



The Irish Counties Fournal

MAY, 1971

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SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Are you a good father?

Never, since Adam saw one of his sons go wrong, has it been an easy task to be a good father. Probably it is a little more difficult today than it has ever been. One of the reasons for this is that the work by which we support our family is more and more taking us out of our home. Many of us are occupied with hard and demanding jobs that leave us little energy at the day's end for the task of being a good father. Other fathers have to travel a great deal, almost leaving them strangers in their own homes. Even under the best conditions, a father is gone from home during most of his children's waking hours. This tends to throw upon the mother almost the entire burden of caring for and raising the children.

Difficult as it may be at times, as good fathers we cannot abandon our task of sharing in the education of our children. We have a place which no-one else can take. Sons and daughters look up to fathers as the personification of wisdom, strength and courage. Father's words and actions have a profound effect upon their children's growing minds and hearts.

Therefore, every father, no matter how limited his time or how tiring his work, should make some definite effort in the education of his children. He can listen to their tales, share in their adventures, read them stories. He can impart simple, fundamental lessons of morality. He can review lessons they are learning at school. He can teach his boys the elements of the virtue of manhood and his girls modesty and refinement. He can broaden their outlook and warn them against future dangers by giving them the benefit of his years of experience.

Because the mother is with the children most of the time while the father is out at work, she should be able to enlist his co-operation in training them by using him as a "court of appeal". Because the father is a figure of strength, he can at times more effectively handle cases requiring special discipline. In doubtful cases, too, the mother should be able to depend on father taking an interest in the problem and assisting her with his judgement.

Unless he is careful, it is possible for a man whose work keeps him active in the business or professional world to lose touch with his children. He has his adult associates and friends; he has his work to think about, even when he is at home; he has papers, magazines and books to read and so he comes to feel that he should not be expected to waste his time with the children. "Don't disturb Daddy" is a slogan around his home.

Children might just as well be orphans if their fathers never have time to spend with them. It is through companionship that a father learns to know and love his children, that he gains their confidence and opens the way for their asking his advice. Every father could play games with his children, could take them to places of interest; could take walks and rides with them. Only in this way will he gain the confidence and trust that will bring his children to him in their time of need.

As head of the family, the father has the obligation to guide his children towards maturity and to stand by as an experienced adviser when important decisions are to be made. He should learn, of course, that he has no right to decide absolutely and finally what his children shall do with their lives. It is not for him to determine whether a son

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or daughter should marry, or enter the religious life, or whether they should adopt one career or another. Every human being should select his own vocation with light and help from God. Every human being must, in the final analysis, adopt a line of work that is in accord with his own tendencies and capabilities, and not necessarily with those of his father.

However, in making such important decisions, a father's wise advice can be of great help to a young man or woman.

Being a good father is, indeed, no easy task. But it is the most important job of all. That is why the world respects and loves the men who fulfil their duties as fathers with courage and unselfishness.

THE COMMON MARKET

The majority of people in Britain and Ireland are against joining the Common Market, yet the Governments of both countries seem to regard it as the panacea for all economic ills, and are seeking admission on what they style favourable terms.

"Favourable terms", is virtually like the post war "bargaining power"; a catch phrase and even sensible people are mouthing it as a portentious economism in answer to simple enquiries regarding the benefits which will eventuate from Common Market entry. Pressure for information regarding the plusses which will negate the minuses of French farm subsidisation is swept aside with a devastating reference to the huge open market which will be available to British and Irish manufacturers.

My fellow countrymen should remember the grand open market that we were promised by the act of union and bear in mind, just as a captive audience are not always captivated; an open market is only open as far as its customers want to purchase: and remembering that America built up its economy behind the strongest tarriff barrier the world has ever experienced. Do they feel that the infant Irish industries could compete in an open market at home and abroad, even if it were in the best sense "open".

No doubt the highly specialised and established British Industries could hold their own in a genuine open market, and in my own business — fishing tackle manufacture — I am all for the tariff free business. But the fact that the manufacturers in this country will have to subsidise the French Agriculturalists means that he will be paying a tariff in reverse, while his Continental counterpart has no intention of subscribing to the health and comfort of the Irish and British farmers.

Further, the abolition of the 12 mile limit, will allow the Continental trawlers to ruin the sport of rod and line sea anglers. Already the Frenchmen are enquiring re moorings in Carrick on Shannon and Maidenhead in anticipation of Seine net forrays against Roach and Bream.

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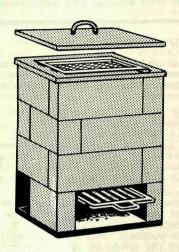
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What do the rest of you think? Let's hear from you.-Editor.

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WHEN THE DEAR LITTLE PLANT WAS PART OF OUR DIET

In a recent story in an Irish Weekly Magazine, the Author of an Article on the Post Reformation period in Ireland sets out to explain what is not generally known in connection with The Shamrock. Before the advent of the Potatoe, the Dear Little Plant formed part of the Irish National Diet, and it continued to be part of the Gaelic Menu into the 18th century. Contrary to widespread belief our ancestors were comparatively frugal at table. Compared with the Saxon and Norsemen they were almost ascetic. They ate and drank little and the poorer sections of the people were at least vegetarians.

From pre-historic times till the 17th century corn and milk were the chief food of our ancestors. The kinds of corn grown were in order of popularity, Oats, Barley, Wheat and Rye. Milk was consumed by the early Irish in great quantities. We have evidence that the Irish raised vast herds of cattle and cattle raids appear as often in our old legends as in Wild West stories today. Milk constituted virtually the sole food of the ordinary people in the summer months. When the English ravished Munster in the age of Queen Elizabeth I, they concentrated, between massacres and burnings, on the destruction of cattle everywhere they went.

The most important kind of flesh meat seems to have been pork or bacon. Frequent mention of swineherds is made in early Irish Literature and we have the supreme example of St. Patrick on Slemish. When it came to the more general section of vegetables the Irish showed a range and variety which was, unfortunately banished by the all-satisfying spud.

There may be some connection between shamrock-diet and hair growth, for exactly four centuries ago, in 1571, Campion makes what is the very first mention in English of the plant in our Isle in the same breath as our hair style: "Proud are they of long, crisped forelocks and do nourish same with all their cunning; to crop the front thereof they take it for a notable piece of villainy. Shamrocks, herbes and watercresses they feed upon with oatmeal and butter".

