HE'S FINDING IT
EASIER NOW

emember the emergency, when travellers were dependant on a fitted with gas producers? vering routes was a troublesome iness then, so that visits to our ods in the trade were rather equent at times. Now, with petrol ration restored, our ellers find it much easier to get and—which means that they'll you more often. Supplies, alas, still far from what we'd like n to be, but, rest assured, we'll our best for you.

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QUICKER
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IRISH OF KILCORNAN UNION

RDEN FETE AND SALE

nutiful weather favoured the en fete and sale held at Castle-Rectory, Pallaskenry, on sday last, 29th May, on behalf rish and school funds. Many e came from Limerick City from other parts of the county. e fete was declared open by de Vere, Curraghchase, who welcomed by the Rector, Rev. Tarleton.

s. de Vere spoke of the need roviding for the beautifying of church, and of the useful part h Dromlohan School played in district.

e Lord Bishop (Right Rev. Hodges), in expressing ks to Mrs. de Vere, referred to good reputation of the school, made special mention of the cipal, Mrs. M. G. Telford, to n this reputation is in no small ure due.

e stalls and games were well onised, and the fete has realised ute the splendid sum of £200. Rector and parishioners are ful to all who contribute to successful result by donations, oluntary help or by their pre- and support.

BULLOCK MAKES £65

e remarkable price of £65 was for a two-years-old bullock at erford June fair, which was one he biggest for some years.

start on a spraying protec- is made, there is no doubt that h of the crop will be lost again year with the disease.

normal times, seed merchants prohibited from selling diseased , but I am afraid that much ted seed is on the market and unless one treats his own with a formalin solution be- sowing, there is apt to be it on the seedlings.

hen this occurs, and I have it on seedlings already this it is next to impossible to a healthy crop that will keep the winter without spraying and every three weeks until late autumn.

ually the fungus does not show re August and then a couple prayings will suffice, but if the se shows up now there will many a spraying required to it in check.

the fungus is noticed, all the sed leaves should be burnt nce and spraying should be nenced. For further particu- see the Department's Leaflet 5, free on application from the rtment of Agriculture, Dub-

here are several efficient brands proprietary spray materials on market now, and for those who not the way or time to pre- the Burgundy mixture they very handy. At the same time ould like to point out that the prepared home-made mixture n my opinion, the best. Any gundy wash should be used in 24 hours after mixing.

BEDDING PLANTS.

is time now to discard the flowers, etc., and replace them summer bedding plants.

g in some old rotted manure re transplanting, as the wall- ers leave the beds in very poor dition, but do not put much h manure where Dahlias, turtiums, etc., are to go or they make too much leaf growth and flowers.

he best bedding plants are still Antirrhinium and Geraniums. Dahlias, Stocks, Salvias are Asters, Petunias, Lobelia, eum, Ageratum, Kochia, Gode- Clarkia, Tobacco Plant, outdoor yeanthemums, etc., should all lanted now.

J. J. O'CARROLL, B.Sc.(Agr.).

GREAT FIGURE

Death Of Mr. B. Laffan

HIS WORK FOR NATIONAL CAUSE

With deep regret we chronicle the demise of Mr. Batt Laffan, Killonan, Limerick, which took place unexpectedly at his residence on Saturday last.

The late Mr. Laffan was one of the best known men in his native county and the news of his untimely death has come as a great shock to the community in general.

During the struggle for National Independence Mr. Laffan never shirked danger, and like the ardent nationalist that he was he made many personal sacrifices for his country. When Brigadier Sean Walsh—the Sinn Fein Chairman of the Limerick County Council—fell before British bullets Batt Laffan stepped into the breach as Chairman of the Council and continued, during the remainder of the Black and Tan regime, to discharge his public duties, though, by so doing, he constantly risked his life. His residence at Killonan was ever at the disposal of the I.R.A. and under its hospitable roof Capt. Captain Robert Monteith, who recently returned to Ireland from the United States after an absence of close on 30 years. At this time the British had offered a "reward" of £1000 for the betrayal of Monteith who, along with the late Sam MacNeill, organised the Irish Volunteers. But Monteith knew full well that he could trust his host, than whom there was no more dedicated man in the length and breadth of the land.

FEARLESS CHAMPION.

