GALWAY GUARDIANS

FRESH DEBATE ON CO. HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT.

POSITION OF INFIRMARY.

PREPARATIONS FOR PROVIDING RESIDENCE FOR TURLOUGHMORE M.O.

COST OF THE NEW HOUSE.

No Sugar For the Poor.

The inability of the Master to procure sugar for the poor inmates in the workhouse was again referred to at the meeting of the Galway Guardians on Wednesday. It is alleged that the merchants who should do so have refused to supply the needed quantity, and the Food Controller has been written to regarding the matter.

Mr. P. Curran, Chairman, presided at the meeting, and the following members were also in attendance: Messrs. J. Griffin, M. J. Cooke, M. Redington, N. Lydon, J. J. Walsh, T. Ruane, Co.C.; D. Moloney, J. O'Brien, W. Lardner, John McDonogh, jr; J. McGrath, T. Madden, W. Murphy.

In connection with the repairs needed to be done to the boiler in the workhouse, the Chairman remarked with a smile that he believed that Mr. Binns, engineer, was very busy lately.

A demand for a weekly wage of £4 for the tailor in the workhouse was made by the Secretary of the Tailors' and Tailoresses' Union in Galway (Mr P. Keville).—The Clerk said the man's wage was £2 1s. 6d. per week.—It was decided to offer what the labourers are getting, £2 5s. 6d. a week.

Mr. P. McLoughlin, contractor, was allofed £2 10s. for putting slates on the workhouse which were blown down by the storm.

Notices of the eviction of Wilfred Theo Rerett Carnac and his wife, by the Right Hon. Mary Ethel Lady Wallscourt, from Ardfry House and demesne, Oranmore, and of John Keane (jr.), by Patrick Morgan, from a house in College-road, Galway, were received.

A demand was received from the Co. Hospital for payment of £500, half of the coming year's assessment.—Chairman: It is a dear county hospital.—Mr. Cooke: Is there not a minute on the book that we do not pay that assessment?—Clerk: You have to pay it.—Mr. Cooke: Our Clerk's estimate for the hospital here did not at all come next or near this, and we have a lot more patients. They have paying patients, too, and we have none. I don't know where all the money is going that the unions contribute. Our average of cost is only 13s. or 14s.—Mr. Ruane: What do you suggest doing?—Mr. Cooke: That we adhere to last year's estimate. There is a waste and want in the County Hospital, wherever it is going to.

Mr. Ruane: There is a waste there a long time.—Mr. Redington: Sure you have to pay the assessment. We, and all the unions, send representatives there, and they are supposed to look after the hospital. If they do not you can change them the next time. Consider it well, and know whom you are going to send the next time.—Mr. Ruane: They are be doing their best.—Chairman: They could not very well help the present state of affairs the way things were going. I know it is a shame the way things got on.—Mr. Ruane: Unless the assessment is paid you will have to do away with the County Hospital, and that would be a foolish thing to do.—Mr. Cooke: I do not know—there is so much expense.

Mr. Ruane: I always see people coming there at the eleventh hour talking about the estimate if it is high, but during the twelve months that have gone before when applications for increases are made by every Jack-in-office these are the gentlemen who agree to them.—Mr. Lydon: Quite right.—Mr. Cooke: We gave increases here as well as in the County Hospital, and yet our estimate is not to be considered at all with theirs, and we have more officials.—Chairman: We manage properly and the other place is mismanaged.—Mr. Ruane: As every member can see, the Rural District Council estimate is lower, but the union estimate is higher.—Mr. Cooke: Only for my objection first of all Craig, Gardner's man would never have been brought down to the County Hospital.—Chairman: I wish some one objected in time.

Mr. Lardner: Is the assessment higher than last year?—Clerk: It is double. That is clearly understood by everybody. Anyone that reads the papers can see that.—Mr. Lardner: I think the other unions did not pay.—Clerk: They must, because they have no option.—Mr. Lardner: I think the demand is entirely too high. If what we see in the papers is true, it will be useless no matter what we pay. It will be money thrown away.—Mr. Ruane: There are only two things to be done: close down or pay.—Chairman: It is the view of the members of the board that it is waste of money, but what can be done?—

Mr. Ruane: There is a lot of mismanagement no doubt.—Mr. Cooke: If you sent all the patients in County Galway to Dublin it would not be half as high.—Mr. Lardner: If things go on as they are going, the ratepayers will be bankrupt, and they will have to close their houses.

Mr. Lydon said that Mr. Cooke had been asked several times to go on the Committee of Management but refused. Whether it was for the gallery or not he was speaking, the Committee did not care a farthing, as they would have to get the money.—Mr. Redington: Let the guardians consider the thing if they wish when they are appointing new governors the next time.—Chairman: Nicholas must be appointed whatever happens (laughter).—It was decided to pay the demand.

The Clerk was directed to advertise for the ensuing contracts for twelve months, several of the members being of opinion that commodities would scarcely lower in price.

