

As we anticipated, the five soldiers duly convicted in Ro-common of a participation in a very disgraceful and cowardly assault on an unfortunate civilian at Athlone, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, have been promptly released, by order of the Lord Lieutenant, before a week of their imprisonment has expired. The assault in question of some forty soldiers on a single unoffending civilian was exceptionally brutal; the evidence of identification of the accused by two active and intelligent constables was exceptionally clear, precise, circumstantial, and dogmatic. The defence was an *alibi* by the officers and comrades of the accused. The jury, acting on a long-established custom, disregarded it. So far as we have been able to ascertain the evidence fairly established the prisoners' innocence. We have no quarrel, therefore, with the decision of the Executive to release them beyond this: it strikes a fatal blow at the infallibility of police evidence, which is the first axiom of the administration of the criminal law in Ireland. If the soldiers had been peasants convicted on the positive swearing of two policemen how would the *alibi* of their comrades be regarded in high quarters? The red coat or the frieze coat, it seems, makes all the difference in the world. The freely-swearing constables are, we understand, to be sent South on Moonlight duty. Their accomplishments are wasted in Athlone. Should a Kerry jury refuse to convict on their evidence, what a storm Judge O'Brien will raise about their ears.

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—On June 23, at a private meeting of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, the chairman, Sir E. J. Harland, Baronet, ex-Mayor of Belfast, intimated that in consequence of his approaching change of residence, he will be obliged shortly to resign the chairmanship.

A serious outbreak of rioting commenced again on the evening of June 25, in Belfast. The disturbances originated from the arresting of a man in Servia Street for an illegal assault by the police, who were interfered with by a crowd which had collected in the vicinity. Stones were thrown and attacks of all sorts made upon them for the purpose of rescuing the prisoner. Every moment the crowd became greater as the noise and disorder increased. The constables, four in number, held on to their charge, and defended themselves as best they could with their batons, still marching in the direction of the barracks. This continued through Balkan street, Osmond street, and into Kaglan street, the numbers surrounding the prisoner and his captors momentarily increasing and the excitement growing more intense. When Mallin street and Boss street were reached the state of affairs became even more critical, the crowd growing bolder by increase of numbers and more demonstrative in their attempts to release the prisoner. The police at length drew their revolvers and fired on the crowd, the effect being an almost instantaneous clearing away of a great number of the people about. After this the progress of the party became much more easy; and though occasional stones were thrown at them, the station was at length reached in comparative safety, one or two men only having received injuries. During the latter part of the journey a reinforcement of men from Albert Crecent Barracks and from Dover Street gave their assistance, and by baton charges made the way clear and restored the peace of the locality. Several Catholic clergymen were present during a good part of the disturbances, and gave all possible assistance in keeping the people quiet and restoring order.

ARMAGH.—A sad and fatal shooting accident took place on June 20 at Crove, a townland in this County, about nine miles from the town of Newry, by which James Murphy, a respected farmer, lost his life. The remarkable facts of the affair are as follows. During the evening of June 20 a man named James Henry was carrying a gun through his fields for the purpose of shooting crows. The gun was charged with swan pellets, and although he tried several times to discharge it at some crows, his efforts were futile, as the gun would not go off. A girl named Hannah Atcheson happened to be passing the field where Henry was working, the latter asked her to take the gun over to James Murphy's house, a short distance away, and leave it there. The girl consented, and remarked that she "would knock a bit of fun out of Murphy with the gun." On her arrival at the house, Murphy came up from the room where he had been sitting, and the girl presented the gun at him, and said she would shoot him. Murphy, knowing that she was only jesting, laughed at the expression, and stretched forward to take the gun out of the girl's hand, but the latter stepped back a few paces from his reach, and immediately the gun went off, the contents lodging in Murphy's abdomen. The wounded man shouted, "My God, I'm shot," and fell unconscious in a chair behind him. The tragic occurrence caused great alarm, and medical assistance was immediately secured, but the wound was a mortal one, and Murphy died three hours after the shooting from internal hemorrhage in great agony, being unable to speak. At the inquest on the next day the jury returned this verdict: "That James Murphy died from hemorrhage, caused by a gunshot wound accidentally inflicted on the same day."

CARLOW.—The first meeting of the delegates appointed by the several branches of the I. N. L., to form the committee of the Registration Association, was held in Tynan's Hotel, Carlow, on June 22. Mr. Patrick Hanlon, Grangeworth, presided. The Rev. J. Delaney, in a speech thanking the meeting for his re-election as secretary of the association, spoke of the good done by the association. A resolution congratulating William O'Brien on his triumphant tour through Canada was adopted. After the transaction of minor business the meeting adjourned.

CAVAN.—The schemes for the erection of 108 laborers' cottages by the Cavan Guardians in that Union has collapsed for want of care in their preparations. The copies of the schemes in many cases differed entirely from the published advertisements. Wrong parties had been served, and the clerk of the Union said the Board had not

come to any determination at all as to how they were to acquire the land on which the cottages were to be put.

