

Things That Matter

After the Dail the Senate!
The election of the former is over; that of the latter is to come. Polling for the Second Chamber will close on August 1st. Between now and then candidates and their supporters will be active and anxious.

Already some of the nominating bodies have selected candidates. Nominations by members of Dail Eireann must be concluded by June 26th. For representatives of the two universities the date of nomination is June 9th.

The County Councils and the four Borough Councils are yet to choose seven members each who will have votes in the election. All these selected representatives and the members of the Dail will be the electoral body entitled to select the Senate from the panels previously chosen by the nominating bodies.

In addition to those who will thus be chosen, An Taoiseach has the privilege of appointing eleven members to the Senate. The method of electing this chamber may be as good a one as could be devised in the circumstances under which it was decided upon. It is, however, cumbersome in the extreme and badly needs to be simplified and improved.

The view is widely held, indeed, that we could very well do without any Senate at all. Such a body as we know it is merely ornamental—and it is more than doubtful if it can be said to be even that! It has not been rendering any very useful or necessary service, and it is difficult to see how any national or economic interest would suffer through its disappearance.

If a check on hasty legislation be desired it ought be possible to provide one without setting up a body the members of which have little or no functions beyond drawing their salaries out of the public funds. It is quite possible, in fact, that the Dail would be all the better for having no second chamber, because in the absence of a reviewing assembly it might develop a greater sense of responsibility and exercise more care in its legislative deliberations.

If the Senate is to be retained the system of election to it should at least be made much simpler and more equitable than it is. The present method of nomination and choice is entirely too cumbersome and has very little to recommend it. If not ended it should at least be mended.

The fact that five or six votes can get a person elected is a grave weakness in itself and is by no means calculated to ensure the return of the best type of candidate available. It is, too, a definite temptation to the giving and taking of bribes and there is

ROADSIDE ROW

Blows Exchanged

ACTION FOR ASSAULT DAMAGES

A roadside row in which blows were exchanged had a sequel at Limerick Civil Bill Court to-day, before Mr. J. M. Flood, B.L., D.J.

Michael Kearney, Ballymackeogh, Newport, a farmer's son, sued Martin Ahern, licensed trader, same address, for £10 for assault.

Mr. T. O'B. Kelly, solicitor, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solicitor, for defendant. Dr. O'Dwyer, Newport, said he attended plaintiff in April last, and he was then suffering from bruises and scratches on the head. He also complained of pain in the side and may have suffered from shock. The wounds could have been caused by a fist.

Cross-examined, witness said plaintiff should not take a fortnight to recover from the injuries. Four or five days should be sufficient, and he should have been able to return to work after that period.

Plaintiff said he was cycling from Newport on the evening in question. Ahern came along and made witness get off his bicycle, and then assaulted witness, striking him about eight times. Witness made a report to the Guards and showed his condition to them. He gave no reason for the assault.

Cross-examined, witness said he had words with Ahern some time before that. He denied calling Ahern's father, who was dead, a grabber of his land.

Mr. O'Malley—Your grievance against Ahern is that you believe he sent the military in to acquire your bog?—Yes.

You believe that?—Yes.

Do you deny that it was you first rushed at Ahern when he stopped you to ask why you were calling his father a grabber?—I do.

Defendant, in evidence, said he was a publican and resided near the Kearneys. They were good friends until one day they called witness's father a grabber. Witness sent a man to the Kearneys to tell them that somebody was "rising" them, and not to take any heed of them. Witness later heard that the reason for the Kearneys having "a bee in their bonnet" was that somebody told them that witness sent the military to their bog. On the day in question, when witness stopped Kearney to ask him explain his grievance, Kearney rushed at witness and witness would admit that he struck him then.

Defendant added that he was marked as a result of a blow he got from the plaintiff.

The Justice said he believed defendant was a decent man, and he believed he got considerable provocation from the plaintiff, by whom he (Justice) was not considerably impressed. There was, however, assault, although he did not believe that Ahern stopped Kearney with the intention of assaulting him. He should not have resorted to violence but summoned the Kearneys, and he (Justice) would have quietened them if they were annoying the defendant. He was sorry for the defendant, but he would have to give a decree for £1 against him, and allow £5 15s. expenses.

EXHAUSTED HIS QUOTA!