The Master reported that he was still unable to procure a supply of sugar for the inmates.—Clerk: Are they paying any attention to the Local Government Board orders?—Master: No, the merchants say they are not getting it themselves.—Mr. Cooke: They are getting a supply on their cards and vouchers, and it is not fair that these poor inmates should be left without sugar. They are getting the sugar on the workhouse vouchers.—The Master said he only got two stones of sugar last fortnight.—Mr. Redington: Write to the Food Controller, and you will get their vouchers cancelled.

The Clerk explained that the merchants referred to were not contractors, but the Local Government Board had ordered that the workhouse supply of sugar be got from those who were supplying it immediately before it was rationed.—Mr. Lydon: Ask the Controller to withdraw the supply and send it direct.—Directions were given to have the matter brought before the Food Controller.

Mr. Lydon's motion to have a residence built for the medical officer (Dr. Cusack) at Turloughmore, which was seconded by Mr. Lardner, was passed.—Mr. H. J. Kirwan, agent, wrote stating that he would see the owner of the land. Mr. Cullinan, about the site for the residence at Waterville.—Mr. Lardner mentioned that Mr. John Carney would give land for a site, and Mr. O'Brien said the Congested Districts Board had sixteen acres of land in the district which they should be asked to give for the purpose.—It was decided to appoint a committee, consisting of the guardians of the Turloughmore district, to meet the doctor on Monday next to discuss the question of a site, and then report to the board of guardians.—The Clerk said the cost would be a county-at-large charge. He estimated that the building alone would cost £2,000, which could only be borrowed at six per cent. interest, which, added to one-and-a-half per cent. for repayment of the principal, would total seven-and-a-half per cent. or £150 annually. That was exclusive of the cost of the land for the site.

TO BLOW UP A HOUSE

BOMB PLACED AT CAPTAIN H. D. HODGESON'S RESIDENCE.

SAVED BY DEFECTIVE FUSE.

FARMER AND TWO SONS REMANDED AT OUGHTERARD.

Archbishop of Tuam and Attacks On Barracks and Dwelling-houses.

On Friday night last a daring attempt was made to blow up Captain Henry Dudley Hodgeson's residence at Curraevagh, Oughterard. Fortunately, the bomb did not explode.

Capt. Hodgeson's residence is a picturesque spot on the shores of the Corrib. Fourteen large pieces of gelignite and other high explosive material were found under the wall of the house. A hole had been dug under the eve-shoot near the gable-end of the residence for concealing the explosives which were well packed in a card-board box, and a fuse attached to it. Had the bomb exploded it is probable that portion of the house would have been blown to pieces, as well as the occupants who occupied the rooms directly overhead the spot where the bomb was placed. The bomb was carefully covered with mud. About three inches or more of the fuse was found unburned. On examination it was found that part of the fuse was defective, and this, probably, prevented the explosion.

In connection with the affair Martin Halloran, senior, and his two sons, Mtn. Halloran, junior, and Michl. Halloran, were subsequently arrested, and brought before a special court on Monday at the Oughterard police barrack. Mr. J. B. K. Hill, R.M., was the magistrate.

Sergeant Reidy, Oughterard, in his deposition, stated: I remember February 21, 1920. On that date I was making enquiries at the house of Mtn. Halloran (senr.) into the case of attempted explosion by gelignite at the house of Capt. H. D. Hodgeson, Curraveragh. I searched the house. I was assisted by Constables Barrett, O'Leary, and Derrigan. I was shown a portion of a newspaper (produced) by Constable O'Leary. On my return to the barrack I fitted this piece of paper into the piece found with the bomb. It fitted exactly, and the letters corresponded. It was the "Freeman's Journal" of February 14. I remember the morning of February 22. I arrested Mtn. Halloran (senr.) and Mtn. Halloran (junr.), Derrowera, in their own house. I charged them with attempting to blow up Captain H. D. Hodgeson's house with a bomb. I cautioned them. Mtn. Halloran (senr.) said: "What kind of a thing is that?" He then said: "Oh, my God, the man who would do a thing like that! Mr. Hodgeson was always a good friend to me." Mtn. Halloran (junr.), after being charged with the offence and cautioned, said: "All right. We had nothing to do with it." On the evening of the same date Michl. Halloran came to the barrack at Oughterard. I arrested him on the same charge preferred against his father and brother. I cautioned him. He said: "I will stop here." I am still inquiring into the case, and I require a remand for eight days to make further enquiries into the case.

Chairman (to the accused): Have you any questions to ask the sergeant?

Martin Halloran (senr.) declined to cross-examine.

Martin Halloran, junior (to the sergeant): Did the piece of newspaper shown to you at my house fit in to the other part, sergeant?—It did.—Could not any paper be torn and fit in as that did?—I don't think so.—Aren't there hundreds of papers of the same news and of the same date?—I presume there are.

Cross-examined by Mt. Halloran: Could not any person going the road pick up that paper and throw it into our house?—I don't think so.—What proof have you?—My opinion.

