

# JOURNALISTS' CONGRESS

## Chairman's Important Address

### AIMS OF NEW ASSOCIATION

#### Representative Gathering In Galway

The first annual Congress of the newly formed Irish Journalists' Association was held in the Town Hall, Galway, on Sunday last. There was a very large and representative attendance of delegates from all parts of the country. They were given an official welcome by Ald. J. F. Costelloe, Mayor of Galway, and Mr. T. J. W. Kenny, Manager and Editor of "The Connaught Tribune" and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. C. C. Cregan, Limerick, was moved to the chair, and on behalf of the delegates and the new Association he thanked the Mayor of Galway and Mr. Kenny for their kindness and courtesy in coming to Galway to receive the delegates.

The Mayor said he was delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming the Irish Journalists to Galway for their first annual meeting. The journalists were a very important and influential body, and he was sure that this new Association would fully and satisfactorily meet all the ends they had in view.

Mr. Kenny in also welcoming the delegates expressed his hearty approval of the movement for fully organising Irish journalists. There was need for such a body, he said, and he sincerely hoped the new body would achieve its objects of raising the status and improving the position of Irish journalists.

The Chairman formally conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the Mayor and Mr. Kenny, both of whom suitably re-

#### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Addressing the delegates, the Chairman outlined them on their attendance in large numbers. Those present, he said, represented areas all over the country, and they could already feel the benefit from the enthusiastic manner in which the new Association was being set up, that it was going to be a very powerful and influential force, which would have its root and headquarters firmly in Ireland. Having extended the organising work done in the past few months since it was first decided to form the new body, the Chairman went on to say:—

The first point to be emphasised in connection with the new Association is that it is in no way antagonistic to any

any hope of or desire for reward or personal advantage of any kind. I mention these points, not to claim any special credit for the profession, but to show that Irish Pressmen were always ready to give greater services to the people than the strict discharge of their own duties made necessary. It can be definitely asserted, indeed, that so far as Ireland is concerned, the Press has done more to help others at the expense of its own welfare than any other institution in the country.

As regards the work of our new Association, one of the first things that will have to be done is to ensure that haphazard entry into Irish journalism shall cease. At present there is no law or charter preventing any man from calling himself a journalist, or practising as one, if he can get somebody to employ him in such a capacity. That position must not be allowed to continue, and whatever steps are necessary will have to be taken to ensure that no one will be allowed follow the profession in future unless he enters its ranks in a proper and legitimate way, and goes through the usual course of preparation and training for that calling. A vital necessity is a Register of Journalists.

#### CHARTER TO BE SOUGHT.

That register would contain the names of only qualified and recognised journalists as defined by the rules of the Association, and under a charter to be sought it would be a punishable offence for anyone not registered as a journalist to practice as such. This will be nothing whatever in the nature of an extreme or unreasonable step. It is the action dictated by obvious common-sense and common justice, and is simply an arrangement such as governs the legal, medical, and dental professions.

At the annual dinner of the Institute of Journalists in Dublin, last January, Mr. de Valera described journalism as one of the greatest of the professions, if not actually the greatest and, without saying so in express terms, he made it quite clear that he would welcome the success of some such steps as this new Association is now taking. The successful and responsible practice of journalism makes a greater demand on the mental and physical energies of those who follow the calling, and necessitates more

# FATAL SCALDS

## Inquest on Co. Limerick Child

Dr. P. J. Cleary, Hospital, Coroner for East Limerick, held an inquest yesterday afternoon at the County Hospital, Croom, touching the circumstances of the death of a child named Josephine Cronin, aged 3½ years, who died on Saturday evening as a result of injuries caused by upsetting a kettle of water on the previous day.

Sergeant M. Goggan, Croom, represented the Garda authorities.

Mrs. Bridget Cronin stated she was mother of the deceased child, and was residing at Morenane, about three miles from Croom. She was a widow, carrying on farming, and had five children. At about six o'clock on Friday evening she went to attend the milking of the cows, and left her eldest daughter, May, 13½ years, in charge of the other members of the family. There was nothing wrong then. When witness returned she was met in the yard by her daughter, Nellie, who told her that Josephine, the youngest of the family, was scalded. Witness saw her in bed, and found she was scalded from the hips to the knees. Witness had a doctor summoned, and he ordered the child's removal to the Co. Hospital, Croom. Before going to the cows the kettle was not on the range, and it seemed as if the children had put on the kettle during her absence to prepare for the evening tea. Witness identified the remains as those of her youngest daughter, aged 3½ years.

#### SISTER'S EVIDENCE.

Margaret Cronin, sister of deceased, stated that she was 11 years old, and on Friday evening last she was in the kitchen of her home with her sisters, Josephine (deceased) and Bridie. A kettle of boiling water was laid on the range, and while witness turned her back the deceased pulled the kettle off. She cried, and witness took off her clothes and called her other sisters. They put her to bed, and their mother returned about an hour later.

Dr. John O'Connor, House Surgeon, Co. Hospital, Croom, gave evidence that the child was admitted to hospital at about 9 o'clock on Friday evening last, and was suffering from severe scalds, blisters and shock. The scalds extended from the knee along the thighs and buttocks to the abdomen and back. The lower forearms were also scalded. The child died at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday. Death was due to shock and toxemia, following extensive scalding.

The Coroner said that he found that the child had died as a result of injuries accidentally received, and no blame was attached to anybody. Cases of the kind occurred frequently, and he tendered to the mother very deep sympathy on the loss of her child.

Sergeant Goggan, on behalf of the Garda, joined in the expression of sympathy.