

# A Socio-Economic Profile of County Limerick in 1921

## Próifíl Shocheacnamaíoch Chontae Luimnigh i 1921

An Online Exhibition  
Commissioned by Limerick Museum

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Taispeántas Ar Líne  
Arna choimisiúnú ag Músaem Luimnigh

Le Taighde ó agus arna Choimeád ag  
Stephen Griffin agus William O'Neill



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Luimnigh  
Limerick City  
& County Council



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

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Is cuid de Chlár Chomhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh maidir le Deich mBliana na gComórtha Céad Bliain í an taispeántas seo. Tá sé arna eagrú ag Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chathair agus Chontae Luimnigh agus arna mhaoiniú ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus na Meán faoi Thionscnamh Deich mBliain na gComóradh Céad Bliain 2012-2023

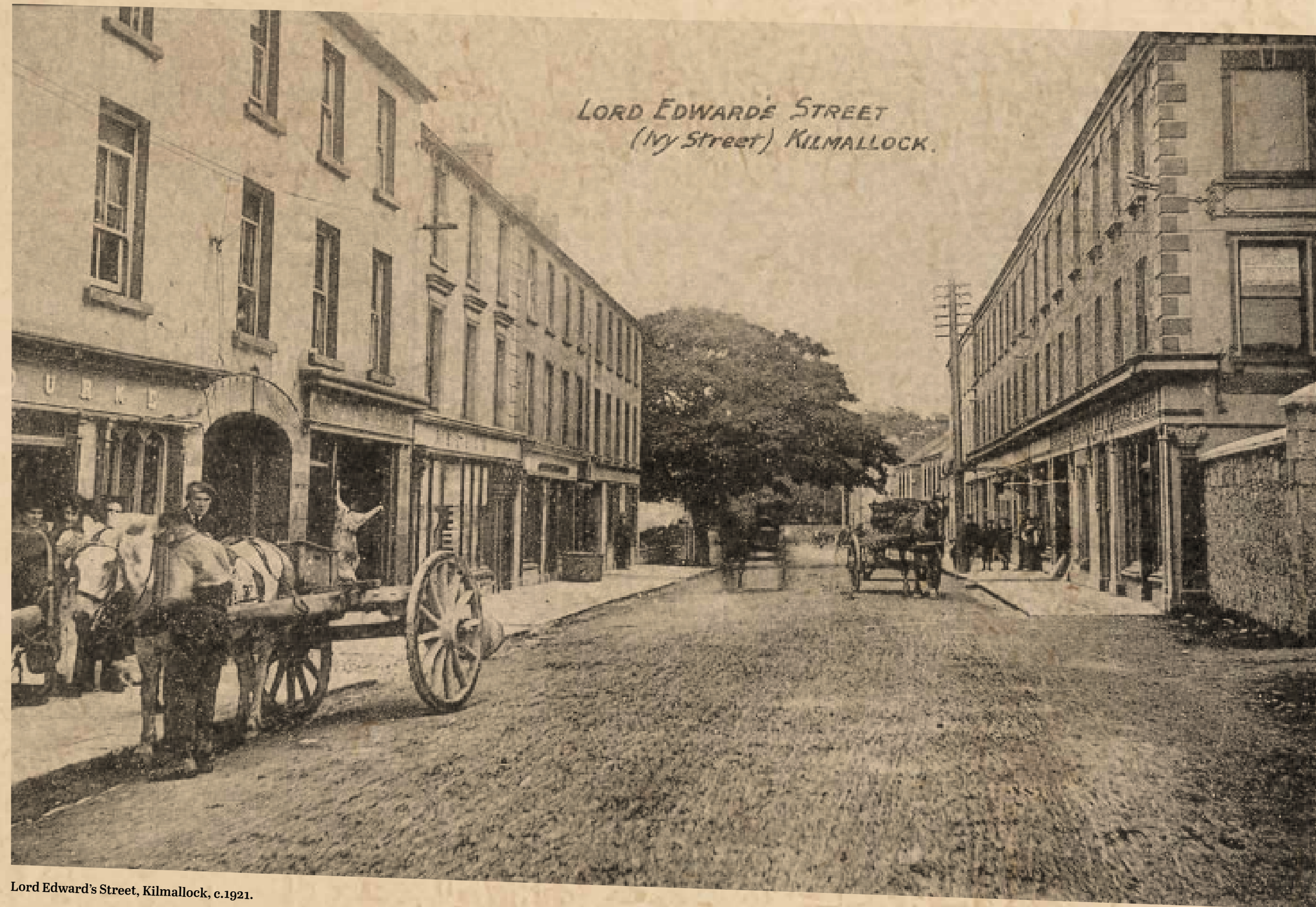


## Limerick in 1921

In both area and population, Limerick was the tenth largest county on the island of Ireland. It had an area of 1,064 square miles (2,756 square kilometres) and in 1911, its population was 143,069. The population of Limerick city was 38,518 (27 per cent of the total) and of the county was 104,551 (73 per cent of the total).

Limerick was overwhelmingly rural with nearly two-thirds of its population living outside urban areas with 500 or more people. In the county, the proportion was much higher, with nearly 90 per cent of the population living outside urban areas with 500 or more people.

Limerick city and county were separate administrative areas, each with the status of an independent county. Limerick city was governed by a 40-member city council headed by a mayor and the county was governed by a 28-member county council headed by a chairman. Two towns in the county, Newcastle West and Rathkeale, each had their own 15-member town council. Limerick also had a network of five boards of guardians and eight rural district councils.



Lord Edward's Street, Kilmallock, c.1921.

## Luimneach sa bhliain 1921

Ba é Luimneach an deichiú contae is mó ar oileán na hÉireann, maidir le ceantar agus daonra araon. Bhí achar de 1,064 míle cearnach aige (2,756 ciliméadar cearnach) agus sa bhliain 1911, b'ionann a dhaonra agus 143,069 duine. B'ionann daonra chathair Luimnigh agus 38,518 duine (27 faoin gcéad den iomlán) agus b'ionann daonra an chontae agus 104,551 duine (73 faoin gcéad den iomlán).

Ba chontae thar a bheith tuaithe ab ea Luimneach le beagnach dhá thrian dá daonra ina gcónaí taobh amuigh de cheantair uirbeacha ina raibh 500 duine nó níos mó. Sa chontae, bhí an cion i bhfad níos airde, le beagnach 90 faoin gcéad den daonra ina gcónaí taobh amuigh de cheantair uirbeacha ina raibh 500 duine nó níos mó.

Ba cheantair riaracháin ar leithligh iad cathair agus contae Luimnigh, gach ceann acu le stádas contae neamhspleách. Bhí cathair Luimnigh á rialú ag comhairle cathrach de 40 ball faoi cheannas méara agus bhí an contae á rialú ag comhairle contae de 28 ball faoi cheannas cathaoirleach. Bhí a gcomhairle baile de 15 ball féin ag dhá bhaile sa chontae, An Caisleán Nua agus Ráth Caola. Bhí líonra de chúig bhord de chaomhnóirí agus ocht gcomhairle ceantair thuaithe i Luimneach freisin.



## Local Government

In 1921, local government had a wide variety of functions. In County Limerick, these services were distributed amongst the various local authorities, while in Limerick City, the Council provided a full range of services, with the exception of health.

**City Council:** Collection of a property tax called rates; building and maintaining of roads; water supply and sewerage; gasworks; public health; and social housing.

**County Council:** Collection of a property tax called rates, part of which it passed on to the Poor Law Unions and Rural District Councils; building and maintaining of roads.

**Boards of Guardians:** Healthcare: running the workhouses and hospitals.

**Rural District Councils:** Water supply and sewerage; public health; social housing.

**Town Councils:** Social housing; street lighting; markets; and allotments.

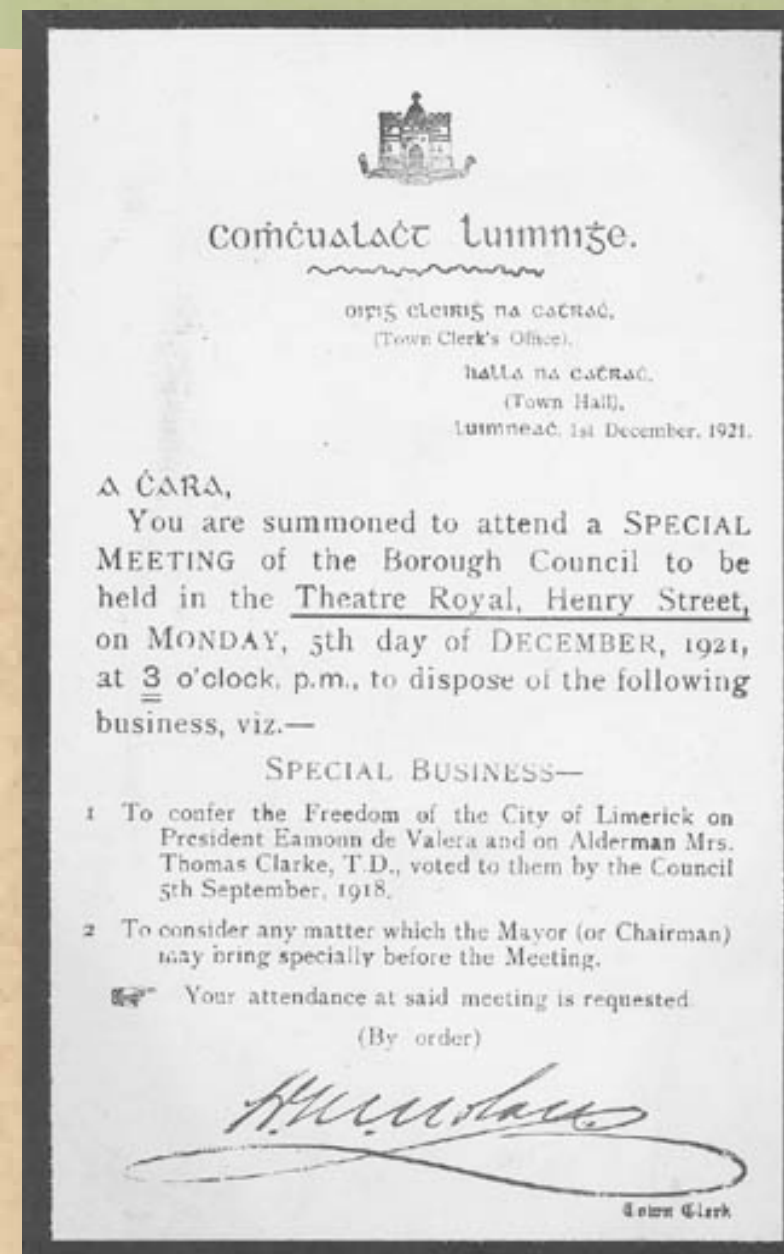
The Local Government Act of 1919 had introduced proportional representation for local elections and the first held under this legislation in 1920 had resulted in Sinn Féin winning control of the local government system in Limerick. According to historian Tom Toomey, this may have precipitated the murders of Mayors Clancy and O'Callaghan in March 1921 by the Black and Tans. In June 1921, Seán Wall, Chairman of Limerick County Council was also shot dead by the Black and Tans. No other county's local government system suffered such losses at the hands of the Crown forces.

Interestingly, Mayor Clancy was replaced by James Casey, the first member of the Labour Party to become Mayor, although only temporarily and in an acting capacity. Later in the year, Limerick's first ever female mayor, Maire O'Donovan took office, though also in an acting capacity due to Mayor Stephen O'Mara was absent on government business in the USA. In an interesting turn of events, Eamon de Valera was staying at the O'Mara family house in Limerick city, when he learnt about the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6 December 1921.

In April, Limerick City Council established a committee to 'curtail expenditure as far as

possible.' This committee recommended the abolishment of the Limerick Night Watch, which was a quasi-police force funded by the Limerick Corporation. Its abolition marked the end of local government's involvement in the policing of the city.

Limerick County Council also had a tumultuous 1921. Many of its members, including the Chairman Sean Wall, were on the run from the Crown forces and Wall himself was killed on 6 May. Even so, routine business continued to be transacted. The Council discussed appointing a dedicated Irish language officer to the Council, to encourage the use of Irish at meetings. In January 1921, the Council sought to improve treatment of tuberculosis patients, and also planned a training programme to integrate them into the workforce. The following month, the Council encouraged the Limerick Board of Guardians to contribute £10,000 towards the Dáil Loan.



Letter sent to all Council members in relation to the Freedom of Limerick being given to Eamon de Valera and Kathleen Clarke.