The Chairman, after examining the piece of the newspaper found at where the bomb was discovered, informed the prisoners that he was remanding them for eight days in custody, and they were subsequently conveyed to Galway jail under a strong police escort.

EIGHT SHOTS

QUEENSFORT HOUSE FIRED INTO AT NIGHT.

SERVANT'S NARROW ESCAPE.

"ABOMINABLE OUTRAGE," SAYS THE MOST REV. DR. GILMARTIN.

Motor cars are alleged to have been used in an attack on the residence of Mr. Frank McCormack, at Queensfort, midway between Tuam and Dunmore, shortly after midnight on Friday night. Eight shots were fired into the dwelling-house. The windows of all the bedrooms in the house were shattered, and Miss Kelly, the cook, had a narrow escape. Mr. McCormack and his sister were the only other occupants of the house

Mr. McCormack has some land property near Hollymount, Co. Mayo, which is assigned as the cause of the outrage, and is given as a probable explanation of the alleged presence of the motors.

"CONTEMPLATED MURDER."

ARCHBISHOP'S VIGOROUS DENUNCIATION OF THE OUTRAGE.

The Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin, preaching in Tuam on Sunday, said he was horrified to hear of the abominable crime committed within some five miles of their cathedral town a few nights ago, when the occupants of a house were disturbed in their sleep in the night by shots fired through the windows. The fact that Providence had safeguarded their lives did not lessen the guilt for which the ruffians who had perpetrated the outrage would have, sooner or later, to render an account. Firing into a house, whether it was a police barrack or a dwelling-house, was contemplated murder, and cried to heaven for vengeance. He would be glad if the perpetrators were brought to justice, and he was sure the good people of the archdiocese had no sympathy with such cowardly and wicked crimes. In condemning the outrage, he added that he had been informed that the criminals came from a distance to express, in this un-Christian way, their bad feeling about the occupation of land.

CATTLE MAIMED AND HOUSE FIRED INTO.

Shots were fired into the dwelling-house of John Boyle, Cahermacnally, Headford, and the tails of three cattle belonging to Martin Boyle were cut off.

SHOTS AT DWELLING-HOUSE.

On Sunday, the 8th inst., about one a.m., the residence of Thomas Naughton, Cloonamorris, Woodlawn, was attacked, five shots being fired at the windows and doors of the house.

ATTEMPT TO ROB GOODS STORE SAFE.

On Sunday night week the office attached to the goods store at Loughrea railway station was entered, ostensibly for the purpose of depriving the safe, which, fortunately, was empty, of its contents. The burglar managed to reach to the bolt on the inside of the entrance door by cutting a pane of glass in a window. In doing so, he cut his hand, for blood stains were seen on the floor and safe.

KINVARA OCCURRENCES.

PRIESTS CONDEMN SHOOTING AFFAIR.

On Thursday night last the house of Mr. Michael Mannion, Boherbee, Kinvara, was fired into, but fortunately the occupants escaped unhurt. The outrage was strongly condemned by the Rev. M. Fahy, P.P., and the Rev. John Keeley, C.C., at both the Convent and Parish Churches on Sunday.

The walls of Mr. Michael Kearney's farm at Carrowculeen, Kinvara, were levelled to the ground during the week. Mr. Kearney lives at Carron, County Clare.

Rumour is rife with the report of other shooting outrages near the town during the week.

RACMAN'S STORE

ALLEGED LARCENY OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BOOK AND £1 NOTE.

ADVENTURE IN LODGING HOUSE.

Money Drawn From Post Office.

Ed. McConville, rag-gatherer, had £18 9s. 7d. to his credit in the post office savings bank some time about last Hallowe'en, and he was worth a £1 note in hard cash besides. But November proved a fatal month for him.

On a certain night in that month he and his wife took lodgings in a house in Abbeygate-st., Galway, and when he retired to rest McConville very carefully put his £1 note into his savings bank book and stowed the latter under the pillow on which he slept. Another lodger occupied the next room, and whether it was due to this fact or no McConville's first act on awaking the following morning was to put his hand under his pillow to see if his life savings were safe. But the book and the cash had disappeared.

He went to the post office at Galway, told the clerk behind the counter of his loss, and ordered that no payments out of his account should be made to anyone who produced the book other than himself. From then until nearly the middle of the present month he heard nothing further about his savings bank book or the money. Then, one day, news came that his money had been drawn out of the post office at Shrule in his name. The police made inquiries and McConville swore an information.

Patrick Ward, of no fixed residence, was shortly afterwards arrested at Tuam, charged with the larceny of McConville's £1 and his post office savings bank book value £18 9s. 7d., brought before Mr. Kilbride, R.M., at Galway Petty Sessions on Monday last, and remanded in custody for a week.

CYCLE FALL CAUSES DEATH.

FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR CLONBUR.