As Munster was laid waste, our unfortunate ancestors were forced to eat all manner of herbs including shamrocks. John Speed, the antiquarian, writing in 1611 of the Irish said: "Their diet was slender, feeding upon watercresses, roots, mushrooms, shamrocks and butter tempered with oatmeal."

Swift and Virile.

As a change from the foregoing notes of condescension we have the words of a famous Oxford Scholar, Henry Mundy, published in a lengthy Latin treatise in 1680. He was an ardent advocate of vegetarian diet and asked his learned readers to behold how swift and virile were the Irish that nourish themselves with their shamrock. A Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, writing of Shamrock Bread in 1737 said: "The swift and agile Irish nourish themselves with their shamrock which is the Purple Trefoil; for they make from the flowers of this plant, breathing a honeyed odour, a bread which is more pleasant than that made from the Spurrey already mentioned."

STANDING INVITATION TO THE IRISH SOCIETIES



A standing invitation is extended to all Irish County Associations and G.A.A. Clubs from Louis and Joan Maher, mine hosts of the Birkbeck Tavern. 119 Elthorne Road, Upper Holloway Road, London N.19. At present large scale renovations are being carried out that will make this North London mecca one of the finest meeting points in that area.

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Some think the shamrock our fathers fed on was the wood sorrel, but the weight of opinion is in favour of the plant we now know as shamrock (Trifolium). Though the famed Book of Kells repeats the Trefoil Motif, it was not till many centuries later that it was linked with our National Apostle and the story of the sermon on Tara has no foundation in fact. Nevertheless it deserves to be true. Irish literature is curiously reticent about it.

A certain English Observer, Thomas Dinely, writing about the year 1681 said: "The 17th March yearly is St. Patrick's, an immovable Feast, when the Irish of all stages and conditions wear crosses in their hats, some of pins, some of green ribbons and the vulgar superstitiously wear shamrocks, three leaved grass, which they likewise eat.

Now for the Moral of this story.

So the Irish were eating the Shamrock long before they were drowning it. It might even be that the diet of shamrock helped preserve our race, and give it that virility and endurance which were essential to mere survival during the centuries of persecution and oppression which were intended to exterminate the Irish people. In our own day vegetarians, dieticians, athletes and others might profitably investigate the potentialities of "The Dear Little Plant."

THE IRISH IN BRITAIN HISTORY CENTRE

WEXFORDMEN'S ASSOCIATION IS TOP IRISH COUNTY IN LONDON FOR 1970

It was announced at the annual dinner-dance of the Council of Irish Counties Association that the Wexford Association had been adjudged 1970's top county association in London. Wexford association received top prize (£400) at the dinner, held in the Gresham Ballroom, The Archway.

The Council's President (Mr. Tom E. Gorman) kindly donated the

prize fund of £1,000.

The Clare Association was awarded the second prize (£200) and also awarded the John Vaughan memorial cup for the best work of welfare activity for the Irish Centre, Camden Town. Other awards were Donegal and Kerry (£100 each), Galway and Monaghan (£75 each) and Leitrim (£50) in a special competition for counties entering for the first time.

A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

The most successful Easter weekend involving Wexford people ever held in London took place with the arrival of the famous Geraldines and O'Hanrahans hurling and football clubs.

They arrived on Friday and were met by officials of the all-Wexford Fr. Murphys, the London County Board G.A.A. and the London Wexfordmen's Association

Climax

Sunday was the main attraction with two great games of hurling at Hayes. The visitors were hot favourites to win Corn Ui Mhurcu in the hurling encounter and did so after a stout challenge from the Fr. Murphys, who came into their own in the second-half and finished within three points of the winners.

The football game produced some lively play and once again the Barrow Boys triumphed over the Fr. Murphys and carried the London Wexfordmens Association Perpetual Challenge Cup across the Irish

Sea.

The climax of the weekend came when the Geraldines and O'Hanrahans were lavishly entertained at the Cricklewood Hotel to a supper elegantly prepared by the Fr. Murphys Ladies Committee.

Tom Ryan, Chairman of the Club welcomed the visitors and

proposed the toast to the guests.

Chairman, Dick Bailey, from New Ross, representing the Wexford County Board G.A.A., replied and paid tribute to the Fr. Murphys for the delightful reception.

Gift

Amid great applause, he presented £500 to Mr. Danny J. O'Leary, the Wexford County Board G.A.A. returns of the Church Gate Collection for the Kennedy Brothers Memorial Fund, to build a suitable centre for Wexford emigrants in London.

Mr. O'Leary, Paddington, Chairman of the London Wexfordmens Association Kennedy Brothers Memorial Committee, thanked Mr.

Bailey for the magnificent gift.

He noted that New Ross headed the list of donations and was sure that this had been made possible through the great work of Mr. Bailey and his excellent committee who had made the journey to London for the first time.

He also asked Mr. Bailey to convey to Mr. Paddy Roche, Secretary of the Wexford G.A.A., their heartfelt thanks for their contribution to help their brothers and sisters who had chosen London as the next best place to home.

Mr. John Lyng, Secretary of the Geraldines and O'Hanrahans presented hurleys, hurley balls and footballs to the London Wexford Fr. Murphys and hoped that they would have many victories in 1971.

He also made a suitable presentation of a statuette to Mr. Tom

Harrell, Cricklewood, for all his work in connection with the tour.

Mr. Frank Sheehan, former New Ross player and now Secretary
of the London County Board, extended the Board's greetings to the
New Ross team and the Fr. Murphys for the fine fare served up that day. He was sure that both New Ross and County Wexford and the London Fr. Murphys had a bright future.

The final presentation came when Mr. Willie Ronan, trainer of the New Ross boys rose to pay tribute to one of the New Ross players

done for the New Ross and Wexford G.A.A.

and former official and county hurler Tom Murphy.

He said that Mr. Murphy had kindled the light for the present team and his organising ability had made the evening possible.

He spoke of the work begun by Mr. Murphy in New Ross. It was going extremely well with many improvements to the Kennedy Park. It gave him great pleasure to inform Mr. Murphy that he had been made first honorary member of the club in recognition of all he had

He then presented him with an inscribed silver salver to mark the

occasion.