A fearless champion of every cause he espoused, the late Mr. Laffan was outspoken and direct. Yet by nature he was incapable of giving offence, and throughout his long and active public life he enjoyed the respect, esteem and confidence of all men.

When the Treaty came Mr. Laffan turned aside from politics and devoted his time and energies to bettering the lot of the dairy farmer and agriculture generally. He stood for the Dail as a Farmers' candidate, but failed to secure election by a small number of votes. He did not regard his defeat as a personal rebuff, but took it as an indication of the need for having the agricultural community organised. Subsequently he conducted an organising campaign, in the course of which he held meetings in different parts of the county and, at the same time, contributed many letters to the "Limerick Leader," in which he stressed the important part the farmers played in the economic life of the nation. He always maintained that the dairy farmer was the foundation on which rested the country's agricultural economy, and for that reason he advocated, in season and out of season, the special claims of this particular section of the farming community. In passing, it should be mentioned that Mr. Laffan, prior to the emergency, maintained a dairy herd of 100 cows, and that for upwards of 30 years he was Chairman of the Drombanna Co-operative Society, an industry that made remarkable progress under his able guidance.

NO MORE LOVEABLE MAN.

In private life there was no more loveable man than the late Mr. Laffan. His charm of manner, his innate good nature, his kindness of heart and complete absence of anything savouring of "bigness" were traits of his character that singled him out as a man amongst men. It can be said truthfully of him that he had no enemies. Indeed, he was held in affectionate regard, not only by those who shared his views, but by those who did not always see eye to eye with him.

He has now passed to his reward, mourned and remembered with deep affection by all who knew him intimately. May he rest in peace.

We join with the general public in tendering heartfelt sympathy to the sorrowing members of his family and other relatives.

The remains were removed on Sunday afternoon to Monaleen Church amidst striking manifestations of regret and sorrow. The cortege, which was of immense proportions, was representative of three counties, mourners having come from far and near to pay their last tribute of respect to the mortal remains of a great gentleman.

The funeral on Monday, to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, following Solemn Requiem Mass, was again symptomatic of the great sorrow entertained by the people. It was attended by thousands from Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, all being anxious to show the affectionate regard in which they held the deceased.

TRIBUTES FROM CREAMERY COMMITTEE.

Drombanna Creamery Committee unanimously adopted a resolution of heartfelt sympathy with his family and adjourned their meeting without transacting any other business as a mark of respect to his memory.

Mr. Stephen Purcell, in proposing the resolution, said it was with sadness and regret they met to pay tribute to the memory of their late revered Chairman, Mr. Laffan. For 25 years he piloted their creamery as chairman with outstanding success through many exceedingly difficult vicissitudes. No group of men could have a more capable and loyal leader and no man could have done more than he to place the Society in the forefront of co-operative enterprises. "It is a matter of gratification to us all," Mr. Purcell added, "that he lived to see his efforts crowned with success and our creamery occupying a foremost position in the dairying industry of this country."

The Manager (Mr. O'Farrell) said he desired on behalf of himself and the staff to be associated with Mr. Purcell's remarks and the terms of the resolution. The late Mr. Laffan's brains, integrity and personality were a loss which would be felt by Drombanna and the entire dairying industry.

ABBEYFEALE ABBEY CINEMA SALE

The Abbeyfeale Abbey Cinema was offered for sale at the Courthouse, Abbeyfeale, on Monday. The bidding reached £7,000, and the reserve of £8,500 not being reached, the sale was adjourned. Mr. J. D. Harnett, auctioneer; Messrs. R. Cussen and Son, solrs., and Messrs. Marshall and MacAuley, solrs., represented the proprietors, Messrs. Thomas and Daniel Tubin.