A sad accident, resulting in the death of a boy named John Herwood, of Ballard, took place while he was returning from Mass on Sunday, February 15. While cycling home with two neighbouring boys he fell outside Clonbur village. Dr. Hegarty and Rev. Fr. Finn, C.C., were immediately in attendance, but he died within a quarter of an hour, apparently from shock, as there were no external injuries that would have caused death.

The funeral on Tuesday was large and representative, as the boy and his parents were highly popular in the locality

Galway University Governning Body.

Appointments to the governing bodies of the following University Colleges are gazetted: Dublin: Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Dr. M. F. Cox, the Master of the Rolls, Rev. W. Crawford. Cork: Rt. Rev. Dr. Dowse, Most Rev. Dr. Colohan, Mr. A. F. Sharman-Crawford. Galway: Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Lord Killanin, Rev. Canon A. E. Ross, Protestant Bishop of Tuam.

KHAKI POLICEMEN.

ENGLISH RECRUITS IN GALWAY.

English ex-soldier R.I.C. recruits were seen for the first time in Galway on Tuesday evening, when a party of them arrived on the 6 p.m. train as an escort to the prison with Michael Ward, of Boyle, who was arrested for having, as alleged, a rifle and ammunition on his premises.

The new police, who were, it is stated, drawn from the depot, were in khaki uniform but wore the policemen's long black coats and black caps. They carried khaki haversacks.

LORD KILLANIN LEAVES SPIDDAL.

The recent raid upon his chauffeur's house is alleged to be the reason for Lord Killanin and his household having left Spiddal and taken up residence in London.

Mr. Rutledge, the chauffeur (who has also left Spiddal), was assaulted by the raiders when he attempted to prevent their search for arms.

PRIEST AND RAIDS ON BARRACKS.

AN APPEAL TO SINN FEINERS.

At St. Mary's Church, Carrick-on-Shannon, on Sunday, Rev. Fr. Dalton, C.C., asked did people believe the raids on police barracks were doing any good to the country. If he thought they were, he would be the first to say, "Go ahead"; but he could not say so. If the police were cast aside, the scum of the English towns would be brought over to take their place. No matter what were the faults of the police, they were their own flesh and blood and were as good Irishmen as those who were shouting. He asked Sinn Feiners, as sensible men, to be true to the principles of Sinn Fein and not blacken the country. If they did not the policy was sure to come down. He (Father Dalton) was as good an Irishman as any of them, but he could not understand the shooting of the police.

ANOTHER BARRACK CLOSED

Kiltormer (Ballinasloe) police barrack has been closed.

RAID ON CAPTAIN BARRETT'S, CLONBUR.

DISGUISED MEN TAKE GUNS DURING OWNER'S ABSENCE.

Attempt at Doing Good Misconstrued.

On Wednesday night, 18th inst, six disguised men entered the residence of Capt. Barrett, at Carrick Lodge, Clonbur, and took away a shot-gun and a few air-guns.

Capt. Barrett was absent on business in Dublin at the time, his wife and the servant being alone in the house.

The Captain is popular in the locality, and has started meal and other stores with a view to reducing prices in the district. He is also about to start a saw-mill and other industries.

The locality around Carrick was quite and peaceable, and the only reason assigned for the raid is that the local tenants were informed that the Captain wanted some lands adjoining for his own use. The land is in possession of the tenants in concere.

Captain Barrett tried to get it for them through the Estates Commissioners, but his good intentions were misconstrued, and advantage taken of his absence to deprive him of his firearms.

ORANMORE ARREST.

SHOTS AT DWELLING-HOUSES.

The house of John Neilan, near Oranmore, and of a man named Burke, of Cartron, were fired into early this week.

A man named Duggan from the district has been arrested, cartridges, it is alleged, having been found in his possession.

URBAN COUNCIL

FINANCES DISCUSSED AT COMMITTEE MEETING.

PREMIUM BONDS SUGGESTED.

PROPOSAL TO DISMISS RENT COLLECTOR.

TOLLS' AND CUSTOMS' REVENUE.

MANY WAYS SUGGESTED FOR INCREASING INCOME.

"One Man, One Plot."

Finances and buildings were discussed at the Committee meeting of the Galway Urban Council (yesterday) Thursday. Dr. Walsh, Chairman, presided, and the other members present were: Mrs. Hardiman, Messrs. P. Naughton, J. Lee, P. Colohan, J. Grehan, J. Coogan, M. Walsh, J. Griffin, T. Rea, P. Curran, J. Connolly.

The Chairman took up the return sheet supplied to the members showing the position of the finances of the Council for the past year. There is £1,000 to credit on the poor rate, but that cannot be touched, as it belongs to the County Council. On the other hand the Urban Council is £532 9s. 2d. in debt on the general account.

"We'll want to watch our P's and Q's this year," said the Chairman. "We'll have a lot of expenses to meet. There is the £300 for the election, there is £600 that the increase in wages has cost, and there was that tremendous bill you saw for coal and for the stones and the quarry which was not paid for nine months. All that will come down on us, and they are big items. So we'll want to be very careful and watch the money. There are two ways of meeting our liabilities, by cutting down expenses and by increasing our revenue. If you cut the expenses down you'll displease somebody, and if you put up the rates you'll displease everybody (laughter). So whatever you do you'll have to cause displeasure. But I think our duty is to cut down expenses as much as possible."

