

# ck Leader

DAY, APRIL 16, 1962

PRICE TWOPENCE

## WATCHES

REPAIRED IN TWO WEEKS.  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

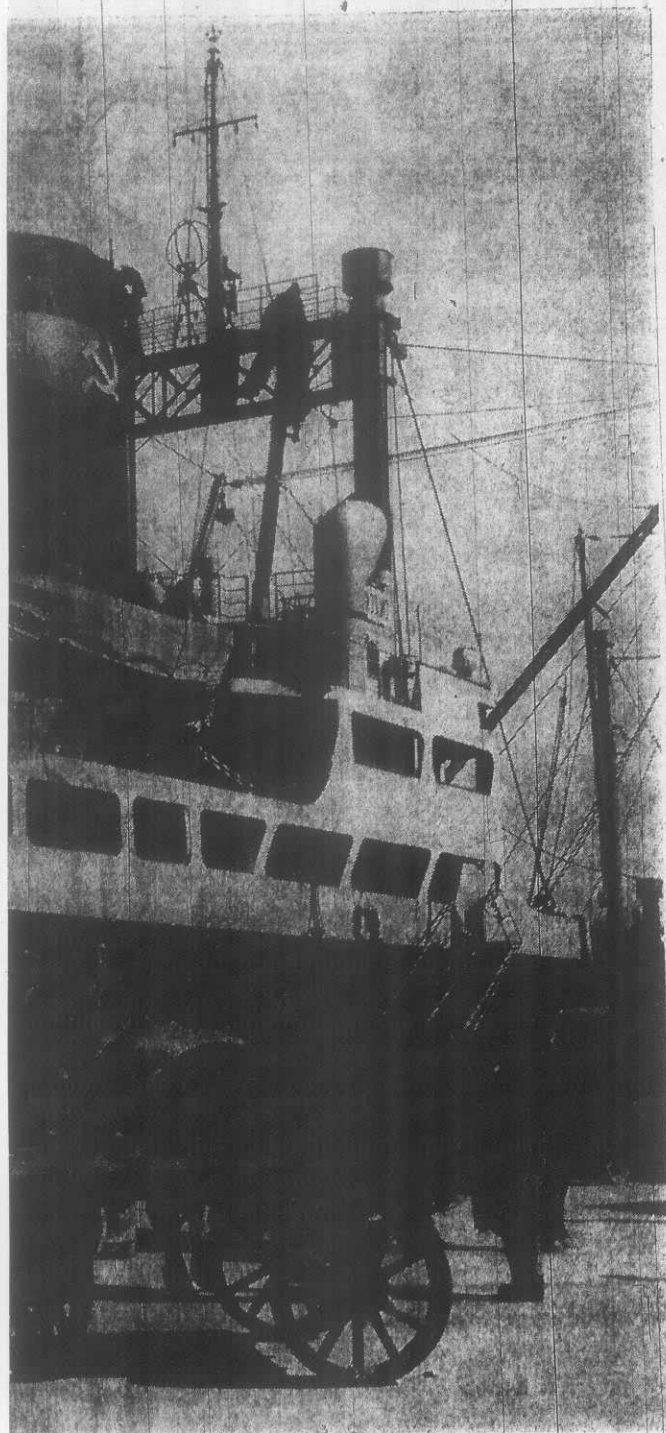
Bee Moynihan & Co. Ltd.

Jewellers

2 O'CONNELL ST., LIMERICK  
Phone 45835.

# HALPIN'S TEA

## West deadlock BAN PLAN



Dockers unloading a cargo of wheat offals off the Russian

## Great day for the widows

(By Seamus Holohan)

**L**AST night was a momentous occasion for twenty-two Limerick widows living in the Alms House, Nicholas Street. At about 9.30 o'clock electric light was switched on in the houses for the first time. Until then the only light was that of the oil lamp.

