

obstacles to an invading force.

The orchards of lemons, oranges, citrons, olives, almonds and vines, which have made Sicily famous, are situated mostly along the north and north-east coast.

Elsewhere the rural population devotes itself to the cultivation of cereals, especially wheat, whose production was at one time large enough to win for the island the title of "the granary of Rome." Much of the interior of Sicily is wild, barren country.

In historic times Sicily has been contended for by Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens and Normans. During the period of Norman influence (eleventh and twelfth centuries) prominent parts in the history of the island were played by members of the families which at that time governed England and parts of Ireland.

It was under British control during the Napoleonic wars, and from it a British expeditionary force invaded the Italian mainland in 1806, to operate against the French power which had established itself in Naples.

Syracuse, which is on the fringe of the invasion zone, though not one of the largest cities, has had one of the most remarkable histories. It was the chief Greek city of Sicily, and endured a famous siege at the hands of the Athenians. It has a fairly good harbour.

A POPULAR FIGURE.

The death has taken place at his residence, Moig, Askeaton, of Mr. Edmond ("Son") Lynch. He was widely known throughout West Limerick as a wit and for his keen sense of humour. There was a large and representative attendance at the funeral, which took place at the Abbey Burial Ground, Askeaton. Rev. P. J. Cahy, P.P., Askeaton, officiated. Chief mourners—Mrs. E. Lynch (widow), Mrs. P. Moran (niece), and Mr. T. Lynch (nephew).

THEY LIKE THE SOUTH

Tightly-packed trains from the North of Ireland brought about 12,000 holiday-makers from the factories and workshops of the Six Counties to Dublin over the weekend. During the coming week about 7,000 more are expected to arrive. Two thousand of the visitors have gone to Bray. Hotels were booked out weeks ago, and restaurant keepers are charging fancy prices for everything.

fairly representative of a wide variety of classes and interests in the country. In the outgoing Seanad there were five representatives of Culture and Education, eleven of Agriculture, eleven of Labour, nine of Industry and Commerce and seven of Administration, with the representatives of the Universities and the nominees of Mr. de Valera.

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Nobody claims that the present plan of election to our Second Chamber is perfect. It is possibly as good as could be devised in the circumstances but it certainly leaves room for improvement and simplification. An extension and development of the vocational system here would naturally make selection easier and make the cumbersome arrangement for nomination now being followed largely if not altogether unnecessary.

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Many hold, indeed, that we could very well do without any Senate at all. Against this it is contended that a Second House can be a very useful "cooling chamber" for the review of legislation being promoted by the popularly-elected assembly. Whether the Seanad is to continue as a permanent feature of our political system only time will tell. It is likely to last in some shape or form for a further period, at any rate, and while it continues every thing feasible should be done to ensure that it will be constituted of useful and desirable members.