Mr. Murphy, speaking in Gaelic and English, said that he could not find the right words to even say thank you. He said that it was a labour of love to work for his old club, the town of New Ross and the Gaelic Athletic Association. He appreciated the honour and was proud of the fact that New Ross had won the two cups put up by him and the London Wexfordmen's Association.

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CLARE ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

I am delighted to report the success of our Association in winning the John Vaughan Trophy together with a prize of £200 in the Tommy

Gorman presentation fund.

The presentation was made at the Council of Counties Dinner Dance held at the Gresham Ballroom on Thursday evening last. Our chairman Sean Igoe was present with a party of twenty from Clare and he gratefully accepted the prizes on our behalf. It was a wonderful evening for the Clare Association and we were very popular

Alas we were beaten in the final of the Quiz but we put up a good show and Dublin can say that they had all the luck to beat our team. In this years competition we are drawn against Limerick in the

An early reminder regarding the forthcoming Buffet and Social which will be held at the Irish Centre, on June 12th. Tickets will be available from members of the committee this weekend, £1 each. We are also organising an outing to the seaside later this year and we would accept (gratefully) any suggestions to make this even more entertaining than previous outings.

This is a call to all East Clare people

The Chairman of the Hand Ball Association Tuamgraney has written to me requesting that I contact members from East Clare to inform you of the improvements to the Hand Ball Alley with the erection of dressing rooms etc. This is costing a considerable amount of money and they would be most grateful for any donations large or small. I know that many of you would wish to be associated with this project. Please send your donations to me and I will forward them to the chairman, all donations will be acknowledged and the senders name will be given to the Tuamgraney Committee should you so wish.

Regarding the enclosed information from Clive Fogerty concerning the Charter Flight to Shannon, will you please book early and avoid

being disappointed at a later date.

You will be notified in good time of any forthcoming functions in the meantime will you please send in your membership subscription of 10/- this will help to offset the cost of postage etc. Please ignore this reminder if you have already paid.
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THE KERRY ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

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Treasurer: Chairman: Secretary:
Mr. E. Guerin Mr. M. O'Connor
55 Warriner Gardens
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Our Annual Dinner held at the Penthouse Restaurant on Saturday, May 8th, was the best to date. Over 570 patrons attended and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. As you heard on the evening of the Dinner we have finalised the details for the Blessing and Official Opening of St. Brendans by His Lordship Dr. Eamonn Casey, Bishop of Kerry, for 2.30 p.m. on Whitsunday.

To mark the opening we are holding a Banquet again at the Penthouse Restaurant on Whit Saturday night and tickets are very limited. Only members can purchase tickets and the number to be catered for on this occasion is only 400 and we have as our Guest of Honour The Bishop of Kerry, Dr. Eamonn Casey, and members and officials of the Kerry team who are taking part in the Wembley Tournament.

As accommodation is limited at St. Brendans, attendance at the opening will be by invitation only, after the official opening the Bishop will be available to meet all members, their families and friends in the local hall (full details on the attached circular). We trust all members will bear with us on this occasion and look forward to meeting you all at the hall about 3.30 p.m. All members are welcome back to St. Brendans after we vacate the hall.

We are very pleased to tell you that we have once again been successful in gaining a prize in the Thomas E. Gorman Counties Competition, being in the unique position of winning a prize each year. We convey our sincere congratulations to the other counties on their achievements. To those who were unsuccessful I know that we can still rely on them to still carry on the good work.

We have been advised that to keep County Kerry alive the County Development Team are keen to attract some manufacturing industries to the County. With the various grants and tax reliefs it is a very good opportunity for people with technical skills to expand their business activities. Anybody who knows of any firms that may be interested or suitable should pass on the names and addresses to the officers of the Kerry Association who will contact the County Development Team. All communications are in no way binding and are treated in confidence. It is a duty for any Kerry man or woman who can assist in this matter should do so.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Gaelic Games and at the banquet on Whit Saturday night and at the opening of the Hostel and at the local hall afterwards.

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Chairman: Mr. E. McArdle, 10 Kingsmead Ave., Kingsbury, London N.W.9. Tel. 01-205 0509.

Secretary: Mr. W. Mulvanney, 7 Kenyon Street, Fulham, London S.W.6.

Our April meeting took place in the Irish Centre on Thursday the 1st, commencing with mass for members' recently deceased relatives. The meeting followed and it was with regret that we learned that our Treasurer, Mr. Tom Gorman, was resigning due to pressure of business. Mr. Gorman has been Treasurer since the association was formed almost six years ago and was instrumental with Mr. McArdle and other officers in doing so. He will be greatly missed and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him most sincerely for all the work he has done for the association and for his many acts of generosity to us. We hope that he will continue to come along to the odd meeting when he gets a chance and we look forward to welcoming him.

Saturday, April 24th, in St. Augustines Hall was a big night for both the Monaghan Association and Fr. B. Lawlor's Irish Welfare Bureau. The evening was a huge success after a mishap with our arranged band's transport had marred the beginning of the entertainment, "Wexford" Kiely and the Southbound Showband stepped gallantly in when they had finished their first engagement of the evening and turned our dance into a splendid success, many thanks to them all, and also to Mrs. Madge Rafferty and the St. Margaret's Irish School of Dancing, Canning Town, who looked and danced superbly. We hope when all ticket money is in we will be able to present Fr. Lawlor with a cheque for over £100 for his fund.

The Council of Counties Dinner was greatly enjoyed by our six representatives and we were delighted to receive 5th prize in the Thomas E. Gorman Presidents Prizes. Again we thank Mr. Gorman for his generosity in awarding these prizes. The London County Board G.A.A. dinner was also greatly enjoyed by our many members who attended.

Our next meeting takes place in the Irish Centre on Thursday, 6th May, when we will be selecting our quiz team for the first round against Roscommon and issuing for sale our Bacon and Cabbage Dinner tickets. This takes place on Saturday, June 26th, in the Irish Centre and we are delighted to have booked the Johnny McCauley Trio to provide the music for the evening.

