

**CULTURAL TOPICS.**

any features of interest to the community, and to city people. A monthly statistical statement for a time past has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Education for Ireland. Directly or indirectly there is no one amongst us who is more concerned in the chief of our business, and who does not desire to see the country prosper. The statistics published by the Department afford us a valuable leading, and though the country is dealing with what may be called an "off season" it is none the less an authentic index to the conditions as they apply to farming. It is observed that there is a shortage of straw and hay available for the winter owing to the mildness of December less than usual has reduced the fodder up to the present. The cattle and stores trade was brisk throughout December, rates being about those of the month preceding. The supply of milk is generally better than has been good for the season. The trade was brisk in most counties, but pig prices dropped considerably, while the horse trade was brisk. With the approach of Spring, things, we should say, may be seen from the equine point of view. The crop prices are satisfactory to the farmer, though below average, and the bulk of feeding than was expected. The estimated crop in 1920 was 4,107,462 bushels per acre, compared with 1919 or 164 tons per acre in 1919. The estimated produce of the crop was 1,245,507 tons, or 1.2 million tons, compared with 1,231,610

gate, Dublin, restraining them from proceeding with the trial of his clients by courtmartial. The Court refused the application, the Lord Chief Justice stating that the case of the three accused came within the provisions of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act.

**SHOTS IN LIMERICK.**

There was much alarm and consternation in the city on Sunday night owing to heavy rifle and machine gun fire. It began shortly before midnight, and in many instances the residents of the upper portion of the city, where the firing appeared to have been concentrated, left their beds, and sought cover as best they could. The Redemptorist Church, which came directly into the line of fire, was struck in several places, but principally over the front entrance, which bears several bullet marks. A piece of granite contiguous to a statue was broken off, evidently by a bullet. Some private houses in the same locality were also struck by bullets, and in one instance a bullet entered the window of a residence in O'Connell-avenue. So far as can be ascertained, no one was injured. The cause of the firing is unknown, but is believed to have been due to a false alarm.

**FUNERAL OF MR THOMAS R BLAKE.**

**Several Citizens Subsequently Arrested.**

The funeral of Mr Thos. R. Blake, the Limerick chemist, who was shot dead in the Clyde-road on Friday night under mysterious and tragic circumstances, took place on Sunday. The remains were removed from Barrington's Hospital at half-past seven on Saturday evening to St Michael's Parochial Church, where they rested overnight. On Sunday morning, at eleven o'clock, the funeral left for the family burial-place, Shanavoha, near Ballingarry. There was a large attendance in the cortege, but the bulk of the people returned at the outskirts of the city. The chief mourners included two brothers of the deceased, and four local clergy were present. While passing through the city the funeral was not interfered with by the authorities, but approaching Patrickswell it was followed by three motor lorries of police.

At the close of the burial service, and when the coffin was covered, it is stated that shots were fired over the grave. After the people, mostly residents of the city, who made the journey to Shanavoha by motor cars and carriages, had left the cemetery they were held up by a large party of police and searched, but it is asserted that nothing incriminating was found on them. Some twenty-two arrests however were made, and it is alleged that some of the men were roughly handled. They were taken into the city in motor lorries and to William street police station, and subsequently removed to the Ordnance Barracks, Mulgrave-street. Of the twenty-two prisoners arrested, the majority have been released.

**ST JOHN'S HOSPITAL.**

The Town Clerk called following responded—A J McInerney, S M O'Mara, Councillors J Reidy, T M Clancy, J A Hennessey, M Griffin, P O'Halloran, Reddan, J Cronin, P Sexton, A M O'Mara, P T A McInerney, D Bou

The first business was year in succession to the O'Callaghan.

The Mayor said before election of Mayor he was a mission to be allowed to desired first to tender the Council to Mrs Blake an affliction they had suffered late Mr Thomas R Blake, said his term of office of Miss L Johnson and shot dead in the and it had closed was symptomatic of the during the past year. W tragedy of the situation deplored these terrible h the people nevertheless. He wanted to say that office of Mayor twelve m his candidature endorse the Corporation, but it w by every section of the c without any personal va Election of 1918 Sinn Fein the same thing happened i and County Council electi notwithstanding inspired opinion was that the Re to-day more adherents months ago. (Applause due perhaps not so merits of the Regul but certainly to a great demerits of the people, ridiculous for Sir Hamar it was imperative on the the Irish Andromeda from That picture was as true questions by Sir Hamar G House of Commons. Th not need to be rescued by the Sinn Fein monster, Disraeli on a certain occa exterminate a pure white his own people, the Jews, the same observation (Applause). However w generation might have be Irish nationhood the succ fully alive to the national it. (Applause). He that the movement t pledged had more adhe had twelve months ago, election in the morning S the country as it did in l on to the function proper said the cleansing of the ci and it must be done bet They had there a trainee determined to get good res