that Dr. Peters, the Camp M.O., who reeently drowned himself, was, as alleged at the inquest, worried by "untruthful statements made by Irish prisoners at the camp," and they ask the Home Secretary to grant an inquiry.

Sugar Substitutes.

Discontent was expressed by inmates of the Birr Workhouse at the substitution of a sugar substitute for their ordinary sugar allowance. The substitute has now been withdrawn, and a half ration of sugar given instead.

Rathkeale Notes.

—:o:—

By Wm. Hayes.

The people of the old historic town by the Deel most heartily deplore the death of the late Mr. Wm. Dore Power, and are unanimous in offering their heartfelt sympathy with his widow, Mrs. Power and family, as one of the old leading families of Rathkeale.

* * *

They also regret the death of Mr. William Power, Chesterfield, cousin of the late Mr. Wm. Dore Power, who was well-known in the parish of Knockaderry. What the late Mr. Wm. Power of Chesterfield, has done for the Catholic Parish Church is well-known. He erected a most beautiful altar to the honour and glory of God, and his charity for every national purpose left nothing to be desired.

* * *

The old historic town is very busy this week. It has a most gay appearance. The country people flocked from all directions buying their Xmas goods, while all the merchants are doing a wonderful trade.

* * *

Mr. Wm. Hayes, President of the Wolfe Tone Branch, U.I.L, Rathkeale, has written to Mr. Dillon, M.P, to try and bring before the Government that if they want to have peace in Ireland. The first part of the programme is to give Ireland a full measure of Home Rule, such as Australia, Canada and South Africa have got.

* * *

Secondly, the immediate release of the Irish political prisoners confined in Frongoch and other English prisons. We want no conscription, as it is well-known that the Irish nation throughout the world have supplied a large army and supported the Allies and gained honours in winning the Victoria Cross and other military distinctions, and fought as faithful as they did at Fontenoy for France.

* * *

The Irish people are the most chivalrous race in the world. They built up that noble country of the Stars and Stripes in gaining the freedom of America, also Australia, Canada, and every other country will find the names of Irish Chieftains—The O'Neill's and McMahon, who fought so nobly for France, Austria, Spain and the other Catholic countries.

* * *

The greatest generals England ever had were Irishmen. Unfortunately the Irish people are not as united as they should be at home to try and create Ireland a nation once again:

"Great glorious and free,
First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea."

Glin School Board.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Glin District School was held on Monday, Mr M. D. Conway presiding. Also present—Rathkeale Union—Messrs. Jas. Nolan and M. D. Conway. Newcastle West Union—Mr D. Drew. Listowel Union—Messrs. W. Collins, J.P.; D. Mangan, and M. C. Mulvihill.

Mr John Conway, Clerk, and Rev. Bro. J. D. Hayes, Master, were in attendance.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board sanctioning a war bonus of £5 per annum, voted the Porter at the last meeting.

The Local Government Board wrote stating it was not their practice to have any contract entered into since the war, but if the Board of Management substitutes margarine for butter they would offer no objection to the termination of the butter contract.

Mr Mangan moved his notice of motion to terminate the contract of Mr P. O'Shaughnessy, who was supplying butter at a great loss.

Mr Drew seconded.

Mr Collins moved an amendment that margarine be substituted, in accordance with the offer of the Local Government Board.

Mr Mulvihill seconded.

The Chairman refused to accept the amendment, and Mr Mangan's motion was carried.

A resolution of sympathy with Mr. R Frost, a respected member of the School Board, on the death of his son, was passed.

The Medical Officer of Health reported that 48 children had been laid up with influenza, but they were now better.

A Severe Frost.

A severe frost set in in Glin district on the 17th inst., rendering all traffic difficult and often dangerous.

Constable Murray, while on duty last night with Constable Neary, ran after persons who were making slides on the streets with the result that the former fell and broke his wrist.

Potatoes for Export.

At the request of the Food Controller, and in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, the Board of Trade have made an order limiting the right to export potatoes from Ireland to persons expressly licensed for that purpose by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. All applications for such licences should be addressed to that Department at 4, Upper Merrion street, Dublin. The Order comes into force on Thursday, December 21st.

Musical Tuition.

E. T. COLLINS has now Vacancies for Three or Four Pupils next Term, commencing JANUARY 8th, 1917.

Special Xmas Attraction

AT THE

Picture Palace

NEWCASTLE WEST.

FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY,
December 26th and 27th,
at 8 o'clock.

"The Warblers"

Cork's Own Pierrot Concert Party.

Songs—Comic and Sentimental. Recitations. Musical Monologues. Operatic Duetts. Harmonized Choruses, &c., &c.

Artistes—

Messrs. E. T. Cowhie, J. F. Healy, J. M. Lannin, D. C. Coates, J. A. Harrison, S. L. Maguire, M. A. O'Keeffe, J. F. Murphy, D. J. Hobbs.

Admission (including Tax)—
2s. 2d. 2s. 6d. (Reserved); 1s. 2d. 7d. (Limited).

MUSIC! MIRTH! MELODY!

Don't Miss This Treat.

Business Manager (For "The Warblers") Frank J. O'Flynn.

Friday, December 29th.
Only a Messenger Boy.
Keystone, with Ford Sterling.

POISONED FLINT.
Thrilling Drama.

HIS MISTAKE.
Comedy.

Prices as Usual.

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL.
YEAR 1916.

Commencing 1st January and ending 31st December.

LICENSES FOR MOTOR CARS

Including Motor Bicycles or Tricycles IN IRELAND.

NOTICE.

PERSONS keeping Motor Cars are required by Statute to take out Licenses authorising them to do so.

The duties payable are as follows :—

	Duty. £	s	d	Duty for Part Year £	s	d
FOR MOTOR CARS :—						
Motor Bicycles or Tricycles	1	0	0	10	0	
Other Motor Cars :—						
Not exceeding 6½ horse power	2	2	0	1	1	0
Exceeding 6½ but not exceeding 12 horse-power	3	3	0	1	11	6
Exceeding 12 but not exceeding 16 horse power	4	4	0	2	2	0
Exceeding 16 but not exceeding 26 horse power	6	6	0	3	3	0
Exceeding 26 but not exceeding 33 horse power	8	8	0	4	4	0
Exceeding 33 but not exceeding 40 horse-power	10	10		5	5	0
Exceeding 40 but not exceeding 60 horse power	21	0	0	10	10	0
Exceeding 60 horse-power	42	0	0	21	0	0
Motor Cars kept by Medical Practitioners for the purpose of their profession—						
Motor Bicycles or Tricycles	0	10	0	0	5	0
Other Motor Cars :—						
Not exceeding 6½ horse power	1	1	0	10	6	
Exceeding 6½ but not exceeding 12 h.p.	1	11	6	0	15	0
12 " 16 "	2	2	0	1	1	9
16 " 26 "	3	3	0	1	11	6
26 " 33 "	4	4	0	2	2	0
33 " 40 "	5	5	0	2	12	6
40 " 60 "	10	10	0	5	5	0
60 horse power	21	0	0	10	10	0

* Applicable only to Motor Cars which shall be kept and used for the first time on and after the 1st October in any year.

DEFINITION OF MOTOR CAR.

The expression "Motor Car" means a carriage propelled by mechanical power, and includes Motor Bicycle and a Motor Tricycle but does not include a vehicle drawn by a Motor Car.

These duties do not apply to any Motor Car, Motor Omnibus or other vehicle being a hackney carriage within the meaning of Section 4 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1888, nor to any Motor Fire Engine or Ambulance.

Every person liable to the payment of any of the above duties is required by the Acts to fill up and sign a declaration which is to be delivered to the proper officer before the expiration of the month of January or before the expiration of 21 days from the date when such persons shall first incur liability. The penalty for not delivering a declaration or for making an untrue declaration is £20.

A penalty of £20 (over and above the duty) is also incurred by every person keeping a Motor Car without having taken out the licence required by law.

Forms of declaration may be obtained at any Money Order Office in Ireland. In order, however, that the proceeds of Motor Licenses may go to the credit of the County of Limerick it is necessary that application for a licence should be made to the Kilmallock Post Office (not to the G.P.O., Limerick), as Kilmallock is the only office authorised to issue licences for the County of Limerick.

J. J. QUAID, County Secretary.
29th December, 1915.

DEATH OF MR. DAVID SUPPLE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. David Supple, Ballingarry, who died on Tuesday morning, after a short illness. Deceased, who was in the prime of life, was very popular in the district, and his early demise is deeply deplored.—R.I.P.