There is only one story worth recounting after the election results in Limerick. It concerns an election agent who was popular with all parties. When the success of his candidate was assured he betook him to a local tavern for some liquid stimulus after the strain of electioneering. As the afternoon wore on various members of other parties wandered in, greeted him and insisted that he should "have another." Eventually the agent had forgotten the count. Pensively reclining across the counter, with his head on his arms, and seven pints ranged in front of him, he failed to notice the entrance of a stranger, who called for a drink, contemplated the row on the counter and calmly proceeded to demolish them. The last was disappearing when the agent looked up. "Hey," he said in a startled voice, "what's the meaning of this?" "It means," said the stranger, as he took his departure, "that you've exhausted your quota."

SHANAGOLDEN RED CROSS

A very enjoyable function was held in the Vocational School at Shanagolden, when members of the local Red Cross Branch were presented with First Aid Certificates.

Rev. J. O'Byrne, C.C., Chairman, who presented the certificates, congratulated the recipients. He referred to the splendid work being performed by the Red Cross Society, and urged the members to continue to support the organisation and take an active interest in their own branch.

The following received certificates:—Miss M. McDonnell, Messrs. M. Madigan, T. Treacy, M. D. Naughton, D. Donovan, W. Nolan, M. M. Naughton and G. O'Connor. On behalf of the recipients of certificates, a presentation was then made to Dr. A. Nolan, M.C.

A GREAT ORDER

Loses A Great Member

DEATH OF REV. AIDAN ROBERTS, O.F.M.

Very deep sympathy will be extended to the great Franciscan Order on the death of one of its most distinguished members—Rev. Father Aidan Roberts—which took place suddenly on Saturday evening.

Father Aidan was on a brief visit to Limerick from Clonmel and while in the house of a friend at Pennywell he collapsed and died a little later in Barrington's Hospital.

Aged 68 years, he was born at Newtown, Clarina, and was a brother of Mr. George Roberts, Fishery Conservator, and of the late Dr. James Roberts. He received his early education at the Christian Brothers' Schools, Limerick, and for a period he followed the profession of secondary teaching. In 1902 he joined the Franciscan Order and was ordained in Rome in 1908.

Having laboured as Rector at Multyfarnham, he was appointed Guardian at Athlone, an office he filled with distinction for six years. In 1924 he was elected Definitor for the Irish Province and in this exalted station he rendered signal services to the Community, of which he was such a shining light, until 1930, when he went to Clonmel.

It has been truly said of the late Father Aidan that he was "a man's man." A devotee of all forms of sport, he prominently identified himself with movements calculated not only to give a moral uplift, but to develop character and to bring to the fore the better traits of human nature as well. During his fourteen years in Clonmel he founded clubs for boys, taught them to swim, and instructed them in many other manly sports and exercises. Sunday after Sunday he could be observed, surrounded by a group of youths, traversing through the mountains overlooking Clonmel, enjoying to the full the companionship of humble folk and the beautiful things of nature, in which Father Aidan was wont to instruct those whom he regarded as his boon companions.

Before his ordination to the priesthood Father Aidan was an exponent of the Rugby code and other vigorous games. He was an all-the-year round swimmer, and in that connection he was the "victim" some years ago of a rather amusing story. When in Athlone, in pursuance of his daily dip policy, he arrived at the Shannon's bank on a winter's morning. A sheet of ice covered the water, and as Father Aidan was breaking the frozen surface a train passed over the nearby bridge. A passenger, observing as it appeared to him, the strange behaviour of a man, pulled the communication cord. The train stopped and in a few minutes Father Aidan was surrounded by a number of men who were determined to prevent a possible case of suicide. Explanations followed, apologies were tendered and the passengers, much disconcerted, returned to their comfortable carriages while Father Aidan continued to disport himself in the icy water. It should be mentioned here that last winter he did not miss even for a single day. Christmas Day included, his customary plunge.

But his too vigorous way of living, coupled with the austerity of his religious life, eventually reacted on his constitution and it was an open secret that his heart had been seriously affected for some time past.

The passing of this great priest, humble, gentle, unassuming—a true disciple of St. Francis of Assisi—has occasioned profound regret and sorrow. Throughout yesterday and to-day there was a constant stream of sympathisers to the Franciscan Friary, the citizens manifesting in no uncertain way the great sense of loss felt at the passing of a priest who had laboured so unselfishly in the Vineyard of the Lord.