MILLIONS OF IDLE MONEY

And Fertile Land Largely Undeveloped

MEN PAID FOR NOT WORKING

The Need For Sane Planning

Ireland has a fertile but largely undeveloped land. She has at the same time millions of idle money and "idle men paid for not working." These are statements contained in the further article published below from our well informed contributor, "Sulcoit," who comments that "sane planning should be able to provide full and useful use of all three." "Sulcoit" is dealing with the present economic position of Britain and how it affects this country, and from that he goes on to state that here at home agricultural production suffers seriously through lack of capital expenditure on land, buildings, drains, fences, shelter, seeds, cattle, marketing, etc. Here is his article in full:—

Under the heading "We Live By Our Exports—Britain's Intensive Propaganda," an attractive booklet, with a stirring foreword by Sir Stafford Cripps, has just been issued by the London Stationery Office for fourpence. Giving briefly and graphically the plain, unvarnished facts as to their imports and exports, it is a commonsense appeal to the stoich and long tried British people to tackle grimly their economic difficulties with the same stubbornness as they did their war problems. With its simple graphs, its coloured illustrations and striking tables, which cannot fail to catch the eye and impress the mind, it gives such an admirable lesson in propaganda that even the heads of some of our Departments might condescend to learn something from it. The illustrations are in the usual American diagrammatic style.

A SUGGESTION.

Of dozens of our pressing problems that might be dealt with similarly, one may venture to suggest a few taken at random:—Tillage, dairying, our imports and exports, population and emigration, employment and the dole, a soil survey, social services and taxation, our schools, our language, our exiles, a quarter century of native rule, our manufactures, partition, expansion of production, our tourists, Ireland and the aeroplane, our proximity to Britain, political, trade, social and language relation; the link with sterling and, under present circumstances, particularly the inevitable reactions of English conditions on Irish progress and prosperity—all these may lend some interest even to a bold summary of this booklet. In the gallant efforts of this grim old buccaneer we may find much to admire and imitate, adapting methods to suit an agricultural state.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE BOOKLET.

1. Pre-war Britain grew little more than enough food to feed one-third of its population. Her factories depend almost as much on imported raw materials as her people on imported food. Nor can she, without large imports, clothe her people. She imports 45 per cent of iron ore, 85 per cent of wool, 95 per cent of timber needed, all the raw cotton, even some coal during the past winter, and she is guaranteed for the summer months 600,000 tons of U.S.A. coal.

2. England's Imports and Exports in Millions Sterling in 1938 were 910 and 855 respectively. The imports comprised the following:—Food, drink, tobacco—455 millions; and raw materials, fuel consumer goods, and industrial equipment—455. The exports were—Shipping services—105 millions; banking services—45 millions; overseas investments—205 millions; visible exports—500 millions. There was, therefore, even pre-war, a deficit of 55 millions sterling.

HUGE LOSSES IN THE WAR.

3. Apart from lives, the war cost England one-fourth of her national wealth, 70 per cent of her export trade, a loss of a million of the million-and-a-quarter engaged in exports. At the peak of the war effort, eight millions of man and woman were engaged in the armed forces and direct war production. Her merchant fleet, which prior to the war had 22,000,000 tons, lost 13,000,000 tons. For years the trade links with most of her customers were severed and she must now make desperate efforts and deny essentials to her own people to re-establish them.

4. By 1945 Britain had sold more than half her foreign investments, yielding, pre-war, 203 millions stg. per year, and apart from Lease-Lend, she had raised her overseas debts more than four-fold, from 760 millions to 3,355 millions; and this in addition to the recent U.S.A. and Canadian loans, which exceed 1,400 million pounds. The lost overseas investments and the new overseas debts exceed in value three times the total war damage of Britain. Exports must pay for all—imports, war debts, vanished investments, reconstruction.

5. While prior to the war, England's earnings fell short of the value of her imports by over fifty millions sterling, she was, by 1945, paying for barely half her imports—she was living beyond her means. By 1946, though she kept her imports below two-thirds of those of 1938, and exported faster than in that year, there was still a deficit of 450 millions in that year's income.

TRADE TARGETS.

The three trade targets which England set herself were (a), exports in 1946 to reach in volume those of 1938; (b), those of 1947 to exceed those of 1938 by 40 per cent.; and (c), in the near future, imports to exceed by 75 per cent. those of 1938, the minimum estimated as essential to meet all her financial and economic commitments. Her customers cannot wait for ever. She aims at getting in advance of her competitors. Hence the increasing austerity conditions in England. For her goods she must strive to secure in exchange either goods or dollars. In 1946, Britain reached in exports 112 per cent. of the 1938 volume. But the fuel crisis and the terrible winter and spring just past set back seriously production, and hence exports for the first quarter of 1947. Britain plans to equip her industries for all-out and greater production to set her trade as early as possible on a firm and permanent basis, to secure for her goods either dollars, food or raw material for her industry.