Death of Mr. Jerh. Curtin, Newcastle West,

We regret to announce the death from erysipelas of Mr. Jeremiah Curtin, son of Mr. Cornelius Curtin, Newcastle West, after a short illness. Deceased was a popular favourite in the town, and owing to having contracted pneumonia recently and the worry attending the death of his brother, John, only last week, the result was a breakdown in his health, and he was not able to make any rally against the fell disease which laid him low.

He was a popular figure in G.A.A. circles, being "full back" in the Newcastle West football team. "Darby," as he was familiarly known, although as mild and modest as a child, was an adversary to be dreaded in the field. He was a keen and ardent sportsman, and his leisure time was spent 'angling the wily trout' or in the heather with dog and gun; at the back of all he was a sincere and thorough Irishmen, and held in the greatest respect by all who knew him, his simple and childlike character having earned him hosts of friends.

The deepest sympathy is felt in the town and district for his aged parents—good, kind, and industrious couple—beloved in the town, and the feeling of pain expressed everywhere when the news of their second son's death became known showed the feelings of the townspeople.

The funeral to the family burial ground at Killeedy on Wednesday was large and representative.

Monsignor Hallinan, P.P., V.G, Rev. J. J. Kelly, C.C, and Rev. M Hayes, C.C., Newcastle West, officiated at the graveside.

NEWCASTLE WEST HURLING AND FOOTBALL CLUBS.

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE.

At a meeting of the above, held on Tuesday evening at their Club Rooms, Mr M. Nix presiding,

Mr James Musgrave proposed and Mr J. Dwyer seconded—"That we, the members of the above Clubs, tender our sincere sympathy to Mr Curtin and family on the death of Jack and Jerry Curtin, both sterling Gaels, who had often played men's parts in the Gaelic arena."

Mr James Griffin spoke in feeling terms of "Darby" Curtin, and said they all felt the deepest sorrow with the bereaved parents.

Mr J. Sheehy proposed, and Mr William Ahern seconded, the following resolution—"That we place on record our deep sympathy with Mr Maurice Dee, another old Gael, on the death of his mother."

Both resolutions were passed in silence.

Death of Mr. Wm. Power, Chesterfield.

—:o:—

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we announce the death of Mr. Wm. Power, Chesterfield House, Knockaderry, which took place rather unexpectedly at his residence on Sunday morning to the grief of his sisters and relatives. The deceased gentleman belonged to a most respected family, and was one of the most extensive farmers in this county. He dealt largely in live stock and thoroughbred horses, and many of the latter won much money in stakes. His brother, the late Mr. C J Power, of Ballinahinch, owned many famous race horses, including 'The Creole.' Mr. Power was a prominent figure at all large fairs, and his straightforward business methods and sound judgment won him the respect of all who made his acquaintance. He was a subscriber to many charitable appeals and contributed largely to the fund raised to renovate his parish church. The remains were removed to the Knockaderry Church, whence the funeral started for the family vault at Rathkeale on Tuesday after Solemn Requiem High Mass.

Carrickerry Notes.

PEACE AND GOODWILL.

The holy season of peace and goodwill is again at hand, and it is good for us to hope that as regards the conflict which has banished peace from Europe that its termination is within measurable distance. There is a break in the clouds already, as peace rumours are current everywhere. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem, whose Divine mission on earth was one of love and peace, turn the hearts of the combatants to the holy ideals Our Savious has inculcated, so that henceforth the anniversary of the Messiah's nativity may be celebrated, not amid the din of battle, but in the calm and holy atmosphere of a world devoted wholly to the glory of God. To the Irish race, those Israelites eager to enter the promised land, at home or in exile, may Christmas bring a multitude of blessings. Also to the staff of the OBSERVER, its versatile correspondents and legion of readers, may the Holy Season be productive of priceless blessings.

OBITUARY.

The death, at a premature age, which occurred on the 15th December, of Mrs. J. Ahern, Glensharrold, has created profound regret among all classes in Glensharrold and surrounding districts, where her family is held in the highest esteem. Deceased was daughter of the late Mr John O'Connell, Glensharrold, and sister to Mr. John O'Connell, N.T., Carrickerry. She leaves a young family to mourn her loss. To her bereaved husband and family, Mr John O'Connell, N.T., and sisters the sincere sympathy of the entire community is extended. The interment took place on Sunday at Ardagh. The officiating clergymen were Rev. John Reeves, P.P., and Rev. Stephen O'Dea, C.C. May she rest in peace.

Newcastle Picture Palace.

—:o:—

The Management inform us that there will be no pictures to-night (Friday).

Form 52—NOTICE OF POOR RATES HAVING BEEN MADE.

County of Limerick.

Rural Districts of Croom, Glin, Kilmallock, Limerick No. 1, Mitchelstown No. 2, Newcastle, Rathkeale, and Tipperary No. 2.

NOTICE is Hereby Given that Poor Rates have been duly made on the property rateable thereto in above-named Districts. The Rates for the Ordinary Expenditure of the said Districts for the service of the year ending the 31st day of March, 1917, chargeable to the above-named Districts are at the following rates in the pound :—

	To be levied on Agricultural Land	Sums deducted in respect of the Agricultural Grant	To be levied on other Hereditaments.
	pence	pence	pence
CROOM.			
In respect of			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	8·428	11·585	20·013
District charges	6·585	6·031	12·616
Totals	33·083	20·442	53·525
Total to be levied	2s. 9d.		4s. 6d.
GLIN.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	23·158	16·048	39·206
District charges	17·660	12·243	29·903
Totals	58·888	31·117	90·005
Total to be levied	4s. 11d.		7s. 6d.
KILMALLOCK.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	16·359	12·624	22·983
District charges	11·888	7·244	19·132
Totals	40·317	22·694	63·011
Total to be levied	3s. 4d.		5s. 3d.
LIMERICK NO. 1.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	25·797	16·840	42·637
District charges	15·793	9·119	24·912
Totals	59·660	28·785	88·445
Total to be levied	5s. 0d.		7s. 4d.
MITCHELSTOWN NO 2.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	7·678	8·778	16·456
District charges	14·279	8·872	23·151
Totals	40·027	20·476	60·503
Total to be levied	3s. 4d.		5s. 0d.
NEWCASTLE.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	9·100	13·296	22·396
District charges	17·177	11·792	28·969
Totals	44·347	27·914	72·261
Total to be levied	3s. 8d.		6s. 0d.
RATHKEALE.			
County charges	18·072	2·826	20·896
Union charges	10·691	14·526	25·217
District charges	12·386	7·443	19·829
Totals	41·147	24·795	65·942
Total to be levied	3s. 5d.		5s. 6d.
TIPPERARY NO. 2.			
County charges	18·070	2·826	20·896
Union charges	8·797	11·220	20·017
District charges	9·805	7·200	17.005
Totals	36·672	21·246	57·918
Total to be levied	3s. 1d.		4s. 10d.

And whereas certain separate charges are chargeable on the areas or contributory places hereunder mentioned, the following special poundage rates have been added to the poor rates above-mentioned for the payment of such separate charges, and the same form part of and will be collected with the above general poor rate.

Names of Special Area or Contributory Place.	Purpose or Name of Charge.	Special Poundage Rate. s.	d.
Mitchelstown No. 2 Rural District	Public Health	0	1
do do	Criminal Injury	0	0
Newcastle Rural District	Public Health	0	2
do	Criminal Injury	0	1
Dromcollogher Electoral Division	do	0	0
Broadford Dispensary District	Public Health	0	7
Abbeyfeale do	do	0	1
Rathkeale Rural District	do	0	0
do do	Criminal Injury	0	1
Askeaton West Electoral Division	do	0	1½
Rathkeale Rural and Urban Electoral Divisions	Public Health	0	8
Aughanish Electoral Division	Criminal Injury	0	1
Pallaskenry do	do	0	0
Tipperary Rural District	Public Health	0	1
do do	Criminal Injury	0	0

Names of Special Area or Contributory Place.	Purpose or Name of Charge.	Special Poundage Rate. s.	d.
County at Large	Criminal Injury	0	0
Croom Rural District	Public Health	0	0
do do	Criminal Injury	0	0
Glin Rural District	Public Health	0	0
do	Criminal Injury	0	0
Kilmallock Rural District	Public Health	0	0
do	do	0	0
Kilfinane Dispensary District	do	0	0
Kilmallock do	do	0	0
Bruff do	do	0	0
Hospital do	do	0	0
Limerick No. 1 Rural District	Criminal Injury	0	0
do	Public Health	0	0
Annacotty Dispensary District	do	0	0
Caherconlish do	do	0	0
Clarina do	do	0	0
Limerick Rural do	do	0	0
Murroe do	do	0	0

The Rate Books are now in my custody, and duplicate portions thereof have been transmitted by me to the Clerks of each respective Union concerned. The Rate Books may be inspected by any person affected thereby, at the Council or Union Offices on any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. exclusive of Sundays and Bank Holidays. The said Rates will be payable in two half-yearly moieties, the first from and after the publication of this Notice, and the second from and after the 1st day of October, 1916.

