

WORKING WELL

City Playground Scheme

THE INITIAL VENTURE

The initial venture in the Limerick Playground Scheme seems to be working well. This is the conclusion to be drawn from the following article specially written for the Limerick Leader on the subject:—

Six months ago the Bishop Street Playground opened. To be more precise, it was Sunday, 25th February, 1.30 p.m. The scene remains in my mind—milling children, a brass band, endless orations. I went away feeling very sorry for two timid play-leaders whom we left behind to cope with the illimitable variations of the idea "trouble" in the minds of some 500 excited children.

Last week I paid my second visit and was astonished at the transformation. No more bands, no more flag-waving, no more tongue-twisting, no more milling children. Just a broad stretch of clean concrete, comfortably filled with organised bands of boys and girls, entirely occupied with their own amusement. In the centre of the playground were about thirty or forty young girls in gaily coloured frocks, twisting in and out in the serpentine steps of an Irish reel.

Behind them I saw the ugly old remnant of the Walls of Limerick being put to practical use for the first time since the ill-fated Siege of Limerick, two hundred and fifty years ago. It made a perfect hand-ball alley for the boys of twelve or thirteen, who skilfully tossed a black cork-standard against it.

Behind the walls I saw the sand-pit for the youngsters. It was a damp evening, so the play-leaders wisely kept the spades and shovels locked away, and entertained the kids in the pavilion. In another corner of the ground were four swings, perfectly safe in use, attended by two lads who saw that every eager child had its turn.

In the pavilion itself, gaily painted in bright red and green, are four rocking chairs, wadie-bucketies, or what you will. In any case they are fascinating to the younger children, and just as fascinating to the adult to watch. I went away with the idea of constructing just such a simple form of see-saw in our own back yard.

The play-leaders now seemed perfectly confident in their control and a word from either of them brought an eager boy or girl captain running forward in answer. No iron discipline, no bullying shouts, a perfectly kindly control, that arose from the respect which the personality of the play-leaders evoked, and showed itself in the solicitude of the children when one of the leaders arrived one day with a heavily bandaged finger.

It all seemed very Utopian, so I popped a few questions—Any windows broken? "Yes, one—in six months—and that happened after play hours." Any damage done? "None, except what was purely accidental." Any accidents? "None, of a major nature, and, in any case, we are trained in first-aid work to meet such contingencies."

Any rows family complaints, squabbling mammas, etc.? "None we couldn't cope with." The place was run so well that I felt I should stop—but there were just one or two other questions. Who put the ugly concrete seats just in the line of play of the ball-alley, so that they can't be sat on when the boys are playing, or so that the boys can't play while the seats are being sat on?

Well, you see, we weren't consulted. Why paint a ground game in the very same line of play? Answer, the same. Why not get a few book-shelves in the pavilion? "We have asked for them." And finally, Where did you get the collection of tattered volumes, and why don't you ask the City Librarian to establish a small branch of the Junior Library in the pavilion? "From various kind donors who thought Gilbert Parker suitable for toddlers and emptied their attics accordingly."

These were small points and seem of a nigging nature, but they suggest a small lack of co-ordination that could be so easily remedied. The venture has proved a great success. Once the kids come they love it. Lots of outdoor and indoor amusements keep them engaged and the kindly attention of the play-leaders, who seem to know most of them by name, give them a personality and a self-respect that should work wonders with such pliable material. May the Bishop Street Playground prosper and may its promised successors come soon and plenty! This is one of the greatest ventures which Muintir na Tíre has sponsored and they can well be proud of it. S.F.

BIG SHIP IN PORT

The s.s. "Irish Rose" arrived in the Shannon during the week-end from Montreal and was docked yesterday evening. She has a cargo of about 2,000 tons of wheat and 100 tons of merchandise.

LIMERICK STUDENT ORDAINED

A Limerick student, Rev. Anthony Roche, was ordained priest of the Dominican Order in Dublin yesterday by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev. Dr. McQuaid.

RULES IGNORED

Clubs In Trouble

TWO FINED £10 EACH

There were seventeen persons drinking in the Club at 1 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, 30th June, and it would appear that there was no attempt to observe the licensing regulations, said Supt. J. O'Flynn at Ennis District Court on Friday, when prosecuting the Oddfellows Club, Ennis, for a breach of the licensing regulations.

There were drink all over the place," added the Superintendent—"under the table, on the table and on ledges, and five of those present were non-members. These men's names were not entered in a proper visitors' book, and the book produced by the manager to the Guards consisted of simply a penny copy book. Drink was being dished out all over the place and the men present were consuming it with their sleeves rolled up, so to speak. Some of the men were even under the influence of drink. The closing hour for this night would be 10 p.m."