6. To-day, almost every country is short of goods, but in the coming years severe competition has to be faced. Now is the time to get into the markets of the world before they are filled with the exports of other lands and to retain by quality and efficiency the trade thus won. Says Sir Stafford Cripps: "Production will bring us prosperity; lack of it will mean failure and the disaster of trade depression." And so his former alternative counsels:—"Work or want." "Export or Expire."

7. Other matters stressed are:—Expansion of agricultural production; superior quality of exports; importance of the tourist trade, self-denial to increase and expedite exports.

AND WHAT OF EIRE?

For the six years ended 1940, our aggregate visible exports (goods) fell short of our visible imports (goods) by 103 millions sterling (251 less 148). The deficit was made good in the main by our net invisible aggregate income of 80 millions—the excess of dividends received from outside (131 millions) over dividends, etc., paid out of Eire (51 millions). Balances unaccounted for during these six years, running to an average of 41 millions, would probably make up a substantial portion of the 23 millions deficit under both heads (visible and invisible, but the net balance of trade, a relatively small one, was unfavourable.

During the last six years, ended 1946, visible imports (goods) valued at 231 millions sterling exceeded exports of goods valued in the aggregate at 196 millions by 35 millions sterling, an unfavourable balance under this head. Now, as the net invisible income—the difference between payments on investments, etc., in and out—has not been published, though referred to in the Dail, the record cannot be complete, but the amounts may be taken as approximately equal to those of 1945, namely, 40 millions and 101 millions, respectively, with a difference of 29½ millions to credit. On this assumption, the gross invisible income from investments, etc., during these six years was 202 millions, and the gross outlay under the same head was 67½ millions, so that there was to credit a net amount of 139½ millions, which offset the deficit of thirty-five millions on ordinary trade in goods, and left 104½ millions net as a total favourable balance. During these six years, there were balances unaccounted for, arising from such sources as tourist traffic, and averaging approximately 7 millions a year.

TOTAL TRADE FOR TWELVE YEARS.

Thus, for the twelve years ended 1946 (ignoring balances unaccounted for), our aggregate exports (visible, 344; invisible, 333) reached 677 millions. Our aggregate imports during the same period (visible, 482; invisible, 113½) reached 595½ millions. Thus there was a net favourable balance of 81½ millions.

For obvious reasons the two six year periods are first segregated and then grouped. The balances unaccounted for would average nearly six millions a year.

The particulars have not yet been published for 1946, but assuming the trend of preceding years, an approximate estimate of the net increase of external balances during the past twelve years would appear to be in the region of 180 millions (280, less 100), almost all this addition being attributable to the past six years.

The total external balances would appear to be about 450 millions rather than the 200 to 250 millions suggested in certain quarters with the obvious aim of minimising the burden. There is, of course, an offset in foreign investments, etc., in Eire, running perhaps to more than a third of our foreign balances. These probably will come under review if any unfair scaling down of sterling balances is attempted. Some who strenuously opposed on moral grounds any cancellation or even a moratorium, in the case of annuities unjustly imposed, now come forward and urge a scaling down of these balances admittedly our due, the "London Times" on moral grounds suggesting repudiation. The world will soon hear of another historic "Times" Commission, this time for the revision of the Decalogue.

OBVIOUS INFERENCES FROM RETURNS.

Apart from the difficult economic situation in England, to which Eire has been so closely linked in finance and trade, the grave uncertainty as to the future export position renders it vital that we should expand production to the very limit of our power and skill, and especially of those commodities that we can, within reason, produce for the needs of our own people—food, clothing, housing, light, transport. The needs of our own citizens should be our first and chief concern. Recent events have shown that in future, and especially in any upheaval, we must depend largely on our own resources, which, therefore, should with intelligence, industry and co-operation of all concerned, be developed to the utmost.