JOHN J. QUAID, Secretary Limerick County Council.

Dated this 15th day of April, 1916.

Newcastle West District Council

—:o:—

Rents of Labourers' Cottages.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Newcastle West District Council, Mr. T Hurley, J.P., Chairman, presided.

A circular letter was received from the Local Government Board regarding the working of the Summer Time Act, and the Council decided to reply stating they were against its application to Ireland next year.

A letter was read from Mrs. Minnie O'Connell, Ardagh, stating that she had her holding nearly purchased, and would be soon in a position to give the Council a free site for the proposed library there.

The Chairman said there was another letter in reference to the same matrer. He then read a letter from the Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, stating he understood that the Council was about to consider the question of a suitable site for the proposed library building at Ardagh, and that two sites had been offered for the purpose, one by Mrs. O'Connell, and another by Mr. Ahern. The Trustees had received a full report on the relative merits of these two sites, and would be prepared to approve the selection of the latter of the two. The report in regard to the one offered by Mrs. O'Connell indicated that it would not be suitable, and its selection would, therefore, not be approved by the Trust.

The Chairman said that apparently the Trustees would not have Mrs. O'Connell's site.

The Chairman said that was another matter.

Mr. Quaid asked what was the objection to Mrs. O'Connell's site. It was the first site offered the Council.

Mr. Downey said they all knew the reason, but he did not like to say it.

The matter was adjourned.

A letter was received from Mr. M J Geary, R.D.C, returning thanks for the vote of sympathy passed to him at the last meeting on the death of his mother.

It was ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

On the motion of Mr. M Lenihan, Denis Naughton was elected caretaker of Mount Collins pump.

The Local Government Board wrote in reference to the report of Dr. P McCarthy, Medical Officer of Health, relative to the water supply of Abbeyfeale, and having regard to the opinion expressed by Dr McCarthy in this matter, the Board requested that the Council would be good enough to take the subject again into consideration with a view to providing a sufficient supply of water for the town in the summer as well as in the winter months.

The matter was adjourned to the next meeting.

The Local Government Board wrote forwarding extracts from Medical Officer's return relating to Feenagh dispensary district, as follows :—"The labourers' cottages erected in the district under the Labourers' Acts have no water supply. The sewerage system in Dromcollogher and Kilmeedy is bad. In the village of Feenagh there is practically no sewerage system."

The matter was referred to Mr Leahy, Eugineer, for a report.

A circular letter was read from the Local Government Board in reference to the cultivation of plots provided under the Labourers Acts, and pointing out that the tenants should be informed that the Council will dispossess any tenant who fails to fulfil his legal obligation in regard to the tilling of his allotment, and the rent collectors should be instructed to report all such cases to the Council.

It was decided to inform the tenants that they should comply with the letting regulations, and cultivate their plots in future.

With reference to the financial minutes of the Council of the 12th ult., the Local Government Board wrote stating that the collection of the rents of labourers' cottages in the No. 2 collecting district was unsatisfactory, and the rent collector (Mr Dalton) should be called upon to take effective steps to reduce the arrears.

It was decided to notify the collector to reduce the arrears.

On the motion of Mr J. Quaid, seconded by Mr D. Flynn, the following resolulion was passed unanimously :—"Resolved—That we desire to express our sincerest sympathy and condolence with our respected colleague, Mr Terence Liston, and also with the Rev. Jas. Liston, C.C., Pallaskenry, on the lamented demise of their sister, the late Mrs Power, Kilmeedy, and that it be an instruction to the Clerk to have a copy of this resolution forwarded to the bereaved friends."

The following letter was read from the Local Government Board :—

SIR,—The L. G. Board for Ireland have had before them the resolution of the Newcastle Rural District Council of the 9th Nov., proposing to reduce the rents of labourers' cottages and plots in the rural district by 6d. a week, and in reply thereto they desire to state that no alteration or amendment of the Council's letting regulations, which have been duly confirmed, can be made except in pursuance of the same confirmation of the proposed amendment as was required in the case of the original regulations.

The Board, however, think it right at once to inform the Council that they would not be prepared to approve of any reduction, permanently or temporarily, of the very moderate rents now charged for the labourers' cottages and plots provided in the district.

In this matter I am to call attention to the Board's letter of the 26th July last, in reply to a previous resolution of the Council proposing to reduce the rents by 25 per cent. during the period of the war, in which the Board pointed out that the remedy for any grievance which the tenants of labourers' cottages have to suffer by reason of increased prices of food supplies is the granting of additional wages to them by the farming class, whose profits are incidentally stated in a recent communication of the Limerick County Council to have of late been largely increased.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

M. O'SULLIVAN, Assistant Sec.

The Chairman said he did not hear any reference at the County Council to farmers' profits.

The Clerk said that the meaning of the letter was that the Council should goover the procedure as regards letting regulations again and the Local Government Board would not sanction of reducing the rents.

After some discussion, the matter was adjourned.

The Mendicant.

His flowing beard was as a snowflake white,
His step elastic as a fairy sprite,
A giant in stature, his visage did portray,
That though forlorn he had seen a better day.

His brow was genial, his look serene,
There was something noble in his majestic mien,
But he seemed at times, to bear an inward load—
This ancient knight of the Irish road.

A portly bag on his back he bore,
As he trudged a mendicant from door to door.
Yet none who saw him could tell his name,
Or the place in Erin from whence he came.

The old revered him, he amazed the young,
Not a word he spoke in the stranger's tongue.
But in mellifluous Gaelic he himself addressed
Gave a salutation, or in it conversed.

There is no doubt, as late records trace,
But that he sprang from a princely race;
That once in Thomond held place and power
Till extirpated in an evil hour.

'Tis true the spirit of the past expires,
When sons forget what they owe their sires,
Their ways discarded, and their ideals dead,
With scarce a tear for their country shed.

Enough the slave in the gutter crawls,
While the stranger bides in his father's halls,
Heedless alike of either sigh or groan,
For his soul is ice and his heart is stone.

This stately pillar of a ruined pile,
The bulwark once of the seagirt Isle,
Has crumbled long since to swift decay,
Paid the debt of nature all men must pay.

In the iron grip of penury grim
He lived, the cold world has frowned on him,
Insult and wrong he has calmly borne,
An outcast, friendless, and quite forlorn.

And thus it was that the baneful ban
Of discord sundered each Irish clan;
So that the children of the ancient Gael,
Are but strangers since in their own Israel.

Oh, gentle reader, if you do peruse,
This brief effusion of my simple muse,
Reflect, the theme is an illustration
Of our land impoverished by subjugation.

P. J. AHERN.

Carrickerry, December, 1916.

Found Drowned in the Shannon.

INQUEST AT FOYNES.

On Wednesday evening Mr Coroner Cussen, solicitor, Newcastle West, held an inquest in the Courthouse at Foynes touching the death of John Sullivan, a fisherman, who lost his life while fishing in the Shannon, on the 30th October last. The body had been discovered on the beach that morning by Constable McCarthy, who had it removed to Foynes. The deceased was a married man with four children, and lived at Askeaton, but owing to the length of time the body was in the water it was unrecognisable. The father of the deceased identified the body by the oil-skins and clothes on it. Both shoes were missing. The body of the man who accompanied the deceased has not yet been found.

The following jury was sworn :—Jeremiah O'Connor (foreman), Henry O'Brien, John Boyce, Henry Reidy, Jas. O'Connell, Thomas Madigan, John Leahy, Charles O'Malley, Thomas Finucane, Maurice Fitzgerald, Patk. Kearney, James O'Connor, John Morey.

Sergeant P. Morrissey examined Denis Sullivan, who identified the body as that of his son, John Sullivan, by his clothes. Deceased was 36 years of age and married. He last saw him alive on Sunday, 29th October, at Askeaton. He was then at Askeaton strand preparing his net for the following morning's fishing. He was by occupation a fisherman. He went fishing on the following Monday morning about 5 o'clock, and was accompanied by John Sheehan in the same boat. He did not see him alive after that Sunday, but heard that his son was drowned.

To the Coroner—John Sheehan was also drowned, and his body has not been found. The boat was found bottom upwards two days afterwards, and the net was found at White Island.

