

16 Comment & Letters

LIMERICK LEADER

*"No effort will be spared to make the Leader
all that could be desired as a local journal"*

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Fascinating fate of local Titanic passengers

THE world's fascination with the 1912 Titanic disaster is very much shared in Limerick and in our Leader 2 section this week we take a close look at some compelling local stories, featuring both survivors and victims. Here is a story that has absolutely everything.

Perhaps one of the most striking aspects of the tragedy, which has enthralled for a century and counting, was how the chances of survival were so hugely influenced by the cost of a passenger's ticket. Those who paid the lowest fare, at £8, were by far the most likely to perish. As Anne Sheridan notes in her report this week: "A woman in third class had a 50-50 chance of being saved. By contrast, just one in eight of second class women were 'lost', while first class female passengers had a 97% rate of being saved."

As several commentators have commented in recent days, the Titanic disaster tells us almost as much about life now as it does about how things were back then. The passengers were bound for America, where the same kind of life lottery applied then as it does today. The United States is a great country, but one of its least edifying characteristics is that those

will often save their lives, while those who don't have the means see their chances shrink commensurately.

In Limerick, city librarian Liam Hogan has had a steady stream of visitors to the public display of documents highlighting the Limerick connection and no doubt the interest will peak later this week, amid a worldwide frenzy marking the anniversary of the ship thought to be unsinkable.

Interest in local history in Limerick is, perhaps, at an all time high and the huge value of local archives has never been more appreciated. The Titanic is a story that every Limerick schoolchild will be interested in, but how many have knowledge of the local people on board, who came from many different parts of the city and county? We hope our coverage this week stirs their interest, following on as it does from the gratifying response we have had to our All Our Yesterdays series of magazines.

We urge schools to put local history on their curriculum and we commend the next edition of our unique series of supplements to them. For as the Leader's motto has it, life is local.

In 1912, the fate of the Limerick passengers was a huge talking point. A century on, our first fascination is their

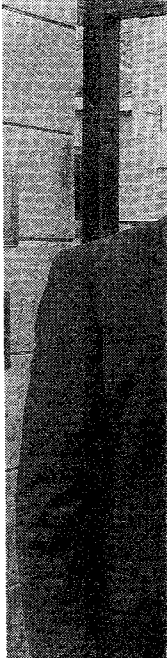
'Irish Troika' is

I WISH to comment on the proposed amendment bill that has recently been published by Niall Collins regarding the extension of the household charge deadline and his statements on the matter

I agree with Niall Collins that the whole approach adopted by the government was a "farce", but that is the only part of his commentary I agree with him on the issue. Not only was the approach a "farce", but the whole concept of it is a farce and a total disgrace and I cannot understand how Niall Collins and his party are prepared to support it in the first instance.

He and his party, have been on the case of the implementation debacle now for a number of weeks, but all he is proposing is to rearrange the deck chairs on the issue without any regard for the consequence and burden it is going to place on ordinary hard-pressed families and households around the country, now and to a much greater extent in future years. His proposed arrangement is the same as that of this country getting a new government last year but it is the same as the one that was replaced, pursuing the same policies on the same misfortunate people and families, the only difference is it is just with a different cast.

What he has proposed makes no difference whatsoever as he wants it to be paid in any case and he fails to see that there is anything wrong with it and he has failed to propose very obvious and



Reader Christy
the views of FF

numerous alter-
has failed to do
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Thanks to fantastically friendly Munster fans

MAY I, through the columns of your paper, express my sincere thanks to all the fantastic Munster fans I met before, during and after the Easter Sunday game at Thomond Park.

It was my first visit to Thomond Park, and certainly won't be the last! We were made very welcome by all we met. After the game, I was overwhelmed by the countless times I was stopped and congratulations expressed by Munster fans, who whilst obviously being very disappointed by the result, still showed great graciousness in defeat.

All were true sportsmen and great ambassadors for your province. See you all on May 5!

NEIL KERNOHAN
CO ANTRIM

Is it not high time for Paul O'Connell Street?

I HEARTILY agree with the decision to confer the freedom of the historic city of



Paul O'Connell
with former Lir
Martin Byrnes.