The Lord Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, will preside at Solemn Office and High Mass in the Franciscan Church at 11 o'clock to-morrow, after which the interment will take place.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

To-day, at the meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board, the Mayor (Mr. James McQuane, P.C.) presiding, Ald. D. Bourke, T.D., referred to the death of Father Aidan Roberts, and said that the Franciscan Community had lost a distinguished son. He proposed that the sympathy of the Board be tendered to the Franciscan Community in their great loss.

The Mayor, declaring the vote passed, said that the Franciscan Order had suffered a great loss by the death of Father Aidan.

USELESS AS COOKS

Having stated that the majority of servant girls in Sligo were useless as cooks, Ald. A. J. Dolan, at a meeting of Sligo Vocational Education Committee, suggested that special classes should be started for them in the technical school which would benefit the girls and their employers.

THE DUCE SPEAKS

Call To Romans

RESIST THE INVADER

Reports from Italy to-day state that Allied elements which passed through the city of Rome are now across the river Tiber in some places.

The German News Agency reports that fierce battles between German troops and advancing American tanks were fought in the eastern district of Rome until late yesterday evening.

The principal Allied break through was made in the sector defended by Herman Goering's troops. The German rearguards were fought to the edge of the ancient Forum.

The "mopping up" of the city was completed at 9.15 last night by forces which came up from the Anzio beach-head.

General Clark, according to Aigiars Radio, has issued this Order of the Day:—"It is the immediate task of the Fifth Army to pursue the retreating enemy and to destroy him."

Roads north of Rome are jammed with German troops and material, and the chaos on the main railways, 50 miles beyond the capital, indicates that the Germans are making an extensive withdrawal.

It is officially announced that Allied planes destroyed 1,200 vehicles as the Germans withdrew.

Declaring that the bridges across the Tiber had not been blown up by withdrawing German troops, the German News Agency says that German troops on the lower reaches of the river managed to retire to the rear line, according to plan, and without the British and American troops being able to interfere with them.

A statement was issued to-day by Signor Mussolini to the following effect:—"The Anglo-American invaders for whom the gates of the fatherland have now entered Rome. This news will cause you great anxiety just as it grieves every one of us. We do not intend to resort to propaganda, neither do we wish to stress the delay of the Allies' entry into Rome, as compared with the shameful prophecies early in the campaign. The German armoured forces, with a heroism which will remain immortal in the memory of nations, have defended every strip of Italian soil yard by yard. In deference to the part Rome has played in the history and culture of mankind the German High Command has declined to defend the city as it well could have been defended. We say to the Romans:—'Don't yield morally to the invaders, who bring back to your city the men of unconditional surrender and a Government that is led by Moscow agents.' We say to you, our brethren in Southern Italy who have already been suffering for months under the cruel and shameful American oppression:—'Do all you can to make the life of the invader more difficult and more insecure.'"

King Victor Emmanuel will withdraw from the next day or two enter Rome as King, and almost immediately will withdraw from all participation in public affairs.

HORSE BOLTED

INJURY TO VAN DRIVER

Before Judge Barra O Briain, S.C., at the Limerick Circuit Court, to-day.

Stephen Bethel, 21 New Road, Thomondgate, Limerick, brought an application for compensation against Messrs. S. Tubridy, Athlunkard Street, in respect of an injury sustained on the 9th July, 1942.

Mr. G. Kenny, B.L. (instructed by Messrs. Tynan and Co.) was for the applicant. Mr. T. K. Liston, B.L. (instructed by Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solr.), was for respondents.

Mr. Kenny said the applicant was the driver of a breadvan, the property of the respondents. On 9th July, 1942, the horse bolted, and he received injuries as a result of which he was totally incapacitated and was paid full compensation of £17s. 6d. per week up to March last, when compensation ceased on the grounds that he had recovered. The question for the Court was whether the applicant was now fit for work or not.

The applicant, in evidence, said he sustained a double fracture of the leg in the accident and was still incapacitated. His leg was still weak and tender, and he could not work.

Dr. J. Holmes gave evidence of examining the applicant and said there was an inch of shortening of the leg and a loosening of the knee joint, and he would not now have the same facility of carrying on his work delivering bread.

Replying to Mr. Liston, the witness said a lift on the heel of the boot would correct the shortening. He advised the applicant to have the boot lifted.