Constable Timothy McCarthy, Foynes, stated he was on patrol duty that morning on the road to Mount Trenchard. About eleven o'clock he visited the Strand and found there a dead body face downwards. That was the dead body now lying in the Courthouse and which he assisted in removing there, and identified by Denis Sullivan, Askeaton, as the body of his son, John Sullivan.

Dr. C J Nolan stated that having heard the evidence he was of opinion that death was due to drowning. The body was merely a bag of bones it had been so long in the water.

The Coroner briefly summed up the evidence and the jury found that the deceased was accidentally drowned while fishing in the Shannon.

The Foreman (Mr. O'Connor) said that the jury desired to add a rider expressing sympathy with the family of the deceased.

The Coroner said he approved of the rider and wished to associate himself with the expression of sympathy.

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By Public Auction.

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To be Let for Grazing on SATURDAY, the 6th JANUARY, 1917, at Two o'clock, p.m., for Mr. Michael Madigan, Shanagarry,

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THE Weekly Observer
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Old Age Pensions' Committee, Abbeyfeale.

TRIBUTE TO PENSIONS' OFFICER.

At the usual meeting of the Abbeyfeale old age pensions' committee, the Very Rev. Canon P Lee, P.P., presided; Messrs B C Collins, J.P., M.C.C.; Wm. D. O'Connor, Edmond P Fitzgerald, Wm. P Flynn. D E Leahy, Pension Clerk, also attended.

A number of ordinary pension and additional pension cases having been considered, it was decided to make a further appeal to the military authorities to reconsider their decision respecting the claim for maintenance of Mr. Martin Kennelly, whose son had been wounded in action. The case was considered a most deserving one.

Mr B. C. Collins, J.P., M.C.C., said now that the regular business had been disposed of he wished to propose the following resolution—"That we have heard of the removal of Mr Grace, Pension Officer, with mingled feelings of genuine delight and bitter regret. Delight at his well-merited promotion to the large and important district of Thurles, and regret at our losing the services of an officer so just, capable, and obliging. We beg to assure Mr Grace that he will carry with him to his new sphere of work the profound respect and admiration of the people of Abbeyfeale and surrounding districts over which he had charge as Inland Revenue Officer, and what, we are sure, he will appreciate more the gratitude and blessings of the poor, to whom he was, while just, always kind and sympathetic. We, the members of the Old Age Pensions' Committee, who worked so harmoniously with Mr Grace, now cordially wish him a bright, happy, and prosperous future. That our Clerk, Mr Leahy, be instructed to insert this resolution in our minutes, and forward a copy of them to Mr Grace and to his superior officer."

Mr Fitzgerald said he had great pleasure in seconding that most deserving resolution.

Chairman (Canon Lee) said he endorsed every word in the resolutions proposed by Mr. Collins, and seconded unanimously with such genuine acclamation. No one was more pleased than he was that the abilities of Mr. Grace had found recognition at the hands of his superiors, while on the other hand no one was more sorry to hear of his removal. During the time he lived amongst them, as officer of the Inland Revenue, he was often brought officially into touch with Mr. Grace, both on behalf of the many who sought the old age pension and others who had work to be done in his office, and he always received the greatest kindness at his hands. But it was not so much as a highly competent and conscientous officer that he regretted his departure, but the fact that they were losing a most respectable and edifying parishioner. It would not be easy to fill his place in that respect. It was not every day they found a man so attentive to his religious duties, so strictly temperate, so edifying in his habits in their public positions. He was a model to the young men amongst whom he moved as if he were one of themselves. The humblest boy if self-respecting, was recognised by him; he helped them to revive our native language and our ancient games, and produced in their minds by the regularity and sanctity of his life an impression which, he hoped, it would take a very long time to efface. He joined with those present in wishing Mr. Grace God speed, and he assured him when he returned to Abbeyfeale, which he hoped would be often, he would always receive a warm welcome from its priests and people (applause).

Messrs. O'Connor and O'Flynn endorsed all that had been said.

Fatal Skating Accident.

Sanatorium Patients Drowned.

On Saturday a number of youths, patients in Peamount Sanatorium, County Dublin, left the institution without authority, and went to skate on ice in a disused quarry hole, some distance from the entrance gate, and in a field off the public roadway. Unfortunately the ice gave way, and three of the youths fell into the water. Some of the other youths endeavoured to rescue them, but as the ice threatened to give way under them also they were obliged to abandon the effort, and the three lads were drowned. The ages of the deceased youths varied from 18 to 25 years. Four other youths had a very narrow escape from being drowned in the quarry hole, which varies in depth from five feet to twenty feet. They sank several times before being got to the bank. The bodies have been recovered.

COAL! COAL!

—:o:—

Maurice Dee,

SOUTH QUAY,
NEWCASTLE WEST,

HAS NOW FRESH SUPPLIES OF

BEST HOUSEHOLD COALS.

Game Notice.

The Lands of Ballinahown are strictly Preserved. Any person found Hunting, Shooting, or Coursing after this Notice will be Prosecuted, in consequence of our Sheep being worried. All Stray Dogs will be Shot.

THOMAS J. McENERY.
WILLIAM McNAMARA.

1st December, 1916.

Spirella Corsets.

MISS K. O'SULLIVAN, Agent for above will, on receipt of card, Measure and Fit Ladies at their own Residence, or at Churchtown, Newcastle West.

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REPRESENTATIVE by leading Dublin firm of Printers, having a knowledge of the Trade, to call at Union Offices, Creameries, Stationers, &c. Good remuneration to experienced person.—Apply stating experience and enclose copies of testimonials to Box Z, this office.

Migratory Labour
And Food Production.

From various parts of the South, East, Midlands and North of Ireland statements are published that one of the chief difficulties to a further extensive advance in the growing of food crops for the purposes of the war is the great scarcity of suitable labour. The Department have been asked to assist in dealing with this difficulty, especially in so far as it can be met by the utilisation of such migratory labour as may exist in other parts of the country, and as may not intend to go to Great Britain this coming year.

The demand is effectively summarised in the following resolution adopted by the General Council of Irish County Councils at its last meeting :—

"That the Department take into immediate consideration the desirability of establishing a bureau for the registration of agricultural labourers and employers, in order that the labour requirements of other parts of Ireland where labourers are scarce can be supplied from other districts."

The Department have given this matter very careful consideration; and while the function of facilitating the transfer of labour in this fashion more properly belongs to the Labour Exchanges established under the Board of Trade in Ireland, they recognise that in the present special emergency for war food production they may usefully assist by taking the initiative in opening communication between the respective parties concerned. They are assured of the cordial co-operation of the Board of Trade Labour Exchange in the normal arrangements for transfer and employment which may follow.

The Department will accordingly be prepared to receive applications from occupiers of land or groups of occupiers who are in need of such labour; and from labourers or persons acting on their behalf who may be prepared to take up such employment, both parties respectively stating their terms and conditions.

I. APPLICATION FROM EMPLOYERS.

Intending employers of labour should give the following particulars :—

1. Amount of cash wage which they propose to pay.
   (a) with full board and lodging
   (b) without board or lodging
   (c) with lodging, but without board,
   (d) with lodging, but with partial board.
2. The length of time for which employment would be guaranteed.
   (a) whether from the spring (January or February) right on until the end of the harvest, or
   (b) whether from the summer for harvest work only, or
   (c) whether for casual periods : at seed time, hay, harvest, and the harvesting of grain, potatoes, etc.

With regard to (c) there are numbers of the smaller farmers who may not be able to employ a labourer save for short spells at the times named. Such employment would not be sufficient to warrant a labourer moving into another district, but a number of such farmers agreeing together to employ a labourer in turns might be able to furnish a sufficient guarantee for the purpose. In districts where occupiers of this type are numerous a sufficiently large group or society of farmers might be able to arrange for the introduction and employment of a number of labourers. In this case, of casual employment for short periods, applications should come from a group of occupiers who can guarantee continuous employment in the manner suggested.

All such applications should be addressed to the Department of Agriculture, Upper Merrion street, Dublin, marked "Agricultural Labour" on the envelope. No postage is required for such applications.

II. APPLICATIONS FROM LABOURERS

Labourers desiring such employment or those acting on their behalf should state :

1. The wages at which they would be prepared to take employment in another part of Ireland, per week or per day.
   (a) with full board and lodging,
   (b) without board or lodging
   (c) with lodging, but without board
   (d) with lodging, but with partial board.
2. Whether they would be prepared to take remuneration in the form of payment for piece-work. If so at what rate?
3. The earliest date on which they would be ready to start such employment and the length of time they would undertake to stay.
4. What operations they are specially skilled in.