## Rialtas Áitiúil

I 1921, bhí raon leathan feidhmeanna ag rialtas áitiúil. I gContae Luimnigh, dáileadh na seirbhísí seo ar na húdaráis áitiúla éagsúla, agus i gCathair Luimnigh, chuir an Chomhairle raon iomlán seirbhísí ar fáil, seachas sláinte.

**Comhairle Cathrach:** Cáin réadmhaoine a bhailiú ar a dtugtar rátaí; bóithre a thógáil agus a chothabháil; soláthar uisce agus séarachas; oibreacha gáis; sláinte an phobail; agus tithíocht shóisialta.

**Comhairle Contae:** Cáin réadmhaoine a bhailiú ar a dtugtar rátaí, ar tugadh cuid di ar aghaidh do Cheardchumann Dhlí na mBocht agus do Chomhairlí Dúiche Tuaithe; bóithre a thógáil agus a chothabháil.

**Boird Chaomhnóirí:** Cúram Sláinte: tithe na mbocht agus na hospidéal a bhainistiú.

**Comhairlí Dúiche Tuaithe:** Soláthar uisce agus séarachas; sláinte an phobail; tithíocht shóisialta.

**Comhairlí Baile:** Tithíocht shóisialta; soilsiú sráide; margáí; agus cuibhriinn.

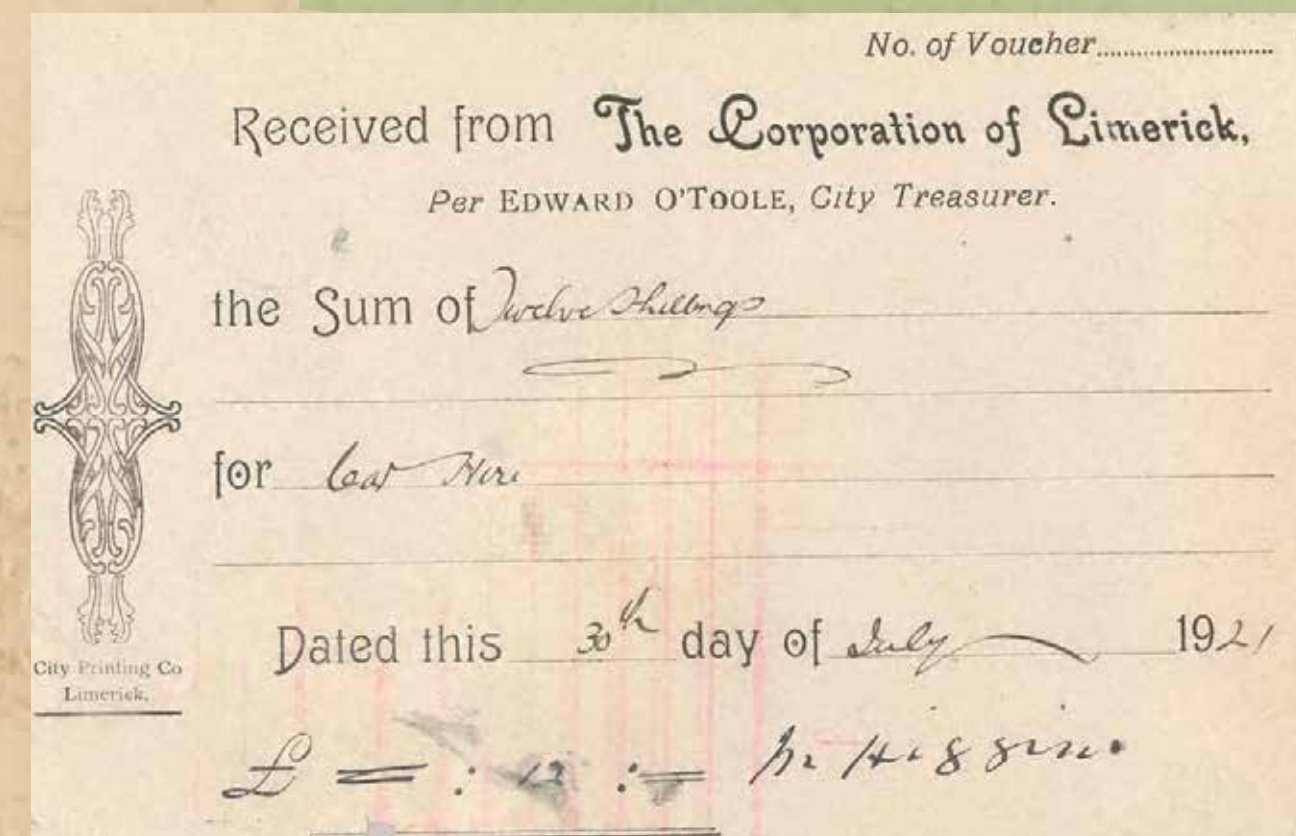
Leis an Acht Rialtais Áitiúil 1919 tugadh isteach ionadaíocht chomhréireach i dtoghcháin áitiúla agus mar thoradh ar an gcéad cheann a tionóladh faoin reachtaíocht seo sa bhliain 1920 bhuaigh Sinn Féin ceannas ar an gcóras rialtais áitiúil i Luimneach. Dar leis an staraí Tom Toomey, b'fhéidir gur dhúnmharaigh na Dúchrónaigh na

Méaraí Clancy agus O'Callaghan i mí an Mhárta 1921 mar thoradh air seo. I mí an Mheithimh 1921, lámhaigh na Dúchrónaigh Seán Wall, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Luimnigh. Níor chaill aon chóras rialtais áitiúil contae eile a leithéid de chailteanas ag fórsaí na Corónach.

Is ábhar spéise é gur tháinig James Casey in ionad an Mhéara Clancy, agus ba é an chéad bhall de Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre chun bheith ina Mhéara, cé nach raibh sé ach ar bhonn sealadach agus i gcáil ghníomhach. Níos déanaí sa bhliain, chuaigh an chéad mhéara mná riamh do Luimneach, Máire O'Donovan i mbun oifige, ach bhí sé i gcáil ghníomhach freisin mar gheall go raibh an Méara Stephen O'Mara as láthair ar ghnó rialtais sna Stáit Aontaithe. Ar bhealach spéisiúil, bhí Eamon de Valera ag fanacht i dteach teaghlaigh O'Mara i gcathair Luimnigh, nuair a d'fhoghlaim sé faoi shíniú an Chonartha Angla-Éireannaigh an 6 Nollaig 1921.

I mí Aibreáin, bhunaigh Comhairle Cathrach Luimnigh coiste chun 'caiteachas a chiorrú a mhéid is féidir.' Mhol an coiste seo deireadh a chur le Faire Oíche Luimnigh, ar fhórsa gar-phóilíneachta a raibh ann arna mhaoiniú ag Corparáid Luimnigh. Leis an gcealú seo, cuireadh deireadh freisin le rannpháirtíocht an rialtais áitiúil i bpóilíneacht na cathrach.

Ba bhliain shuaiteach í 1921 freisin do Chomhairle Contae Luimnigh freisin. Bhí go leor dá chomhaltaí, an Cathaoirleach Sean Wall ina measc, ar a dteitheadh ó fhórsaí na Corónach agus maraíodh Wall an 6 Bealtaine. Ina ainneoin sin, leanadh le gnáthghnó a sheoladh. Phléigh an Chomhairle oifigeach tiomnaithe Gaeilge a cheapadh ar an gComhairle, chun úsáid na Gaeilge a spreagadh ag cruinnithe. I mí Eanáir 1921, rinne an Chomhairle iarracht cóireáil othar eitinne a fheabhsú, agus phleanáil sí clár oiliúna freisin chun iad a chomhtháthú sa lucht saothair. An mhí dár gcionn, spreag an Chomhairle Bord Caomhnóirí Luimnigh chun £10,000 a chur le hÍasacht na Dála.



Payslip from Limerick Corporation.



## Politics

Limerick's candidates for the Second Dáil were chosen by Sinn Féin at a meeting in April 1921. It was decided that Kate O'Callaghan and Michael Colivet would represent the Borough of Limerick while Dr Richard Hayes and William Hayes would represent East Limerick. At this time, Kerry and Limerick West formed the same constituency and at a meeting in Tralee, the following representatives were chosen: Austin Stack, Finian Lynch, Pearse Beasley, James Crowley, Con Collins, Edward Roche, Tomas O'Donoghue and Patrick J. Cahill. Of these, only Con Collins was from Limerick. All the selected candidates were returned unopposed on 13 May 1921.

A truce was called in July 1921 and this was celebrated with "an enthusiasm hardly ever witnessed" in the previous years of conflict. The 7pm curfew under which Limerick city had been placed was also lifted. As negotiations between Sinn Féin and the British took place, the editors of the *Limerick Leader* offered their own thoughts on the future of the country throughout the latter half of the year. Following the signing of the Anglo-Irish treaty the paper declared on 7 December:

'The fight of seven and a half centuries has ended in triumph... the settlement come to, in our opinion, gives us all 'the essentials of freedom'... We have arrived at a momentously important and inspiring stage in our country's history and the duty of every Irishman today is to make and act upon a resolve to do what he can to prove worthy of the sacrifices made for Irish freedom'.

On 28 December the *Leader* published an article titled 'Accept the Treaty'. Two days later, the paper called for ratification of the treaty and for peace.



Eamon de Valera in Limerick, on the morning he heard of the Anglo Irish Treaty being signed.



Dáil Éireann in session in August 2021.

## Polaitíocht

Roghnaigh Sinn Féin iarrthóirí Luimnigh don Dara Dáil ag cruinniú i mí Aibreáin 1921. Socraíodh go ndéanfadh Kate O'Callaghan agus Michael Colivet ionadaíocht do Bhuirg Luimnigh agus go ndéanfadh an Dr Richard Hayes agus William Hayes ionadaíocht thar ceann Luimnigh Thoir. Ag an am seo, bhí Ciarraí agus Luimneach Thiar sa dailcheantar céanna agus ag cruinniú i dTrá Lí, roghnaíodh na hionadaithe seo a leanas: Austin Stack, Finian Lynch, Pearse Beasley, James Crowley, Con Collins, Edward Roche, Tomas O'Donoghue agus Patrick J. Cahill. Díobh seo, ní raibh ach Con Collins as Luimneach. Cuireadh na hiarrthóirí roghnaithe go léir ar ais gan freasúra an 13 Bealtaine 1921.

Glaodh sos cogaidh i mí Iúil 1921 agus rinneadh é seo a cheiliúradh le "díograis nach bhfacthas riamh roimhe seo" sna blianta coimhlinte roimhe seo. Baineadh an cuirfiú de 7in faoinar cuireadh cathair Luimnigh. De réir mar a bhí idirbheartaíocht ar siúl idir Shinn Féin agus na Breataine, rinne eagarthóirí an Limerick Leader a gcuid smaointe féin a chur in iúl maidir le todhchaí na tíre i rith an dara leath den bhliain. Tar éis síniú an chonartha Angla-Éireannaigh, dearbhaíodh sa pháipéar an 7 Nollaig:

'Tá deireadh tagtha le troid na seacht gcéad go leith bliain... is é ár dtuairim go dtugann an lonnaíocht' buneilimintí na saoirse 'dúinn uile... Táimid tar éis céim thábhachtach agus inspioráideach a bhaint amach i stair ár dtíre. Tá sé de dhualgas ar gach Éireannach inniu rún a dhéanamh agus gníomhú ina leith chun a dhícheall a dhéanamh chun a bheith fiúntach as na hÍobairtí a rinneadh ar son saoirse na hÉireann '. ('The fight of seven and a half centuries has ended in triumph... the settlement come to, in our opinion, gives us all 'the essentials of freedom'... We have arrived at a momentously important and inspiring stage in our country's history and the duty of every Irishman today is to make and act upon a resolve to do what he can to prove worthy of the sacrifices made for Irish freedom'.)

An 28 Nollaig foilsíodh sa Leader sé alt dar teideal 'Accept the Treaty' (Glac leis an gConradh'). Dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin, d'éiligh an páipéar go ndéanfaí an conradh a dhaingniú agus síochán a bhaint amach.





IRA Brigade with a train shipment in the background, c.1921

## The War of Independence

1921 saw the War of Independence rage on, and Limerick was one of its principal theatres of conflict. Limerick had three Brigades, based in three regions; The East Limerick Brigade, the Mid Limerick Brigade, and the West Limerick Brigade. Between January and July 1921, approximately 80 IRA members, RIC members, and civilians were killed. While all Limerick Brigades saw action, the East Limerick Brigade was the most active, with seventeen engagements or activities listed in the Brigades' pension records.

