

RENT COLLECTORS And The Question Of Pensions

MEMORANDUM FROM L.G.D.

THE difficulty of making County Council rent collectors pensionable because of the part-time nature of their duties, was stressed in a memorandum from the Department of Local Government, considered by the Limerick County Council meeting on Saturday, Mr. J. W. Carty, Chairman, presiding.

MINISTER'S OPINION. "In the Minister's opinion," continued the memorandum, "an office of rent collector under any local authority may be deemed to be whole-time and pensionable where the holder has no other gainful occupation and the maximum earnings, whether by way of poundage, salary and commission, or a combination of these for a full collection for the year ended 31st March, 1949, or any subsequent year, exceed (a), £200, or (b), £150 where the number of houses to be collected from exceeds 350. Cases will arise where the collector has another gainful occupation not being an office or employment under the local authority. If such is merely a means of supplementing his income and is not his main source of livelihood, the collector could be treated as if he had no other gainful occupation. Subject to the qualifications in paragraph below, a collector who fulfils the above conditions and has been properly appointed to his office may, therefore, be deemed to be holder of a whole-time and pensionable office for the purposes of the Act of 1948 or of previous Acts notwithstanding any statement in the terms of appointment that the post was part-time."

ADVICE AT TO FUTURE APPOINTMENTS.

The memorandum stated that a rent collector who held any other office under the Council, provided that the maximum income from his offices exceeded £200 at the end of March, 1949, might also be considered for a pension. It advised that whenever, in future, a permanent rent collector was being appointed, he should, if the Council thought it desirable, be employed as a whole-time, pensionable official in accordance with the appropriate qualifications and particulars of office approved by the Minister.

Rent collectors who were deemed to be pensionable officers, the memorandum went on, would not be compulsorily insurable under the Unemployment Insurance and National Health Insurance Acts. They would, however, be liable for compulsory insurance for the purpose of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Acts unless their annual rate of earnings exceeded the statutory limit. Pensionable collectors might, if they wished, continue to pay National Health and Unemployment Insurance voluntarily.

DECISION ADJOURNED.

The Chairman suggested that as the memorandum was long and involved, the Council should adjourn a decision on it until the members had read it more carefully and this was unanimously agreed to.

DANCE LICENCES

EARLIER NOTICE NEEDED

Superintendent J. J. Cooney, G.S., at Rathkeale Court on Monday, objected to what he described as last-minute applications for occasional dance licences. According to the Court rules, he said, he should be given at least 48-hours' notice of the dances, but four of the applications that day were only handed to him at the beginning of the Court. This, he protested, was very unfair to himself and the Garda, and they often had to make special arrangements for the Garda supervision of dances.

Mr. Donal Ahern, solr., who applied for a licence for a Clann na Poblachta dance at Rathkeale Deel Hall on Sunday night, 15th October, explained that certain formalities in connection with the dance could not be made until Saturday, with the result that he could not notify the Superintendent until that morning.

Mr. M. F. Noonan (Messrs. Liston & Co., solrs.), who appeared for the other applicants - Rathkeale C.Y.M.S.-pointed out that similar dances had been granted in the past. The Justice said he would grant the applications on this occasion, but in future applications not received in time would not be considered, and he asked solrs. to bear this in mind.

BLIND PILGRIMS AT LOURDES.

Eight hundred blind men, women and children, accompanied by a number of blind priests, made a three-day pilgrimage to Lourdes to pray for patience and courage in their affliction. Cardinal Saliège, of Toulouse, made a special visit to the shrine to spend a few hours with the pilgrims.

WIZARD OF THE BALLCOURT

Late J. J. Bowles And His Record PROWESS AS GREAT AS HIS MODESTY

NO greater exponent of the ancient game of handball ever graced a playing pitch than the late John J. Bowles, who for 18 years was undisputed champion of Ireland. He brought to the game a skill and gracefulness that were new and set others in quest of the uncanny quickness of eye, anticipatory knowledge of ball-progress and sound judgment in tossing that were characteristics of his methods of play. To see "J. J." in togs as he faced up to an opponent was a sight to be remembered. Always fully trained, not carrying an ounce of superfluous flesh, he was a picture of what an athlete should be. The speed with which he carried himself throughout the most strenuous game suggested that it was impossible to tire him, while he was always reliable to bring forth cheers and hand-clapping as he "walled" balls that to all appearances were impossible to "take."