All such applications should be addressed to the Department of Agriculture, Upper Merrion street, Dublin, marked "Agricultural Labour" on the envelope. No postage is required for such applications.

III A SPECIAL OBSERVATION.

It is desirable to make a special observation to each class concerned here.

Employers should note that there is no better agricultural labour for the operations in which they are skilled than that of these Irish migratory labourers, male and female. They bear the highest character for industry and intelligence with those who usually employ them in England and Scotland. As Mr. Munro Ferguson of Novar put it :

"They are the best labourers that we know—extraordinarly conscientious workers . . . My experience of them is—we are supposed to work fairly hard in Scotland, but I heard one of my best tenants say that he liked to have one or two Irishmen about him to keep his men up to the mark."

They are paid high wages in England and Scotland, but it is possible that they might be prepared to work for a lesser rate to assist in food production for the war in their own country, where, moreover, the journey from their homes would be shorter and where some of the conditions of employment, including food and lodging, might counterbalance other advantages. The labourers should note that employment on Irish farms involves as a rule fairly comfortable and homely conditions. This fact should be taken into account in considering the rate of wages, and may be of particular interest in the case of women workers.

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Biddy Whelan's Prophecy

BY

DESMOND LOUGH.

"If I told ye the truth Mike Conmee, it's laughing ye'd be." A voice was droning through the peat and tobacco smoke that hung heavy in the little hot kitchen. The speaker and her listeners were but dark smudges against the glow of the turf fire.

"It's the queer things you do be telling us, Miss Whelan," said one of the smudges, "but you were always a great wan for stories."

"Stories," cried Biddy Whelan sharply. "It's no stories I do be tellin' you, Mike Conmee. It's God's truth. If it's stories you want, go over to Paddy John, beyant at Cloonbarra, and he'll tell ye lies he makes up out of his head for the sake of the pint of porter he gets out of the fools that listen to him. Go to bed, Mary, it's past ten." The old woman turned with unnecessary and unwonted sharpness towards her grand-niece as she spoke, but her dignity had been ruffled.

"If it is past ten, it's time that more than me was in bed," retorted the girl. "I'm not a child."

"You're twenty-one come Christmas, but you're not twenty-one yet. It was in a bitter, bad night you came—I mind it well."

"And it's a bitter, bad night to-night, too, for anywan to be out, be he hog, dog or divil," grumbled one of the group.

"It's I'd be long sorry to see one out. What's that?"

"It's a knock at the door, begob."

"Well, let them in, whoever they are, Nat Brophy, and don't sit talking there, with the rain pelting down on them."

As Nat did her bidding a blast of biting air thrust itself like a sword into the heated room, freshening and chilling it.

"May I come in," said a voice from outside.

"Come in and welcome whoever you are," cried Biddy, rising.

The stranger entered, a tall figure, shedding grey sleet from his overcoat as he walked.

"I'm much obliged to you," he said. "I'm afraid I got out of my way. I'm looking for Cloonbarra."

"If it's the village you want, ye're two miles out of your road. Mike Conmee will set you on it when he's goin'," said Biddy, making room for the new comer on the settle. "You'll take a drop of whisky, sir, to warm you up?"

"Thanks, just a drop," replied the stranger, taking off his coat and hat. He was spare, and looked young, as well as they could see in the dim light.

An awkward silence fell on them, for none could guess the stranger's business. He was not like one of themselves. As for him, he sipped at his glass, the uncomfortable silence affecting him also.

"I'm afraid I've interrupted your little party," he said with a laugh. "Please don't make such a stranger of me as all that."

There was a chorus of polite protest from all.

"Miss Whelan it was that was going to tell us—something she know about—it's herself is the knowledgable woman," explained Nat Brophy.

"That'll do you now," broke in the old woman sharply. "If yer brains was as good workers as yer tongue, Nat, ye'd do a deal better with yerself."

"If Miss Whelan would only be good enough to go on with her story which I interrupted, I should take it as a favour," said the stranger.

"Ah, sure, what could I tell?" began Biddy.

"It's yourself is the wan can do it," interrupted Mike Conmee, "and none knows it better than ourselves."

"Please do," urged the stranger.

Biddy sat for a few moments in thought before speaking.

"Shall I light up the lamp, aunt?" said Mary.

The stranger started and looked round; he had not noticed the girl in the shadow.

"No, child, no. It's a story that's best told in the twilight; aye, so it is."

They sat still for a few moments while the rain lashed at the tiny window.

"It's nigh sixty years ago, I suppose," began Biddy at last, "more than fifty anyway, I know my da was a big strong man then, 'twas he told me the story, God rest him. There was a boy of the FitzHearns there at the time, and he was coming after me, a fine, well set-up lad he was too, and I liked him well, but my da wouldn't have a word of it for all my heart was set on him. He told me why it was that he set his face against, and sure when I heard it all, I couldn't blame him, for it was only fulfilling a prophecy he was, and it was no fault with himself at all. It was hundreds of years before that the trouble began. The FitzHearns were some of them that came over with the Normans, and they had fought with the O'Whelans for their land and had won some of it. One day the head of the FitzHearns came across the O'Whelan of the time—and when two such men met it meant blood. They fought alone for half a day, I'm told, until they were both so tired and wounded that they pulled back from one another and rested on their swords. O'Whelan wasn't minding the other, for he believed that FitzHearn would give him the word when he was ready to fight again, but suddenly, without a word, FitzHearn took a lep at him and struck at him with his sword. O'Whelan saw him just in time and jumped aside; with one hit he sent FitzHearn's sword spinning into the air. Away it went and never came back again—so the story goes—they say that some of the good folks took it. Anyway, FitzHearn was there, unharmed. And O'Whelan could have killed him then and there if he had wanted to, but he took a better revenge on him than that.

"'Get out of my sight,' sez he. 'I fight my equals and not cowards that would take a man unawares. I'll not kill ye, but I'll tell ye this much: that neither me nor mine will ever have aught to do with you or yours until you come back and ask pardon of the O'Whelans for what you did this day, and give them up the sword that's gone from you.'

"'Where is the sword?' asked FitzHearn.

"'I neither know nor care,' says O'Whelan, 'but get you gone out of this, or I'll have ye whipped by my servants.'

"With that the two of them parted, and they never met again. Many's the time that one of the FitzHearns wanted to marry a girl of the O'Whelans, but there was always that between them, and I tell ye all,"—old Biddy raised her voice into a queer chant—"I tell ye all, that until a FitzHearn brings the sword to the O'Whelans and axes their pardon there will be no friendship between them. That's what has me an ould maid to-day, but I wouldn't go back of what that O'Whelan said long ago, no not for a dozen FitzHearns."

The old woman rose, holding up her hand with a fine gesture as she looked from one to the other.

"Aye, and ye're in the right of it," said Mike with a nod of approval, "ye're in the right of it, Miss Whelan."

"That's a queer tale," said the stranger thoughtfully.

"It may be queer," said Biddy, "but it's true all the same."

"And so there's no chance for the poor FitzHearns?"

"There's wan chance, and you know what it is, sir," replied Biddy, "but it's not much of a one. It was on a Christmas Eve, they say, that them two fought, and it is on a Christmas Eve that the FitzHearn must come back. But, anyway, sir, you've no call to trouble yourself about the story, one way or another."

"Of course not."

"The rain's stopping; we must be getting home out of this. It's too long we've been trespassing on your kindness, ma'am," said Mike, preparing to button his coat.

"Not a step will ye go till ye've had a cup of tea," declared Biddy stoutly. "Mary, girl, light up the lamp and set the table."

The girl obeyed, the stranger from his corner watching her curiously as the yellow light flooded the little room. Mary, too, shot a quick glance at him, but he was in the shadow.

"And so it was on Christmas Eve that those two old fellows fought," said the stranger in a musing voice. "We've three weeks of Christmas yet. And has FitzHearn never asked to be forgiven yet?"

"I hear tell he did," replied Biddy. "In my great grandfather's time it was. You remember hearing of that Nat Brophy?"

"Aye, so I do."

"Well, and what was the result?" asked the stranger.

"Sure, it was no good for him—he hadn't the sword. The O'Whelan said he must bring his sword, mind ye, and, sure, it was never found after he lost it, never from that day to this. The kettle's boiling, Mary."

"Ah!" said Mike, "who'd be believing them old tales?"

"I'd be inclined to believe it," said the stranger slowly. He was watching Mary as he spoke.

"Ye do now?" cried Biddy, incredulous, but greatly gratified. "There's many a one that wouldn't; but, sure, the knowledgable people about those parts all hold to it."

She glanced at Mike with an expression which indicated that she did not consider him "knowledgable."