Among all the Brigades' activities, the most noteworthy were: the Dromkeen ambush of February 1921, in which eleven RIC members will killed; the Fedamore attack in April in which Constable George Rogers was killed and two others wounded; and the Dromcollogher ambush in May, where Constable Thomas Bridges was killed.

Of course, the IRA also suffered many fatalities, including some of their key leaders, such as Seán Wall and Seán Finn, respectively the Commandants of the East and West Limerick Brigades. Some IRA Volunteers were killed in the aftermath of ambushes and operations, as Crown forces became increasingly repressive and indiscriminate in their reprisals.

In Limerick city, the most atrocious crime perpetrated by the Black and Tans in 1921 was the murders of Mayors George Clancy and Michael O'Callaghan, along with Volunteer Joseph O'Donoghue, on 6/7 March, in their own homes and in the presence of their wives. This brutal crime attracted widespread revulsion and condemnation, both domestically and internationally.



Michael O'Callaghan 1879-1921.  
First Republican Mayor of Limerick 1920.

Requiescat.

Memorial card for Mayor.

## Cogadh na Saoirse

I 1921 chonacthas Cogadh na Saoirse ag leanúint de réabadh, agus bhí Luimneach ar cheann dá phríomh-amharclanna coimhlinte. Bhí trí Bhriogáid mhóra ag Luimneach, lonnaithe i dtrí réigiún; Briogáid Luimnigh Thoir, Briogáid Lár Luimnigh, agus Briogáid Luimnigh Thiar. Maraítear timpeall 80 ball den IRA, baill RIC, agus sibhialtaigh idir mí Eanáir agus mí Iúil 1921. Cé gur tharla gníomh i ngach Briogáid Luimnigh gníomh, ba í Briogáid Luimnigh Thoir an ceann ba ghníomhaí, le seacht gcomhrac nó gníomhaíocht déag liostaithe i dtaifid phinsin na Briogáidí.

I measc ghníomhaíochtaí uile na mBriogáidí, ba iad na cinn is suntasaí: luíochán Dhrom Caoin i mí Feabhra 1921, ina marófar aon bhall déag de RIC; ionsaí Fheadamair i mí Aibreáin inar maraíodh an Constábla George Rogers agus inar gortaíodh beirt eile; agus luíochán Dhrom Collachair i mí na Bealtaine, áit ar maraíodh an Constábla Thomas Bridges.

Ar ndóigh, d'fhulaing an IRA go leor básanna freisin, lena n-áirítear cuid dá bpríomhcheannairí, mar shampla Seán Wall agus Seán Finn, Ceannasaithe Bhriogáidí Luimnigh Thoir agus Thiar faoi seach. Maraíodh roinnt Óglach de chuid an IRA tar éis luíocháin agus oibríochtaí, de réir mar a d'éirigh fórsaí na Corónach smachtúil agus neamh-idirdhealaitheach ina gcuid díoltais.

I gcathair Luimnigh, ba é dúnmharú na Méaraí George Clancy agus Michael O'Callaghan, in éineacht leis an Óglach Joseph O'Donoghue, an 6/7 Márta, ina dtithe féin agus i láthair a mban céile, an choir ba ghránna a rinne na Dúchrónaigh sa bhliain 1921. Mheall an choir bhrúidiúil seo samhnas agus cáineadh forleathan, ar fud na tíre agus go hidirnáisiúnta.

## BELFAST JAIL ATROCITIES

The Government again break agreement!

Irish Prisoners on roof for a week, without food or water.

Military in possession with machine guns. Order—Don't hesitate to shoot.

The Irish prisoners, all of whom have just recently been laid up with influenza, have owing to the Government's breach of agreement again found it necessary to go on strike. They have been now over a week with scarcely any food and no water. It is feared that a number of them will lose their lives.

If you are with them in their just fight show it by your presence at the

Protest Meeting  
AT THE  
O'CONNELL MONUMENT  
TO-NIGHT, AT 9 P.M.

Several Belfast Prisoners will Address the Meeting.

Protest on O'Connell Street to protest the treatment of prisoners in Belfast jail.



Hearse carrying the bodies of the murdered Mayors of Limerick, Clancy and O'Callaghan.



## Limerick in National and International News

In 1921, the War of Independence and labour unrest dominated Limerick's coverage in the national news. On 1 September the *Irish Times* noted the occupation of Cleeve's Mill in Bruree by local ITGWU members locked in dispute with the mill's owners. A sign stating: 'Bruree Soviet Workers' Mills; We Make Bread Not Profits', was hoisted over the building. The dispute arose when two workers were dismissed from the Mill. The building was seized following the owner's refusal to reinstate them and to pay them for their period of unemployment. A settlement was reached shortly after and the factory was returned to the owners on 3 September.

The War of Independence also caused Limerick City and County to be mentioned in international newspapers. The murders of Mayors Clancy and O'Callaghan and Joseph O'Donoghue in March 1921 made international headlines. 'Mayor of Limerick is shot dead in bed' ran the *New York Times* noting that Limerick was 'a city of tragedy' following the events of 6/7 March. The *Chicago Tribune* headline was: 'Limerick Mayor and ex-official slain in homes.' In April 1921, the *New York Times* informed its readers that the city was under 4pm curfew following an attack on an RIC patrol. The paper describes how Limerick's civilians were 'ordered' to keep their windows open to avoid damage from explosions: 'following this notice, at 6 o'clock in the evening, explosions were heard. Several houses and business premises were bombed and destroyed. A woman 90 years of age was ejected from one of the houses by soldiers. Auxiliaries horse-whipped persons found in the streets.' This took place on John's Street and according to the *Manchester Guardian*, Dublin Castle reported that the burning was 'carried out as a military operation' because of the earlier attack on police. The *Times* in London briefly reported that a bomb had been thrown at a local RIC barracks, resulting in casualties and arrests. Elsewhere, the *New York Times* reported that a Sinn Féin boycott of British goods had begun in Kilmallock while the *Manchester Guardian* reported on a battle in

Galbally between Crown Forces and 150 civilians. This encounter lasted a reported five hours and two soldiers and six civilians had been killed while a further fifteen civilians had been wounded. The death of Winifred Barrington of Glenstal, in an IRA ambush in Tipperary in May 1921 was reported by the *Washington Post*.



Lord Edward's Street, Kilmallock, c.1921.



Main Street Rathkeale, c.1921.

## Luimneach sa Nuacht Náisiúnta agus Idirnáisiúnta

Le linn 1921, bhí Cogadh na Saoirse agus corraíl shaothair chun tosaigh i gclúdach Luimnigh sa nuacht náisiúnta. An 1 Meán Fómhair san *Irish Times* scríobhadh alt faoi baill áitiúla ITGWU a bhí ag áitiú Mhuileann Cleeve i mBrú Rí agus iad i mbun díospóide le húinéirí an mhuilinn. Crochadh comhartha á rá: 'Bruree Soviet Workers' Mills; We Make Bread Not Profits' ('Muilte Oibrithe Sóivéadacha Bhrú Rí; Déanaimid Árán Ní Brabúis'), os cionn an fhoirgnimh. D'eascair an t-aighneas nuair a briseadh beirt oibrithe as a bpost sa Mhuileann. Urghabhadh an foirgneamh tar éis dhiúltaigh an t-úinéir iad a chur ar ais agus iad a íoc as a dtréimhse dífhostaíochta. Thángthas ar shocrú go gairid ina dhiaidh sin agus tugadh an mhonarcha ar ais do na húinéirí an 3 Meán Fómhair.

Luadh Cathair agus Contae Luimnigh i nuachtáin idirnáisiúnta de bharr Chogadh na Saoirse. Bhí dúnmharuithe na Méaraí Clancy agus O'Callaghan agus Joseph O'Donoghue i mí an Mhárta 1921 sna ceannlínte idirnáisiúnta. 'Mayor of Limerick is shot dead in bed' 'Scaoileadh marbh Méara Luimnigh sa leaba' sa *New York Times* ag tabhairt dá haire gur 'cathair tragóide' a bhí i Luimneach tar éis imeachtaí an 6/7 Márta. Ba é ceannlíne an *Chicago Tribune*: 'Limerick Mayor and ex-official slain in homes.' ('Méara Luimnigh agus iar-oifigeach maraithe ina dtithe.') In Aibreán 1921, chuir an *New York Times* in iúl dá léitheoirí go raibh an chathair faoi chuirfiú de 4in tar éis ionsaí ar phatról RIC. Déantar cur síos sa pháipéar ar an gcaoi ar 'ordaíodh' do shibhialtaigh Luimnigh a gcuid fuinneoga a choinneáil ar oscailt chun damáiste ó phléascanna a sheachaint: 'following this notice, at 6 o'clock in the evening, explosions were heard. Several houses and business premises were bombed and destroyed. A woman 90 years of age was ejected from one of the houses by soldiers. Auxiliaries horse-whipped persons found in the streets.' ('tar éis an fhógra seo, ar a 6 a chlog tráthnóna, chualathas pléascanna. Rinneadh roinnt tithe agus áitribh ghnó a bhuamáil agus a scriosadh. Chuir saighdiúirí bean de 90 bliain d'aois as ceann de na tithe. Bhuail saighdiúirí cúnata na daoine ar aimsíodh sna sráideanna le fuip.' Tharla sé seo ar Shráid Eoin agus de réir an

*Manchester Guardian*, thuairiscigh Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath go ndearnadh an dó 'mar oibríocht mhíleata' mar gheall ar an ionsaí a rinneadh níos luaithe ar na póilíní. Sa *Times* thuairiscigh go hachomair i Londain gur caitheadh buama ag beairic áitiúil RIC, agus tasmigh agus gabhálacha mar thoradh air. Áit eile, tuairiscíodh sa *New York Times* go raibh baghcat ar earraí Briotanacha tosaithe ag Sinn Féin gCill Mocheallóg agus sa *Manchester Guardian* bhí tuairisc faoi chath sa Ghallbhaile idir Fórsaí na Corónach agus 150 sibhialtach. Le linn an achrainn seo maraíodh beirt shaighdiúirí agus seisear sibhialtach agus gortaíodh cúigear dhuine dhéag sibhialta eile, agus tuairiscíodh gur mhair sé ar feadh cúig uair an chloig Sa *Washington Post*, tuairiscíodh an bás de Winifred Barrington as Gleann Stáil, i luíochán IRA i dTiobraid Árann i mBealtaine 1921.



Moore Street Cappamore, c.1921.



Upper Maiden Street, Newcastle West, c.1921.



## Industry and Agriculture

Agriculture was the largest industry in Limerick with nearly 60 per cent of the population living on agricultural holdings. 88 per cent of Limerick farmers were involved in dairy production. In 1914, more than half of Limerick farmers had bought their holding from landlords, compared to three-quarters in 1925.

Most of Limerick's non-agricultural industry was concentrated in the city but even there, much of it was based on agriculture. In 1926, 55 per cent of the city's industrial workforce were employed in the food/drink/tobacco sector. Among Limerick city's most famous industries were bacon (Matterson's, Shaw's, O'Mara's and Denny's); flour milling (Bannatyne's and Goodbody's); tobacco (Spillane's and Clune's); dairy products (Cleeve's); and clothing (Limerick Clothing).

Retail was important in city and county and both shops and public houses were numerous and widespread. The city possessed a number of large department stores, but most retail was carried on by small family concerns.

The Irish economy had boomed during the war years, due to the demand in Britain for Irish agricultural produce, and the resulting high prices obtained by the farmers. The farming community of Limerick prospered as did the food processing industries of the city such as the four bacon-curing factories and Cleeves milk processing factory. The pig-buyers and cattle-dealers of the city did well out of the economic boom and so did the banks and shops, which benefited from the general prosperity.

The economic boom continued until 1921, when the situation deteriorated rapidly. The index of agricultural prices fell from 288 in 1920 to 160 in 1921. At the end of 1921, Cleeves had debts of £100,000, while the bacon factories reduced their workforce through redundancies. The War of Independence caused severe economic disruption, due to the destruction of property, the general feeling of insecurity and the resulting loss of business confidence.

The response of agriculture and industry was to reduce costs by cutting wages and staff numbers. In turn, these moves led to increasing poverty, an increase in class conflict and the growth of industrial unrest.

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## Tionscal agus Talmhaíocht

Ba í an talmhaíocht an tionscal is mó i Luimneach le beagnach 60 faoin gcéad den daonra ina gcónaí ar ghabháiltais talmhaíochta. Bhí 88 faoin gcéad d'fheirmeoirí Luimnigh i mbun táirgeadh déiríochta. Sa bhliain 1914, cheannaigh níos mó ná leath d'fheirmeoirí Luimnigh a ngabháltas ó thiarnaí talún, i gcomparáid le trí cheathrú i 1925.