Mr. E. Monahan, solr., defending, said it was fifteen years since the Club had been prosecuted and then they had been fined only 10/-. There was a new manager in charge and he lacked experience, but he was about to clear out the place when the Guards entered.

District Justice Gleeson said it showed utter disregard of the Club's own rules to supply liquor to men at all hours of the night. They were really being prosecuted for not observing their own rules. He imposed a fine of £10.

The O'Connell Club, Ennis, was also fined £10 for a similar offence. Fourteen men, two of whom were non-members, were found drinking at 12.20 a.m. on the same date.

Mr. Moloney, solr., defending, said it was regrettable the regulations had been infringed, but it was a new Club, and, as in the other case, the members and management lacked experience.

LETTER CAME

MAYOR AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

A Chara—When I was asked by a Press representative on Saturday if I had received any reply to my phone request to the Department of Supplies re the provision of a train from Limerick to Thurles in connection with the Munster hurling final yesterday, I answered in the negative and expressed my surprise and disappointment that no letter had been sent me.

As a matter of fact, a letter was sent me by instruction of the Minister to the effect that the Minister "regrets he is unable to authorise any special facilities in connection with events of this nature other than the limited services permitted for All-Ireland finals."

This letter was mislaid and when I found it it was too late to have a contradiction of my earlier statement to the local Press published, but I phoned the "Sunday Independent" and requested the insertion of an explanation concerning the matter. I am sincerely sorry that this error occurred and the impression created that I had been treated discourteously by the Minister. I feel it my duty to write this explanation.—Mise, le meas, M. HARTNEY (Mayor), Mayor's Office, Town Hall, 16th July, 1945.

PATRIOTIC FAMILY BEREAVED

The death last week of Miss Mona Halpin, daughter of Mr. Joseph and the late Mrs. Mary Halpin, 15 Clontarf Place, brought bereavement to a very patriotic and deservedly popular Limerick family. Her father was in his day the world-famed exponent of Irish dancing, and was and is in general a thoroughly sincere, active and unselfish Irish-Irelander. The late Mrs. Halpin was also an ardent and genuine lover of her country, and everyone knows the great work their daughters, Teresa and Una Halpin, did for Irish dance, music and all-round national culture. Mona Halpin herself was also a talented musician and, like her highly respected parents, sisters and brother, possessed social and patriotic qualities of a very high and attractive character. To her sorrowing father and the other bereaved relatives and friends we extend our very sincere sympathy on their bereavement. The remains of the deceased were removed to St. Michael's Church on Monday evening, 9th inst., and the funeral took place next day to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, the attendances of mourners and the general public on both occasions being of huge proportions and of a most representative character.

A NEW POLITICAL PARTY

According to a Dublin report a new political organisation, to be known as the National Democratic Party, is about to be formed. It is stated that Dr. P. McCartan has been asked to contest North-West Dublin in the interest of the new party. North-West Dublin was President O'Kelly's constituency and a vacancy has been created in consequence of his election to the Presidency.

FATAL CRASH

Pitched Over Wall

TRAGIC OCCURRENCE IN CITY

A tragic occurrence took place in the city on Saturday night, resulting in the death of Garda John Kelly, aged 44, stationed at Fedamore and recently serving in a temporary capacity in Pallaskey. It appears that the deceased Garda was cycling home from the city to Pallaskey on Saturday night at 10.30. He cycled from Henry St. into Windmill St., with the intention of getting on to the Dock Road. At the end of Windmill St., there is a low parapet wall and steps leading down from the street on to the Dock Road. To a stranger to the locality, as Garda Kelly was, this parapet is a veritable death trap. Unaware of the presence of the wall Garda Kelly's bicycle came into collision with it. He was pitched right over falling on his head on to the Dock Road, about ten feet below. He sustained a fractured skull and was picked up by Garda Mangan and some civilians. Spiritual and medical aid were summoned and the injured man removed to Barrington's Hospital, where he died this morning. Deceased, who was single, was a native of Croggs, County Galway.

THE INQUEST

An inquest was held at Barrington's Hospital this evening by Mr. J. S. McNeice, solr., Acting Coroner. Dr. Frank Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, stated that deceased was admitted to the Hospital at 11.30 p.m. on Saturday night and died without regaining consciousness this morning. Death was due to cardiac and respiratory failure and fracture of the base of the skull. The injuries were such as would be consistent with falling from a height.