Imports there must be, and hence exports, whose importance is obvious. But importing what can be produced with reasonable economy in Ireland indicates weakness and waste, forces our young people into exile, leads to export of our capital and the raw resources for suitable manufactures, and in a world crisis would again fling us like a cork on the ocean of chance. The interests that batten on both producers and consumers will naturally oppose such a sane policy.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Agricultural production suffers seriously through lack of capital expenditure on land, buildings, drains, fences, shelter, seeds, cattle, marketing, etc., though hundreds of our millions have been broadcast to finance our rivals and to employ in other lands the young people that we cast adrift. For lack of capital and proper organisation the pick of our herds perforce go from our farmers to foreigners, leaving us grumbling about shortages of milk, butter, bacon, beef, etc., and the steep decline in our agricultural output and export. Some would have our plains without people, raising merely bullocks for export, the country to be run in the interest of a small privileged class, exploiting the depopulation, waste and universal decay. They insist for obvious reasons that this country should not raise wheat or beet or anything that can be produced more cheaply somewhere else. But this policy would, if pursued, bring an end to all production, even that of bullocks, which can be raised more economically in the Argentine, Brazil and a dozen other countries. Except men (our chief asset), that we cast away as free gifts, there is nothing raised here that is not cheaper in some other part of the world. Between farm and farm there are big margins in the cost of production. Should that consideration bring all except the so-called economical producers to a standstill? And what of employment for our own people? A fertile and largely undeveloped land, millions of idle money, idle men, paid for not working; sane planning should be able to provide full and useful use of all three. Even in "Black '47," with the crude tools and primitive processes then available, Eire produced enough food to maintain twice our present population at a higher standard than prevails to-day throughout England. The magnetism of the emigrant ship and the city slum is not wholly responsible for the drift from our rural areas. For a Christian community our tests of progress and prosperity would appear to need revision.

LUXURY IMPORTS.

There is a large number of luxury imports even from hard currency countries on which the Minister for Finance might lay a heavier hand. Re-export of articles such as motors, cosmetics, etc., paid for out of our limited quota of dollars,

WAGES QUESTION

Limerick Deputation To Minister

DR. RYAN SYMPATHETIC

A deputation from the Limerick Mental Hospital Staff House Union called on the Minister for Health and Social Services (Dr. J. Ryan) in Dublin on Thursday of last week and discussed with him the question of the wages of the staff. The deputation, consisting of Messrs. M. P. Hourigan, Secretary, and Mr. J. Keane, was introduced by Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., and Mr. M. Colbert, T.D.

"TOTALLY INADEQUATE."

Mr. Hourigan explained to the Minister that the Limerick Mental Hospital Board and the City Manager (Mr. M. Macken, B.A.) were prepared to give the nursing staff a sixty per cent. increase in salaries and allowances, but the Minister was not yet prepared to sanction that proposal. He referred to the recent circular recommending a fifty per cent. increase on salaries, and pointed out that this offer was totally inadequate in view of the present high cost of living in Limerick, and in view of the unfavourable comparison it bore to remunerations in other allied occupations.

PERIOD TOO LONG.

Mr. Keane drew the attention of the Minister to the fact that the maximum salary in the nurses' scale suggested by the Minister in his circular was not attainable until the end of a period of twenty years service, and urged that this period be reduced to twelve years. He pointed out that the service was losing the best of its personnel and the fact that the success of the new Mental Treatment Act would, in no small way, be due to the care and diligence of Mental Hospital staffs, who could not be expected to give of their best if they were not paid a wage commensurate with their responsibilities and duties.

DEPUTIES' SUPPORT.

Messrs. Colbert and Keyes pointed out to the Minister the injustice of the fact that the maximum salaries would not be attainable for such a long period of years. They said they were prepared to stand by the statements of Messrs. Hourigan and Keane with reference to the inadequacy of the present rates of pay for Mental Hospital staffs, and asked the Minister to formulate a scale more in keeping with their duties.

SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION PROMISED.

Dr. Ryan assured the deputation that he would give the points of its members his sympathetic consideration, adding that he was glad these points had been placed before him.

The deputation then withdrew.

HAPPY RELIEF FROM BACKACHE

Neighbour said "Take Doan's Pills"

WHY PUT UP with needless discomfort from backache, rheumatic pains, lumbago, stiff, aching muscles and joints or the common urinary disorders due to sluggish kidney action when you might get happy relief.

Many thousands of healthy people bless the day they took Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. This well known diuretic and urinary antiseptic helps sluggish kidneys to carry out their function of ridding the blood of excess uric acid and other impurities harmful to health. Grateful people, everywhere, recommend Doan's Pills to their friends and neighbours.

Ask your Chemist for DOAN'S