

WHAT IS GOING ON

Notes, News & Views AT THE G.P.O.

An interesting visitor—in his official capacity—to the City G.P.O. during the Christmas rush was the Mayor (Mr. P. O'Connell). This was the first time ever that such a visit was made, and the post office staff are very grateful to his Worship for his thoughtful and kindly act.

★ MR. GERALD MCGANN The resignation of Mr. Gerald McGann, on reaching the age limit, from the onerous position of Clerk of the Dail, recalls stirring times in modern Irish history. A member of a popular Limerick family, Mr. McGann, at an early age, left a commercial career to become an official of the Congested Districts Board, in which department he rendered signal services to those living along the western seaboard.

★ THE TREATY In 1920, Mr. McGann resigned from the Congested Districts Board to serve under the Republican Government of Sinn Fein. He was appointed Clerk of the Dail and, at the same time, acted as Confidential Secretary to General Michael Collins. While Collins and his fellow delegates were in London for the Treaty negotiations, Mr. McGann was Private Secretary to Mr. de Valera.

★ THE NEW YEAR So, 1947 has passed into history. Few will regret its passing, though in Limerick, as elsewhere, it got a rousing send-off. Our immediate concern is for the future and, no doubt, we would all like to know what 1948 has in store for us. But we have got to "wait and see" and hope for the best. New Year resolutions are now being made in all directions. These are not in all cases observed for long, but, nevertheless, some succeed in overcoming temptations to break away from their resolve to achieve what they have set out to accomplish.

★ TIME MARCHES ON. The New Year reminds us that time is truly and surely marching on. It is said, by the way, that time makes sad havoc with things. But it is that assertion well-founded? We think not. It is only neglect and forgetfulness that create havoc. Time certainly does not. Time adds to the beauty of things—it forms bonds of union and friendship. It is true, of course, that as the years progress we become more mellow, enabling us to see in retrospect through untinted glasses. In that way we can correct errors of our callow years, and for which we have got to thank Father Time.

★ DIED WORTH £42,246 Rev. B. F. Rowan, of St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, has written to the Mayor seeking information of relatives. It would seem that the original family name was Roughtan, but in the course of years it became Rowan. The genealogical tree sprang from Cornelius Roughtan, who was married in Limerick to Catherine O'Shea (or Shay) in 1843. As far as can be gathered the family emigrated to the United States between 1854 and 1859 and the Mayor would greatly appreciate any particulars, meagre or otherwise, concerning them.

★ YOUR RECORD Have you a record? This question does not relate to the political species, but of the kind of record that can be adapted to gramophone purposes. Well, if you have an old record type to spare would you be good enough to pass them on to the Red Cross? The Anti-T.B. Section of the Red Cross is collecting gramophone records for the purpose of providing musical recreation for patients in hospital. This very charitable activity should make a wide appeal to the general public. Hundreds of citizens have recorded their names in the Red Cross and other repositories for similar purposes. A resolution now to contribute and hand down a record to the Red Cross.

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Our Money System

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") A Dhruve Usali—Perhaps you may be able to allow me space to pose a question that is of paramount interest to all your readers, whatever their political opinions may be. Recently, Mr. de Valera instructed his supporters to "ask them where the money was to come from for their schemes?" The Bishop of Clonfert has already given an effective reply to that question. Here is the relevant quotation: "For God and country, our people must be kept at home. They must have such a livelihood that they will be enabled to marry early and bring up, in their Catholic homes, children in conditions that will meet the high standard of living in this, the twentieth century of civilisation. These wages can be paid in the Ireland of to-day. Our country is largely undeveloped and consequently, there can be no work for all. The required money is there, for our credit in the world is very high. In fact we are one of the few creditor nations in the world."

★ REMAND GRANTED. John J. Murphy, alias O'Connell, of no fixed address or occupation, was charged with housebreaking and larceny. Supt. J. Gilroy, Thurles, gave formal evidence of arrest and asked for a remand in custody to Thurles District Court on Wednesday next. The Justice granted the required remand.

★ CHARGE OF STEALING CASH. Margaret McNamara (19), 2 Curry Lane (off John Street), Limerick, was charged with the larceny of cash to the amount of £5 from her employer, Mrs. Jean Grayson, 75 O'Connell Street, Limerick.

★ PREPARED TO KEEP ON DEFENDANT. Mrs. Grayson gave evidence to the effect that she was prepared to keep the defendant in her employment. The Justice said he viewed with great seriousness the modern tendency of domestic servants to rob their employers, then leave them to find the same offence in other employments. Because of that consideration he would have to remand the defendant for one week, so that Garda enquiries might be made into previous sources of domestic employment, so that, when deciding the case, he might be in possession of all information surrounding the plaintiff's previous employment.