Replying to his Lordship, the applicant said he did not get the lift on the heel of his boot.

Mr. Liston said the defendant's former work was still open for him.

His Lordship adjourned the case and said he would advise the applicant to go back to his work.

HARBOUR BOARD

"Cuts" In Salaries

QUESTION OF RESTORATION

The Mayor (Mr. J. McQuane, P.C.) presided at the meeting of the Limerick Harbour Board to-day. The other members present were—Ald. D. Bourke, T.D.; Ald. James Reidy, T.D.; Ald. J. Carew, Messrs. M. J. Keyes, T.D.; J. P. Goodbody, M. W. McGuire, B.C.; J. O'Keefe and P. J. Donnellan.

Mr. D. McNeice, Secretary; Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, B.E., Harbour Engineer, and Lieut.-Commander Hanrahan, Competent Port Authority, were the officials in attendance.

The Law Adviser (Mr. T. O'B. Kelly, solicitor) wrote stating that the bonuses granted to two employees, G. Frawley and James Wallace, were in order. The bonus of 10/6 per week granted to John Glynn, storekeeper, was not in order.

In connection with this matter, a letter was read from the Department stating that proceedings would not be taken against the Board in respect of the bonus granted to Mr. Glynn if steps were taken to regularise the position in accordance with the regulations.

The Board directed that the necessary steps be taken to regularise the position.

The Secretary said that at the last meeting the question of the "cuts" made in the salaries of officials was raised and referred back to this meeting for consideration. He (Secretary) had not made application for the restoration of his "cut."

The Harbour Master said that he, too, had not made application for the restoration of the "cut."

Mr. O'Keefe said that it would be peculiar if bonuses were to be granted to one set of employees and "cuts" enforced in the case of another group.

Ald. Reidy—The law allows us to give a bonus when the wage is under £3.

The Mayor said that it would be desirable if the officials considered the position.

On the suggestion of Mr. Goodbody, it was agreed, subject to ratification at the next meeting, to discontinue the "cut" of five per cent. in the salaries of officials as from 1st June, and that five per cent. interest be paid on all monies deducted by way of "cut" in the salaries of officials from the time the "cuts" were first enforced to the end of the emergency, when they would be restored in full.

The Mayor said that this proposal, together with the position of the ordinary employees, would be dealt with at the next meeting.

CLAIM DISMISSED

STORY OF AN ALLEGED LOAN

To-day at Limerick Civil Bill Court, before Mr. J. M. Flood, B.L., D.J.

James Kennedy, Ludden Cross, Ballyneety, sued Patrick Hayes, Ballynagard, Ballyneety, for £10 cash alleged to have been lent by plaintiff to defendant.

Mr. Wm. Binchy, B.L. (instructed by Mr. R. Geary, solicitor), appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. A. J. Blood-Smyth, solicitor, for defendant.

Plaintiff said that on a fair day in Limerick he loaned defendant £10 while they were having dinner in a publichouse in the city. He had not got it back since, although he asked defendant several times for it. Witness had a good deal of drink taken when he made the loan, but he knew what he was doing.

Cross-examined, witness said he lived on land, which was the property of Mrs. Hayes, who owned the publichouse mentioned. Witness denied that it was to Mrs. Hayes he gave the money and that he was drunk. Defendant was not related to Mrs. Hayes.

Mr. Binchy—Are you telling the truth?—I am.

Did you get three years' penal servitude at one time?—I did.

For what?—For burning my brother's hay.

Were you also sentenced for stealing cattle?—I got out of it.

Were you convicted of stealing a bicycle recently?—I was fined 10/- but I did not do it.

Defendant denied that he got the money from plaintiff, but said he gave it to Mrs. Hayes.

Mrs. Hayes said she owned a hotel in the city and plaintiff lived in a house which she also owned. On the day in question plaintiff was drunk and gave her £10, asking how much he owed her.

The Justice dismissed the claim and allowed £1 expenses.

WILL OF LATE VISCOUNT GUILLAMORE

The Right Hon. Richard O'Grady, eighth Viscount Guillamore, of Rathfragh, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, who died on November 26th last, aged 76 years, left personal estate in England and Eire valued at £28,080. He left his farm, stock, horses, etc., and £1,500 and household effects to his brother Standish, the present Viscount Guillamore.

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DEATH

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