

ground was blessed to the opening ceremony by Father Lee, P.P., St. Mary's. Mary's Band paraded to the ground and troops of the Catholic Scouts were also present. C. V. O'Malley, B.C., opened proceedings, explaining the merits and advantages of the ground, and others on the platform were:—The Mayor, Alderman Reidy, T.D.; Rev. Father P.P., St. Mary's; Alderman D. Ke, T.D.; Messrs. P. J. Meghen, Co. Manager; M. F. Donnellan, City Manager, and M. J. O'Malley, T.D.

O'Malley, in his opening remarks, said that if the project was successful, as he believed it would be, he could promise that before January, 1946, there would be two or three more such playgrounds in Limerick. Explaining the fact of the concrete surface, Mr. O'Malley said it had been found the most suitable in other centres, notably Dublin. The hard surface was cleaned after inclement weather and, furthermore, children now chalk their games on the cement in perfect safety to themselves, something that they could do on the streets. Mr. O'Malley pointed out that two young girls had been selected and specially trained as supervisors. Concluding, he stressed on the importance of playgrounds, especially when after the war the increased traffic would be taking its toll of the young, which had not been used to it during the war years.

Worship the Mayor, declaring the playground open, said that he would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the local branch of the Gair na Tire on the splendid performance that they were performing in the grounds, such as the one just opened in the city and city parish in Ireland.

Father Lee, P.P., St. Mary's, said that the Parish was privileged in having the first playground in its confines. He would like to make special reference—a slight digression, perhaps—to the housing problem in the parish. Young married couples were, he said, to leave the parish year after year and seek houses in other parts of the city. It was a great problem that must be solved. He would like to thank the Mayor, local and the County Manager for coming there that day. He was grateful, too, to Muintir na Tire for inviting him to be present and speak.

Other speakers were—Ald. D. Ke, T.D.; Messrs. P. J. Meghen, Co. Manager; M. F. Donnellan, City Manager, and M. J. O'Malley, T.D.

LIMERICK SOCIETY

There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting of the Old Limerick Society, held at 8 The Mount on Thursday night last. Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, Chairman, presiding, when the following papers were read:—The Cork Philosophical and Literary Society; Miss E. Bennis; "Back to the Past"; Rev. R. Wyse Jackson, "Old Limerick Highways," by Mr. J. J. O'Rahilly.

Chairman complimented the members on their interesting and informative papers and thanked them on behalf of all present. Other members who spoke and were thanked were Messrs. M. J. O'Sullivan; Eoin O'Kelly, Alma Reaball, J. Foley, and J. F. O'Rahilly, hon. secretary. Mr. J. Downey produced some interesting documents for inspection. The members received from District Justice M. Flood and Mrs. Mc-

FAILURE TO ATTEND SWORN INQUIRY

A failure to appear at a local inquiry after being served

having no powers. Now we have this power and we want to throw it away. Hold on to what you have. Don't give away anything.

The Chairman said it was a pity the resolution was not worded differently. If a request was made that a gentleman of cultural or educational renown be nominated for the office of President it would be different. If somebody approaching to the present occupant of the office could be nominated it would be a good thing instead of making the Presidency a home for some politician to retire to a nice cushy job after he became tired of political life.

Mr. J. J. McNamara—What's the necessity for it at all?

Mr. D. Quish—The President has the same power as the County Council. When the French Minister came here it was not to the President he presented his credentials, but to Mr. de Valera as Taoiseach.

Chairman—You must have a rubber stamp somewhere.

Mr. McNamara—We could get one cheaper than £20,000 a year.

Chairman—Well, what will you do with this resolution?

Mr. McAuliffe—Let the people decide it.

Mr. Quish—The whole thing is a joke.

Mr. J. McCormack said it was most unfair to ask the Co. Council to interfere in a matter that did not concern it. It was the right of the people to elect a President, and they should be allowed that right. The people in this country knew very little about the President and should have a voice in selecting his successor. It had been said that the time was inopportune, but the people of America did not look at it in that way when 130 millions of them went to the polls to elect a President some time ago. It was the right of the people in this country to elect their President, and nobody had any authority to remove that right.

Mr. T. O'Connell—The people in Dublin will take about as much notice of us as they will of Gandhi's goat (laughter).

Mr. Mitchell said there was no analogy between the President of the United States and the President of Ireland. The President of the United States possessed wide political powers.

Mr. McAuliffe—It is time the people voted for a President, be he good, bad or indifferent.

Senator Madden said he totally disagreed with the view expressed by Mr. Mitchell. Ireland was an infinitely greater nation than the United States, with all its great powers and extended borders. We are one of the oldest nations in the world.

Mr. Quish—We persuade ourselves we are.

Senator Madden—We pride ourselves on the benefits we have given to the world. We are honoured throughout the Christian world as a nation which has suffered for the great principles of Faith and Fatherland. We are as proud to maintain our leadership in this country as any nation on earth. I agree with Mr. O'Donnell that to elect our President is a right we should not surrender—that we should select a President to connote the great nation we are.

Mr. Mitchell withdrew his proposition and the resolution was marked read.

FINED AND JAILED

Convicted at Newtownbutler on Friday on a charge of smuggling confectionery across the Border into the Twenty-Six Counties area, Herbert J. Good, merchant, Magheraveely, County Fermanagh, was fined £200 and sent to prison for a month.