★ ARE THEY IN LIMERICK? INFORMATION OF RELATIVES SOUGHT ENGLAND. We are sending our money to England to buy British industries and we are sending our young people after our money for the well paid employment that is denied to them here. Our statesmen who, year ago, were boasting of our alleged wealth are now contemplating a loan from the International Bank! Dr. Ryan may boast that we have a Republic, but we have not a British Empire, but a merely strengthened the strongest link, namely, the financial one; also, the King of England still signs the letters of credence of our ambassadors. Mr. de Valera has, in the Dail, quoted a dictionary definition to "prove" that we had a Republic, but the peoples of the world do not recognise the signature of Hill Majesty, King of England, and they are puzzled. Most Irish people are now beginning to realise that what we have, in reality, is something anomalous in the history of nations, an anomaly, i.e., Royal Twenty-Six County Republic, which is denied even control of its own finances. How can we boast of freedom when the Government of another country holds our purse strings?—Mise, SEAN EDMONDS. Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, 31st December, 1947.

★ "CANDY LAND" (To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") Dear Sir—I read with much regret the article published in the 29th issue of your paper contributed by John A. Enright criticising the pantomime, "Candy Land." The pantomime (the first of its kind for many years in Limerick) was produced by the Cecilia Musical Society, which, in my opinion, made a very good success of it. I think some of the individual criticism was a trifle uncharitable and most discouraging, especially since it appeared on the third day of its progress. The criticism of the orchestra was on the whole uncalled for and some of it at least was without any foundation whatsoever. Yours faithfully, "USHER."

★ CITY GAS SUPPLY (To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") Dear Sir—A recent Press notice by Mr. Macken, City Manager, deals with the calorific value of gas from the 1st January, 1948. Will Mr. Macken tell the ordinary householder in plain English what he means? Are we going to get better gas? Does it mean that the unfortunate gas consumer can now allow air into the burners and not be using all gas, or does it mean that the price of gas is going to be reduced at long last, and so remove one difficulty of the consumer—an everlasting supply of coppers.

★ BISHOP GETS FIRST SALMON CAUGHT. When the salmon fishing season opened on Wednesday at Sligo, and two fish weighing a total of 21lb. had been netted, the first fish caught in accordance with established custom was presented to the Bishop of Elphin, the Most Rev. Dr. Dooley.

★ BAND PARADE On Sunday next, January 4th (weather permitting), the Boherbuoy Band will have a city parade through Lord Edward St., Wolfe Tone St., O'Connell Avenue, O'Connell St., William St., Wickham St., Parnell St. and Boherbuoy, P. Phelan, hon. sec.

★ MISSING BANK SUM It was discovered yesterday in the Ulster Bank at Ballina, County Mayo, that £5,900 given to a bank clerk to send by registered post to the head office Belfast on Saturday did not reach its destination. Civic Guards are investigating the matter.

★ HIS LAST FIGHT. Joe Louis, world heavy-weight champion, died on Wednesday that his fight next summer would be with Jersey Joe Walcott, who had most deprived him of his title recently. He added that it would be his last fight, win or lose.

★ FINED £50 AND HIS LICENCE SUSPENDED. At Bangor Petty Sessions Louis Morrison, Lismoyle Park, Belfast, was fined £50 and 2½ costs, and his driving licence was suspended for 12 months, on a charge of driving a motor car while under the influence of drink.

★ COAL PRICES. Industrial and domestic coal, both American and British, will be sold in Dublin at 45 17s. a ton. The price in most other centres will be somewhat higher.

★ DATE FOR GENERAL ELECTION. Mr. de Valera intimated at Newmarket-on-Fergus on Wednesday night that February 4th will be polling day in the general election.

★ DEATH OF UNIVERSITY LECTURER. The death occurred in Cork to that of Dr. Denis Fitzgerald, a lecturer in University College, Cork.

SAVAGE ATTACK

Motorist Beaten And Robbed

Two men to whom he gave a lift in his motor car attacked, robbed and seriously wounded Mr. Hubert J. Prentice, a civil engineer, living at Clarendon Park, Dun Laoghaire. Mr. Prentice, wires our Dublin correspondent, when motoring back to his home, from Newry last night was asked by two men of the "labouring class" for a lift as far as Dundalk. When the car reached the Customs post at the Eire side of the Border the two men got out, but when the officer had completed his examination, they got in again, one seating himself beside Mr. Prentice. All went well until the car was a few miles from Dundalk. Then, the man seated in the rear of the car struck Mr. Prentice on the head with an iron implement that resembled a tyre lever. Other similar blows followed and in the meantime the man in front struck Mr. Prentice in the face with his clenched fist.