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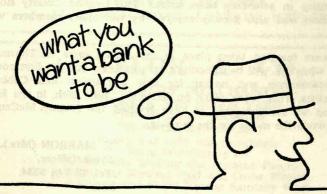
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CAVAN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

HISTORY OF THE CAVAN ASSOCIATION (Part III) by B. F. Mullen

As with most organisations, after a time enthusiasm waned, and so in 1956 no records were achieved. The A.G.M. held early in 1957 was well publicised. Held in the Irish Club, it produced a lot of new blood into the Associations. The Officers elected at the meeting were: (the late) Rev. Jack Moore, President; Rev. Seamus Hetherton, Chairman; Mr. James Conway, Vice Chairman; and Miss Maureen Keating, Secretary. Committee: Messrs J. J. Cassidy, James Clarke, Michael McGovern, B. F. Mullen and Miss Rose Flynn.

Meetings were held in St. George's Cathedral Hall, Southwark. James Conway gave four dance bookings in the Emerald Ballroom, and were held in May, June, July and August. These were very successful, and thanks to the generosity of James Conway and the work put into organising these dances by the members we were able to balance our budget. Records in ticket selling were set up by Rose Reilly, Tony

Mullen and John Carolan.

Outings organised to Windsor, Burnham Beeches, London Airport, Dunstable Downs, were well supported. Membership increased, and we entered a quiz team for the Guinness Cup. Our team in that year was: (the late) Rev. Jack Moore, Harry Mulvany, Gerry Kettyle, Jim Smyth and Brian Mullen, but after a good start they fell at Beechers Brook in a match against Dublin.

The year closed with a successful social at St. George's Cathedral Hall. We also gave a contribution to the Terence McSweeny Memorial

Chapel in Southwark Cathedral.—(To be continued).



The photograph is of the presentation of the John Vaughan Memorial Cup by the Rev. Liam Fanning, O.M.I., to Mr. James Sankey, Chairman, Cavan Association in London, in recognition of Cavan's support to the London Irish Centre in 1969, at the Council Dinner/Dance in the Gresham Ballroom on Thurs., 16th April, 1971.

(Photo by courtesy of Owen & Moroney) COMING EVENTS.—TIPPÈRARY v. CAVAN QUIZ CONTEST in THE DUBLIN CASTLE, Parkway, Camden Town, on Monday, 17th May, 1971, at 8.45 p.m. Friday 25th June— ANNUAL DANCE in the Gresham Ballroom.

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GALWAY ASSOCIATION

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Molloy's early death has brought sadness to his many friends everywhere. Although he was ill for a short time before his final journey we know that he rests in peace, the true reward of one who dispensed so much happiness around him while he lived amongst

us. May God hold him close.

Michael was a warm and vigorous man whose great energy was always at the service of others. Remember the times his jovial infectious personality stirred us as he sang for us the songs we so much wanted to hear again and again: remember how he talked softly to the little children about his singing and his songs. Teaching them his art of happiness, giving them a love of a culture he was so proud of through all his life: remember too the way he talked with older ones amongst us in the quiet moment or hummed a long forgotten tune for them.

He was often in some pain during the last year but, he never allowed this to interfere with his quiet and gentle generosity both public and private. He was a great and good man whose life among us here in London will be a happy memory for so many both young and

old.

May the green sward of his beloved Galway rest lightly on him. On going to press we are sad to learn of the passing of Larry O'Neill after a prolonged illness. To his widow and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.

His widow is Galway's representative to St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and to Clan Connacht.

DIARY.—The Birmingham Co. Galway Association have extended us an invitation to a dinner welcoming the Galway Rovers A.F.C. to the Midlands. Our dance at the Gresham, Archway, originally scheduled for the 9th May, is now to be held on the 16th May at the same venue.

The March winds appear to have blown our notes away. One snippet of information from Carna is worth recording — the cure for a hot-pants is a panty-hose — very refreshing. Focail eile, doibh siud ar bheagan Gaeilge, 'se, an leagan Gaeilge ar 'population explosion' na 'An

poc ar buille'. Carna abu aris.

The budget, much to the delight of Lord Stokes and the boys, didn't bother us too much. We are assured by the Sunday Times that in spite of the reduction in the bank rate that the pound has devalued in the last week. On the other hand the supermarkets tell us that the halving of S.E.T. will enable them to reduce their prices thus increasing our spending power. We would like to hear the ladies points of view. How did the Eurovision song contest grab you? Bernadette Ni Gallacolhair, a graduate from U.C.G. didn't let us down. If only the

How did the Eurovision song contest grab you? Bernadette Ni Gallacolhair, a graduate from U.C.G. didn't let us down. If only the D.J. shut up we might have heard some more of her. Angela Farrell's song was lacking the professional touch. Somehow it didn't have the vital punch line which, it would appear, is an essential ingredient. Yours truly liked her song but must confess it was a second hearing.

This Journal needs all of your support. Your scribe for one isn't exactly overwhelmed with literary contributions as you can well

imagine from reading the monthly Raimeis.

Beidh an Samhradh linn go luath agus an mor-slua ag dul abhaile go h Eirinn ar a saoire. Is deas a bheith sa mbaile. Ta an saol sa mormhor simpli ann. Sin ait nach bhfuil 'commuter companions' no 'induced and generated traffic' a' bhrughadh anuas orainn. A' bhfaca sibh B.O'B. ar an 'telly' agus e ar a shaimhin shogha ins na Blaskets? Sin an saol ata uainn. Ach cad faoi an compoirdeacht agus an tairgead? Sin an saol eile — Gleann an Ollagon. Pe sceal e ni mor duinn dul ag obair agus baineann e sin liom-sa freisin. Slan Libh.

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To the many readers of this very fine and much needed Journal it may have appeared that the Sligo Association had ceased to function or that we were not interested in supporting the Editor in her efforts

to give us much needed publicity but such is not the case.

Sligo like its fellow associations has been playing its part in the Social and Welfare fields with a good measure of success thanks to a very industrious Committee of Management who were all returned to office unopposed at our A.G.M. as a measure of the confidence

placed in them by all the members.

Officers re-elected as follows—President: Mr. T. A. Beckett (Tubbercurry), Chairman: Mr. T. Ford (Easkey), Hon. Sec.: Mrs. B. Conlon (Easkey), who also undertook the Treasurer's position as Mrs. A. Bennett, outgoing declined, because of business pressure, Vice-President: Mr. J. Conlon (Enniscrone), Vice-Chairman: Mr. O. Branley (Calry), while the only new member to join the outgoing officers was Miss M. Ffrench as Assistant Secretary. Delegates to C.I.C.A. Messrs P. Reynolds and J. Feeney. St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Mr. W. McGovern, Clan Connacht; Messrs. W. McGovern and O. Branley. Social Committee: Messrs. W. McGovern, F. McGovern, T. Wyms, P. O'Connell, B. Brett, J. Gillespie, T. Ralston.