AT QUILTY'S "ALLEY." As a boy, John Joe was a regular visitor to Quilty's Ball Alley in Thomondgate, where he was permitted to play when the "matches" of the evening had been concluded. From the first game he played it was observed that he was the possessor of a technique that was worthy of encouragement and development. Some of those who at the time were considered good exponents took an interest in the apparently frail young fellow who was a new-comer, but soon, he had advanced so rapidly, he was being asked how he managed to take balls that were tossed to hop as if glued to the side walls. His sense of position, when in hand, also caused surprise, while his "killing" of a ball was the wonderment of those who thought they were teaching him the game. One by one he defeated the "good uns" at Quilty's and soon there was no player who could take him on with any hope of success. So things went on for some time until a few of the "wise ones" became convinced that J. J. was playing out of his class in the local alley and steps were taken to persuade him to compete for honours of a higher order than were to be won at Quilty's. His splendid childlike simplicity won him ardent admirers while even yet a boy; his lack of "side" made him one eagerly sought after in and away from the alley, and his ready willingness to teach a less skillful opponent, won for him a host of friends who later became his most ardent admirers when he was winning championships all over Ireland.

GREAT PROMISE FROM THE START.

From the first Sunday afternoon that he appeared in the Rutland Street Ball Court he continued to give promise of becoming a very outstanding player, soon conquering those who up to his appearance amongst them in competitive play were the admitted and accepted most scientific exponents of the game. In those far-off days much interest was taken in two-a-side contests and not long after John Joe had been playing in his new place of endeavour he was paired with Mick Heffernan (R.I.P.) to represent Limerick in many outside centres. Mick Heffernan was a powerfully-built man and a grand handballer—in fact, for some years he was the only player who could extend Bowles and win a game occasionally from him, so that those competent to judge gave it as their opinion that Bowles and Heffernan would make an unbeatable pair. Soon their confidence time was proved to be well placed as

John Joe and Mick met and defeated all comers at many ball courts throughout the country. Winning matches became a habit with them—so much so that local interest flagged in the contests they took part in and was transferred to a desire to see Bowles in action in an attempt for the championship of Ireland. His many supporters and admirers would not listen to his objections to engage in championship bouts and the outcome was that John Joe agreed to enter for premier contests, in preparation for which he trained strenuously, generously helped by local players.

One of his first away from home engagements was against the late T. O'B. Kelly, solicitor, at Fedamore. John J. was accompanied by his brother Mick (R.I.P.) and travelled on a car drawn by an ass. When about half-way to Fedamore, the car broke down and they had to complete the journey on foot. "J. J." won the match but he did not say how he got home.

GLORIOUS TO WATCH.

Writing of "J. J." in the "Cork Examiner" of 12th March last, "Carbery" said:—"In his prime, Bowles was a glorious handballer to watch. He had a deadly toss of bullet speed; he could 'butt' a



LATE J. J. BOWLES.

handball with either hand and showed wonderful speed and Court craft. If he had any fault it was to be found in his unusually shy personality. Almost 6 feet tall, he was beautifully built, and the surprising part was that despite all his years with the alley cracker he retained the soft, slender, long-fingered hands of a violinist.

"J. J." was partnered in many a hard played game by Johnny Ryan during almost 35 years of active participation as a handballer, and through that long period they often played games against each other. Johnny was a great friend of "J. J."—perhaps his greatest—and for the following account of his activities, the writer is indebted to him:

THE RECORDS.

Handball Records of the late J. J. Bowles, Thomondgate, Limerick (By John Ryan, 5 St. Peter St., Limerick). 1902—J. J. Bowles beat W. O'Herlihy (Cork), at Cork, in the Final by 6 games to 2 for the Championship. 1903—W. O'Herlihy (Cork) beat J. J. Bowles, at Cork, in the Final by 5 games to 4 for the Championship. 1904—Final between O'Herlihy and Bowles (not finished owing to a dispute) for the Championship when Bowles was leading at the able pair. Soon their confidence time was proved to be well placed as

hill (Kanturk), at Cork, in the Semi-Final by 4 games to 1 for the Championship.

1905—J. J. Bowles beat J. O'Brien (Fermoy), at Cork, in the Final by 4 games to 1 for the Championship. 1906—J. J. Bowles beat Tim Twohill (Kanturk), at Kanturk, in the Semi-Final by 4 games to 1 for the Championship.