Then the items of the expenses and income were gone into in detail. Members did not think the Council were making enough on the tolls and customs on which £741 of a profit was made. The Chairman said they were prevented from increasing the charges by an Act of Parliament although the circumstances were quite different from the time that Act and schedule of prices were passed.

"Ignore the Act of Parliament," suggested Mr. M. Walsh, but the Secretary reminded him that the people would not pay the tolls then in the event of their being increased, and the Council could not compel them to.

Mr. Curran thought they would have a greater revenue if the gaps were better looked after.—The Chairman said they could put on charges for things that were not mentioned in the schedule, and some one suggested taxing the fowl.—"Our markets are scarce enough; leave the fowl out," Mr. Cooke advised, and Mr. Pat Curran appealed for the turkey to be exempt from duty.

The next way suggested for increasing the tolls and customs revenue was to have the collectors employed only on the two market days, Wednesday and Saturday. Mr. M. Walsh, who was sponsor for this suggestion, said they could be paid 7s. for each of these days.—Mr. Cooke said no man would work casually for 7s. a day now, and Mr. Walsh said he would be agreeable to giving 10s.

Mr. Rea, a Labour man, suggested putting the tolls collectors collecting rents on the days they had nothing to do, and do away with the permanent rent collector.—Mr. Colohan, another Labour man, backed this out.—Mr. Connolly thought it was only waste of money to have a man employed at the job when they were making little or no profit on their cottages, and he proposed that Mr. Rea's suggestion be adopted.—Mr. Rea seconded.

"I do not think it comes well from anybody to try to deprive a person of his source of income," was Mr. Cooke's stinging rejoinder in rising to oppose the proposition. "There are many ways of saving money besides depriving people of their livelihood," he said.—The Secretary said the cost of the cottages rent collection was £65.—Mr. O'Dea and Mr. Griffin stated that the rents were well collected.

The Chairman, too, was not in favour of that line of economy, and it was decided that the Committee who went into the election finance should investigate the schedule of prices, and suggest additions and alterations if necessary, they to have power to consult the Council's solicitor on the matter.

Mr. Cooke brought under the notice of the meeting a source of revenue that was being lost to the Council, viz., the sale of the refuse manure, which the Council used to make £350 per annum on formerly, but which now only brought in £17. The difficulty was to get a site to dump it.—The Chairman said they could not discuss that matter at that meeting.

"Could we increase the cost of dog licences," asked Mr. Curran slily, when the Council were probing for further possible sources of income. He smiled when he was informed that those animals were this year paying an increased tax.

The expenditure on the roads came in for criticism directed towards its high amount. The Secretary said they were getting the stones from Shantalla from the County Council at cost price, but said he had got no actual figures to prove it.—The Chairman was dissatisfied with the arrangement, stating that when the Co. Council had ascertained the cost of getting the stones the actual figure should have been stated in the agreement.—Mr. Binns, engineer, told Mr. Connolly that the stones would have cost probably 12s. a ton when on the streets, and the latter gentleman asked why they should be paying 12s. for granite when they could get limestone for 7s. 6d. a ton.

Mr. M. Walsh mentioned a man in Coolough who could deliver fifty tons of road metal at 5s. a ton, and twenty tons per month afterwards at the same price.—The Secretary was directed to get into communication with this man.

The Chairman said it was a foolish idea to cart stones to Menlo, for instance, which was all stones.—The Secretary was directed to get particulars of the cost of the stones to the County Council from the County Surveyor.

Mr. Cooke directed attention to the fact that if the Council gave up getting stuff from the Shantalla quarry a lot of men would be thrown out of employment, but the Labour members made no comment.

In another effort to bring in more money for the Council, Mr. Connolly proposed that the grazing of the South Park be increased. The present charge is £3 a cow per annum, and the Chairman explained that it was let at that price because of the cowkeepers supplying milk to the depot for the poor.—Mr. Cooke said the price of the milk had been raised, and Mr. Connolly stated some of the cowkeepers were selling it to outsiders at 8d. a quart.—Mr. Curran said they had to supply the depot first with a fixed quantity all the year round, no matter if they had to buy it; and they could do what they liked with the surplus.—It was decided to communicate with the Milk Committee before moving in the matter.

Premium Bonds as a way to secure money for building the new houses, was a suggestion of the Chairman during a discussion on the matter. His idea was that the Urban Council issue the Premium Bonds to anybody who wished to invest in them, but no action was taken on the matter.

The identity of the owner of a tillage plot in Newcastle puzzled the Council for some time. Mr. P. O'Connor, Abbeygate-st., headed a deputation of the plotholders who appeared before the meeting and complained of plots being taken from men in Newcastle. He also said that they wanted the plots in Salthill to be re-let for this year, or plots instead.—The Secretary said that the plots in Newcastle were only taken from those who had more than one, and they were only allowed to keep one.—Mr. Lee: One man, one plot.

