

WHILE THIS WAS the most amusing as arose. Most of could-be sellers to licensed as to console ves, while little sisted themselves eapans and oth- utensils to the rails, so that evening almost iblehouse in the as in a state of

## urder

Heart on the his coat. When man of the jury ed "guilty" the asked the defen- e had anything Cox answered: "ty." Justice Johnson umed the black in a whisper the death sen- after an unsuc- appeal, and a renuous cam- his family and to have him ed, it was made and Cox was in Mountjoy on 1929.

## me

and then there is t. These are the io are going to ater into light. Shannon rs," grumbles , partly to himself tly to his neigh-

is another flour- aps as the three ers make their c to the car to dri- off. non Scheme my ys Tom discon- . "They'll soon be o turn night into poor auld Shan- be runnin' in the e these young fel- e finished with

el expectorated edly. "Aye," he d moodily, "but the devil's own that won't leave ntry in peace of tryin' to make ly in the face of ice." Again, they at out, and then uried himself in his thoughts, the Shannon, bed and untrou- ntinued its som- ay.

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One of the main wit- nesses to the build-up of the tragedy was local civic guard, Sergeant Long who told a reporter that about a quarter of an hour after the performance started he observed a film on the table near the door to be ablaze. "There were sever- al other films on the table and I extinguished one of the nearby candles and I made a grab at the blazing film and pulled it off the table."

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Many of the victims, particularly children, were trampled in the pan- ic and mad rush for the only exit in the hall, which was of wooden structure, and with many more trapped in the fire, which quickly took hold of the wooden floor which eventually collapsed, and cut off any means of escape.

There were many scenes of heroism during the rescue attempts, not least Thomas Buckley, an ex-schoolteacher, who helped many people to escape but who himself perished in the flames, as did James Quaid in the same circumstances. Fr. O'Callaghan, C.C., St. Patrick's, Limerick, later the Bishop's secretary, lost his mother in the fire and Rev. Bro. Brendan O.F.M., suffered a huge loss when both his broth- ers, their wives, and two of their children died.

For those lucky enough to escape (there was approximately 150 attend- ing the performance) and the spectators who watched helplessly at the raging inferno, it was an experience of traumatic dimensions as the heartrending cries of despair of those trapped could be clearly heard above the crackling of the flames.

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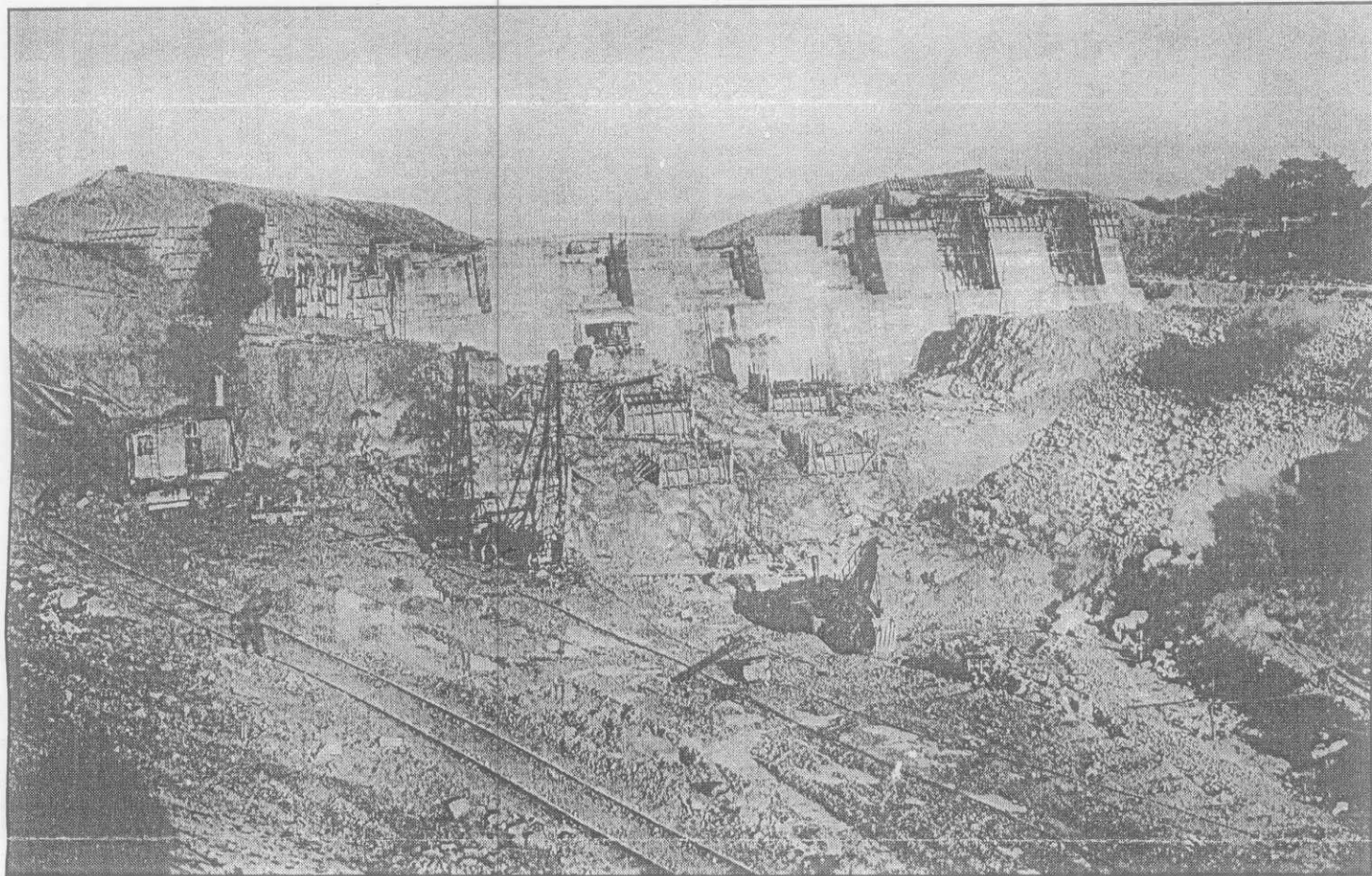
## Rejected

