



TREET, LIMERICK

O'K-B.

## POLITICAL THOUGHT

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### CANDIDATES AND THEIR PROMISES

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Sir—Your interesting leader of Saturday last, on "Things That Matter," made me think furiously.

I have always taken a keen interest in politics, both at home and abroad; but—and here is the confession that is so good for the soul—at the back of my head I have no use for politicians. Result:—Confusion of mind at election time.

One hears so many promises made, only to be broken, and so many things done by those who say grandiloquently that they "have a mandate from the nation," when, as a matter of fact no such mandate exists! One sees such political manoeuvres as the "Khaki Election" and the "Zinovieff Letters" in England, and our last election here, because the Government lost two seats at bye-elections. One has read in the Press of how a Minister said of a T.D., in the Dail, that if "kept his mouth shut the atmosphere in the House would be purer," and of another T.D. who spoke strongly against an increase in T.D.'s salaries but said he would not vote against it! All these things make one ponder.

You say, sir, that "the duty of finding out and returning suitable men to Parliament cannot be discharged if there is not a sufficiently wide and practical knowledge of political problems and conditions." But of what use is such a knowledge when the candidates are put, cut and dried, before the voter, who has no voice in their selection? The man in the street may be an acute political thinker, but does that help him to assess the characters of X, Y and Z, whom he may see (or even hear of) for the first time on the election platform?

Is it morally right that they who tax others should not themselves be taxed, or that a Government (I speak of no particular Party) should lay heavy burdens on posterity to secure their immediate aims?

And talking of that "wide and practical knowledge of political problems" which your leader rightly advocates—I wrote some years ago to Radio Eireann suggesting that talks and discussions be given over the wireless on problems of the day, but, strange to relate, was told that in the (then) circumstances no suitable men were available. I find (and I am sure others do, too) the condensed reports of Dail proceedings dry and unsatisfying, and I am sure talks,

Retruening Co., Shannon Airport, and Patrick Culhane, American Overseas Airways, do., who appeared and made explanations.

## LIMERICK WOMAN IN U.S.A.

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### DIES AT AGE OF 97

An American newspaper published at Adair, Iowa, has the following obituary notice of a Limerick woman who died there on Thursday, March 4th, at the fine age of 97:—

"Ellen Melville, 97, aunt of the Rev. William A. Melville, pastor of St. John's Catholic Church in Adair, died last Thursday at the rectory.

"She was born December 27, 1850, in Limerick, Ireland. She came to New London, Conn., in 1909 to keep house for a brother who resided there. In 1921 she went to Shenandoah, Ia., to keep house for her nephew, Rev. Fr. Melville. Besides her nephew, Father Melville, she is survived by her niece, Margaret Melville in Adair, and several nephews and nieces in Ireland.

Funeral services were held at 10 o'clock, Saturday morning, 65h March, in St. John's Catholic Church. Requiem High Mass was sung by Father Melville, while the sermon was given by the Very Rev. P. N. McDermott of Atlantic. Assisting at the services were Very M. J. O'Connor of Wlota, and Rev. M. J. Flood, of Casey. Burial took place in St. John's Catholic Cemetery.

Casket bearers were Mark Cullen, William Devereux, J. A. Driscoll, Frank Parsons, John Tinti, and Frank Ward."

The Limerick nephews of the late Ellen Melville are Mr. Denis Foley, Income Tax Office, O'Connell St., and his brothers, Messrs. Con, James, Martin and William Foley. Her nieces living in Limerick are Mrs. Carr, Mrs. Kelly, and Miss Nellie Foley. To all the bereaved relatives of the deceased we extend our very sincere sympathy.

## HAND WON TURF SCHEME

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### DISSATISFACTION IN WEST LIMERICK

The discontinuance of the hand won turf scheme was the subject of much critical comment at a largely attended re-organisation meeting of Ashford (West Limerick) Fianna Fail Cumann, at which Mr. Michael Begley, chairman, presided.

Delegates pointed out that the abandonment of the scheme would result in widespread unemployment and hardship in the area, which is one of the most extensive turf producing areas in the county.

Mr. D. O Briain, T.D., and Mr. James Collins, T.D., addressed the meeting and emphasised the importance of maintaining the organisation on an active basis in order

were assuredly set?

## MONOPOLY OF THE UPPER CLASS.

It was merely another example, they agreed, of university education slipping gradually back to what it used to be in days long gone by—days which, it was falsely hoped, were gone forever—the monopoly of the upper class and the aristocrat.

It was pointed out that last year Mr. de Valera in the Dail had spoken of extending U.C.D.'s buildings and even of setting up a new college in another university for Dublin! The idea was ridiculous, they held. Why not give one to Limerick? Now is her opportunity! "But," I queried, "what about changing the Constitution? Would that not be a difficult task?" They agreed it might be a troublesome job, but a plea of hardship could hardly be countenanced as an adequate excuse in such an important matter as this, and, at any rate, since Mr. de Valera, Chancellor of the N.U.I., who must surely speak with some sense of responsibility even hinted at the foundation of a new university in Dublin, the constitutional difficulty cannot be quite so colossal. And, as for money, had the Chancellor not mentioned on the same occasion that he was prepared to lay out millions? "Limerick's day has come," quite a few of them concluded; "let the Government take at least one short step down the road to 'decentralisation.'"

### LIMERICK'S FUTURE.

In support of their arguments many referred to the position of importance Limerick is beginning to assume by virtue of its proximity to Rineanna, and were quite prepared to hold that the possibilities of its developing into a great intellectual centre, as a result, are very great. Then some pointed to the new research project in the Institute for Advanced Studies, which was discussed in the Dail last year, and argued that a university would be a better place for such development. The Institute Research, they say, may be all very helpful to medical men, for instance, but is it not rather superfluous as yet, and soaring a little too high, to go so minutely into agricultural research, when the main need of the average farmer is to have the more "elementary" matters explored and become acquainted with them? Yet the facilities for the latter are, at the moment, both inadequate and unsatisfactory. "Let this be your aim for the new university in Limerick," they say; "let the agricultural faculty predominate." And, pointing to the cultural, health and general welfare aims of the Scientific Research, of the Historical Research Commission and of the Folklore Commission of U.C.D., they draw a parallel picture of agriculture ("the greatest of them all") and since new accommodation is necessary, ask the question: "Why not give Limerick a chance to go ahead with this?" (While, of course, laying stress on agriculture, the other faculties are understood to exist side by side with it). They recalled that some years ago, Mr. de Valera made a statement with regard to university education, and quoted him as saying: "If it were possible, I would like to see

ted a university minded me of a member of ly, and thou position nicely versity in Li next thing yo people of N Rathkeale will exactly the da ter students v ting up of throughout t would be apt and developi lose their in the hold wh minds of the one single U the better, pro accommodation son many are extension of but not of th new university

This "minor would be pre scholarships students to colleges, beca greater and n versity is and ronized, the n university in sense, the m be its scholar be its power better to hav great universi (comparatively educated in t true culture a among their f doubt if Limer could provide great number who might b the new unive

### ARTS AND FA

Asked what the suggestion Commerce Fa provide cours years before to an "establ his degree, ev astic were ma doubtful abou in the first p the already f a university which student condly, the ed would not be pointed out t B.A. and B.C of two years First Arts or since half the is done each scarcely mer Again, it is might tend to a ready pack whereas mecl fields have th now; or, par tion is asked, and Arts F lished be we The general would be by cause it can county at lar interested in support. An question is whole campa of expedienc themselves?"

### ATMOSPHER