The Very Rev. J. O'Grady (Cloonacool), a Columban Father well known in London circles, kindly agreed to act as Chaplain to the Association. This is the first time since its inception that the association has had a Chaplain, an oversight on our part as there has always been

many fine Sligo priests among our supporters and members.

Social-wise our members. friends and regular supporters enjoyed two great occasions at the Irish Centre, viz.—Christmas Dinner and Social in December and Bacon and Cabbage Supper and Social in March. Both occasions were spectacular successes and no effort was spared by the Management and Staff of the Centre to provide excellent

fare and we offer them our sincere thanks.

Welfare took an important part in our activities also and over £200 was handed out to Sligo people who, through illness or accident, were found to be temporarily incapacitated. Much is written nowadays of the need for bigger groups and associations and doubt expressed as to the usefulness of County Associations but we feel worthy cases may get overlooked in a great combine. The cases which it has been our pleasure to assist have never been members of the association and only through close contact with our County people can one hope to learn of the setbacks which befall our friends and act in the best

capacity to alleviate a temporary financial embarrassment.

Like most associations we find we are always appealing for more members as our numbers have no comparison to the number of Sligo people resident in London. One can only hope to achieve so much from the willing few and so much more can be done if we unite and work together in a common cause. Many have the misconception that officers have a big social round at the expense of the members but nothing is further from the truth. Another belief is that there are many appeals for subscriptions for various causes but this never occurred either. We therefore urge you Sligo friends come and join us when a Caed Mile Failte awaits you at our monthly meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month at The Goldhawk, Goldhawk Road, Shepherds Bush, W.12, or our Hon. Sec. will be only too pleased to supply information and membership forms.

Mise Le Meas,



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FERMANAGH ASSOCIATION

Having spent part of the Easter holiday in Fermanagh with summer-like weather, winter seemed far away. Some more of our members were also there to enjoy it.

The Chairman's nephew, Michael McCormack, was married on Easter Monday in St. Patrick's Church, Newtownards, County Down. Joseph, his brother (one of our former members) enjoyed his role as best man.

On Easter Sunday at Irvinestown, Thurles Sarsfields Hurling team, last year's Tipperary senior finalists, and Antrim County team, played in a challenge match and gave a wonderful exhibition of first-class Hurling. Also Fermanagh versus Thurles Minors. Thurles being the victors.

Fermanagh Gaelic Junior footballers, as a result of their win on Sunday at Breffni Park, are through to the Ulster Junior final, and will now meet Derry or Down on May 9th.

Being on holiday we did miss the Council of Irish Counties Annual Dinner, which most of our members in London attended and, according to reports, had a very enjoyable evening. The best ever. Oh! I nearly forgot. Des Ward (our former Chairman) and Mary have got a son, born at Easter. Congratulations.

Now back to home work. It is important that all members attend the next meeting as the Quiz Team will be selected to meet Carlow in the first round of the 1971 Inter-County Quiz Competition, also, arrangements will be made regarding the outing and other business of importance to members.

I trust we will a have taken leave of our "census" by on.

PROPERTAIN MARY McCORMACK (Mrs.) PROPER MARY McCORMACK (Mrs.)

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THE LEITRIM ASSOCIATION IN LONDON



Included in picture above are: Mr. Maurice O'Connor, Chairman Council Irish Counties; Mr. Bob Daly, Secretary Council; Mr. Jim Fox, Chairman Leitrim Association; Mr. and Mrs. Teirney, Leitrim; Mr. and Mrs. Pears, Leitrim; Mr. Brendan de Glin, Adjudicator; Sheila Goulding, Accompanist; Martin Whitty, Wexford Association.

Feis Breffni was a roaring success and the committee are delighted our five day event went off as planned. It was first class for organisation and a lot of time was spent in arranging the programme. Being the first county association in London to undertake this event we feel we were keeping alive our national culture.

With twelve schools competing, entries were large and standards high. In the primary Jig seven medals were awarded. Intermediate Slip Jig under twelve had eighteen recalls.

The adjudicator, Mr. McGlin, did an efficient job and was in his usual jovial mood. While the pianist, Sheila Goulding, played her part as a first class accompanist.

Championships started after 3 p.m. and we were honoured by the presence of the mayor and lady mayoress of Brent, Councillor Denis J. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson, also Mr. Tadgh Feehan, Irish Embassy, and Mr. Tommy Dunne, Aer Lingus Irish. Mr. Feehan spoke of how pleased he was to be associated with Feis Breffni and the Leitrim Association and their efforts in promoting Irish culture.

First championship on the programme was minor figure under 12. This trophy was donated by the Irish Centre and won by the Kavanagh School dancing "The Tree Tunes." Next championship Infants under 9 was won by Mary Cosgrave from the Clerkin school and donated by Aer Lingus. Mr. Dunne presented this cup personally. Class 91 figure championship under 9 won by the Long School dancing "High caul cap." This cup was donated by Mr. Jim Conway.

Our Chairman, Mr. James Fox, presented the Minor Championship Cup with an entry of 31 competitors, it was won by Angela Murray, Kavanagh school; joint 2nd Antonia Nash and Marion Bailey. Joint third, two sisters, Bernadette and Mary Driscoll, Griffin School.

Class 73. The Allied Irish Bank Cup went to the Kelly School and was won by Gerald McWilliams. Runner-up, James Murphy, Kavanagh School. This cup was presented by George Glendon, a member of the A.I.B. staff, Kilburn.

Intermediate Championship Trophy, a valuable silver cup, donated by Mr. Tom Gorman and won by Maureen Sheridan from Crean School, second Peter Kilbane, Kavanagh School and Collette Danagher, Hickey School third.

Senior Championship, over 18, first and second place was won by brothers, Chris and Peter Skehill, runner-ups, Teresa Kinsella, Kavanagh School and Evelyn Nallen, Griffin School. This cup was presented by Mr. Maurice O'Connor, Chairman of the Council of Irish County Association.