One of the deputation: Here is "one man one plot," and it was taken off him.—Chairman: Where was it taken off you?—The plotholder: In court.—Chairman: But we have decided to give those again this year. Any man that has one plot cannot complain, and he has no sympathy. No man can have two or three plots.

The plotholder: It was not my plot that was taken—it was my father-in-law's.—Chairman: Have you a plot now?—The plotholder: I have one of my own, and I want one for my father-in-law.—Chairman: Better send him to the Committee and Mr. McCullagh, collector. Don't apply yourself.—The plotholder: But it was I that was summoned for it?—Chairman: Because you had it.—The plotholder: It was my wife's (laughter).

Chairman: Your wife and you are the same man (laughter).—The plotholder: But my father-in-law is not my wife, is he? (renewed laughter).

Mr. O'Connor also spoke of taking up some of the plots at Salthill, and the Chairman said the matter would probably be gone into at the meeting on next Thursday. He advised the man who had the grievance to send his father-in-law to the Committee who were appointed to deal with the matter.—Mr. Lee said more land for plots should be taken over, and Mr. Cooke agreed.

Laurence Jennings, a steamroller driver, who had been dismissed while his engine was getting repaired, appeared before the Council.—The Town Steward said there was also a shortage of coal, and Mr. Cooke asked how it was that the other engine was kept going.—The Town Steward said he had to have the tractor going. Jennings had been paid for the last four weeks although unemployed, and he thought he then put him off.—The members generally spoke in favour of keeping the man on at some work, as he had a large family, until the engine was repaired, and he was ordered to help in putting in the the parts of the machinery needed.

Mr. Curran drew attention to the damage done the streets by the County Council engine, and said they should be made pay extra for it.

Mr. Roche, auctioneer, wrote complaining of being charged water rates on certain premises at Bohermore in error, and it was decided to refund him the amount.

ALLEGED FOOTPRINTS

SHOT FIRED THROUGH BEDROOM WINDOW.

DOOR USED AS SANDBAGS.

Informations Refused in Barnaderg Case.

At a special court in Tuam on Wednesday, before Col. O'Sullivan, R.M., two young men named Michael and Martin McHugh, of Barnaderg, were again charged on remand with firing into the house of T. F. Rooney, Stone-lodge, on February 16. Informations were refused.

The first witness sworn was Thomas F. Rooney, and his deposition was to the effect that on the night of February 15 the family retired to bed at about ten o'clock. Later in the night they were alarmed by the report of a shot fired in through their bedroom window, and of glass breaking. Witness got out of bed immediately, and taking the door off its hinges placed it against the window. He then went to bed again, but did not sleep. In the morning he arose about 5.30 o'clock, and, going outside, saw tracks of men as if in stocking feet. These were leading into the house. On examination witness discovered that the brass fastner in the window was marked as if it had been struck by something. Witness subsequently examined the laneway leading into the house of defendants' father, Patk. McHugh, and found other similar footprints which he covered over. Later he went and reported the matter at the Tuam police barracks, and he was present when District-Inspector Comerford took casts of these footprints.

When the casts which Mr. Comerford had taken were produced, Mr. J. V. Fahy, solr. (Messrs. Concanon and Fahy) who appeared for defendants, said it was a strange thing if a man's liberty depended on them.

Continuing, witness said that Martin McHugh did not always live at his father's house, but he was living there on the night that the occurrence took place. It was about a quarter of a mile from witness's house to the house of Patrick McHugh. The McHughs and witness were not on good terms lately owing to the fact that he prosecuted Patk. McHugh in connection with a passage on his (witness's) own land, and which McHugh insisted on making use of. The Recorder dismissed the action, but witness had an appeal which would be heard at the Galway Assizes in March. Witness's wife got a decree of £5 against Patrick McHugh for assault in July. Outside of McHugh and his brother-in-law, Peter McDermott, whom he decreed in July, 1919, witness was on good terms with his neighbours.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fahy, solr: On your oath were McHugh and McDermott the only parties you had processed over this right of way within the past few years?—I had a man named Keane processed.

And you were only awarded a farthing damages against this man?—That satisfied me all right.

But the Recorder dismissed the action you had against McHugh?—Yes.

Mrs. Rooney, wife of the last witness, gave similar evidence. She also stated that she processed McHugh for assault, which took place while she was on her way to a well on her husband's land for water in July. She got a decree of £5 against him.

Mr. Fahy thought that this had nothing to do with the son's case.

Col. O'Sullivan said that it was written in Holy Writ that the son was responsible for the father's action (laughter).

District-Inspector Comerford verified a deposition which he had previously made as to tracing stocking-feet footprints to accuseds' house, and added to it by stating that the footprints were pointed out to him by Thomas F. Rooney.