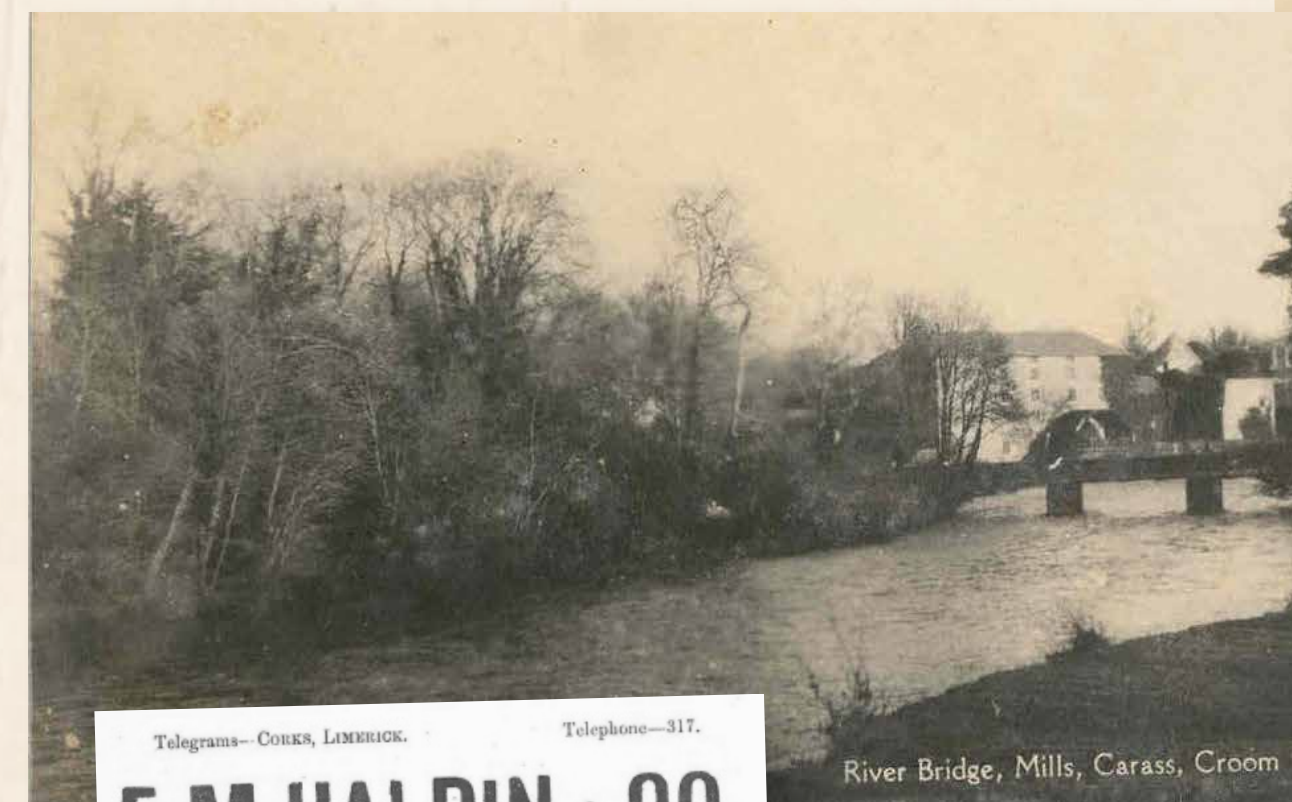
Bhí an chuid is mó de thionscal neamhthalmhaíochta Luimnigh comhchruinnithe sa chathair ach fiú amháin ansin, bhí cuid mhaith de bunaithe ar thalmhaíocht. I 1926, bhí 55 faoin gcéad d'fhórsa saothair tionsclaíoch na cathrach fostaithe san earnáil bia / dí / tobac. I measc na dtionscal is cáiliúla i gcathair Luimnigh bhí bagún (Matterson's, Shaw's, O'Mara's agus Denny's); muilleoireacht phlúir (Bannatyne's agus Goodbody's); tobac (Spillane's and Clune's); táirgí déiríochta (Cleeve's); agus éadaí (Limerick Clothing).

Bhí miondiól tábhachtach sa chathair agus sa chontae agus bhí an iliomad siopaí agus tithe tábhairne ann go forleathan. Bhí roinnt siopaí ilrannacha móra sa chathair, ach ba iad teaghlaigh bheaga a rinne an chuid is mó den mhiondiól.

Bhí borradh faoi gheilleagar na hÉireann le linn blianta an chogaidh, mar gheall ar an éileamh sa Bhreatain ar tháirgí talmhaíochta na hÉireann, agus na praghsanna arda a fuair na feirmeoirí dá bharr. Bhí rath ar phobal feirmeoireachta Luimnigh agus ar thionscail phróiseála bia na cathrach chomh maith, cosúil leis na ceithre monarchana um leasú bagúin agus monarcha próiseála bainne Cleeves. D'éirigh go maith le ceannaitheoirí muc agus déileálaithe eallaigh na cathrach de bharr an borradh eacnamaíochta agus leis na bainc agus na siopaí chomh maith, a bhain leas as an rathúnas ginearálta.

Lean an borradh eacnamaíochta ar aghaidh go dtí 1921, nuair a tháinig meath tapa ar an scéal. Thit innéacs na bpraghsanna talmhaíochta ó 288 i 1920 go 160 i 1921. Ag deireadh 1921, bhí fiacha de £100,000 ag Cleeves, agus laghdáíodh an lucht saothair sna monarchana bagúin trí iomarcaíochtaí. Chuir Cogadh na Saoirse isteach go mór ar an ngeilleagar, mar gheall ar scriosadh maoinne, braistint ghinearálta d'éiginnteacht agus easpa muiníne gnó dá bharr.

Ba é freagra na talmhaíochta agus an tionscail costais a laghdú trí phá agus líon na foirne a ghearradh. Ina dhiaidh sin, agus dá bharr bhí níos mó bochtaineachta, méadú ar choimhlint aicme agus fás de chorrail thionsclaíoch.



River Bridge, Mills, Carass, Croom

Croom Mills, c. 1921.

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## Labour and Trade Unionism

In the wake of the 1916 Rising, advanced nationalism and the labour movement had become staunch allies. There was considerable overlap between the membership of Sinn Féin and the trade unions, a trend which continued into the War of Independence. By 1919, in Limerick city, the membership of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union outnumbered that of the Sinn Féin clubs, a process symbolised by the IRA using the Transport Union Hall on O'Connell Street for their meetings. During the local elections of 1920, Sinn Féin and Labour agreed to run a slate of candidates for both Newcastle West and Rathkeale Town Council, which were returned unopposed in both cases.

However, in 1921 the Labour movement came to the fore in its own right on a number of occasions, both nationally and in Limerick. This caused the Sinn Féin-Labour alliance to become strained to the point that in April, the Dáil cabinet expressed fears that a 'class war' between farmers and their labourers might develop.

In 1921, the afore-mentioned Bruree Soviet attracted much attention. There was another general strike in Kilmallock in support of striking farm labourers in nearby Bulgaden, and 300 workers marched through the town to protest against the arrest of four of the Bulgaden strikers by the IRA. Almost £7,000 of farm produce was destroyed and eventually, the labourers were defeated. In December, Cleaves sought to lay-off one third of its workforce in Limerick. In the first half of 1922, this move triggered off a series of industrial disputes in the Cleaves factory in Limerick city and in other Cleaves premises in Counties Limerick and Tipperary. This dispute also ended in defeat for the strikers. Sinn Féin and the IRA were socially conservative and was strongly opposed to these and to other industrial disputes.

The decline of the economy also hampered the labour movement. During 1921, manufacturing trade was almost halved, and by December 1921, over a quarter of all workers in the country were unemployed. In November 1921, 2,500 were unemployed in Limerick city alone. The labour movement declined and simultaneously became more conservative. Even if Eamon de Valera never made the famous comment attributed to him that 'Labour must wait', this is what had actually happened by 1921-22.



One of the many declarations from Dáil Éireann, which sought to boycott the importation of many goods from Britain

## Saothar agus Ceardchumannachas

I ndiaidh Éirí Amach 1916, bhí an náisiúnachas forbartha agus an ghluaiseacht saothair ina gcomhghuaillithe láidre. Bhí forluí suntasach idir ballraíocht Shinn Féin agus na ceardchumann, treocht a bhí fós ann go dtí Cogadh na Saoirse. Faoi 1919, i gcathair Luimnigh, bhí ballraíocht Ceardchumann Oibrithe Iompair agus Ilsaothair na hÉireann níos mó ná ballraíocht chlubanna Shinn Féin, próiseas ar úsáid an IRA mar shiombail ag baint úsáide as Halla an Cheardchumann Iompair ar Shráid Uí Chonaill dá gcrúinnithe. Le linn toghcháin áitiúla 1920, d'aontaigh Sinn Féin agus an Lucht Oibre liosta iarrthóirí a reáchtáil do Chomhairle Baile an Chaisleán Nua agus Ráth Caola, a cuireadh ar ais gan freasúra sa dá chás.

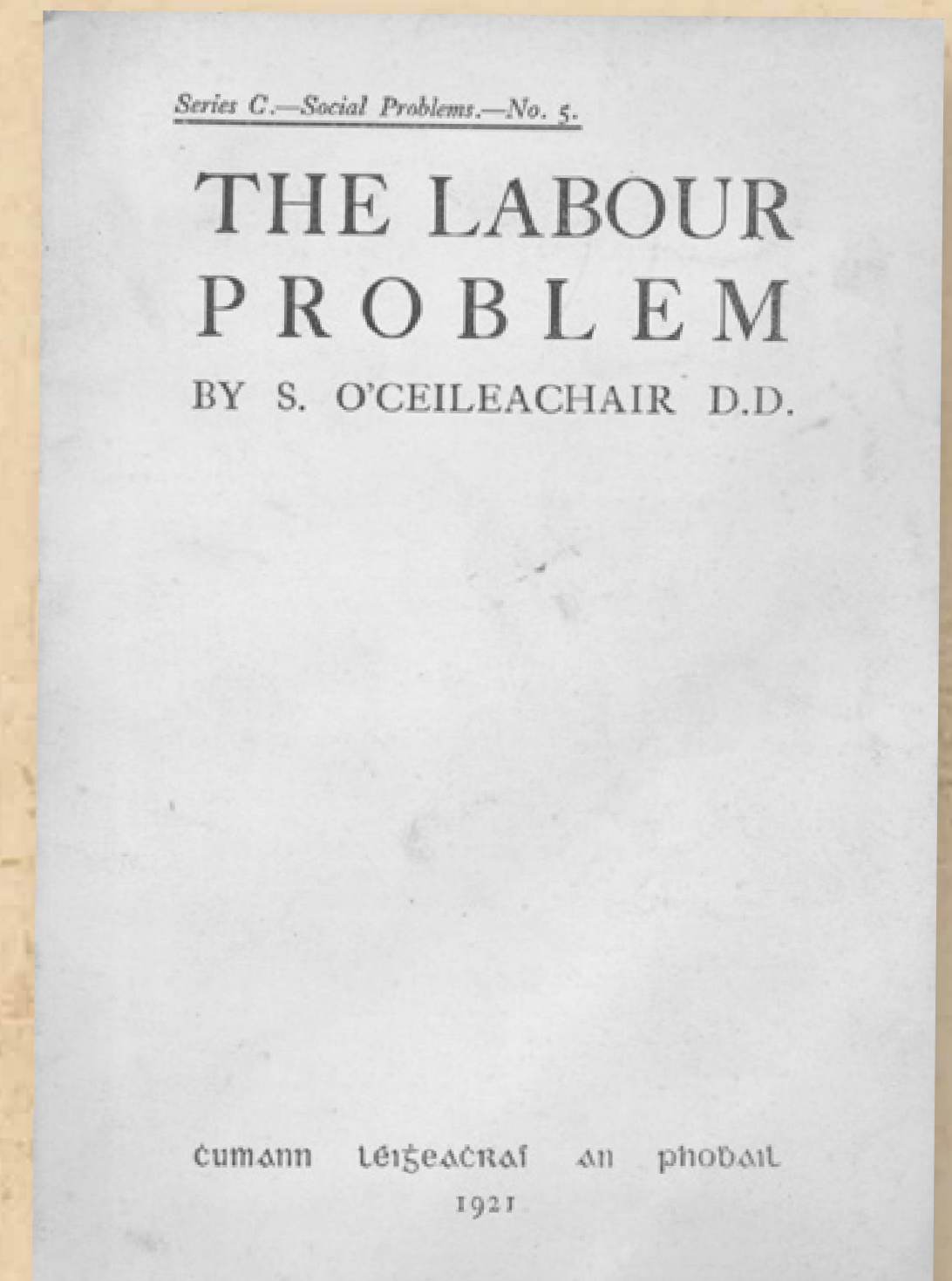
Sa bhliain 1921, áfach, tháinig gluaiseacht an Lucht Oibre chun tosaigh ina ceart féin roinnt uaireanta i Luimneach agus ar fud na tíre. Chuir sé seo brú ar chomhghuaillíocht Shinn Féin-Lucht Oibre go dtí an pointe gur chuir comh-aireachta na Dála ábhar inní in iúl in Aibreán go bhféadfadh 'cogadh aicme' idir feirmeoirí agus a gcuid oibrithe tarlú.