"Them old ideas is going out," retorted Mike stoutly.

"More's the pity then," said the stranger.

"Here's the tea now," said Mary, setting the cups and saucers on the table with a clatter.

Conversation flagged. In spite of themselves, the presence of the stranger tied their tongues somewhat.

More than once did Biddy glance at him sharply as the meal proceeded.

"It's time we were on the road," said Nat Brophy at length. "Where's that you're for, mister? Cloonbarra, I think you said?"

"Yes, Cloonbarra."

"Then we'll set you on the road; we're going a piece of the way ourselves."

"That's very good of you, Mr. Brophy."

"Och, you're kindly welcome."

"I must thank you, too, ma'am," said the stranger, rising and holding out his hand. "You were very good to give a lost traveller shelter on a night like this."

"Indeed, and why wouldn't I? Will you be stopping long in the village? You're welcome here if you're coming this way again."

"I am quite sure I shall, and I'll take you at your word, you may be sure." He glanced involuntarily at Mary as he spoke. "And good night, and thanks to you, too, miss," he added, addressing the girl.

"Good night, sir."

Biddy kept silence for a few minutes after her guests had departed, then she burst out querulously:

"He might have left his name after him, I think—and him given the best welcome I had for him."

"Sure, his name doesn't matter, aunt."

"Aye, but it do though; I've seen his face, or one like it, before. But it's old I'm getting, and my head do be moidered trying to think of names. Wisha, wisha, it's a queer world!"

"And that was a queer story you told us to-night. It's a pity you didn't get married, aunt, and not to mind the old prophecy."

"Is it me to go agin a curse and an oath like that?" shrilled Biddy. "Is it mad you are, girl?"

"It's mad you were I'm thinkin'" retorted Mary, who had modern ideas of such things. "You spoil your life for an old cock and bull story."

"Maybe I did," replied the old woman musingly. "There's no use crying over spilt milk now anyway, so there's an end to it. I'd do the same again if I was young," she added defiantly.

"I wouldn't then," retorted Mary.

"I wouldn't put it past ye to defy me," cried Biddy. "That's the way the young wans go on now-a-days, setting themselves up above them that knows better. Come away to bed anyway, there's no use in talking. The FitzHearns have left the place long ago, and there's none of them goin' to put the comehither on you!"

The next day the stranger came again, and with the light they liked him even better. This time he "left his name," much to Biddy's gratification. He stayed a good while, for rain came on heavily, sweeping over the billowing hills in grey curtains.

"It's a bit dreary here, isn't it?" he asked, looking out through the tiny rain-spattered pane.

"It's so, Mr. Lacy, in the winter time," replied Biddy, "but sure God is good, we must have a soft day sometimes."

"Do you like it?" he asked, turning to Mary.

"Ah, sure, I ought to be used to it now," answered the girl, but there was something wistful in her dark eyes as she spoke. Jim Lacy watched her with a good deal of interest, while Biddy, keen as most Irish peasants are, watched him, noting the look.

The rain cleared after a little, and he rose to go.

"It was somewhere near here, wasn't it, that the fight took place between FitzHearn and O'Whelan, your ancestor?" he asked.

"Aye, so I'm told it was down beyant in that little hollow in the hill. You can't see the place from here."

"I'd like to see it very much, will you show it to me?"

"I would, sir, and welcome, but it's a terrible bad day, and my rheumatics——" Biddy paused.

"Would Miss Mary be good enough to direct me then if it is not too much trouble? I am greatly interested in the story."

"I don't know, but she might," returned the old woman. "It's only a five minutes' walk, and sure she can show you and hurry back."

"That's all I ask."

Biddy watched the young people as they walked slowly down the rain drenched boreen.

"He's a well set up young fellow," she murmured, "and he looks as if he was comfortable enough. Who is it he's like at all?"

Mary Whelan led the way in silence to the scene of the long ago combat, and for a while Jim Lacy did not disturb her.

"Do you believe this old prophecy of your aunt's?" he asked suddenly.

Mary looked up at him with a smile.

"I couldn't tell you faith, whether I believe it or not, but I'd not cross her about it if she was in a temper. She's that set on it that it's life to her."

"I'm inclined to believe it," said Lacy. "I don't see why you shouldn't."

Mary shook her head and laughed.

"Ah, it's fooling me you are. What call would you have to believe it—a stranger to these parts like yourself."

"A stranger. Aye, perhaps so. I hope I'll not be such a stranger in future."

Mary's face flooded with crimson, and she raged at herself for the tale it told.

"You wouldn't mind if I was less of a stranger, would you?" he asked eagerly.

"There's the glen," replied Mary. "Down there by them big stones it was they say the fight was. I must be getting back now. Good-bye."

She was away almost before he knew it, running at a speed that denied his right to follow her. Still, he was not displeased. Drawing a sketch book from his pocket, he outlined the principal features of the place.

The next morning Mary was surprised at old Biddy's appearance. Her face was pale and her mouth set in a hard line as she came into the kitchen, without a word of greeting.

"Yerrah, what's the matter with you, aunt?" asked Mary in astonishment.

"Don't talk to me, girl. It's mad I am, and it's the ould fool I was not to remember before."

"What ails you at all?"

"There's enough ails me, God knows. That boy that came here and was castin' sheep's eyes at you—I didn't know who he was like, but I told ye he reminded me of someone. Well, I know now. It's a lie he told when he said his name was Lacy—he's a boy of the FitzHearns, or my name isn't Biddy Whelan. As like as two peas he is to the man I wouldn't marry fifty years ago; like enough he's a son or a grandson of his. What does he come here for with his lies. Let him never darken my doors again. What are ye cryin' for?"

"I'm not cryin'."

"Ye are, I tell ye; is it soft on him ye are? I'll have none of it, I tell ye. Come on with yer breakfast."

A doleful meal it was truly, with Mary sullen and silent and the old woman muttering angrily to herself.

A couple of hours later what Mary feared happened. A knock came to the door, and Jim Lacy entered. Biddy looked up and her expression silenced his greeting.

"Aye," said the old woman, "ye may well pull back, for I know who ye are. Why did you come here tellin' me a lie about yourself. Only I'm an old woman, I'd ha' remembered yer face, for it's one of the FitzHearns you are. Ye needn't deny it."

"I'll not deny it, Miss Whelan; I heard what you said about our family, so I gave my mother's name not to cause any quarrel."

"It was as good for ye, for I've found ye out. I don't want any quarrel with ye, more than there is before, but away ye must go."

"Is that what you say, too?" he asked, wheeling suddenly round on Mary.

"She says the same as I say," cried Biddy. "Good-bye to ye, Mr. FitzHearn."

"So you still believe in your prophecy?" he asked with a smile.

"Aye, do I! You said you believed in it yerself, too."

"So I do, most emphatically. Good-bye."

He was gone so suddenly that even Biddy was taken aback.

"There isn't much fight in him. He's like that ould ancient ancestor of his. Now get on with your work, Mary."

The three weeks to Christmas went by. Biddy Whelan was cranky and dissatisfied with everything. The little excitement in her humdrum life had come and gone so quickly that she felt she had not made enough of it while she had the opportunity. As for Mary, who had more than once to go to Cloonbarra village on messages, her spirits seemed as good as ever, but she never spoke of young FitzHearn.

"She didn't care for him after all," thought Biddy. "Well, well, it's better so."

Christmas Eve came at last. As the night fell Mary, flushed, with sparkling eyes, went over more than once to the window surreptitiously.

"It's time for bed," grumbled old Biddy at last, "we have to be up early for Mass."

"All right aunt, I'll go in a few——look! What's that?"

"What's what, alanna?"

"I thought I saw a queer light on the wall of the haggard beyant."

"The moon more than likely."

"There's no moon, there it is again. Look, aunt, look!"

She caught the old woman and dragged her all unwilling out of doors.

"Yerrah, come in girl, and quit your nonsense. There's nothing there."

"Don't you see a light? It's getting stronger."

Biddy saw and crossed herself with a muttered prayer.

A picture was forming itself on the wall.

"It's the glen beyant, where the fight was," whispered Mary. "Don't you see the rocks?"

"Glory be to God!" muttered Biddy. "And there's a man there, too."

Yes, there certainly was a tall figure in the weird picture. It was clad in armour, and it appeared to be searching for something. Suddenly it plunged its arm into a fissure between two rocks. Then it stood erect waving a sword.

"Lor', but it's old FitzHearn, and he's found his sword," cried Mary.

"True for ye, girl, true for ye," cried the trembling Biddy.

The figure turned and advanced towards them, holding out the sword. He stopped, and going on his knees threw the sword from him and held out his arms as if in supplication.