1906—J. J. Bowles beat P. Carver (Kanturk), at Kanturk, in the Final by 4 games to 1 for the Championship.

1906—J. J. Bowles beat W. O'Herlihy, at Cork, in a challenge match by 5 games to nil—(J. J. Bowles staking £20 to O'Herlihy's £10).

1907—J. J. Bowles beat J. Regan (Tralee), at Tralee, in a Friendly Rubber by 5 games to 3.

1907—No All-Ireland in Cork this year.

1908—No All-Ireland in Cork this year.

1909—J. J. Bowles beaten by J. Kelly (America) for the World's Championship by 8 games to 2 in a Home and Home Rubber.

1910—J. J. Bowles beaten by P. Coyne (Carlow), in a Home and Home Rubber by 11 games to 9 for the Championship.

1911—J. J. Bowles beat M. Franklin (Cahir), at Limerick, by 9 games to nil for the Championship.

1911—J. J. Bowles beat W. O'Herlihy (Cork), at Cork, by 5 games to nil for the Championship.

1912—J. J. Bowles beat P. Coyne (Carlow), in a Home and Home Rubber by 11 games to 1 for the Championship.

1913—J. J. Bowles beat P. Lyons (Dublin), in a Home and Home Rubber for the Championship by 10 games to 3.

1914—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1915—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1916—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1917—J. J. Bowles beat P. Lyons (Dublin) by 8 games to 2 in a Home and Home Rubber for the Championship and £50 aside.

1918—J. J. Bowles beat J. Hunt (Sligo), in a Home and Home Rubber at Cork and Limerick for the Championship by 8 games to 1 and £50 aside.

1919—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1920—J. J. Bowles beaten by Morgan Pembroke (Dublin), by 8 games to 4 Home and Home Rubber for the Championship and £100 aside.

1921—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1922—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1923—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1924—J. J. Bowles played no Championship.

1925—J. J. Bowles beat J. Moriarty (Malloy), in a Home and Home Rubber for the Championship at Cork City and Kiltinane, Co. Limerick (Dr. Hartly Cup Competition), by 7 games to 5.

1925—J. J. Bowles beaten in the All-Ireland Final Home and Home Rubber by W. Alderidge (Kilkenny).

1926—J. J. Bowles and S. Gleeson (Fedamore), beat P. Ormonde and J. Brady (Ballyforen), at Fermoy, in the Munster Doubles Final under S.A.A. Rules.

1926—J. J. Bowles and S. Gleeson (Fedamore), beat P. Dalton and J. Lucas (Kilkenny) in the Final of the All-Ireland Doubles Amateur Championship under G.A.A. Rules by 7 games to 5 in a Home and Home Rubber at Limerick and Clogh, Co. Kilkenny.

GREAT OARSMAN ALSO.

"J. J." was also a great oarsman and one of the famous Shannon R.C. senior eight, stroked by the late Paddy Healy, of more than 40 years ago. As in handball, he was shy and retiring as an oarsman, always avoiding the limelight. He was held in the highest esteem and affection by his club-mates of Shannon R.C. because of his great club loyalty and fine outlook and behaviour as a sportsman. John Joe Bowles was a prominent figure in Irish sport for many years, and this inadequate tribute is written at the request of readers of the "Limerick Leader," who expressed the view that a record of his achievements would, as well as being a tribute to the memory of a great Limerick sportsman, be an incentive to the revival of interest amongst the younger generation in the grand game of handball, the championship of Ireland for which was held so long by John Joe Bowles. M.H.

ROWING PROWESS

Record Of Late "Jim" Shanahan

GREAT WEIGHT-THROWER ALSO

IT was with very deep and sincere regret (writes Mr. Ned Naughton) that I read in the "Limerick Leader" recently of the death of my beloved cousin, Jim Shanahan, Batavia, Chicago. In his young days, Jim came to Limerick City and went to business. Kind, gentle and unassuming, with the heart of a lion, he grew up and found his strength. His first step was to join Shannon Rowing Club, very famous in those days, forty years ago. Jim was twenty years then. In 1907 the famous Metropolitan regatta came off, and Shannon Rowing Club sent up a senior four—Paddy Healy, Mick O'Brien, Jim Shanahan and Jack Hall—with O'Toole as cox, if possible to capture the Metropolitan Cup. On that memorable day every club in



Jim Shanahan after winning a Sculling Championship event.

