

cavation work in progress on the foundations of the new 88-room Intercontinental Hotel at Clancy Strand, Limerick.

## HAD THEM TAPED

Christmas public house party was being tape-recorded for benefit of an exile had a sequel at the Golden Court when Bridget Condon, publican, Loughlin, charged with a breach of the Licensing Act on Dec. 23 last, was prosecuted for being on the premises during prohibited hours. Seamus Casey (alias J. O'Grave & son, alias), who acted for the publican and the tape recorder, admitted the offence and explained that a tape recording of the party was being made to be sent to the licensee's solicitor, and the tape recorder was switched off after 11 p.m. and the house was very well conducted. Justice McCourt: I wonder why you don't appear in the tape recording? Mr. Casey: I'm sure he will, your honour. At any rate, he will have an indelible impression on the minds of those at the party. In the circumstances I would ask you to deal with the case as leniently as possible. The Justice said he could not listen to the touching plea made by Mr. Casey, but it seemed to him that "most of Loughlin's guests have been on the premises at night. However, the house was well conducted, and for having the parties on the premises he would find the licensee 20/- as it is her first offence. The 17 persons found on the premises were to be fined 20/- each.

## Limerick exiles' gift for blind

Mr. Willie W. Gleeson, treasurer, Old Limerick Flight, has handed to Mr. Patrick Heffernan, on Secretary, Limerick Branch of the National Society for the Blind, the sum of \$25 (£12) which was given him by Mrs. Jack O'Connell, President, Ladies' Committee, Wild Geese Club, New York, on the occasion of a reception and dinner-dance given in honour of the flight party. In a letter to Mrs. Purcell, Mr. Heffernan expressed, inter alia, his most profound gratitude to the "Wild Geese for such a truly Christian act in remembering those of their less fortunate brothers and sisters in the city of their birth, who would always cherish the occasion of such happy event which gave unbounded joy to all the citizens on the successful return flight—the first of its kind from our ancient city."

# Almhouse widows will have light

**MOVED** by the story of the lonely widows living in the Alms Houses, off Nicholas Street, Limerick, industrialists and other people from all over Ireland and America, have sent contributions to help the Widows' Light Fund Committee.

So generous has been the response that in the short space of a fortnight the fund has jumped from £85 to over £150—and the contributions still keep pouring in. The cost of installing the electric lighting in the houses is £120.

This leaves the Committee with about £30 on hands—but not for long. They are taking the 22 widows on an outing to Shannon Airport on Sunday week, where they will be entertained to dinner in the reception hall.

But the biggest surprise of all will be when the widows are brought back to the Alms Houses. They will witness the big ceremony—the switching on of the electric light in their homes that have only known the candle and the oil-lamp since they were built in 1691—the year of the famous siege of this ancient city.

### NEW BEDDING

Now that the Committee has enough funds to meet the cost of installing electricity, our reporter inquired if this would be the end of the project.

Mr. Michael Crowe, licensed trader, of Nicholas Street, spokesman for the Committee, replied: "When we have the lighting installed we are going to provide them with new bedding. We are going to make this place look like an hotel."

Meanwhile the widows, the eldest of whom is 93-year old Mrs. Bridget Riordan, are completely carried away by their sudden good fortune. Some of them have been in the houses 27 years and had become accustomed to the conditions.

They are thrilled at the prospect of an outing to Shannon, and are thankful to the committee and Mr. Crowe, who only a few years ago raffled a cake, as a result of which each of the widows was able to go on a local shopping spree.

Anxious to find out how the widows lived on their pensions which range from 30/- to around £2 per week our reporter interviewed some of them. One of them said she eats very little meat. Another, who only came out of hospital the day before, said: "I'll have a cup

of tea and a bit of bread and butter for my tea. I'm thankful for that."

They were also helped by the fact that their two-roomed flats are provided free, and they also got vouchers for turf briquettes in winter time. These, however, stopped recently. They were grateful to the Mayor of Limerick, Councillor P. Mac Giolla Loegaigh, for giving them coal at Christmas.

### WATER NEXT?

One of the biggest drawbacks was having to draw water from the local pump. However, in this connection, it was reliably reported last night that the Limerick Corporation is planning to instal water in the houses.

The funds for the lighting project were started by customers of Mr. Crowe, who agreed to pay an extra 1d. on every pint of stout. This penny was to go to the fund. This seemingly unimportant contribution jumped to big proportions in a few weeks. Many Limerick firms and one lady have made recent contributions of up to £5 and five guineas. It was not confined to Limerick, however.

Said Mr. Crowe: "We don't think this is noble gesture on our part. We feel that it is our duty to do it and we don't want any praise. We feel that this is something that should have been done a long time ago. We got sick and tired of promises and decided to do it ourselves. Promises had been made by politicians, but they were only promises."

## Distinguished lecturer

Mr. Frank O'Connor, D.Lit., will lecture at the City Library on "Early Irish Literature" to the Thomond Archaeological Society on Thursday next, April 12th. Members are asked to note that the lecture will commence at 9.15 p.m.

Some of the old ladies in the Alms Houses (left to right)—Miss Ryan, Mrs. Kate Riordan, Mrs. Bridget O'Riordan and Mrs. K. Kelly.

## Conferences of clergy

CONFERENCES of the Clergy will be held during the coming week as follows:— Monday, April 9, at Rathkeale; Wednesday, at Kilmallack, and Thursday, at Limerick. Conference at each centre will begin at 11 o'clock, S.T.

## Stole Garda's umbrella

"YOU seemed to have picked the wrong umbrella," said Justice D. F. Gleeson to a defendant at Limerick City Court to-day. He was dealing with a man who stole a Garda's umbrella.

The defendant was Thomas Jones, 19 Cecil Street, Limerick, and he pleaded guilty to stealing an umbrella, value £1 1s., at Bedford Row on April 2, the property of Garda Martin O'Connor, William St. Station, Limerick.

Supt. J. Murphy, prosecuting, said that the Garda went into the cinema on April 2 and when he was coming out he forgot his umbrella and returned shortly afterwards and found that it was gone. He walked outside on the street and saw three men and the defendant carrying the umbrella and ran away.

Defendant called to William St. Garda Station the following day with the umbrella and made a statement to Garda J. J. Keating in which he said that as he was coming up the passage-way through the cinema on his way out and he saw the umbrella on a seat and took it. His friends told him to take it to the Garda Station.

The Justice imposed a fine of 10/-.

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