I 1921, tharraing Sóivéadach Bhrú Rí thuasluaite go leor airde. Bhí stailc ghinearálta eile i gCill Mocheallóg ag tacú le hoibrithe feirme ar stailc i mBuilgídín in aice láimhe, agus mháirseáil 300 oibrí tríd an mbaile chun agóid a dhéanamh i gcoinne an IRA a ghabháil ceathrar de na stailceoirí Bhuilgídín. Scriosadh beagnach £7,000 de tháirgí feirme agus sa deireadh, ruaigeadh na hoibrithe. I mí na Nollag, rinne Cleaves iarracht aon trian dá fhórsa saothair i Luimneach a chur as a bpost. Sa chéad leath de 1922, chuir an t-aistriú seo tús le sraith díospóidí tionsclaíocha i monarcha Cleaves i gcathair Luimnigh agus in áitribh Cleaves eile i gContaetha Luimnigh agus Thiobraid Árann. Chaill na stailceoirí freisin nuair a cuireadh deireadh leis an aighneas seo. Bhí Sinn Féin agus an IRA coimeádach go sóisialta agus bhí siad go láidir ina gcoinne seo agus i gcoinne díospóidí tionsclaíocha eile.

Chuir meath an gheilleagair bac ar ghluaiseacht an tsaothair freisin. Le linn 1921, bhí trádáil na

déantúsaíochta beagnach laghdaithe i leath, agus faoi Nollaig 1921, bhí níos mó ná an ceathrú cuid d'oibrithe na tíre dífhostaithe. I mí na Samhna 1921, bhí 2,500 dífhostaithe i gcathair Luimnigh amháin. Tháinig laghdú ar ghluaiseacht an tsaothair agus d'éirigh sí ní ba choimeádaí ag an am céanna. Fiú mura ndearna Eamon de Valera an trácht cáiliúil a cuireadh ina leith 'go gcaithfidh an Lucht Oibre fanacht', is é seo a tharla i ndáiríre faoi 1921-22.

Eamon de Valera never made the famous comment attributed to him that 'Labour must wait', this is what had actually happened by 1921-22.



One of many booklets distributed which were anti-unionisation.



## Religion

Limerick had 136,367 Catholics (95 per cent of the total) but the Protestant minority was much larger in the city (almost 10 per cent) than in the county (3 per cent). There was also a tiny Jewish minority in the city.

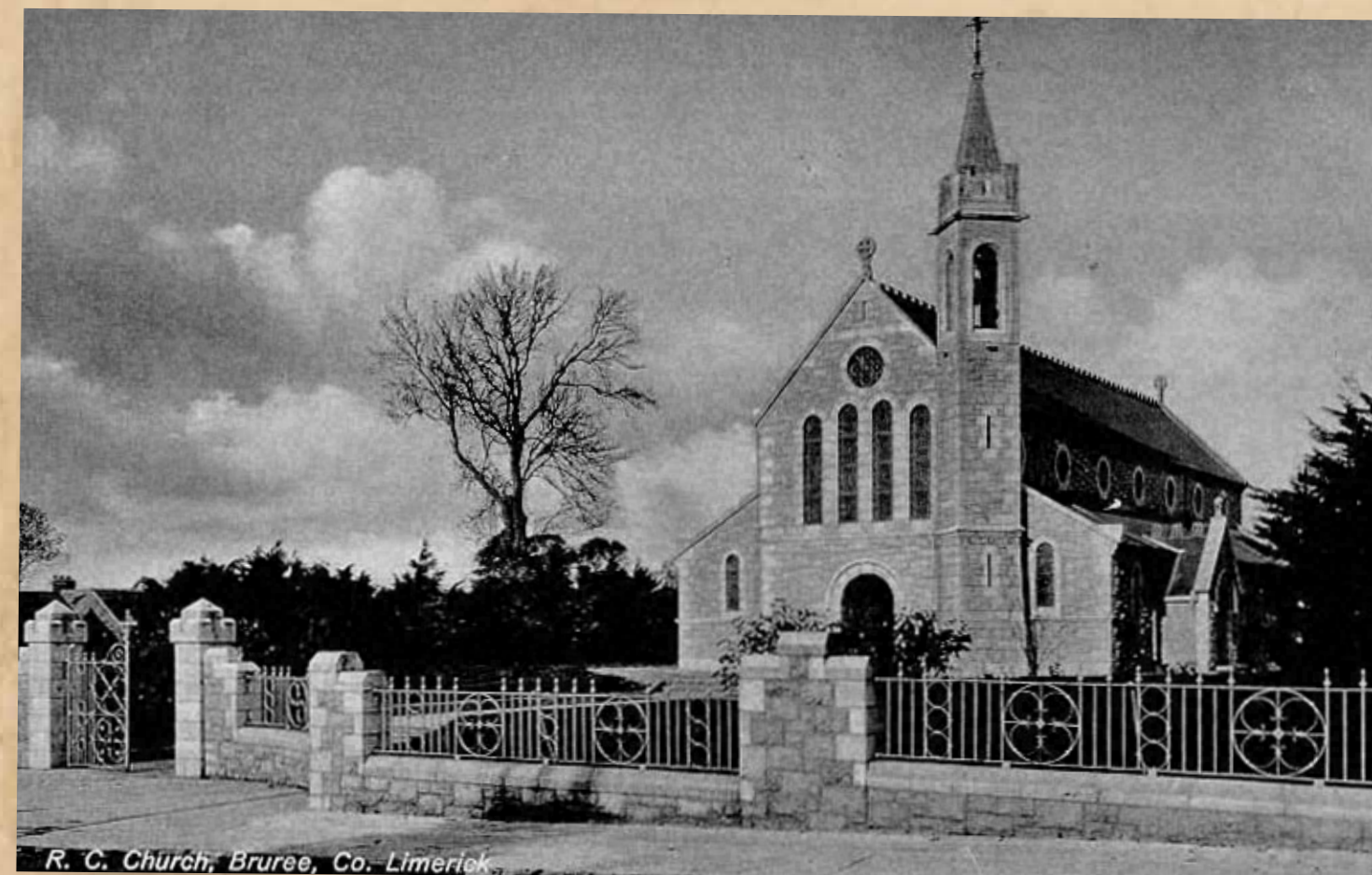
Edward O'Dwyer, the Bishop of Limerick from 1886-1917, had reputedly said that the city was 'the most Catholic city in the world'. Religious organisations maintained a strong presence in the city's social life. In 1921, the Archconfraternity of the Holy Family, which had been in Limerick since 1868, and was headquartered at Mount St Alphonsus Church, had a membership of six thousand men and an estimated 'couple of thousand' boys. A special papal benediction was bestowed upon the confraternity in July. At the half yearly general communion offered for confraternity members in October, over 2,877 men alone attended Sunday mass at 8am while crowds of six to seven hundred attended both the 6am and 7am masses.

There were numerous religious festivities throughout 1921. On St Patrick's Day all churches 'where feasible' were to expose the Blessed Sacrament for public adoration from last mass until Benediction. During Easter Week, a large congregation also gathered at the Augustinians on Easter Monday to pray for the spiritual and temporal welfare of

the country. A large procession took place in St Mary's Convent on the Feast of Corpus Christi and consisted of nuns, teachers, and school children dressed in white dresses with veils. In Glin, the Corpus Christi procession in the Convent of Mercy grounds included the children of the local industrial schools and parish schools.

The Franciscan Church on Henry Street was still being completed in 1921. Work had begun in 1876 and would eventually finish in 1931. Collections were held for renovations and repairs to St John's Cathedral in July with plans to improve the painting and decoration of the building's interior. The foundation stone for the new church at St Munchin's parish was laid on Sunday, 1 January 1921. The estimated cost was £29,200. Such was the expense that the parish organised a series of fund-raising events such as a special 'Treaty Stone Sweep' race, a concert at the Catholic Institute and a garden fete.

In October, the St Vincent de Paul Society established the Limerick Catholic Literature Services Guild Hurling Club 'to keep the boys fit and to ensure the regular distribution of clean, healthy literature'. Boys who wished to join would be required to hand out Catholic literature in the districts of the city.



R. C. Church, Bruree, Co. Limerick.

Bruree Church, c.1921.



St. Mary's Convent, Bruff, Co. Limerick.

St. Mary's Convent, Bruff, c.1921.

## Creideamh

Bhí 136,367 Caitliceach i Luimneach (95 faoin gcéad den iomlán) ach bhí an mionlach Protastúnach i bhfad níos mó sa chathair (beagnach 10 faoin gcéad) ná sa chontae (3 faoin gcéad). Bhí mionlach beag Giúdach sa chathair freisin.

Deirtear go ndúirt Edward O'Dwyer, Easpag Luimnigh ó 1886-1917, gurb í an chathair 'an chathair is Caitlicí ar domhan'. Choinnigh eagraíochtaí reiligiúnacha láithreach láidir i saol sóisialta na cathrach. I 1921, bhí ballraíocht de shé mhíle fear agus thart ar 'chúpla míle' buachaillí ag Ard-Chomhbhráithreachas an Teaghlaigh Naofa, a bhí i Luimneach ó 1868, agus ina raibh a cheanncheathrú ag Eaglais Chnocán San Alfonsas. Tugadh beannacht pháganach speisialta don chomhbhráithreachas i mí Iúil. Ag an gcomaoineach ginearálta leathbhliantúil ar cuireadh ar fáil do bhaill chomhbhráithreachais i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, d'fhreastail os cionn 2,877 fear ar Aifreann an Domhnaigh ag 8am agus d'fhreastail sluaite idir sé agus seacht gcéad ar na hAifreann ag 6am agus 7am araon.

Bhí go leor féilte reiligiúnacha ann i rith 1921. Ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig bhí ar gach eaglais 'nuair ab indéanta' an Naomhshacraimint na hAltóra a nochtadh le haghaidh adhartha poiblí ón aifreann deireanach go dtí Beannacht na Naomhshacraiminte. Le linn Sheachtain na Cásca, chruinnigh pobal mór le chéile

ag na hAgaistínigh ar Luan Cásca chun guí ar son leas spioradálta agus saolta na tíre. Reáchtáladh mórshiúl i gClochar Naomh Muire ar Fhéile Corpus Christi agus bhí mná rialta, múinteoirí agus leanaí scoile gléasta i ngúnaí bána le cailleacha orthu. Sa Ghleann, bhí leanaí na scoileanna tionsclaíocha áitiúla agus na scoileanna paróiste san áireamh i mórshiúl Corpus Christi ar thailte Chlochar na Trócaire.

Bhí an Eaglais Phroinsiasach ar Shráid Anraí fós á críochnú i 1921. Cuireadh tús leis an obair i 1876 agus chríochnódh sé faoi dheireadh i 1931. Tionóladh tiomsú airgid le haghaidh athchóiriú agus deisiúchán ar Ardeaglais Naomh Eoin i mí Iúil le pleananna chun feabhas a chur ar phéintéireacht agus maisiú taobh istigh den fhoirgnimh. Leagadh bunchloch na heaglaise nua i bParóiste Mhainchín ar an Domhnach, 1 Eanáir 1921. B'ionann an costas measta agus £29,200. Bhí an costas chomh mór sin gur eagraigh an paróiste sraith imeachtaí tiomsaithe airgid ar nós rás speisialta 'Treaty Stone Sweep', ceolchoirm san Institiúid Chaitliceach agus féasta gairdín.

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair, bhunaigh Cumann Naomh Uinseann de Pól Club Iománaíochta Chumann Litríochta Caitliceach Luimnigh 'chun na buachaillí a choinneáil aclaí agus chun dáileadh rialta de litríocht ghlan shláintiúil a chinntiú'. Bheadh ar bhuachaillí ar mhian leo a bheith páirteach litríocht Chaitliceach a thabhairt amach i gceantair na cathrach.