"He's asking yer forgiveness, aunt—you, the last of the O'Whelans but me."

"And sure he'll have it and welcome, God rest his sowl," murmured the old woman. The vision slowly faded.

"Come back to bed out of the cold," said Mary, supporting the old woman to the house.

It was the next morning when a knock sounded at the door.

"A happy Christmas to you!"

Mary had opened the door and young FitzHearn stood without.

"Oh, what did you come here for? Sure my aunt said you were never to darken our door again," cried Mary in a loud voice.

"What's that you say—who's there?" demanded Biddy from within.

"Oh, nobody, aunt; it's all right," and she made as if she would shut the door.

"Shut nobody out on Christmas morning," commanded the old woman. "Who is it?"

"It is I, Jim FitzHearn," said the young man. "I hope you'll forget all about that stupid old prophecy, and let bygones be bygones—Christmas is a time of goodwill."

"It's no stupid old prophecy," retorted Biddy, "and there's no one knows better than me how true it is, but come in, sure, you're heartily welcome.

* * * * *

And so the old feud between the FitzHearns and the O'Whelans came to a happy ending. Neither Jim nor his wife thought it necessary to tell Biddy the truth about the prophecy. How Jim had heard of it from his grandfather, Biddy's old sweetheart; how, out of curiosity, he had come to see the place of the legendary combat; how he had fallen in love with Mary at first sight; and how, finally, he had won the old lady over by means of a cinema picture, in which he had posed as his own ancestor.

Her ignorance was bliss—for all of them.

Where do starlings go in cherry time? They go to Peckham (peck 'em)!

Why is a plum-cake like the ocean?—Because it contains many currents (currants).

Why is a clock the most humble thing in existence?—Because it always holds its hands before its face, and, however good its works may be, it is always running itself down.

Why is every mad man two men?—Because he is a man beside himself.

What is the difference between a sick elephant and a dead bee?—One is a seedy beast and the other is a bee deceased.

A lady addicted to generous living asked her doctor, "Where did I get such a nose as this?" "Out of the decanter!" was the answer.

My first is a preposition; my second is an invitation; my third is a bore; and my whole is a swindle.—In-come-tax.

Which is the really "secret service?"—The service which you render the man who never again refers to it.

Why is it illegal for a man to possess a short walking stick?—Because it can never be long to him.

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Under the Mistletoe Bough

I know a few people—and I don't want to know any more—who have a strong objection to the inclusion of a mistletoe bough among their Christmas decorations. They are mostly stiff and stodgy people, fathers and mothers of fine sons and nice girls; have an idea that Christmas was sent to try us; think of it as a season of discipline; approach it solemn of aspect and forbidding in manner; get no fun out of it, and object to anybody else getting any fun out of it either; say mistletoe encourages unseemly mirth and pernicious frivolity; boast that they have never been kissed under the mistletoe in their lives, and should regret so terrible a fate happening to their sons and daughters.

If you came to my house at Christmas time you would find a bunch of mistletoe in the hall, one at the top of the stairs, one suspended from the ceiling in the dining-room, and branches hereabouts and thereabouts for use when wanted. I have long suspected that the reason young people gather round me at Christmas and give me such a good time is that they always find such a lot of it about. I never stint them.

For I have had a great deal of experience of the possibilities of the mistletoe. Might have married a widow when I was twenty-five if my ardour for mistletoe had been equal to hers. Went to a friend's Christmas

party and found her there. Believe she loved me on sight. Had her weather eye on me all the evening. Used to lie in wait for me in the hall, and chase me up the staircase. Lured me to the piano with a branch behind her back, flourished it triumphantly above my head, and commenced to eat me between the moustache and the chin while both my hands were engaged on Beethoven. Never saw her look so pleased as when I returned the compliment while she sang "Love's Old Sweet Song." Gazed at me with liquid eyes in the conservatory after the dance, and whispered that she had a row of houses and money in the Funds. Hung down her pretty head and told me how strange it was that we two, who had never met before, should be drawn together by such a subtle affinity. Spoke softly of love while she stirred the gravel with the top of a white satin shoe. Told me she liked me because I had such nice hair. Added that—but no matter. She went and married somebody else because I told her that father would think I was too young.

That was a narrow escape. Had one of another sort, all through the mistletoe also. Was introduced to a charming young lady at a house to which I was invited. She had big blue eyes; all fun and frolic from her golden hair to her twinkling feet. Caught her under the mistletoe at the top of the stairs and kissed her when she pretended not to be looking. Fell in love with her instanter. Began to lay siege to her heart. Had four dances with her and sat out another among the refreshments. Commenced to pay her pretty compliments and talk sugar. She listened, smiled with a half sad, half pitying air, rose and pulled me playfully by the sleeve towards a tall gentleman who had just entered the room, and introduced me to him as her husband. I had not noticed her wedding ring.

I like the mistletoe because it gives everybody a chance, including your grandfather and your grandmother; indeed, nothing is more delightful than to see the playful gallantries of our whiteheads and greybreads—to see December snatching a kiss from the willing lips of May, or May stealing up behind December and taking tribute from the snows. And as for the mere ordinary man of forty with his sons and daughters grown up about him, and the mother of the same—well, they seem as privileged as anybody else, and—nothing venture nothing have. When mistletoe is about we are all out for fun, and whether you are very young or rather old, does not seem to matter.

It is true that the privileges of the mistletoe still comes as a surprise to some people. I recall that at one party in days agone I happened upon a tall, thin maiden lady in a dull silk gown. Her hair was black and glossy, and smoothed flat on her brow, her ringlets hung severely down, methinks I see them now. (Excuse my dropping into poetry.) I stole up behind her, enclosed her in one arm while I flourished a bunch of mistletoe above her head in the other, and imprinted a salute on the cheek which happened to be the most handy. I expected to be rewarded with a shriek of laughter at the least, but with a look which almost told me that I might hold her under the mistletoe for ever she exclaimed, "Oh, sir, this is so sudden!" I said it was. Everything was sudden at Christmas with mistletoe all over the place, and then I let her go, in order to cool my fevered brow.

It was at that party I shortly afterwards met my fate. Had no idea it was so near. Hadn't been looking for it at least ten minutes—not since I encountered the sudden lady. Friend of mine happened to be showing me some Christmas cards—male friend. Believe he was a lure. Didn't notice anybody suspicious about. Didn't care, anyhow. Probably thought that if any lady wanted to take me unawares she could come and do it without meeting the slightest resistance.

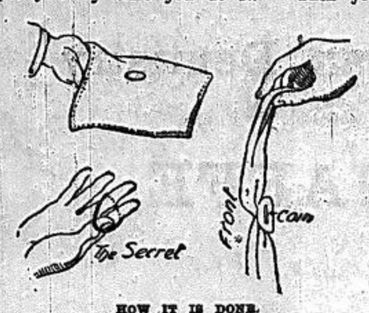
One came—a pretty fluffy lady, with mistletoe and rippling laughter, and dimples, and mischief in her eyes. Suddenly I felt an arm encircle my neck, and then fell upon my brow the quick touch of soft lips. "One pair of gloves for little me," she was crying a second later, "size six-and-a-quarter;" and before I had recovered my breath the fluffy little surprise packet had vanished. I had my revenge later, I will not say where or how; nor will I tell you what, one fine summer's night under the moon, I said to her or she said to me. Sufficient for you to know that for these many years now she has been the dearest wife who ever came into the life of man through a mistletoe bough. We don't tell this little story to everybody. But you may know it. You may get a hint or two from it useful for Christmas.

What is that which you can't hold ten minutes—which yet is as light as a feather?—Your breath.

Tricks for Christmas.

THE VANISHING PENNY.

You begin this trick by taking from one of your left-hand pockets a handkerchief, and from one of your right-hand pockets a penny. You spread the handkerchief over the left hand and place the penny in the centre of the handkerchief. Then you call attention to the fact that the penny is really in the handkerchief, and you turn in the corners of the handkerchief and roll it up into a ball. Then, keeping both hands closed, you place the handkerchief on the table and ask your audience to guess where the penny is—in the handkerchief, the left hand, or the right? When everyone has done guessing you open the right hand and show that it is empty, open the left hand and show that is also empty. "Therefore," you continue, "the penny must be in the handkerchief, but—it isn't! The disadvantage of doing this trick is that you lose a penny every time you do it." Then you

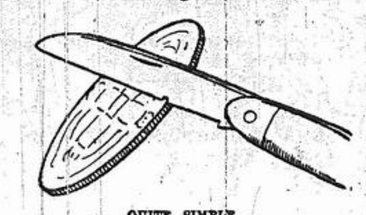


HOW IT IS DONE.

take hold of the handkerchief by one corner and shake it. The penny has certainly disappeared. The secret of this trick consists in the use of an india-rubber ring; you can either "borrow" one from an umbrella or buy one for a penny. You will remember that you were told to begin by taking the handkerchief from a left-hand pocket. In doing this, you were able to take the ring from the same pocket and hide it under the handkerchief. When you spread the handkerchief over the left hand you kept the ring concealed in that hand. In placing the penny in the centre of the handkerchief you squeezed it through the ring. To enable you to do this, you opened the ring with the first and second fingers and thumb of the left hand. The penny, being pressed through the ring, is thus attached to the handkerchief. When you shook the handkerchief to show that the penny had vanished, you took care to show only one side of the handkerchief to the audience. And that is how it is done!