Last championship of the evening, The Clan Connacht Cup, presented by Chairman, Mr. Jerry O'Flynn and won by the Kavanagh School.

We wish to thank most sincerely the teachers, parents and competitors and all who in any way gave assistance to Feis Breffni.

To the winners we say well done and to the losers better luck next year.

On going to press we regret to hear of the tragic death of Mr. Pete McDonnell. R.I.P. Pete was Vice-Chairman of the Mayo Association. To his wife and family we tender our deepest sympathy.

E. TIERNEY (Mrs.)

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LONGFORD ASSOCIATION

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Stag, Bressenden Place, on 24th January, 1971. The following members were elected: President, Mr. R. Hayden; Vice president, Mr. W. J. Maloney; Chairman, Mr. Peter Masterson, 26 Horn Lane, Acton, London, W.3; Secretary, Mr. Jim Cole, 612 Tottenham High Road, London, N.17. Tel. 01-808 1744; Treasurer, Mr. N. Parker, The Stag, Victoria, S.W.1. Assisted by, Miss N. Irwin. Press Officer, Mr. J. J. Feeney. Committee: Joan Hayden, James Hayden, John Armstrong, Michael McGann, Mel Ward, Vincent O'Sullivan, Frank Clarke.

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held at Barkers on 10th November, 1971. We have secured the services of Dermot Hegarty (of 21 years fame) and his band for the occasion. Tickets on sale soon.

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KILDARE ASSOCIATION, LONDON

President: Rev. L. M. Dowling, O.M.I.

Patron: Most Rev. P. Lennon, D.D., Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

Chairman: Mr. P. Mulpeter, Lib. 5678 Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Baker Pri. 4472 Secretary: Mrs. R. Davis 96 Glasgow House Lanark Road, W.9 01-624-7394

Treasurer: Mrs. M. Baker 49 Fellowes Road, N.W.1.

The Annual General Meeting held recently at the Alexandra Hotel, S.W.4, returned unopposed the following officers— Chairman: Mr. P. Mulpeter, 542/5678; Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Baker, 772/4472; Treasurer: Mrs. M. Baker; Secretary: Mrs. R. Davis, 96 Glasgow House, Lanark Road, W.9. Tel. 624/7394.

In his address the Chairman once again appealed to members for an all out recruitment campaign. It is, he stated, very important to increase membership, and it is well known that many Kildare people reside in or near London, so every effort must be made to encourage these people to take an active part in the Association. This should be the aim of every member for the next 12 months, to enable the social committee to forge ahead with the planned programme. Interested people are asked to get in touch with any of the officers who will readily give the necessary details.

In conjunction with the Naas Parish Reunion Committee the Association had a very enjoyable evening in the Irish Centre, Camden Square, on Saturday, 19th April. Thanks to the Centre, who put on a splendid buffet for the occasion.

The Association will be travelling to Reading during May, as guests of Tintawn Ltd. (a member of Irish Ropes Group) and we are looking forward to this trip which should be both interesting and entertaining.

The Annual Dinner/Dance has been booked for 12th June, at John Barker's Kensington, W.8, and we would appeal to the County Associations to give us some support for this function. Most of you are aware that these Dinners can only be successful financially, when the guaranteed minimum number is reached. For a small Association such as ours it is indeed a hard task to get the required number, so we hope therefore that you will help us out.

The Chairman would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the £1000 contest, and also the St. Patricks Day Parade winners.

R. DAVIS (Mrs.)
(Hon. Secretary)

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THE WATERFORD ASSOCIATION LONDON

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Hon. Secretary:
M. DONOVAN, 59 Park Road, Hendon, N.W.4. 01-202 6357
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Transparer: P. STAFFORD, 01-807 0421

Treasurer: P. STAFFORD. 01-607 0431 Assistant Treasurer: P. MOLONEY. 01-450 7027 Assistant Sec.: J. REGAN. 01-733 9965

We regret to announce the sudden death of our esteemed committee member of long standing namely Mr. William Corcoran. Billy never missed a committee meeting, a charitable or social function since the inauguration of our Association. He will indeed be sadly missed.

The Church of the English Martyrs, Walworth, was filled to capacity, for his concelebrated Requiem Mass. Our President, Rev. Mon. C. J. Henderson, officiated. Assisted by Rev. Fr. William Meeghan, C.C. and very Rev. Fr. Tom Power, P.P., all Waterfordians and knew Billy well.

Six of our members accompanied his remains to Waterford. Ald. P. Browne, T.D., Councillor W. Jones and Mrs. Jones and other dignitories escorted the remains from Dublin Airport to the church of the Holy Trinity Without, Bally Bricken, where a Requiem Mass was offered by Rev. M. Cannon Leahy, P.P., assisted by Rev. M. Farrell, C.C., and Rev. T. Power, P.P., following which the funeral took place to St. Otterans Cemetery, Ballinaneeshagh, where his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Russell, our Bishop and Patron, officiated at the graveside assisted by Rev. T. Power, P.P., Rev. M. Enright, C.C., ring former President of our association, and Rev. M. Farrell, C.C., Bally Bricken.

The large attendance at the obsequies included four former Mayors, Alderman P. Browne, T.D., Councillor W. Jones, Mr. T. Gallagher, Mr. J. Power, Alderman W. Kenneally, T.D., Councillor T. Galvin, members of the De La Salle community, De La Salle P.P.U., G.A.A. Clubs and representatives of the musical and commercial spheres in the city.

There was a guard of honour of members of the Waterford Brigade of the old I.R.A.

Billy is survived by his son Denis of the Ballyhassey ballad group and former De La Salle and Waterford intercounty football goalkeeper.

May the angels lead you into paradise, May the martyrs await your coming, and bring you into the holy city, The heavenly Jerusalem.

May a choir of angels welcome you, And with the poor man Lazarus of old, May you enjoy eternal rest.

At a specially convened meeting at the Irish Centre on Saturday, 3rd April last, a vote of sympathy was passed to the relatives of Mr. W. Corcoran also to our Chairman, Mr. W. Smyth, to Mrs. Pat Kelly and Mr. Joe Stone, who all suffered bereavements recently. There was a minutes silence and three decades of the Rosary by Fr. Sheridan.