★ GAVE A LIFT TO TWO MEN ACCUSED BOUND OVER. A young married man, John J. Foley, Main Street, Kilmarna, pleaded guilty to to-day's sitting of Limerick District Court, before Mr. Dermot F. Gleeson, D.J., to the embezzlement of £2 7s., the property of the Limerick Co. Committee of Agriculture, in the offices of which he was employed as clerk, since 1941.

★ ROBBERY COLLECTION PLATE. A 21 year-old Construction Corps recruit, who admitted robbing a church collection plate of 1/4, was charged at to-day's sitting of Limerick District Court with this offence. The defendant was Private Peter McMahon, Construction Corps, Ballinacraig, Co. Cork. The defendant pleaded guilty and was not professionally represented. Supt. Collieran, who prosecuted, explained that on Sunday morning the defendant, entering St. Mary's Church, Limerick, at about 9 o'clock Mass, took 1/4 from the collection plate on the doorway. McMahon was a native of Sixmilecross, and had been convicted in 1943 on a charge of the larceny of a shirt.

★ CITY COURT CHARGE. A woman who said she was a friend of the defendant from Sixmilecross, came before the Justice at this stage and said she had always found McMahon a very honest lad.

★ CRIME AND BAD MANNERS. Cycling at night without a light was not only a crime, it was also bad manners, in so far as it inconvenienced other users of the road, declared Mr. D. F. Gleeson, D.J., when, at to-day's sitting of Limerick District Court, he dealt with over 200 cases against defendants who broke the lighting-up regulations with bicycles. He imposed fines of 10/- on all defendants who were not represented and who did not appear.

★ THE TEA SUPPLY. While reports circulating in Dublin on Wednesday that rationing of tea was to end early this year were denied by tea importers, a cargo of 30,000 chests of the commodity arrived from Calcutta. The officials grounded their refutation of the rumours on the considerations that unrationed tea would involve larger subsidies, and that tea was no exception from the tendency towards higher world prices on all commodities. Importers stated that efforts at the moment were being concentrated in the building up of large reserves of tea in the country, adding that ships of the commodity were arriving regularly.

★ LIMERICK MAN'S SUCCESS. In the recent final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, held in Dublin, Mr. Francis Corbett, 20 Upper William Street, Limerick, qualified as Chartered Accountant. Mr. Corbett was articled to Mr. William H. O'Donnell, Chartered Accountant and Public Auditor, 90 O'Connell Street, Limerick.

★ BARON OF EMLY FAIRS DEAD. Mr. William Glasheen, whose death occurred at Emly at a ripe age, was for many years a member of the Tipperary Rural District Council and Board of Guardians. He was "Baron" of the fairs of Emly, and took a prominent part in the national movement of his time.

★ AUXILIARY POSTMAN INJURED. On Christmas Eve Mr. James Ryan, auxiliary postman, Sean Carach Terrace, Charleville, was knocked down by a motor vehicle in front of his residence and sustained some injuries. He received medical treatment and is making satisfactory progress.

★ SOAP COUPONS. The coupons to be used by domestic consumers to obtain soap for the month of January are those marked T 8 on page 41 of the General Ration Book.

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WOMAN'S DEATH

Recent Fatality In Limerick

A recent fatal accident at the junction of Mallow Street and O'Connell Street, Limerick, had a sequel at to-day's sitting of the Limerick District Court when Sean Purlin, of Shandon, Drive Road, Phibsboro, Dublin, was charged before District Justice D. E. Gleeson with the dangerous driving of a motor car. Supt. P. Collieran prosecuted and Mr. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, defended.

★ DISTRICT COURT CHARGE DISMISSED. Dr. Francis Crowe, House Surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, said that he remembered Miss Helena Collins being admitted to the Hospital at 123 a.m. on November 11th last. She was dead on admission. A post-mortem examination revealed that the bones of both legs were fractured as also the bones of her right wrist. There was an incised wound over the right eye. He also noted that the left eye was affected so that the deceased was practically blind. The injuries described would be consistent with being struck by a motor car. Death in his opinion was due to shock following multiple fractures.