HEADS OR TAILS?

It is not always the most elaborate tricks that puzzle an audience most. Here is one which is almost absurdly simple, but may be guaranteed to defy for a long time all attempts at solution. The performer offers to be securely blindfolded, then to spin a coin on a table, and, when the coin has come to rest, to say whether it is lying "head" or "tail" uppermost. Nobody, not in the secret, will be able to tell how it is done. But if the performer feels like explaining, he may show a slight nick which he has made with a knife at one of the edges of the coin, so that

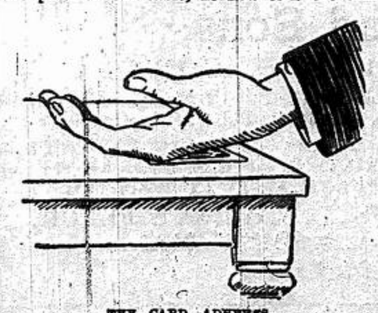


QUITE SIMPLE.

a tiny point of metal protrudes. The coin will gradually settle down in the ordinary way if the nicked side is uppermost; but if the nick is underneath, as the coin spins lower and lower, the point of metal will continually touch the table, and the coin will finally settle much more suddenly than it otherwise would. It will be safer to give the ear a little training in order to be certain of detecting the difference in sound, but after a few attempts no mistakes will be made in calling "heads" or "tails."

THROUGH THE TABLE.

Card tricks are always entertaining. At almost any seasonable gathering there will be at least one member of the company who can do one or two, which will probably be of as hackneyed character. Here is one which is a little out of the common. One of the company chooses a card, names it, and hands it back to the performer, who places it on the top of the pack, and pretends to shuffle vigorously, though he takes care to keep the selected card on the top. Placing the pack on the table, he now tells the com-



THE CARD ADHERES.

pany that he will knock the card right through the table. Hitting the pack a blow with the back of his left hand, he at once plunges both hands under the table, as though to catch the card as it comes through. He then at once shows his hands, with the selected card. The trick is easily worked. All that is necessary is for the performer to have previously moistened the back of his hand, so that when he strikes the pack the top card adheres to it.

AN EGG AND RING TRICK.

This is a very effective trick if neatly done. The performer borrows a ring, wraps it in a handkerchief from which it mysteriously disappears, afterwards being found in an egg chosen from a plateful. This is how it is done. First sew a wedding-ring into one corner of a handkerchief. After borrowing another wedding ring, pretend to wrap it in the centre of the handkerchief, but instead wrap up the one concealed in the corner, retaining the borrowed one in the hand. Before beginning the performance, have placed in the bottom of an ordinary egg-cup a small quantity of soft wax (say beeswax mixed with turps). When getting the cup, slip the borrowed ring into it, pressing it into the wax which holds it in an upright position. An egg is now chosen from a number by one of the company. This is placed into the egg-cup, the ring in the bottom being pressed through the shell. Now with a button-hook the top of the egg-shell is broken and the borrowed ring fished out on the hook, the handkerchief supposed to contain the ring being first shaken to prove the ring has vanished.

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Puzzles With Matches String, and Paper

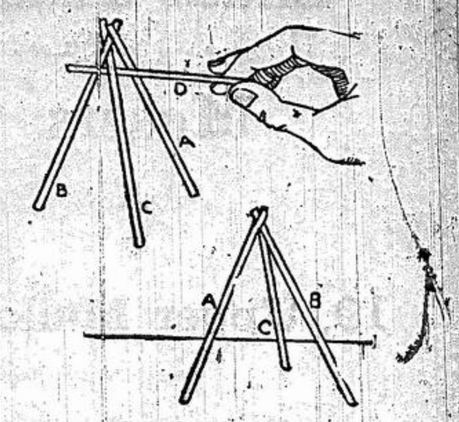
BY

RODNEY WELLS.

It is astonishing what a lot of entertainment is contained in a box of matches. I have known a man light his pipe, and then, struck by a sudden thought as he was returning the match-box to his pocket, remark: "By the way, have you seen this trick?" The trick being performed, he passed on to others, and kept a number of people entertained for a whole hour, with a box of matches for his sole apparatus.

THE FOUR-MATCH PROBLEM.

The first is called the four-match problem. Make a slit in the wooden end of an ordinary match (a). Take a second match (b), and sharpen it at the wooden end into the form of a wedge. Place this wedge (b) in



HOW IT IS DONE.

the split end of (a), so that the two matches form an angle like that in the illustration. Place them on the table as in the lower diagram, so that they lean upon a third match (c). These three matches are to be lifted bodily by means of a fourth match, without touching any of the three matches with the fingers. This is how to do it. Take the fourth match (d) between the finger and thumb, and bring it horizontally beneath the third match (c). Press the first two matches gently with it, so that they will lean upon it, at the same time allowing the third match to fall on it. Lower the hand so that the third match may slip through the angle between the first two, so as to penetrate a little beyond. You can now lift the three matches, as shown in the top diagram, by means of the one in your hand.

THE MAGIC LOOPS.

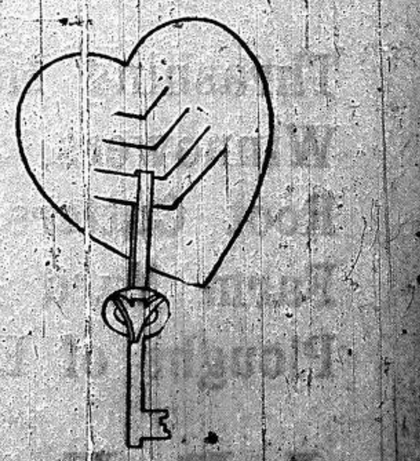
Here is a puzzling string trick which never fails to please. Hold two loops of string in the left hand so that the audience sees two knots. Cut through both loops with a pair of scissors. You have now two pieces of string, and you show the four ends. Now hold the two pieces between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, bring the right hand over the ends, and pretend to join them, when it is seen that the two pieces have become one! There was, in

TWO LOOPS OR ONE?

fact, only one piece all the time but it was folded in the way shown in the diagram, so that it appeared to be two loops. The two knots are there to help the impression. Hold the loop at the junction (see diagram) and cut through the strings near the left finger and thumb. You will see that all you have to do is to get rid of one tiny piece of string, which may be done in this way. After you have cut the strings pretend to tie the top two ends together. What you really do is to tie the little pieces on to the big piece. Then give the two ends of the big piece to someone and ask him to hold them in his two hands. Throw a handkerchief over the knot and, placing both hands under the handkerchief, untie the knot. Then, grasping the little piece of string through the handkerchief, you pull away the handkerchief and show that the pieces of string have been magically joined together. The little piece of string is kept hidden in the handkerchief.

A PAPER PUZZLE.

Our final illustration shows an ingenious puzzle in paper. A heart, a dart, and a key are apparently inextricably involved. The puzzle is, having cut the articles out of tough paper, to arrange them as shown in the diagram. The lowest cut in the heart must be pressed out so that it will form a loop, through which the ring end of the key has to be drawn, and so that one end of the



KEY, HEART, AND DART.

dart may also be passed through without tearing the paper. Then fold the dart in the middle, so that one of its heads shall accurately fit on the other head. Bring the loop of the heart back into its former position, drawing it out of the ring of the key, which should then glide down the shaft of the dart and hang fast held by the head. To disentangle the articles simply reverse the procedure.

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This Super-Waterproof Double-Wear Sole Leather,

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Are prepared to make Cash Advances from £5 upwards to Ladies and Gentlemen, Farmers, Shopkeepers, Government Officials, and all responsible persons, in Town and Country, on their own approved Personal Security, without publicity.

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" NICHOLSON'S Horse Rakes, Tossers, and Swath Turners.

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Agent for Goulding's Fertilizers & Stroud's Milk Cans

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