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The outbreak, it was stated, was due to a feud that existed amongst the workers and others, that the

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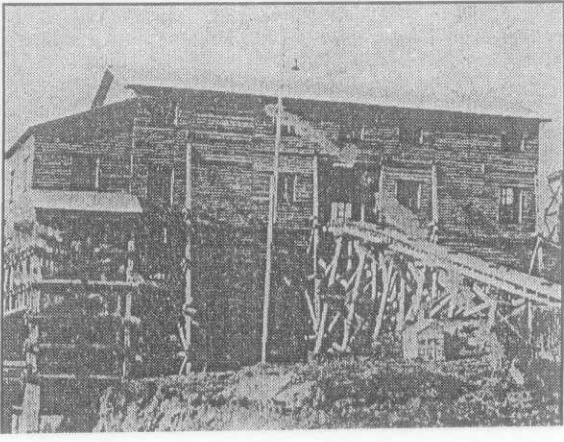
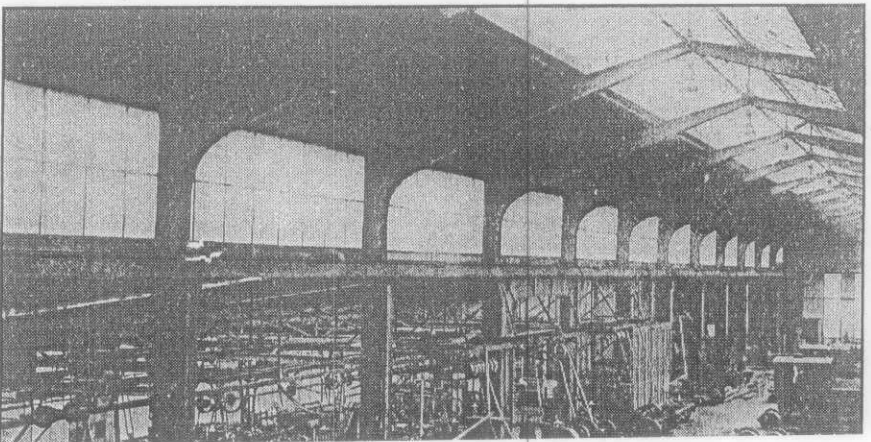
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Reporting on the burial of 46 of the victims (two more were to succumb to their injuries) in the churchyard of St.

Free State, Mr. W. T. grave, attended Requiem Mass that morning, the celebrant being the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Dr. Keane.

At the inquest which followed the tragedy, the recorder stated that "We regret that all the persons lost their lives in the cinema fire of Sunday night, September 5th, did so from asphyxia and burial caused by a lighted candle falling on the exposed films on the table, which ignited the hall. We regret that the operator, Dowling, was guilty of negligence in having the film exposed on the table, we find that there was carelessness on the part of Mr. Forde in having a lighted candle on the table. We tender to the bereaved relatives our heartfelt sympathy and pray God give them strength to bear their affliction."

At the conclusion of the inquest proceedings, Guards took Forde Downing into custody.

The *Daily Telegraph* in an editorial, commented "Sympathy in face of such an overwhelming horror will certainly be evoked from all corners of the world. By establishing a melancholy pre-eminence as the scene of the far-reaching cinema disaster ever suffered in the Islands, Dromcollogher has won for itself a kind of fame."

"We may hope at the same time that this fire, in its very frightfulness, will burn into the mind of local authorities even the most remotest districts the imperative necessity of taking stringent precautions in cinema performances licensed."

"There are some things too deep for words, deep even for tears. The thing must never happen again."