Adare Protestant Church, c.1921.



## Education

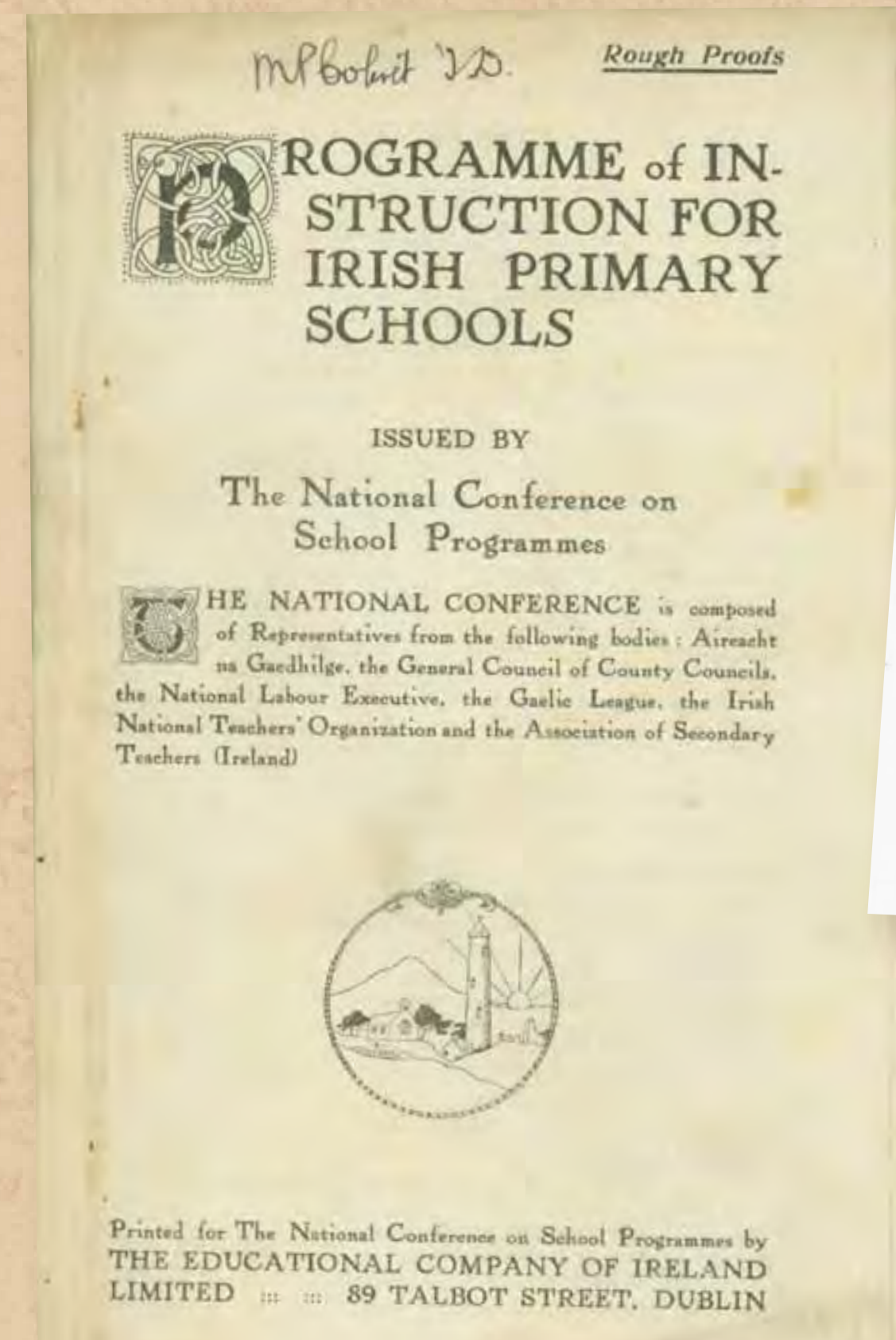
Today, schools such as C.B.S. Sexton Street and Laurel Hill continue to operate on the same sites as they did in 1921. Others, such as St Munchin's College and Villiers were yet to move to their current campuses. A number of others, such as Leamy's School, and St Philomena's no longer operate. Some of the problems which schools experience today, such as overcrowding, were also a problem in 1921. Some 1.500 pupils attending the city's four Christian Brothers schools and the lack of space on Sexton Street, which also housed an orphanage, was an increasing problem. The boys of the orphanage were eventually sent to Glin in 1928 and the building on Sexton Street was renovated to deal with demand for school places. Overcrowding was also an issue in the county and in Kilmallock, the townspeople and parishioners of SS Peter and Paul's school voted to construct a new building to deal with this problem.

Schools organised fund-raising events to maintain their upkeep. Thus, all churches in the city held a special collection for the Christian Brothers schools in May. Laurel Hill held a successful garden fete on 16-17 May, which included concerts and dancing by the pupils.

A number of post-primary courses were available for young men and women. Some taught 'shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping, and business methods.' The Hardy & Co. Commercial Academy at 38 O'Connell Street offered such classes as did the Munster-Connaught College at Clare Chambers which also provided exam preparation. Madame de Prins, of Mallow Street, also offered private lessons to prepare students for exams. Afternoon and evening courses were made available to young women who were 'business bent' by Dowsley's Commercial School on Glentworth Street. The Salesian College of Mary, Help of Christians in Pallaskenry offered courses in religion and agriculture to boys aged 12-19.

Numerous scholarships were also available. In February, the Limerick County Committee awarded £25 to Mr. John Kelly, formerly of Ballinagarry Boys' School, for obtaining the highest marks in science in the King's scholarship examination. This enabled him to attend St Patrick's Teacher Training College in Dublin. The Trustees of the Limerick Endowment for Technical Education offered two scholarships worth £24 each to enable girls aged between 16 and

25 pursue studies at the Dundrum Convent School of Domestic Economy. The Trustees also offered two scholarships of £25 each to boys to study at the Salesian College of Agriculture in Pallaskenry. A scholarship to study singing in Dublin attracted one hundred applicants and was awarded to Patrick Sheehan of John's Square.



Programme of Instruction for Primary Schools.

## Oideachas

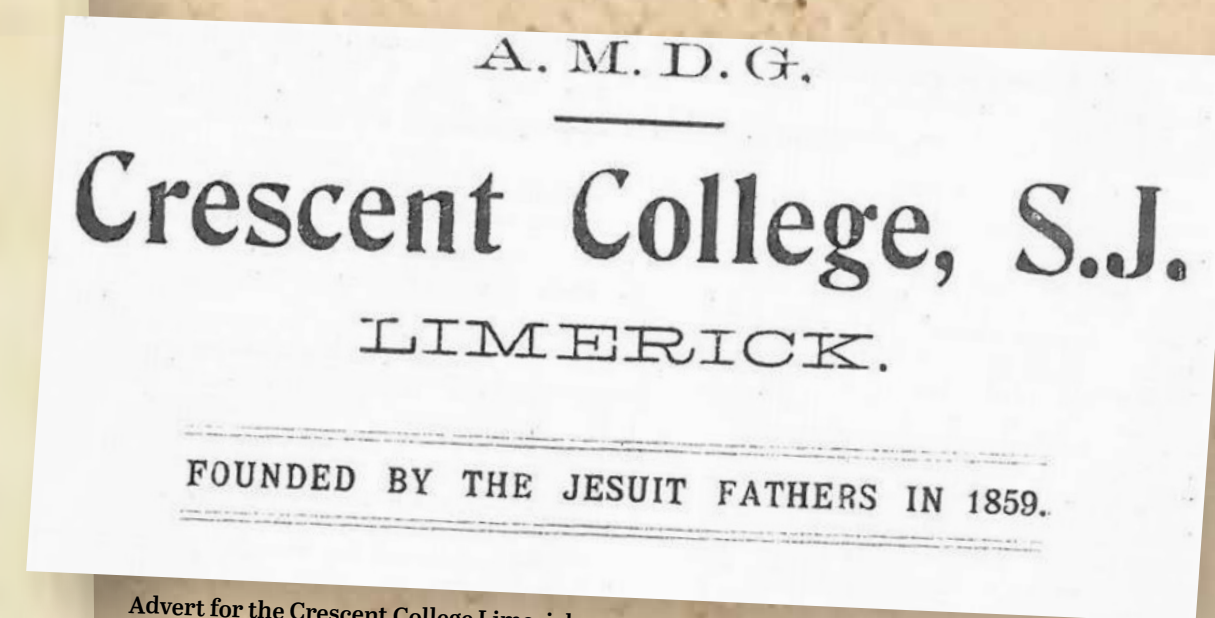
Sa lá atá inniu ann, leanann scoileanna ar nós C.B.S. Sráid Uí Sheasnáin agus Cnoc an Labhrais ag feidhmiú ar na suíomhanna céanna agus a bhí siad sa bhliain 1921. Bhí daoine eile, mar shampla Coláiste Mhainchín agus Villiers fós le bogadh go dtí na campais atá acu faoi láthair. Ní roinnt scoileanna eile, mar shampla Scoil Leamy, agus Scoil Naomh Philomena ag feidhmiú a thuilleadh. Fadhb i 1921 ab ea cuid de na fadhbanna a bhíonn ag scoileanna inniu, mar shampla plódú. Fadhb mhéadaitheach ab ea thart ar 1.500 dalta a d'fhreastail ar cheithre scoil na mBráithre Críostaí sa chathair agus an easpa spáis ar Shráid Uí Sheasnáin, ina raibh dílleachtlan ann freisin. Cuireadh buachaillí an dílleachtlanne go dtí an Gleann sa deireadh sa bhliain 1928 agus rinneadh an foirgneamh ar Shráid Uí Sheasnáin a athchóiriú chun déileáil leis an éileamh ar áiteanna

scoile. Bhí plódú ina shaincheist sa chontae freisin agus i gCill Mocheallóg, vótáil muintir an bhaile agus paróistigh scoil SS Peadar agus Pól chun foirgneamh nua a thógáil chun déileáil leis an bhfadhb seo.

D'eagraigh scoileanna imeachtaí tiomsaithe airgid chun a gcothabháil a choimeád. Mar sin, reáchtáladh bailiúchán speisialta ag scoileanna na mBráithre Críostaí i mí na Bealtaine i ngach eaglais sa chathair. Reáchtáil Laurel Hill féasta gairdín rathúil ar 16-17 Bealtaine, ina raibh ceolchoirmeacha agus damhsa leis na daltaí.

Bhí roinnt cúrsaí iar-bhunscoile ar fáil d'fhir agus do mhná óga. Mhúin cuid acu 'modhanna gearrscríbhneoireachta, clóscríbhneoireachta, coimeád leabhar agus gnó.' Chuir an tAcadamh Tráchtála Hardy & Co. ag 38 Sráid Uí Chonail ranganna ar fáil chomh maoth le Coláiste na Mumhan-Chonnachta i nDlísheomraí an Chláir a chuir ullmhúchán scrúduithe ar fáil freisin. Thairg Madame de Prins, as Sráid Mhala, ceachtanna príobháideacha freisin chun mic léinn a ullmhú le haghaidh scrúduithe. Cuireadh cúrsaí tráthnóna agus oíche ar fáil do mhná óga a raibh 'claonadh gnó' acu ag Scoil Tráchtála Dowsley ar Shráid Glentworth. Chuir Coláiste Salesian Muire Cabhair do Chríostaithe i bPailís Chaonraí cúrsaí sa reiligiún agus sa talmhaíocht do bhuaicillí idir 12 agus 19 bliana d'aois.

Bhí go leor scoláireachtaí ar fáil freisin. I mí Feabhra, bhronn Coiste Contae Luimnigh £25 ar an Uasal John Kelly, as Scoil Bhuaicillí Bhaile an Gharraí roimhe seo, as na marcanna is airde san eolaíocht a fháil i scrúdú scoláireachta an Rí. Chuir sé seo ar a chumas freastal ar Choláiste Oiliúna Múinteoirí Naomh Pádraig i mBaile Átha Cliath. Thairg Iontaobhaithe Dearlaice Luimnigh don Oideachas Teicniúil dhá scoláireacht dar luach £24 an ceann chun a chur ar chumas cailíní idir 16 agus 25 bliana d'aois staidéar a dhéanamh i Scoil Eacnamaíocht Intíre Chlochar Dhún Droma. Thairg na hIontaobhaithe dhá scoláireacht dar luach £25 an ceann do bhuaicillí chun staidéar a dhéanamh i gColáiste Talmhaíochta Salesian i bPailís Chaonraí. Mheall scoláireacht chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar amhránaíocht i mBaile Átha Cliath céad iarratasóir agus bronnadh í ar Patrick Sheehan as Cearnóg Eoin.