Mrs. Rebecca Alta, 16 Windmill Street, Limerick, stated that she was standing on the road outside her own house about 10.45 p.m. on the evening of the incident. She observed a man cycling down Windmill Street in the direction of the Dock Road. The cyclist was going at a moderate pace. Witness could not say if the cyclist carried a light on his machine. After passing her, and when approaching a portion of the street which was very steep, she saw the cyclist take one leg off the machine and drag it along the ground as if to slow down. It appeared to witness that the cyclist did not know the road or that there were steps at the end of the street. Approaching the steps the cyclist swerved towards the right and the machine struck a low wall, and the cyclist was pitched over the wall and on to the Dock Road. Witness went to the scene of the occurrence and found the man lying unconscious on the road. He was bleeding profusely from the nose.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said that the cyclist was proceeding very slowly, so slowly that she thought he was going to dismount and enter one of the adjoining houses. Had he been cycling fast, witness would have shouted to warn him of the approaching incline.

Cecil Prndergast, 15 Windmill Street, Limerick, said that just as he was leaving his own house, at about 10.45 p.m., he heard a scream and knowing that there was something wrong, he ran in the direction of the steps leading on to the Dock Road. He found a man in civilian clothes lying on the footpath unconscious. He was bleeding very much from the nose. Witness loosened the man's collar and clothing, and tried to get him to drink some water, but failed. Witness sent for a priest and ambulance. The injured man was later removed to hospital. Witness asked him his name, but did not get an articulate reply. There was no light adjacent to the scene of the accident. There had been previous accidents of a less serious nature at this very spot. The place was a veritable death-trap for anybody not knowing the locality.

Garda Mangan gave evidence of finding the injured man. He corroborated the evidence of previous witnesses. Sergeant Timothy Murphy, Pallaskey, said that he visited the scene of the accident on Sunday. He took some measurements at the spot. He noticed a splash of blood near the wall. The height of the wall from the Dock Road side was exactly 9 feet 4 inches and the width of the steps was 5 feet. The width of Windmill Street was 34 feet. There was an incline of 430 feet 8 inches down to the wall mentioned. The incline was an acute one, especially at a point about 215 feet from the Dock Road. Deceased had been stationed under witness at Pallaskey Station since 25th April, 1945. He was aged about 44 years and was unmarried. His health was good and he was a very temperate man. Witness was last speaking to the deceased on Saturday at 3 p.m., when he granted him leave to go to Limerick. He wanted to come into the city to have his bicycle repaired to have two new pedals affixed. Witness had examined the machine since and found that the pedals had been put on.

The Coroner said that the deceased's death was a terrible tragedy. He wished, on his behalf, to convey his heartfelt sympathy to the deceased man's parents and relatives and the Garda Síochána. Inspector Griffin, thanking the Coroner for his sympathy with the Gardaí, said that on behalf of himself and the Gardaí he would like

IRISH CURRENCY

In Its Relation To Britain

THE LINK WITH STERLING

(BY ECONOMIST).

The recent discussions in the Dail with regard to Eire's credits in Great Britain may have given rise to doubts in many people's minds as to what our currency relations with Britain really are. Most people know that our currency is tied to sterling or British currency at par. This means that the Irish pound is exchangeable for £1 English sterling on demand. The Currency Act of 1927 provided for this. Irish credit in England has been built up during three periods in the past fifty years. (i) The Land Purchase Acts, when England gave about 100 million pounds to buy out landowners, paying in British Government securities.

(ii) During the last year and (iii) during this war we accumulated large amounts of sterling in this country. This was because we were sending goods to England and being paid for them in sterling. Our people who went to work in England or who joined the forces also remitted sterling in large amounts to this country.

On the other hand, we were getting goods from England and paying for them with sterling, but due to war conditions we were not able to spend much of this accumulated credit. Every English pound circulating in Eire to-day means that England owes us a pound of our own money or a pound's worth of goods.

The possession of these external assets is very important to this country. Before the war we were dealing at a loss with England, i.e., we were getting more goods from England than we were sending to her, and for these extra goods we had to pay English money. Consequently, every year our supply of sterling was being depreciated. During the war we were able to build up this credit again to even more than it ever was before. Our position as a creditor nation, one of the few creditor nations now left, is an enviable one. Even though England has lost her creditor status, and is now a debtor nation, she will be, and always will be, our market. Our credits in England will enable us to deal with her in the years to come with full confidence that we can pay for the goods we get without any loss or sacrifice to ourselves.

PLOUGHMAN'S CLAIM

DECREE IN ADJOURNED CASE

At Kilmallock Court, before Mr. H. L. Connor, B.L., D.J., the adjourned case in which James Hogan had a claim for £10 against John McGrath, Clogher, for the ploughing of eight acres of land on the farm of Mrs. Coll, Dromin, at £1 5s. per acre was called, and Mr. J. Binchy, solr., Charleville, said that the whole case rested on Mrs. Coll's evidence.

Mrs. Coll, in reply to Mr. Binchy, said that in 1943 she let three Irish acres to John McGrath on an independent agreement. He was to till it. She filled about seven Irish acres herself.