Constable Keighery, who was in company with District-Inspector Comerford, when enquiries were being made, gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Fahy said that if there was ever a case for refusal of informations this was one. From the meagre evidence supplied to the court, there was not a particle of evidence which would justify the court in returning these men for trial. He asked, under the circumstances, that informations be refused.

Informations were refused and the accused were discharged.

Ulster and the Boycott.

"Reports from Strabane state," says the Exchange, "that within Ulster itself now a boycott of business houses in Ulster favouring the partition of Ireland has begun, and Nationalist merchants in N.W Ireland are making no secret of the fact that they will refuse to do business with partition firms, and will place their orders elsewhere." Describing as nonsensical the statement that the commerce of Ulster is worked on money borrowed from the South and West, the "Northern Whig" says: "If the Nationalists built a Chinese wall between the North and the South it would in no way affect Ulster, but it would leave the South much poorer. The people of Ulster are not going to sell their liberty in order to buy Southern trade. We are pleased to trade with Nationalists or any other class, but that is a purely business matter and must not be mixed up with politics."

MURDER CHARGES

FURTHER REMANDS IN SPIDDAL AND MENLO SHOOTING CASES.

STORY OF EX-SOLDIER'S BROTHER.

SOLICITOR'S PROTEST AGAINST MENLO ADJOURNMENT.

No Evidence Produced.

Extraordinary precautions were taken by the authorities in connection with the further appearance in court of the Menlo and Spiddal prisoners who were again remanded on the capital charge by Mr. Kilbride, R.M., at Galway on yesterday (Thursday).

Policemen guarded the courthouse and occupied positions along the road between it and the jail when the accused were being conveyed from and to the latter. A large crowd had gathered and were present in court during the taking of the depositions.

The Menlo prisoners—charged with the wilful murder of James Ward, caretaker for Sir Thomas Blake at Menlo, who was shot at his house on February 6—were first put forward. Their names are: Luke Fahy, James Fahy, Denis Duggan, Patk. Moloney, and John Moloney.—District-Inspector Hildebrand prosecuted, and Mr. O'Dea, solr., defended.

Head-Constable Daly, in reply to District-Inspector Hildebrand, deposed that he was continuing his investigations into the murder of James Ward, and asked for a further remand of the five prisoners.

Cross-examined by Mr. O'Dea: You have been inquiring into this case since the date of the murder?—I have.

And have you got a particle of evidence against the prisoners?

Mr. Hildebrand objected to the question.

Mr. O'Dea: I am not asking what the evidence is; I am only asking has he any evidence. Surely, he should be able to answer that "in the interests of justice," as you say.

Mr. Kilbride (to the witness): You do not want to answer that?—No.

Mr. Kilbride: You decline to answer it?—I do.

Mr. O'Dea: I would ask you to make him answer. It will not give away the secrets of the prosecution. The police simply ask you to remand these prisoners in custody, and this is the second or third time this request has been made. I suggest there is not a particle of evidence against any of the prisoners, and yet they are brought up time after time and you are asked to remand them.

Mr. Kilbride: He says he hopes to get some evidence in connection with the charge.

Head-Constable: My principal chance to get evidence is to have the prisoners remanded. I will then have the best prospect of success.

Mr. O'Dea: Will you have evidence at the proper time?

Mr. Kilbride: You need not answer that—I do not think it is necessary.

Mr. O'Dea said the matter was for his worship's discretion, but the law, surely, was not that a man could be picked off the road and have the police say that they will hold that man until they get evidence against him. If a witness was ill, or something like that, it would be a different matter and the Crown would be entitled to a remand. There must be some reasonable cause for granting a remand, and there could not be anything more unreasonable than to keep men in jail against whom there was not a particle of evidence. If there was, they were entitled to know it. If there was not, he submitted that the remand should not be granted, at least in custody. He (Mr. O'Dea) had reason for stating there was not a particle of evidence against anyone of the prisoners. If they were released and the police got any evidence afterwards, they could be re-arrested.

Mr. Kilbride: I do not know about that.

Mr. O'Dea: Of course, you are the judge between the Crown and the prisoners, and how are you going to act? You must get evidence to satisfy yourself on the subject.

Mr. Kilbride said he would remand the prisoners.

Mr. O'Dea: I'd like to know when there is something going to be done, or are they going to be brought up here every week and remanded without evidence? Does your worship not even ask the District-Inspector when he will be able to give evidence in this case?

Mr. Kilbride: No.

THE SPIDDAL PRISONERS.

SHOOTING OF EX-SOLDIER AT LOUGHAUNBEG.

Evidence of Deceased's Brother.

Mr. O'Dea, solr., also defended the four men—Bryan Feeney, John Feeney, Pat Feeney, John Folan, all of Loughaunbeg—charged with the murder of Patrick Thornton, an ex-soldier, at Loughaunbeg, Spiddal, where he is alleged to have been shot on February 2. Peter O'Malley, an Irish teacher, is "wanted" in connection with the shooting.

District-Inspector Hildebrand prosecuted, and after the evidence of deceased's brother accused were remanded until Friday next.