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WHY MR. BRENNAN SHOULD NOT DECLARE WAR ON IRELAND'S PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

During the current session of the Dail the Minister for Labour and the Minister for Social Welfare, Mr. Joseph Brennan, T.D., intends to introduce a bill which will speed the establishment of the national manpower service and at the same time control the activities of Ireland's private employment agencies.

Mr. Sean McGill, managing director of Ireland's longest established employment agency group in London, examines the Minister's motives in seeking to introduce such legislation and anticipates the reactions of the employment agencies.

We have the right as taxpayers to expect that unemployment will be kept to a minimum. Our employers have the right to expect that manpower appropriate to their needs will be provided with the minimum of fuss. Our unemployed have the right to assistance in finding jobs.

It was a recognition of these rights that led the then Minister for Labour, Dr. Hillery, formally to propose the creation of a national manpower service when introducing the 1969/1970 estimates in the Dail in April, 1969.

When Dr. Hillery's Department of Labour took over the administration of the state employment service from the Department of Social Welfare in October, 1966 it was felt that the service needed a thorough overhaul.

The Institute of Public Administration was asked to produce a report which appeared in 1968 with as its principal recommendation

the proposal that the function of placement should be entirely divorced from that of benefit payments.

The Institute of Public Administration's report was in fact a blue print for an up-graded nation-wide government employment agency. Dr. Hillery's announcement of April, 1968 heralded its formation with Mr. Eoin R. O'Neill as its first director. Mr. Brennan is now expected to announce its existence as a going concern and at the same time to bring forward legislation to introduce a system of registration for private employment agencies which charge fees.

One might be tempted to ask what function these private agencies can be expected to perform in the future. The Institute of Public Administration's blueprint is for a service which will succeed partly because it is to be nation-wide and it will therefore be able to embrace within its scope all vacancies and all job-seekers. Since by their very existence private employment agencies militate against this ideal why not legislate them out of existence altogether.

It is of course quite possible to adopt a negative attitude and say that though private employment agencies might appear to be superfluous in the light of what is being proposed for the state system it, would be politically undesirable to ban them in what is after all a free market economy. Far better just to let them bankrupt themselves by seeking fees from employers when the state system will provide the same service for nothing.

However, it is my contention that even with a full and free state employment service along the lines proposed in the Institute of Public Administration's well thought out report private agencies will remain and prosper.

Furthermore, I believe that it is very much in the interest of the public, the employers, the job-seekers and even of the state employment service itself that the private agency continues in being.

It is a fact of commercial life in a free society that some people will change jobs "to better themselves". Others will change jobs for less rational reasons.

Similarly, it is a fact that employers both in the state and private sectors will entice people whom they believe to be appropriately qualified to come and work for them whether or not the belief turns out to be justified in fact.

The aim of a comprehensive state run employment service betokens government acquiescence in this job-switching help to those already in employment, since a service which only provided job openings to the unemployed would tend to confine its activities to the bottom end of the job market (this is in fact the position of the state run employment exchanges at present).

I do not wish to suggest that it is desirable to differentiate between "career" job changes and changes of employment due to other factors, nor do I wish to suggest that it will be possible in the long term for the state manpower service to concentrate in some way on "career" applications while leaving other employment changes to the private agencies.

However, if the private agencies do little more than share the load they will more than justify their place in the economy.

In fact most private employment agencies tend to generate a relatively high portion of their turnover on the placement of office staff, and both the Irish taxpayer and indeed the manpower service itself will have cause to be profoundly grateful that the shorthand typist in her late teens who takes up £30 worth of interview time once

every six months on average to change her job will probably continue to choose to unburden her soul to the more intimate private employment agency rather than to the state manpower service.

A rather stronger vindication of the place of private employment agencies in the economy becomes apparent when one considers the case of the agency set up to exploit a commercial or regional demand that could not be justifiably supported by the state manpower system.

An example of this commercial demand is to be found in the case say the specialist bureaux for computer personnel, to whom employers willingly pay substantial fees in return for a selection service which goes considerably beyond what the taxpayer could be expected to provide for nothing.

An example of a regional demand which the Government manpower service might find difficult to support with taxpayers' money is the demand for Irish staff in London.

Since this latter type of placement involves at least short term emigration it has always been regarded as a political hot potato by successive Irish Governments, and one can certainly not anticipate a situation whereby an Irish state run manpower service would actively encourage Irish labour to take up employment outside Ireland except on a purely temporary basis.

However, the fact remains that there are intelligent, willing and able young and not-so-young Irish men and women for whom the job market in Great Britain and beyond provides scope for training and advancement which they could not hope for at home.

For these people it is essential that the skills and qualifications they have are marketed with specialist knowledge if they are not to be undersold.

We find that if they are directed along the right path many of these short term emigrants use their experience abroad to gain qualifications and know-how which stand them in good stead when they return home to take up permanent employment in Ireland — a course which, incidently, we encourage.

It is, of course, this emigration issue which causes contention particularly when questions are asked in the Dail which express concern about the accommodation provided in London for young girls by unscrupulous or inexperienced agencies, and it is this issue which more than any other has led to the suggestion that Irish private employment agencies should be controlled or registered in some way.

I am very much in favour of such registration, for even though the Emerald Staff Agency does not at present have any branches in Ireland all six of our London branches are licensed by their local authorities. Such registration at least ensures that the industry as a whole observes certain standards and that both employers and potential employees will get an acceptable level of service no matter which agency they approach.

However, the introduction of such a registration scheme to Ireland for the first time needs to be tackled with a certain amount of caution, and one hopes that the legislation to be laid before the Dail avoids the most obvious pit falls.

Unlike London, where the bulk of the private employment agency market is made up of large operators some with more than a hundred branches, the Irish private employment agencies tend to be one-branch operators.

There are thought to be about fifty of these in the Dublin area and proportionally fewer in other major population centres. 34

(Continued on page 39)

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THE MEATH ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

Nothing very exciting has been happening within the

Association since our last report.

Our monthly socials have been quite enjoyable so far this year. They are being held on the first Saturday of each month in the Princess of Wales, junction of Abbey Road and Belsize Road, Kilburn. Music is by Bern Bros. Admission 25p and dancing is from 9 p.m. till midnight.

