

**3LE  
VNIS**

**"BACKHAND")**  
turn game between St. Michael's C.Y.M.S. place on Wednesday e C.Y.M.S. Hall at 7.30 Michael's will be out the defeat in the first for the last week the el's team have been a lot of practice. nster Open this season ce at the City Hall. Saturday, March 12, commences at 10 a.m. owing players from are competing in the mpetitions — Michael aschal Ryan, Tommyaddy Redmond, Gerry a (St. Michael's), Tony omnic S.), F. Ohliger Tony Galvin and Gerry n are also competing s' singles and on their ces to date these two hope, will reach the bring back the boys' Limerick after many a lapse. xpected in the near ) hold the Limerick i junior championships ck, but any player who e championships must ad. Affiliation fees can d to Mr. R. Quin, 128 St., or the Hon. Treas- r, Gerald Griffin St. as sible. riendly youths game lay morning, Dominic ys' Club defeated St. Boys' Club 6-nil.

**ch twelfth  
t at  
kets Field**

**"FAIR VIEW"**  
s as if we are in for season track-wise. A the Markets Field on and Wednesday of sk was a real eye-ot alone because of 30 reconstruction work lace at the venue but because of the except-arge number of grey-nat had been presented

for the season con- on Tuesday and more were presented. This far the greatest num- to attend on opening the same trend con- n Wednesday. commences on Sat- eek, March 12th.



# Limerick can never forget March 7th 1921

BY SEAMUS MACCONMARA

**W**ITH this year being the fiftieth anniversary of the historic event which sparked off the War of Independence, most localities have a special date on the calendar which recalls a happening of particular moment during the terrible and frightening years of British terror in Ireland, which followed as a consequence of the sacrifice of Pearse and his men and "their bloody protest for a glorious thing."

For Limerick such a date must surely be March 7th, for on that day, in the year 1921, the city was stunned by a monstrous happening—the murder of its Mayor, Seoirse Clancy, ex-Mayor Michael O'Callaghan and Volunteer Joseph O'Donoghue, in a grotesque blood-bath executed by a murder-gang drawn from the occupying British forces in Limerick. Right before the eyes of their horrified wives (Mrs. Clancy was wounded in the struggle) those two leading citizens were assassinated in the early hours of March 7th, their only crime being that they were true Irishmen, proud inheritors of the tradition of freedom, brave public men who gave a proud lead to their fellow citizens to be steadfast in the face of murder and constant terror which was Ireland's lot in 1921.

**MARTYRS**

What manner of men were those three martyrs for Ireland who suffered savagery and grim death on that March day, forty-five years ago? Seoirse Clancy hailed from Grange, Co. Limerick, whose father was an able Fenian, active in his time locally as an agent for such notable Irishmen as Stephens, Luby and O'Leary. Small wonder it was that Seoirse, who grew up in this Fenian tradition, should, during his University education in Dublin, seek out such Nationalists as Willie Rooney, Arthur Griffith, Sean T. O'Kelly and later, and most important, Padraig Mac Piarais, as his mentors in those formative years of early Sinn Fein.

It was Mac Piarais, however, who had the more emphatic influence on Clancy, and having drunk in the spirit of patriotism of the master of St. Enda's, Seoirse returned to Limerick, not only a proficient scholar in his vocation, but an ardent Nationalist, active in mind and body to do his bit for his country's political and cultural freedom.

Seoirse Clancy at first identified himself in Limerick City as an exponent of the cultural revival then finding footing all over Ireland. The Gaelic League found him on its platform and later the Volunteers became a major part of his local work for the cause of freedom. Next came

the step which was to lead the gentle Seoirse to Limerick's Mayoral Chair—his election as an Alderman of the Limerick Corporation in 1920. On January 21st, 1921, he succeeded his fellow Nationalist, Michael O'Callaghan, as Mayor, and held this time-honoured position of First Citizen only a short five weeks when he fell the victim of the assassin's bullet before the frightened eyes of a loving, brave and devoted wife.

**FOUNDER MEMBER**

Michael O'Callaghan, born in 1879, while having similar Republican ideals to his successor, Seoirse Clancy, came from a different section of the community. His family were leading industrialists in Limerick, his grandfather was Mayor of Limerick in his time, being a supporter of O'Connell and Repeal, while his uncle, John Francis Smithwick, of Kilkenny, was a member of Parnell's Home Rule Party.

O'Callaghan joined Sinn Fein in 1905, a man of culture, dignity and profound nationalism, he was a gifted speaker, and no patriotic platform was complete without him. A founder member of the Irish Volunteers in Limerick, the future murdered Mayor threw all his talents into the cause of freedom, organising and preaching the dictum of Pearse and his companions.

Entering the Limerick Corporation in 1911, he was elected Mayor in 1920, a year when the Black-and-Tan terror was at its highest—a time when a harassed and persecuted population in Limerick needed a brave, resolute leader at their head in the face of foul murder and like deeds so prevalent in those days during the dreaded hours of curfew. In Mayor O'Callaghan they found such a man.

During his term of office he scorned any attempts of the British forces to subdue him; attending to his duties and seeking the rights of the citizens on every occasion. He stood beside the graves of the murdered Mayors of Cork, MacSwiney and MacCurtain, knowing full well that by doing so he was inviting a similar fate—which indeed he eventually got. The day of reckoning came on March 7, 1921, when after receiving many warning death notices and having his home raided on many previous occasions, a murder gang called "St. Margaret's," North Strand, and shot him down before his horrified wife.

**VOLUNTEER**

The third victim in this terrible murder in Limerick forty-five years ago was Joseph O'Donoghue (1895-'21), a native of Westmeath. He was in business in Limerick, an active Volunteer, Gaelic League enthusiast and very popular young man. During the early hours of March 7, a raiding party called at O'Donoghue's place of residence at Janesboro, and took him outside. The following morning his body was found on the road with eighteen wound in it to testify the death this noble Irishman received. A plaque marks the spot today, and the thoroughfare is appropriately and deservedly called O'Donoghue Avenue.

The foregoing story is briefly the terrible events of March 7, 1921, in Limerick, when three defenceless brave men paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives that we today may hold our heads high as free Irishmen, at least in the Republic of Ireland. Clancy, O'Callaghan and O'Donoghue died like Pearse, Connolly and MacDiarmada, that the Tricolour would fly proudly in our land; that the Gaelic tongue would for ever be a thriving spoken language; and that Irishmen and women would attain social justice in their own land. When we in Limerick celebrate the anniversary of 1916 this year, in conjunction with the rest of Ireland, let us remember particularly our murdered Mayors as dedicated martyrs, who thought life itself not too much to give for the old land.

**STEEL SCAFFOLDING  
FOR HIRE**  
LANIGAN BROS., Carr Street.  
(15-12c)