Martin Thornton, Loughaunbeg, brother of the deceased man, deposed that on Monday night, February 2 last, he and his brother were in Watters' publichouse at Loughaunbeg. They left it at 10 o'c. and went towards home. After going along the road for thirty yards witness saw two men on one side of the road. One of the men was the prisoner, Bryan Feeney, who came behind witness and hit him with a stick and caught him and knocked him. There were about twelve men there altogether. John Folan, a near neighbour of witness's, was there also. Witness's brother was also knocked down by some of the men. After knocking him, they beat him with sticks.

Mr. Kilbride: Who were beating him?

Witness: I did not know them. Continuing, he said that his brother got up again. Witness saw a man namer Peter O'Malley there, and heard two shots being fired. The shots came from near where Peter O'Malley was standing. Witness saw the flashes of the shots. Peter O'Malley was within two yards of witness when the shots were fired. Witness's brother fell. Two cars came along the road and the attacking party then ran away through the fields. Witness identified Bryan Feeney, Pat Feeney, John Folan, and Peter O'Malley as being among the men who came before his brother and himself. Witness knew the prisoners nearly all his life. Peter O'Malley lived within a mile of Loughaunbeg and witness knew him well. The night was bright. The men were not disguised or covered in any way. Witness found that his brother was shot and he brought him back to Watters', where he remained until he he was brought to hospital in Galway next day. Witness had to go to hospital the same day in consequence of the injuries he received, and remained there for four days. He was ill afterwards at home as a result of the injuries.

Cross-examined by Mr. O'Dea: After the row did you go back to Watters' publichouse?—I did.

Did you there meet an ex-soldier named John Folan?—Yes.

Did he ask you if you knew any of the party that attacked your brother and yourself?—No.

Did you have a conversation with him about the row?—No.

Did you talk to him at all?—No.

What were you struck with?—With a stick on the head.

Did that blow knock you?—It did.

Were you dazed after it?—No.

Did you know what was happening after that?—Yes.

How long were you getting your senses after the blow?—About five minutes.

Was that the only blow you received?—I got more blows while on the ground.

Did they daze you?—Yes.

How many blows did you get while on the ground?—I got seven or eight blows on the head.

Mr. Kilbride: Blows of what?—Of a stick.

Mr. O'Dea: How did you get up—did anybody help you?—No.

Were you very excited after the attack?—Yes.

And after the attack did you tell anybody that you were so excited that you did not know anybody that was there?—No.

Anything like that?—No.

Are you sure?—Yes.

Mr. Hildebrand asked for a further remand, stating that the only other witnesses he would have were the doctors.

Accused were then remanded in custody until next Friday.

THE MIDLAND

Mr. WORTHINGTON AND THE GALWAY PORT BILL.

LARGE DEPOSIT NEEDED

Directors to Give Project "Their Blessing"

The annual general meeting of the Midland Great Western Railway Company was held at Broadstone Terminus, Dublin, at 12.30 p.m. yesterday (Thursday), Major H. C. Cusack, J.P., D.L., chairman of the Directors, presiding.

The report and accounts showed gross receipts from the railway in 1919 of £1,277,334. Deducting expenses, the total net income came to £233,889. After deducting interest, rentals and other fixed charges (£12[illegible]), dividends on guaranteed and Preference stock [illegible] and apportioning £15,000 to the general reserve, a balance of £[illegible] was available for dividend on ordinary stock. The interim dividend of two per cent. per annum which was paid on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended 30th June, 1919, absorbed £23,700 leaving a balance of £59,805, out of which the directors, after placing £15,000 to the credit of the general reserve fund, recommended the payment of a final dividend of 2 per cent. for the year, leaving £21,105 to be carried to next year's account. Resulting from the action taken in Parliament last year the original proposals of the Government respecting the future of railways were greatly modified. A Ministry of Transport has been established (represented in Ireland by a Director-General of Transport) to which have been transferred the powers of the Board of Trade and other Government Departments relating to railways, and as a consequential result the Irish Railway Executive Committee ceased to exist as from the 1st January, 1920. The Arigna railway, which extends from the Cavan and Leitrim terminus at Arigna up the Arigna Valley has been completed by the Government and will shortly be opened for traffic.

The usual notice appeared in the Press regarding the Galway (Barna) Harbour and Railway, but it has since been announced that the Bill will not be proceeded with during the present Session of Parliament.

Archdeacon Daly, Gort, introduced the question of increasing the directors' fees, arguing that others by combination had succeeded in increasing their wages. He protested that Ireland was not represented on the Railway Sub-committee.

Mr. Robert Worthington said that with regard to the statement that the Galway Port and Harbour Bill would not be proceeded with this session, the position was this: At considerable expense he had got the Bill to the stage of the Standing Orders Committee. To go before that committee he would have to lodge a deposit of £321,472. That was a fence that required some negotiation. The negotiations were proceeding, and he trusted that the result would be satisfactory (applause).