★ IMPROVED SHORT NOTICE. Mr. Sean MacEntee, Minister for Local Government, has sent to County Managers a circular letter expressing appreciation of the arduous task the County Councils in connection with turf production during the war years, referring to the work as "a task well done." The following is the letter in full: "I am glad to hear from you, B.E., Limerick County Manager, that the County Councils are engaged in the production of turf during the war years. The activities of the County Councils in connection with the production of turf will shortly come to an end and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who were engaged in the County Councils' turf production campaign in the last seven years. At a time of grave crisis in 1941 it was decided to ask the county councils to engage in turf production in order to meet the fuel shortage caused by the reduction of coal imports."

★ ON CORRECT SIDE OF STREET. Michael Lynch said that while walking near the scene of the accident, on the night in question, he heard a thud and a crash, and saw a car being driven on the wrong side of the street at the junction. The car seemed to swerve slightly to the left after the thud, and then continued for some distance and returned. Witness saw a woman lying on the road, a few yards out from the footpath, on the left-hand side of the road. He saw the car proceeding. Witness also saw a shoe lying on the road nearby. The night was dark and drizzly. Witness didn't see the car or the woman before he heard the crash. At this stage, the Superintendent remarked that one of the witnesses for the State, Mr. Bernard Carroll, who had been present in Court in the morning, was not now available.

★ MOTOR TURNS TURTLE. The Superintendent then read Bernard Carroll's inquest deposition, in which he said that while walking on the footpath at the junction he saw a woman cross the street in the direction of Lr. Mallow Street and being struck by a car travelling normally on its correct side of the street. If he were in the driver's position, he would not have crossed.

★ ON VERGE OF BOG. Mr. T. P. Kilfeather and Mr. G. Kerr, two of the Dublin Press representatives who are accompanying Mr. de Valera on his tour of Clare, escaped serious injury when their car was involved in an accident on Ennis yesterday morning. The car was proceeding from Ennis to Kilmihil, when, at Buttermilk Cross, in trying to avoid a pony and trap carrying a woman and four children, the car was forced to swerve sharply into the grass margin. The car hit a bank, overturned, and came to rest on its roof on the edge of a six-foot drop into a bog. The windows were shattered but the occupants were able to crawl out. Mr. B. Duff was the driver.

★ WEEK OF LIGHT OPERA. According to advance information the pupils of the Christian Brothers Schools, Limerick, were never better than in Gilbert and Sullivan's most musical opera, "Iolanthe" (due for week-end presentation at the Lyric Theatre commencing Monday week). It is said that the cast this year is the best so far, and that everything is now in readiness to crown almost ten years of excellent annual presentations to the Limerick public. Further details may be had from our advertising columns.

★ CHARITY SERMON. The annual charity sermon in aid of the Good Shepherd Convent, Limerick, will be preached in St. John's Cathedral at 12 o'clock on Sunday, 11th inst. The preacher will be Rev. Father Dermot, C.P., Mount Argus, Dublin. On the same day, by kind permission of his Lordship the Bishop, a collection will be made in the churches of the city in aid of the Convent funds, a most deserving and worthy object.

★ STELLA CARNIVAL BALL. The Carnival Ball in the Stella Ballroom on New Year's Eve was an all-round complete success, as this annual reunion invariably is. It was most enjoyable in every respect and the arrangements gave place, to the utmost satisfaction. Ralph Sylvester's full band supplied the music with the usual marked efficiency, and a delightful supper was excellently served. Those present were loud in their appreciation of the night's very fine enjoyment.

★ CHARGE DISMISSED. The Justice said that motorists should drive more slowly on the main street in Limerick, where there were so many crossings, and should be prepared for a cyclist shooting out from the side street. All the evidence was that the defendant's car was driven on its correct side and was properly

★ APRECIATION AND THANKS. These figures testify to the magnitude of the task that it will be possible to relieve the county councils of a responsibility placed on them in a time of national stress. When handing over these responsibilities to the county councils, the Government can look back on a task well done, notwithstanding many obstacles and set-backs. The Government appreciates what has been achieved and I feel the occasion of this transfer should not pass without expressing my thanks to the county engineer and his assistants, to the workers of all ranks who cut and saved the turf under the council's schemes, to the office staff, and, not least, to the chief executive officer, for the part each took in a successful achievement. Yours sincerely, (Sgd.) SEAN MACENTE.

★ SCENE OF ACCIDENT. A sketch of the scene of the accident, produced by him after a survey of the circumstances apparent as a result of the impact. The street at the junction was forty feet wide, and the car when he saw it, was parked at the bus stop. There was a light slung right over the junction of Malow and O'Connell Streets, but he considered this light was of little use to a motorist.

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