Cross-examined by Mr. L. Walsh (Messrs. Bennett and Walsh), witness said John McGrath engaged the ploughman and she did not. She was not surprised to hear that it was said that she employed him. The total area was about ten Irish acres and the field was all tilled except the headland. There was no meadow in the field and it was not true to say that there were fourteen wynds of hay in the field that year. McGrath did not work for her. Her workman helped him and he helped her workman. The bargain with him was £2 per Irish acre for three acres. The land was not worn out and it had been let last year and there was a marvellous crop in it.

Mr. Binchy said that the evidence given by Mrs. Coll was that she had let three Irish acres to the defendant, and this was equal to five statute acres.

His Worship gave a decree for £6 5s., with expenses.

SIX BATHERS DROWNED

Two men, three girls and a boy were drowned at Tynemouth, Northumberland, yesterday. They were surf bathing when caught by a huge wave. Other bathers had narrow escapes.

to express deep sympathy with the deceased Garda's parents and relatives. The deceased had been a member of the force since its inception and had been an exemplary member.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence and added a rider that the City Manager be requested to have the steps from Windmill Street down to the Dock Road removed and the wall raised to a height of six feet. They also recommended that an electric light be erected near the scene of the accident.

The jury expressed sympathy with the dead Garda's parents, and with the Garda Síochána.

TOWN TOPICS

CHRISTOPHER LYNCH.

It is learned that preparations are far advanced to secure a passage to Italy for Mr. Christopher Lynch, the celebrated young Irish tenor, who is at present studying under John Count McCormack. If all goes well, Mr. Lynch will leave home for Italy in October and will make Milan his headquarters for some months. The purpose of his trip to Italy is to obtain final coaching from the leading Italian masters. At the conclusion of his stay in Milan he will go to America in the company of Count McCormack, who will introduce him to the people of the United States.

NORTHERN CONCERT OFF.

The concert arranged for Mr. Lynch in the Six Counties area during the coming season has been cancelled in view of his impending departure to Italy. Before he leaves, however, it is possible that he will sing in one or two centres, including Limerick. No definite programme has yet been planned and, of course, much will depend on circumstances. People in the know state that the young tenor is making wonderful progress under the tutorage of Count McCormack, who has the very highest opinions of his gifted protege.

ST. SWITHIN'S DAY.

Yesterday, 15th July, was St. Swithin's Day and, so far as Limerick is concerned at any rate, we had no rain. If tradition, therefore, can be relied upon we should have favourable climatic conditions for the next forty days. But nobody takes this supposition very seriously, as time and again it has been proved that a rain fall on the 15th did not result in bad weather for the ensuing forty days. The legend surrounding St. Swithin, though interesting, has little to support it, yet there are people who, despite anything that may be said to the contrary, refuse to be convinced.

THE SAINT'S REQUEST.

The legend is that St. Swithin, who was Bishop of Winchester, was buried at his own request outside his Cathedral "so that the sweet rain of heaven might fall upon my grave." At his canonisation some years later the monks decided to honour the remains of the saint by having them re-interred within the Cathedral. The exhumation took place, so the story goes, on 15th July and during the process rain fell in torrents. It continued to rain for forty days and the monks, regarding this as a sign of the saint's disapproval of their act, decided to have the body re-interred in their original resting place.

A DEATH-TRAP.

A valuable life has been lost—that of Garda John Kelly—because of the existence of a death-trap at the end of Windmill Street. The deceased, a stranger to the city, cycled down the Windmill on Saturday night with the intention of getting on to the Dock Road and collided with the two-foot boundary wall at the other end, sustaining injuries that were to prove fatal. It is surprising, indeed, that many more fatal accidents have not occurred at this particular place. Residents say that motor cars and other vehicles have frequently turned into the Windmill from Henry Street in the belief that they had a through passage to the Dock Road and that crashes have only been avoided by people rushing out to give warning of the danger ahead. Is not this an appalling state of things?

FOR PEDESTRIANS ONLY.

The Windmill Street is intended for pedestrians only, yet at its entrance there is no obstacle to heavy traffic; nor is there any sign erected by way of warning to the general public. People conversant with the locality do not need to be reminded that the thoroughfare is a sort of cul-de-sac, but strangers are left to their own resources. Saturday night's fatal accident could have been avoided if standards had been erected at the entrance to the street. If that precaution had been taken it would be made manifest to casual visitors that the thoroughfare was closed to road traffic.

A DEAR SMOKE

Rex Mackey, Florence Terrace, Bray, was, at Bray, fined £2 with £2 2s. costs and 6/- expenses for smoking in a non-smoking compartment of a first-class railway carriage between Harcourt Street and Bray Railway Stations on March 26th last.

DEATH.

O'TOOLE—June 20th, 1945. Flying Officer Michael Joseph O'Toole, of "Glenade," O'Connell Avenue, Limerick. R.I.P.