It was announced in December, 1927, that £16,000 had been donated for the relief of the dependants of the disaster. A total number of children left dependent amounted to 53. "Out of the fund the Celtic Cross will be erected over the graves of victims and a modest monument will be set aside for annual Masses for the repose of the souls of the deceased, whom were Catholics, the report concluded."

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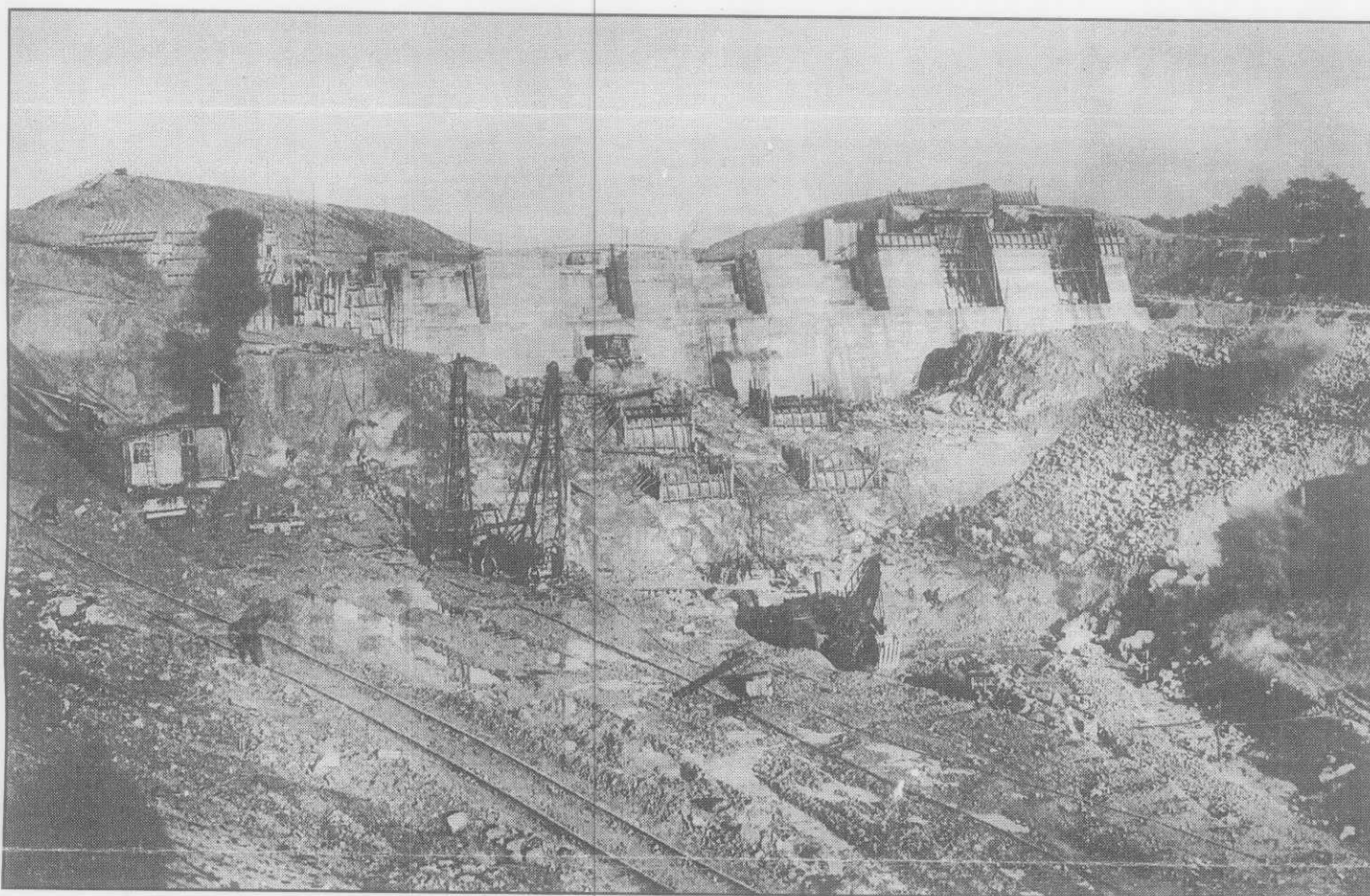
HARRIET Patricia Lohan, Cork, daughter of Maurice Lenihan, author of the great history of city and county, claimed in a letter to the *Leader* in 1927 that the value of her father's famous Irish artist John Lavery, which she and her remaining sister had offered to the city, had been rejected by the Mayor of Limerick. "The Mayor said there was no room for it in Limerick," she remembered her father

### Echo of War

THERE was a touch and dramatic incident in the Limerick Circuit Court when a jury was being impelled to try a man, working on the Shannon Scheme, charged with the laying of a sum of £75. The name of John Hogan of Catherine St. was called. Mr. Hogan answered and appeared before his Lordship Judge McElligott whom he asked to excuse him from serving on that jury.

His Lordship - Why you wish to be excused Mr. Hogan? Mr. Hogan - Well

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