CLARE.—The burning heat which has prevailed in Ireland has been attended with consequences of a serious nature in Kildysart and the neighbouring districts. Some valuable cattle have been killed while endeavouring to secure shelter from the heat. On June 25 four two-year-old heifers belonging to a farmer near Kilmibill were killed by the sun, which was registered by the barometer at 89 degrees in the shade. Spring wells and rivers are dried up in every quarter of the district, and it is to be feared that a water famine will be experienced. Grass and green crops have been burned everywhere around.

CORK.—The Right Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork, laid the foundation stone, on June 26, of a new Temperance Hall for the North Parish, on St. Mary's Road, facing the cathedral in that city.

John and Margaret Burke, brother and sister, were charged at Mallow Petty Sessions, on June 26, with assaulting and wounding James Boland, Sheriff's bailiff, on the occasion of the eviction of their father from his holdings at Mounteagle, near Killavullen. Margaret Burke, who had a cross-summons for assault, was stated to be dangerously ill and unable to attend, owing to her injuries, and the cross-cases were adjourned.

At a meeting of the Cork Corporation on July 1, claims for the breaking of glass in windows on the night of the Jubilee celebrations to the amount of £135 were presented. The claims will not be investigated until September next. The Mayor said that anyone injured in the police charge on the occasion should take legal advice as to the grounds for action against the authorities. No reply had been received from Government yet as to whether the commission of inquiry which the city magistrates asked for on June 27 would be granted, but the Mayor said he would not allow the matter to rest. He denied that he wore a cape and hoisted a black flag on the occasion, which explanation the Conservative members said they were glad to hear; but Councillor Hungerford said he understood members of the Council hoisted black flags on the city market and Mayor's office in the absence of the Mayor. As he was not able to prove that any members did so, his motion on the notice paper condemning some members was not discussed for the present.

DOWN.—A public meeting of the ratepayers of Newry was held in the Ballybet Court House, on July 1, for the purpose of considering the advisability of erecting a new town hall for Newry. Mr. James McMahon, chairman of the Newry Town Commissioners, presided. A deputation of seven gentlemen was appointed by the meeting to wait upon the Town Commissioners at their next meeting, and obtain the necessary information as to their powers for borrowing a sum of money for the erection of a town hall.

DUBLIN.—The litigation between Mr. Joyce, late agent to Lord Clanricarde, and the lord himself has entered on a new phase—the plaintiff having marked interlocutory judgment in the action to recover £10,000 damages for libel and for work and service performed. The judgment was marked, the defendant's plea not having been filed within the proper period, and notice of extended time to plead granted by the Dublin Exchequer Division upon the defendant's *ex parte* application, not having been served (as alleged) upon the plaintiff. Having marked judgment, the plaintiff has served notice to have damages assessed by a jury in the Masters office. It is understood, however, that the defendant will apply to the Exchequer Division to set aside the judgment marked, under the circumstances stated, and have the case tried out before a judge and a special jury upon the important questions at issue between the parties.

At the meeting of the Irish Medical Association, which has recently been held at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. George I. Mackey moved the following resolution: "That it would be but simple justice to the medical officers holding poor law appointments, and would tend towards increasing the efficiency of the service, that they should be entitled to a reasonable period of leave of absence in each year, as in the case of civil servants, and that provisions for the same should be made at the public expense." The resolution was agreed to unanimously. Dr. J. L. Walshe, of Kilmacthomas, moved an amendment that the following passage be added to the annual report: "Your Council will, therefore, be prepared to take steps without avoidable delay to ascertain the views of the Government and of the leaders of all parties in Parliament as to the terms of a Poor Law Superannuation Bill that would be acceptable to them, and to secure their co-operation to pass a measure beneficial to the poor law medical officers of Ireland." After an animated discussion, this amendment was adopted by the meeting. Dr. Pearson, of Kinsale, moved: "That this association requests the Council to avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity of introducing to the notice of Parliament a suitable measure, with a view to reasonable amendment of the law relating to superannuation of poor law officers." Owing to petty motives operating on the minds of the Poor Law Guardians, the most deserving medical men were liable to be thrown on the roadside. The association should strain every nerve in this matter. The resolution was put and carried. The proceedings terminated.

FERMANAGH.—A Derrygonnelly correspondent writes, under date of June 30: "An extraordinary fire is sweeping over the district of Doagh—distant from Derrygonnelly about two miles. This conflagration had its origin in the jubilee fizzle on the night of June 21. A party of Loyalists ignited a huge bonfire on Conagher rock, in the Doagh district. Adjoining this rock is a large bog, which extends for miles, and which is covered with heather, long grass, and dry turf, which, owing to the intense heat, are all as dry as powder and easily ignited. On the Garrison side of the rock, where the bonfire was lighted, lies a beautiful plantation of Captain Archdale. The rapidity with which the fire extended is inconceivable. In a short space of time a large portion of Captain Archdale's plantation was in flames and the bog also. Derrygonnelly town was covered with smoke, and for some time great anxiety was shown. Mr.