We have decided to hold our Annual Outing again this year. The venue by a unanimous decision was Margate, on Whit Sunday, 30th May. Tickets will be in the region of

£1.50. Here is a list of the pick-up points.

Coach No. 1—Wealdstone Station, 8 a.m.; Cricklewood (The Crown), 8.15 a.m.; Archway, 8.30 a.m.; Camden Town

(A.B.C.), 8.45 a.m.; Victoria, 9 a.m.

Coach No. 2.—Shepherd's Bush (Odeon), 8.15 a.m.; Kilburn (Rifel and Volunteer), 8.30 a.m.; Victoria, 9 a.m. For further details of this outing get in touch with our Secretary, Mrs. May Swann, 15 Algernon Rd., Hendon, London, N.W.4,

or from any member of the Committee.

Preparations are being made for a Grand Charity Dance for the Foreign Missions. It is being held in Camden Town Hall, on Saturday, the 12th June. Meathman Father Seamus Fleming, who is a Missioner in Gambia, has requested us to send a donation to him for the poor pagans. We have been lucky to get such a venue for this most worthy cause. The hard working committee are making every effort to make it a success. Tickets are now in circulation, and they cost 40p (8/-). A top-class showband is being booked. We will have further details in our next report.

Yours truly,

PETER CASSIDY.

OUR QUIZ

1. The Earth is a true sphere. Is this right or wrong?

2. What was boxing originally called?3. Which is the smallest bird that runs?

4. What is the relation between exports and imports called?

. Where are the Islands of Safety?

6. Whose order for smokes and drinks is legendary?

VETERANS

1. Why does the Moon always show the same face to us on earth?

2. When and by whom was the typewriter invented?

3. How often must a Theatre's Safety Curtain be lowered by law?4. Who performed the feat of crossing the Niagara Falls on a tightrope?

5. How wide is a bicycle chain?

6. What is the finest example of the Hinged Bas-cule Bridge?
(Answers on page 39)

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"Mr. Brennan"—continued from page 34.

However, the indications are that the large British chain operators are beginning to move in, possibly inspired by the realisation that Ireland offers an untapped reservoir for their staff-hungry London offices.

Since the Emerald Staff Agency itself is engaged in the placement of predominently Irish staff in the United Kingdom it would perhaps be invidious for me to labour this point.

However, while admitting to a degree of prejudice I feel that there is all the difference in the world between running an Irish organisation with Irish staff who understand the background and the ultimate aims of the Irish people they place in London jobs, and running a chain of branches who need any people from anywhere to fill any vacancies.

The danger from the Government's point of view is that a rapid introduction of a highly restrictive form of registration might lead to the collapse of the existing infrastructure of Irish private employment agencies, who would rapidly be bought-out by the staff-hungry chains from across the water for whom compulsory registration is no novelty.

When it was thought recently that British investors were to gain the financial rewards from a car parking franchise in the centre of Dublin predictably there was a public outcry.

The public outcry if a large influx of British investment gains not only the financial rewards but also makes off with a substantial proportion of our ablest young men and women will be equally predictable but rather more substantial.

SEAN McGUILL.

ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

- 1. Wrong. It bulges at the Equator and is slightly flatter at the poles.
- 2. Prize-fighting.
- 3. The Wagtail.
- 4. The Trade Balance.
- 5. Off French Guiana.
- 6. Old King Cole ("He called for his pipe and he called for his glass").

VETERANS

- Because it moves round on its own axis in the same time as it takes to revolve round the Earth.
- 2. First practical in 1874 by C. L. Sholes, marketed by Remington.
- 3. Once during each performance.
- 4. Blondin.
- 5. One eighth of an inch (inner measurement).
- 6. Lower Bridge, London.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COMMITTEE, LONDON

Mr. Gerry O'Flynn, B.A., Galway, in the unavoided absence of Mr. James Conway, Cavan, Chairman of the above, presided at the general meeting, held in the Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London N.W.1., on Tuesday, 20th April, 1971.

Gerry in his opening remarks expressed regret at the absence of Jim Conway who had to take matters a bit easy for a time and he wished him a speedy recovery to complete good health. Many other delegates including the Secretary

endorsed the Chairman's remarks.

The Secretary read many correspondences of congratulations on the turn out of the St. Patrick's Celebrations for 1971. A letter was also read from Rev. Br. O'Connor, of the Artane Boys Band, Dublin, to participate in the 1972 Parade. The meeting ratified the booking for this colourful band to attend in London for the Concert and Parade next year and definite dates were fixed for the Concert to be held at the Gaumont State Theatre on Saturday, 11th March, and the Parade via the same route on the following day, Sunday, March 12th. The Secretary told the meeting that Aer Lingus through the good office of Mr. Tommy Dunne, Irish Travel Co-Ordinator was to make a trip to Dublin to find out more precise details on the band.

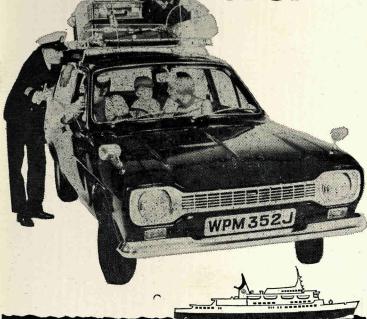
Two other extra bands are expected to take part in 1972. They are the Waterford Glass new Brass Band with the help of the Waterfordmens Association. An invitation has been sent to Mr. Graham, Musical Director and to the F.C.A., Michael O'Hanrahan Pipe Band, New Ross, under the Wexfordmens Association. The Secretary said that more bands were needed as the Parade had grown in numbers and if possible each county group should be headed by a band. He also welcomed the idea of Comhaltas Ceolloiri Eireann entering on Floats for the first time as a separate unit and he was confident that this group would take on

more floats next year.

The date of the A.G.M. was postponed from the 4th May, 1971, to a new date of the A.G.M. for Tuesday, 8th June. It is now not possible to hold it on this fixed date owing to the unavailability of some of the important officers and the new date is Tuesday, 6th July, 1971, at 8 p.m. sharp. Delegates are requested to make NOTE of this new date.

The meeting concluded with a sincere vote of sympathy to Mrs. Dympna O'Neill and family, Galway, a member of the Executive Committee on the sad death of her devoted husband. The chairman recited prayers for the repose of his soul. R.I.P.

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