At 9.30 p.m., a crowd estimated at 3,000 packed the streets in the vicinity of the houses and greeted the widows who were returning from an outing to Shannon Airport. Mr. Vincent Feeney, proprietor of the Abbey Court Bakery, was standing on a rostrum. The houses were in darkness. The switches were in the "on" position. Mr. Feeney pressed a button and the seven houses were flooded with the light of 70 bulbs and a cheer went up from the throng. The widows themselves were delighted at seeing their dream come true.

### A DREAM

A dream it was... until some weeks ago when local publican, Michael Crowe, led a campaign to raise funds to provide the lighting. He started in an apparently small way. His customers, moved by the sad story of the widows' plight, offered to pay an extra 1d. on the pint of stout. The fund grew. The news spread and gifts poured in for the fund. In no time at all, enough money had been raised to meet the cost of installing electric lighting. About a week ago, E.S.B. were contacted. Arrangements had been made to take the widows for an outing yesterday. Could the lighting be installed by that day and have the ceremony of the switching on of the lights as the culmination of the day's festivities?

Five E.S.B. men worked feverishly all through the remaining days of last week and succeeded in having everything in order late on Saturday night. It meant "working around the clock," but they succeeded.

Then, at about 2.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, six motor cars pulled up outside the Alms Houses. The sun shone brilliantly as the widows entered the cars to go on their eagerly-awaited outing to Shannon. A few of the widows were in hospital and a few more were sick. The cars moved away out the airport road. In the first car, driven by Mr. Crowe, was 92-year-old Mrs. Bridget Riordan. Some of the old ladies had not been out this road for 30 years.

### CONCERTINA

In another car were the members of Cyril Duggan's band. In another was aged Mrs. Kate O'Riordan, with her concertina. Kate told me of how she used to play in a band at dances in days gone by. On the way to the airport she played many of the old Irish tunes in her grand old way.

Miss Johanna Long, who is now in her mid-seventies, spoke of the great changes in the countryside and at the airport since she was out that way before. "There was not a house to be seen out here

the last time I was here," she said. "It's like a palace now with the private houses and the flats."

On reaching Shannon they were entertained to dinner, after which a dance was held. All the widows took part in the dance, but Mrs. Bridget Riordan (93) was the belle of the ball. "I'm dancing for all my worth," she said. "All I can hear is 'come on Bridge'—wherever they got my name."

Many young people joined in the dancing also and the old ladies joined in the "Twist." Cyril Duggan's band provided the music and this was sometimes supplemented by Mrs. Kate O'Riordan on the concertina.

After the dance they were taken on a tour of the airport. They then returned home for the switching on of the lights in their homes.

### CAN STILL READ

"Thanks to the poor labouring men who subscribed the 1d. on the pint," said Bridget Riordan as she entered her newly lit-up home. "I'll keep the oil lamp, too, in case of a failure." She told me she can still read and write, and that she does all her own correspondence.

As the widows entered their homes, three local bands—the Limerick Pipe Band, Boherbuoy Band and St. Mary's Band—played marching airs. Each band then gave individual performances of many popular tunes.

Mr. Feeney, referring to the provision of the electric lighting, said that it was a great work and that it was a consoling gesture in this materialistic age to see it done, not by people in high station but by ordinary working people.

Mr. Crowe thanked all those who had helped in the work. He paid a special tribute to Mr. Michael O'Higgins, E.S.B. supervisor, in getting the installation job finished on Saturday night. He also had a special word of thanks for Mr. Creed and Mr. Hartney for their assistance at Shannon Airport.

### DEATH

**O'DOHERTY** (nee Galvin)—April 15, 1962, at City Home and Hospital, Mary, relict of Michael O'Doherty, 72 Carey's Road, Limerick. Deeply regretted by her sons, daughters, mother, brothers, sisters, grandchildren and relatives. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. Michael's Church this (Monday) evening at 6.30 o'clock. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Tuesday) at 10 o'clock. Funeral at 3 o'clock same day to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery. (c)