"KING" OF SMUGGLERS IN MANSION.

During the hearing of a smug-

gomyers' activities in the Roer region, the Allied communique from Paris states that Montgomery has succeeded in establishing another bridgehead east of the town of Roer and refers to the Montgomery front line in this area as a "gun and tank-lined front," which at any moment might flare up.

Moscow Radio to-day announced a major push by Soviet troops, directed against wiping out harrowing German resistance in the Polish Corridor and in Pomerania. The assault is chiefly centred on the lakeland and forest defence zone and mid-way between Danzig and Stettin. Soviet storm troops are reported to be only ten miles from the main road to New Stettin, lying between two of the largest lakes in Pomerania. This latter move is reported to be the result of a scissors movement employed with withering effect on the Germans.

German reports state that the Soviet advance in the region of New Stettin has been abruptly checked, and claim that in one area over a thousand Soviet troops, accompanied by a tank column, were beaten back and retreated in headlong flight.

Berlin Radio announced to-day that in the early hours of this morning, machines of the Bomber and Mosquito types raided Berlin.

The raid, described by the German announcer as one of the fiercest Berlin has experienced since the war began, is reported to be still in progress.

Allied reports merely state that last night attacks were carried out on Berlin, Erfurt and Bremen.

DEATH OF MR. LAURENCE GUERIN

The death took place unexpectedly yesterday morning at his residence, Central Garage, William Street, Limerick, of Mr. Laurence Guerin, a prominent citizen, who was held in high regard by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances. The late Mr. Guerin took an active part in the independence movement, being a member of the Mid-Limerick Brigade, I.R.A., during the troubled times. He was also well known in local rugby circles, having in the 1910-11, 1913-14 and 1919-20 seasons helped Shannon to win the City Junior and Munster Junior Cups, while he was also a member of the Garryowen team that competed in the final of the Munster Senior Cup competition a couple of years later. There was a very large and representative cortege at the removal of the remains to St. Michael's Church last evening. Requiem Mass will be celebrated for the repose of his soul at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, and the funeral will take place to Mungret Cemetery at 2.30 p.m. on the same day. Very deep sympathy is tendered to the Guerin family in their bereavement.

SKELETON IN PIT

A human skeleton found by Co. Council workmen in a pit beside a hill facing Moore Abbey, Co. Wicklow, is believed to be that of Squire Yeats, executed for espionage by Insurgents in 1798. Among the bones was found a rusty iron pike head. Tradition has it that in deference to his dying wish to be buried in the hill-top overlooking Moore Abbey, the pikemen made his grave at the spot where the skeleton was found and buried him with the pike with which he was killed. Moore Abbey passed from the Yeats family in 1798. The family is said to be extinct.

L.D.F. CERTIFICATES AND MEDALS

In some districts (writes our Ennis correspondent) the first issue of certificates of appointment to Local Defence Force leaders who

important and urgent in Commercial travellers, in with other citizens, must the establishment of a College of the National University at Limerick would be a boon to the city. It is by the stages that civic importance is gained. The proximity of Terminus at Foyne is a considerable factor in the depressed commercial prestige of Limerick. The establishment of a university would be a further step in civic development. The proposal, however, may not succeed, as apathy and laissez-faire may wreck the project. It is hoped, therefore, all who are interested to support this demand, impressing on the authorities that this proposal has local and national importance. Commercial travellers should not be remiss in giving their support in furtherance of this object, which would give Limerick such enhanced importance and fraught with such potentialities for the youth.

A. J. O'REILLY, Secretary
Limerick

STRIKE ACTION

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SHOP ASSISTANTS

Shop assistants employed in drapery, hardware and boot in Ennis ceased work on Saturday morning (writes our Ennis correspondent) and are picketing the shops affected by the strike, which follows refusal of a demand for closing such shops at 5 p.m. on Saturdays instead of 6 p.m. as at present. In three shops some members of staff did not participate in the strike and these shops remained open. In others, where all the staff went on strike, proprietors completely closed down the shops. The closing affects two of the drapery establishments in Ennis town. Men and women are taking part in the picketing. Over 50 assistants, including apprentices, are involved in the strike.

RATES ON UNOCCUPIED HOUSE

At Ennis on Friday, Tuam Considine, rate collector, objected to decrees for £128 11s. 10d. against Michael Rynne, "St. John's," Mage Road, Terenure, Dublin, Adviser to the Department of External Affairs. The decrees were in respect of rates on unoccupied premises and reserved judgments delivered by District Justice Gahan in the case.

The Justice said the only question in the case was whether or not the house, which had ceased to be a dwellinghouse and had been the L.D.F., could now be described as a dwellinghouse within the meaning of the Act of 1923. He was of opinion that it still remained a dwellinghouse which the Act applied to. Consequently, the defendant was liable for rates whilst the dwelling was unoccupied.

TRADER FINED £10

A fine of £10, with costs amounting to £1 4s., was imposed at Ennis on Patrick Daly, draper and merchant, Parnell Street, Ennis, who was convicted of offering for sale a pair of leather-soled boots in a condition that a pair of tin-soled boots be purchased instead of them, thereby contravening the Emergency Order