Advert for the Crescent College Limerick.



## Housing

In 1921, Limerick had nearly thirty years' experience of social housing. By 1915, 4,000 labourers' cottages had been built in the county and 133 social housing units built in the city. Even so, thousands of Limerick people continued to live in sub-standard housing, amounting to as many as a third of the total population in the city alone.

However, the First World War had caused a sharp reduction in output of social housing and the outbreak of the War of Independence worsened the situation. Following the takeover by Sinn Féin of virtually all local authorities outside Ulster in 1920, the resulting breach with the British government resulted in the loss of housing loans and grants from that source which had been vital to the provision of social housing.

Between 1918 and 1922, there were very few housing projects started by either private sector or local authorities. In 1918, a special committee reported to Limerick Corporation that 2,000 houses would need to be built within ten years to cope with the city's housing need. In April 1920, Limerick Corporation had to abandon plans to build 300 houses in Farranshone, due to a lack of funds. Similarly, the building of labourers' cottages in the county had virtually ceased.

The social problems facing Limerick city and county in 1921 were closely intertwined. Poor housing was a major cause of poor health, and the ability of local authorities to combat both was severely curtailed by the lack of funding caused by a decade of warfare.



William Thomas Cosgrave, who presided over ministerial duties in relation to Local government copy.

## Tithíocht

I 1921, bhí taithí de bheagnach tríocha bliain ag Luimneach ar thithíocht shóisialta. Faoi 1915, bhí 4,000 teachín coiteora tógtha sa chontae agus 133 aonad tithíochta sóisialta tógtha sa chathair. Ina ainneoin sin, lean na mílte de mhuintir Luimnigh orthu ina gcónaí i dtithíocht fho-chaighdeánach, arb ionann é agus an tríú den daonra iomlán sa chathair amháin.

Mar sin féin, bhí an Céad Chogadh Domhanda mar chúis le laghdú géar ar aschur na tithíochta sóisialta agus chuaigh na cúrsaí chun donas le tús Chogadh na Saoirse. Tar éis do Shinn Féin beagnach gach údarás áitiúil lasmuigh de Chúige Uladh a ghlacadh ar láimh sa bhliain 1920, bhí sé seo ina sárú le rialtas na Breataine, agus mar thoradh air sin cailleadh iasachtaí tithíochta agus deontais ón bhfoinse sin, rud a bhí rithábachtach do sholáthar tithíochta sóisialta.

Idir 1918 agus 1922, is beag tionscadal tithíochta ar chuir údarais na hearnála príobháidí nó údarais áitiúla tús leo. Sa bhliain 1918, thuairiscigh coiste speisialta do Chhorparáid Luimnigh go gcaithfí 2,000 teach a thógáil laistigh de dheich mbliana chun déileáil le riachtanas tithíochta na cathrach. In Aibreán 1920, b'éigean do Chhorparáid Luimnigh pleananna a thréigean chun 300 teach a thógáil i bhFearann Seoin, mar gheall ar easpa airgid. Ar an gcaoi chéanna, tháinig deireadh beagnach le tógáil de theachíní coiteora sa chontae.

Bhí dlúthnasc idir na fadhbanna sóisialta a bhí roimh chathair agus contae Luimnigh i 1921. Ba chúis mhór drochshláinte í drochthithíocht, agus laghdaíodh go mór cumas na n-údarás áitiúil dul i ngleic leis an dá mar gheall ar easpa maoinithe de bharr deich mbliana de chogaíocht.



Main Street Abbeyfeale, c.1921.



## Health

In 1921, disease and ill-health afflicted the poor disproportionately, due to poor diet, inadequate health care and bad housing conditions. This had been clearly illustrated during the Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19.

In contrast to the present time, most people did not die in hospitals or other institutional settings, but at home. In total, 2,207 people died in Limerick in 1921 but only 113 of these died in hospitals and 450 in workhouses. The most common causes of death were tuberculosis, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Interestingly, measles, which had been a major killer as recently as 1912 caused just three deaths in Limerick in 1921. Other deadly killers that had been common in the nineteenth century, such as cholera and smallpox, had almost disappeared.

The largest provider of health care in 1921 were the boards of guardians, who administered both the workhouses and the dispensary system which provided free treatment to the less well off. However, the War of Independence was to change this system and in 1922, the boards of guardians were abolished. The former workhouse in Croom became the county hospital and the former workhouse in Newcastle West became the county home for older people. The other workhouses were dismantled. In Limerick city, the workhouse on the Shelbourne Road became the City Home and Hospital, combining the functions of both the Croom and Newcastle West institutions.

Outside the jurisdiction of the boards of guardians, private healthcare was provided by Barrington's Hospital, St John's Hospital and the County Infirmary, while mental health was provided by what is now St Joseph's Hospital. All four of these were in the city.



Arthur's Mews Limerick City.

## Sláinte

I 1921, bhí galair agus drochshláinte ag gabháil do dhaoine bochta go díreireach, mar gheall ar dhroch-aiste bia, cúram sláinte neamhleor agus droch-choinníollacha tithíochta. Bhí sé seo léirithe go soiléir le linn Phaindéim Fliú na Spáinne 1918-19.

I gcodarsnacht leis an lá atá inniu ann, ní bhfuair formhór na ndaoine bás in ospidéal nó i suíomhanna institiúideacha eile, ach fuair siad bás sa bhaile. Fuair 2,207 duine bás i Luimneach i 1921 ach ní bhfuair ach 113 díobh sin bás in ospidéal agus 450 i dtithe na mbocht. Ba iad na cúiseanna is coitianta le bás ná eitinn, broincíteas agus níúmóine. Suimiúil go leor, bhí an bruitíneach, mar chúis le ráta ard báis suas go dtí 1912, ach ní bhfuair ach triúir bás i Luimneach i 1921. Bhí tinnis mharfacha eile a bhí coitianta sa naoú haois déag, mar shampla an calar agus an bholgach, beagnach imithe as radharc.

Ba iad na boird chaomhnóirí an soláthróir is mó de chúram sláinte i 1921, a rinne tithe na mbocht agus ar an gcóras íoclainne araon a riaradh, inar tugadh cóireáil saor in aisce do dhaoine nach raibh chomh saibhir sin. Ach, bhí Cogadh na Saoirse chun an córas seo a athrú, áfach, agus i 1922, cuireadh deireadh leis na boird chaomhnóirí. Tháinig iar-theach na mbocht i gCromadh chun bheith mar ospidéal an chontae agus rinneadh iar-theach na mbocht sa Chaisleán Nua mar bhaile contae do dhaoine scothaosta. Rinneadh tithe na mbocht eile a bhaint anuas. I gcathair Luimnigh, rinneadh Teach agus Ospidéal na Cathrach de theach na mbocht ar Bhóthar Shíol Bhroin, ag comhcheangal feidhmeanna institiúidí Chromadh agus an Chaisleán Nua araon.

Lasmuigh de dhlínse na mbord caomhnóirí, chuir Ospidéal Barrington, Ospidéal Naomh Eoin agus Otharlann an Chontae cúram sláinte príobháideach ar fáil, agus ba é an tOspidéal Naomh Seosamh, dá ngairtear anois, a sholáthair seirbhísí meabhairshláinte. Bhí an ceithre cinn seo go léir suite sa chathair.



## Sport

Limerick has always possessed a proud and active sporting tradition. Numerous local, national and international sporting events occurred throughout 1921 which attracted public interest. These included athletics, boxing, cricket, hurling, rowing and rugby.

The first games of the hurling season were a senior match played between Cloughaun and Young Irelands and a junior game between Castleconnell and Shamrocks. As Castleconnell did not travel, the latter game was called off. The senior match was played and the full-time score was Cloughaun 4.02: Young Irelands 3.02. The first game of the Munster championship was then played in front of a large crowd on Sunday 4 September between Limerick and Tipperary in Thurles. Tipperary won the contest by 3.04 to 4.00. The two sides met again on 18 September at the Market's Field to play for gold medals. Tipperary were once again triumphant winning by 5.01 to Limerick's 4.04. The two sides played for a final time on 27 November 1921 in the Market's Field. Limerick won by 4.03 to 3.02.

Members of the Shannon and St Michael's rowing clubs, the Limerick boating club and Limerick Regatta Committee all represented the city at the Irish Rowing Union. In addition, Athlunkard Boat Club, St Michael's Boat Club and Shannon Rowing

Club took part in the Dublin Regatta on 24-25 June.

In rugby, which had been popular amongst the city's working class for decades, Munster played Leinster in the city on 15 January 1921. Denis Cussen of Newcastle West played for Ireland against Scotland on Saturday 26 February. Ireland won by 9 points to 8. On 9 April, P.J. Stokes of Garryowen lined out for Ireland against France in Paris.

Denis Cussen was in the headlines again on 18 May having won three events (100 Yards, 200 Yards and the Long Jump) at the Irish Amateur Athletic Association Championship. He then went on to represent Ireland at the International Athletic Contest in July.

Horsereading and boxing were also popular. The *Limerick Leader* regularly published the latest race results which were received by special telegram from across Ireland and Britain. Special attention was also devoted to the upcoming World Heavyweight title defense between champion Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier in Jersey City, New Jersey on 2 July 1921. According to the *Limerick Leader*, the fight was 'expected to be the greatest bout of pugilism in modern times.' Dempsey won the contest by knockout in the fourth round.



Limerick 1921 All Ireland Hurling Championship Winners.

## Spórt

Bhí traidisiún spóirt bródúil agus gníomhach i Luimneach i gcónaí. Tharla go leor imeachtaí spóirt áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta i rith 1921 a tharraing spéis an phobail. Ina measc seo bhí lúthchleasaíocht, dornálaíocht, cruicéad, iománaíocht, rámháíocht agus rugbaí.

Ba iad na chéad chluichí den séasúr iománaíochta ná cluiche sinsir a imríodh idir Clochán agus Young Irelands agus cluiche sóisearach idir Caisleán Uí Chonaill agus Shamrocks. Toisc nár thaistil Chaisleán Uí Chonaill, cuireadh deireadh leis an gcluiche deireanach sin. Imríodh an cluiche sinsearach agus ba é an scór ag deireadh an chluiche ná Clochán 4.02 Young Irelands 3.02. Imríodh an chéad chluiche de chraobh na Mumhan ansin os comhair slua mór ar an Domhnach an 4 Meán Fómhair idir Luimneach agus Tiobraid Árann i nDurlas. Bhuaigh Tiobraid Árann an comórtas le

scór de 3.04 go 4.00. Tháinig an dá thaobh le chéile arís an 18 Meán Fómhair ag Garraí an Mhargaidh chun boinn óir a bhuaich. Bhí Tiobraid Árann buaiteach arís le scór de 5.01 do Thiobraid Árann agus 4.04 do Luimneach. D'imir an dá thaobh den uair dheiridh an 27 Samhain 1921 i nGarraí an Mhargaidh. Bhuaigh Luimneach le 4.03 go 3.02.

Rinne baill de chlubanna rámháíochta na Sionainne agus Naomh Mícheál, club bádóireachta Luimnigh agus Coiste Regatta Luimnigh ionadaíocht thar ceann na cathrach ag Aontas Rámháíochta na hÉireann. Ina theannta sin, ghlac Club Bád Áth Longfoirt, Club Bád Naomh Mícheál agus Club Rámháíochta na Sionainne páirt i Regatta Bhaile Átha Cliath an 24-25 Meitheamh.

Maidir le rugbaí, a raibh tóir air i measc lucht oibre na cathrach ar feadh na mblianta, d'imir Cúige Mumhan in aghaidh Cúige Laighean sa chathair an 15 Eanáir 1921. D'imir Denis Cussen as an gCaisleán Nua d'Éirinn i gcoinne na hAlban ar an Satharn an 26 Feabhra. Bhuaigh Éire le 9 bpointe go 8. Ar an 9 Aibreán, 1921, d'imir P.J. Stokes as Garraí Eoin d'Éirinn i gcoinne na Fraince i bPáras.

Bhí Denis Cussen sna ceannlínte arís an 18 Bealtaine tar éis trí imeacht a bhuaich (100 Slat, 200 Slat agus an Léim Fhada) ag Craobh Chumann Lúthchleas Amaitéarach na hÉireann. Ansin chuaigh sé ar aghaidh chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Éirinn ag an gComórtas Idirnáisiúnta Lúthchleasaíochta i mí Iúil.