Ireland was represented and I remember the words Paddy Healy said to me—"I am confident young Shanahan will last out the last hundred yards"—and he did. Shannon won and Derry was second. There was loud cheering by the contingent from Limerick when Shannon passed the winning post. I will never forget that glorious day for Limerick and Shannon Rowing Club. Jim said to me after the race—"I'd die or win." That was the spirit of young Shanahan in those good old days 42 years ago.

After capturing a few more cups, Jim made up his mind to travel to U.S.A., and with his friend, Paddy Leahy (R.I.P.), of Charleville, they left their native land. Paddy was champion high jumper at that time.

Jim Shanahan became a great weight thrower in the United States, winning the Middle West championship in the 16 cwt. and the 16 lbs. hammer in July, 1932.

DEATH OF MISSION STALL PROPRIETOR

The death occurred on Thursday, October 6th, at his residence, Askeaton, of Mr. James Murphy (writes our Askeaton correspondent). Deceased was well known throughout the country as a mission stall proprietor. His kind and gentle manner endeared him to all. He had been in declining health for some time past and his passing is much regretted by a large section of the community.

The remains were removed to St. Mary's Parish Church on Friday and the funeral to the Abbey Cemetery was attended by a huge cortege of friends and relatives.

The officiating clergy were: Rev. Father O'Donnell, P.P., and Rev. Father O'Dea, C.C.

TREATY STONE

What Local Exiles Think

APPROVAL OF RECENT DECISION

LIMERICK City and County exiles in New York heartily approve of Limerick City Council's decision to leave the Treaty Stone where it is. This will be seen from the subjoined letter for publication sent us by Mr. Martin A. McNamara, Recording Secretary of the Limerick Men's B. and S. Association, Inc., Empire Hotel, 53rd St. and Broadway, New York (home address 101 West 93rd St., New York 25, N.Y.):—

THE LETTER.

The following is Mr. McNamara's letter:— As Recording Secretary of the Limerick Men's B. and S. Association, Inc., I was instructed to write to the Limerick Newspapers expressing the views of the members with regard to the moving of the "Treaty Stone."

It was, indeed, a shock and a surprise to the members that the Limerick City Council was entertaining the idea of moving the "Treaty Stone" from its present location at the end of Thomond Bridge. It was sincerely hoped that the "Council" would vote to leave the monument at the spot in which it is so familiar to all of us. Since the meeting I have learned that the "Council" has voted to leave it remain where it has stood for so many years: I'm sure that I'm expressing the sincere thanks and gratitude of the members when I say that the Council is to be congratulated on the action taken in the matter.

EXILES' LOVE OF IRELAND.

One might wonder at the interest shown by those who are so far away. But one has to be an "Exile" to fully realise the love and affection in the hearts of all Irishmen and women for that Little Green Isle across the sea, a love that has been inculcated in their sons and daughters, a love that they have so often proved when called to do something on behalf of the land from which their parents have come.

To those of us who come from the City and County of Limerick the "Treaty Stone" is the symbol of all they hold dear. It is Ireland and Limerick in one. It is Faith and Motherland. It is the symbol of Ireland's honour and trust, the symbol of England's dishonour and broken word.

Once again, may I express the sincere thanks and gratitude of Limerick's sons and daughters in exile to the "Council" for the action they have taken.

ADVICE TO WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS.

The subject of those who contemplate leaving Limerick for the United States was also discussed. While we welcome them and will do all we can to help secure positions for them or any other aid we can give them, the situation at present is not very favourable so far as employment is concerned. They would be well advised if they were to postpone the trip for the time being.

The meeting closed with a vote of condolence to Matthew Doherty on the recent death of his mother in Limerick City and a prayer was offered up for the repose of her soul.

MARTIN A. McNAMARA, Recording Secretary.

Advertisement for Bakewell Tarts. Includes text: 'LEARN THE SECRET OF THESE DELICIOUSLY LIGHT Bakewell Tarts', 'THERE'S one simple rule that experienced home-bakers know...', and 'Here's the recipe—cost, about 1/2d. each'.

Advertisement for Neave's Food. Includes text: 'is for NOURISHMENT and that means Neave's', 'The ailing, the weak and the very young, all need extra nourishment...', and 'Babies are all the better for Neave's Food'.

Advertisement for 'Race-Cards'. Includes large text: '£100 CASH MUST BE WON WEEKLY FOR "RACE-CARDS"', and 'Test your skill in this fascinating new Competition!'. Includes an illustration of a horse race.