Bhí tóir ar rásaíocht capall agus dornálaíocht freisin. Sa *Limerick Leader* foilsíodh go rialta na torthaí rása is déanaí a fuarthas i dteileagram speisialta ó gach cearn d'Éirinn agus den Bhreatain. Díriodh aird ar leith freisin ar an gcosaint teidil Domhanda Trom-mhéachain a bhí le teacht idir an curadh Jack Dempsey agus Georges Carpentier i gCathair Jersey, New Jersey an 2 Iúil 1921. De réir an *Limerick Leader*, bhíothas ag súil go mbeadh an 'troid ar an mbabhta dornálaíochta is iontaí sa lá atá inniu ann'. Bhuaigh Dempsey an comórtas le buille scoir sa cheathrú babhta.

**RATHKEALE RACES,**  
Over the Knockawad Course,  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1921.**

**ACTING STEWARDS.**  
T. D. Atkinson, Esq. Daniel Hederman, Esq.  
Captain White. Michael Sheehy, Esq.  
Wm. O'Shaughnessy, Esq.

**STEWARDS.**  
*President*—John Burke, Esq.  
The Earl of Dunraven M. E. Carroll, Esq.  
Nigel Baring, Esq., M.F.H. C. V. O'Donnell, Esq.  
Captain J. O'G. Delmege. Thomas Magner, Esq., M.D.  
D. O'Dea, Esq. J. S. Cosgrave, Esq.  
Richard O'Grady, Esq. M. Cussen, Esq., M.D.  
J. B. Hayes, Esq., M.D. R. C. Johnstones, Esq.  
Captain Curling. E. W. Whelan, Esq.  
John J. O'Mahony, Esq. James H. Norman, Esq., J.P.  
Joseph Sheehy, Esq. Joseph Binchy, Esq.  
Thomas Hayes, Esq., J.P. R. F. Johnston, Esq.  
P. T. Liston, Esq. Major Massey

**OFFICIALS.**  
*Stakeholder and Receiver of Entries*—Mr F. Harold Clarke.  
*Clerk of the Course*—Mr T. J. Fleming, 7 Anglesea St., Dublin.  
*Starter*—Major Kenny.  
*Judge*—Mr D. Rutledge.  
*Clerk of the Scales*—Mr J. P. Hartigan.  
*Handicapper*—General Waldron.  
*Hon Treasurer*—Jno. Magner, Esq.  
*Auctioneers*—Messrs Magner and O'Shaughnessy.  
*Hon Secretary*—Mr Thomas O'Shaughnessy.

Poster advertising Rathkeale Races 1921.



## Crime

Much of the news in Limerick's newspapers from 1921, including news from the courts, relates to the War of Independence. With the addition of Cork and Waterford in January 1921, all of Munster was now under martial law. The defacement of Martial Law proclamations could and did lead to fines of up to £25.

The Limerick courts paid compensation to those affected by the war. The claimants could be both military personnel and civilians. For example, in January Lieutenant Watling of the RAF received £2,000 compensation for a gunshot wound received in the Grange ambush in December 1920. Henry Nathan of St. Albans, applied for £3,000 after his son, Constable Nathan, was killed on Edward Street in August 1920.

Those who had lost property during IRA attacks on barracks often sought compensation. After the burning of the Blackboy Pike Barracks, Limerick City in October 1920, Mr. William Keane, who lived next door received £750 in damages in January 1921. Keane's house had also gone on fire and among the items destroyed were '£25 [in cash]... two sets of valuable bagpipes, two silver watches, wardrobe and wearing apparel'. A massive £28,500 was awarded to Lady Ida Massy after the burning of Hermitage House in Castleconnell.



Soldiers drilling at the Barracks, c.1921.

In Kilmallock, the Petty Sessions Court had not operated since the destruction of the RIC barracks there in May 1920. Cornelius O'Herlihy of Kilmallock received £2,000 after his shop and premises were burned in that attack. Captain Lindsay, who owned the lease on the barracks premises received £2,000. The Petty Sessions Court did not return to the town until April 1921. The first hearings concerned an attack on a cow and a breach of licensing laws. Agrarian crime was not uncommon and disputes frequently resulted in hay being burnt or cattle stolen.

In the city's Petty Sessions Court, fines were imposed for a variety of offences including 'cycling on footpaths', damaging furniture, domestic violence, drunkenness, illicit drinking, larceny and travelling on the Great Southern and Western Railway without a ticket. In one reported instance on 23 May a publican was found to have been operating on Sundays outside of hours when an RIC constable found three men in the pub's kitchen 'with two unfinished pint measures of stout in front of them'. A similar report in July involved five men 'each having a pint of stout before him' being found in a pub at 06.10am one Sunday morning. This was a recurring issue throughout the year. Fines for such behavior could range from 2s. 6d. to 40s. Such cases also occurred in the countryside and were reported in locations such as Bruff and Kilmallock.



RIC Recruitment poster.

## Coireacht

Tá go leor den nuacht i nuachtáin Luimnigh don bhliain 1921, lena n-áirítear nuacht ó na cúirteanna, ag baint le Cogadh na Saoirse. Nuair a cuireadh Corcaigh agus Port Láirge leis in Eanáir 1921, bhí Cúige Mumhan ar fad anois faoi dhlí míleata. D'fhéadfadh fíneálacha suas le £25 a bheith mar thoradh ar mhilleadh forógra an Dlí Míleata, agus forchuireadh na fíneálacha seo.

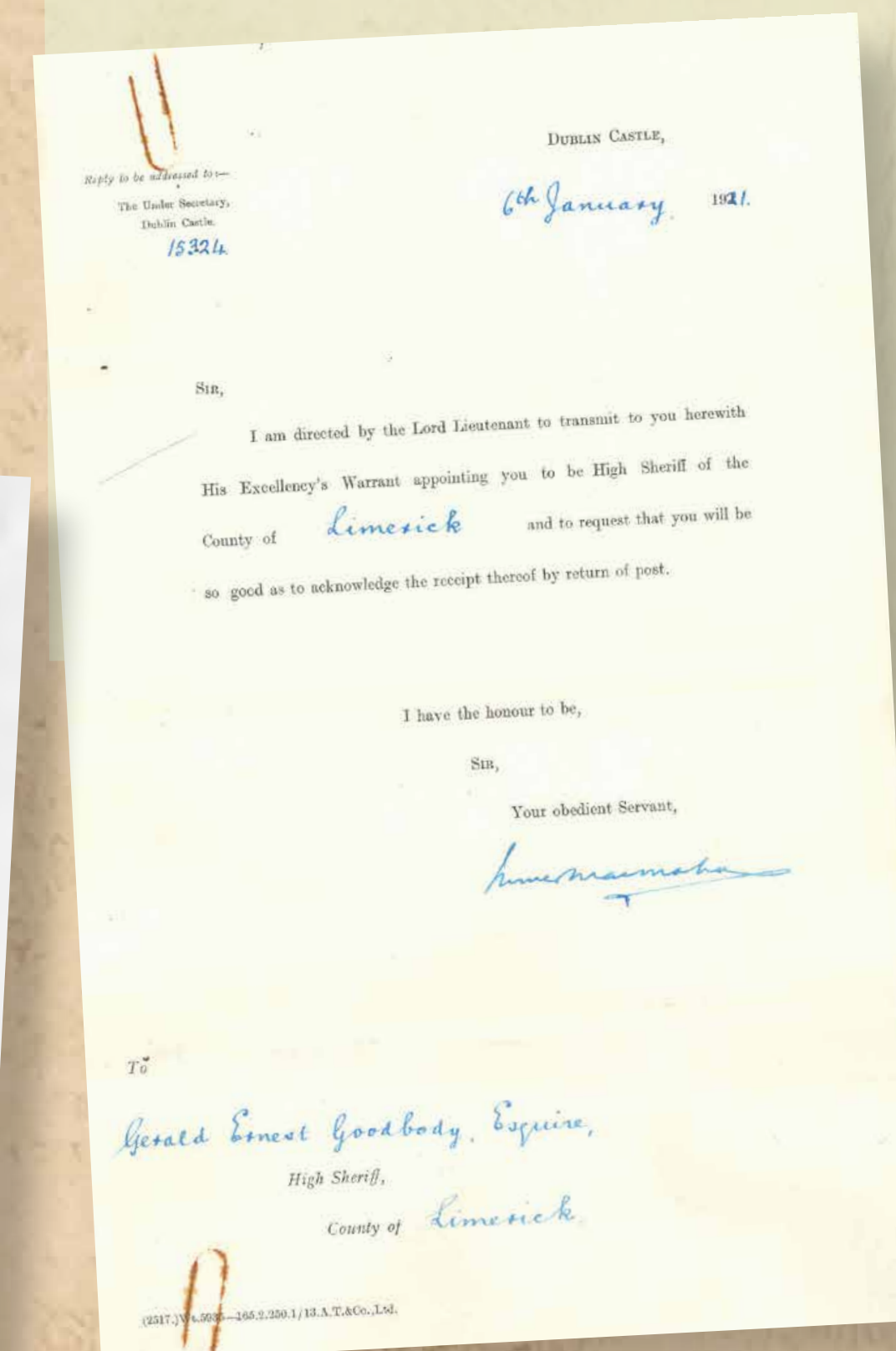
D'íoc cúirteanna Luimnigh cúiteamh dóibh siúd a ndeachaigh an cogadh i gcion orthu. D'fhéadfadh pearsanra míleata agus sibhialtaigh a bheith sna héilitheoirí. Mar shampla, i mí Eanáir fuair Leifteanant Watling ón RAF cúiteamh de £2,000 as créacht lámhaigh a fuair sé i luíochán na Gráinsí i mí na Nollag 1920. Chuir Henry Nathan as St.

Albans isteach ar £3,000 tar éis dúnmharú a mhac, an Constábla Nathan, ar Shráid Éadbhaird i mí Lúnasa 1920.

Is minic a d'iarr daoine a chaill maoin le linn ionsaithe an IRA ar bheiric ar chúiteamh. Tar éis dó Beairic Blackboy Pike a dhó i gCathair Luimnigh i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1920, fuair an tUasal William Keane, a bhí ina chónaí béal dorais £750 i ndamáistí i mí Eanáir 1921. Scriosadh teach Keane trí thine freisin agus i measc na n-earraí a scriosadh bhí '£25 [in airgead tirim]... dhá fhoireann de phioba mála luachmhara, dhá uaireadóir airgid, feisteas agus éadaí'. Bronnadh cúiteamh ollmhór de £28,500 ar an mBantiarna Ida Massy tar éis dhó Theach Hermitage i gCaisleán Uí Chonaill.

I gCill Mocheallóg, níor oibrigh Cúirteanna Petty Sessions (na Cúirteanna Gearra) ó scriosadh beairic an RIC ansin i mBealtaine 1920. Fuair Cornelius O'Herlihy as Cill Mocheallóg £2,000 tar éis dhó a shiopa agus a áitreabh san ionsaí sin. Fuair an Captaen Lindsay, ar leis an léas in áitreabh na beairice £2,000. Níor fhill Cúirteanna Petty Sessions (na Cúirteanna Gearra) ar an mbaile go dtí Aibreán 1921. Bhain na chéad éisteachtaí le hionsaí ar bhó agus sárú dlíthe ceadúnaithe. Bhí coireacht talúntais coitianta agus ba mhinic a bhí díospóidí mar thoradh ar fhéar a dhó nó goideadh eallach.

I gCúirt Petty Sessions (an Chúirt Ghearr) na cathrach, gearradh fíneálacha ar chionta éagsúla lena n-áirítear 'rothaíocht ar chosáin', damáiste a dhéanamh do throscán, foréigean teaghlaigh, meisce, ól aindleathach, gadaíocht agus taisteal ar Mhór-Iarnród an Deiscirt agus an Iarthair gan ticéad. I gcás amháin a tuairiscíodh an 23 Bealtaine fuarthas go raibh tábhairneoir ag feidhmiú ar an Domhnach lasmuigh d'uaireanta oibre nuair a d'aimsigh constábla RIC triúr fear i gcistin an tábhairne 'le dhá phionta leann dubh neamhchríochnaithe os a gcomhair'. I dtuarascáil den chineál céanna i mí Iúil, fuarthas cúigear fear 'gach ceann acu le pionta leann dubh os a chomhair' i dteach tábhairne ag 06.10am ar mhaidin Dé Domhnaigh amháin. Ba cheist athfhillteach í seo i rith na bliana. D'fhéadfadh fíneálacha d'iompar den sórt sin a bheith idir 2s. 6d go 40s. Tharla cásanna den sórt sin faoin tuath freisin agus tuairiscíodh iad in áiteanna cosúil leis an mBrú agus Cill Mocheallóg.



Appointment of Gerald Goodbody as Limerick Sheriff.



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