



Shops below . . . cinema above?

Shopping centre below the Grand Central?

by JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

PLANNING PERMISSION has been sought by the Green Group to convert the ground floor of the Grand Central Cinema into a shopping centre, with a 250-300 seater cinema overhead.

Should the application be successful, the Grand Central will become an even better equipped cinema than it is now.

It is anticipated that the ground floor will be rented to the retail trade.

I understand that a furniture showroom and clothes shop will be opened on the site.

Said Mr. Paul Anderson, director of the Green Group, owners of the Grand Central:

"The accent is on good entertainment and more luxury in our cinema chain."

Planned

It is planned to make the Bedford Row house into a luxurious cinema with the most up-to-date projection equipment.

The balcony will be extended and the screen raised.

A smaller type of cinema would make for longer run films.

"We hope to make the Grand Central into a small intimate kind of cinema," continued Mr. Anderson, whose company

are awake to the revolution which is taking place in the industry today.

It is only four years since the venue was last given a face-lift.

Last year the Green Group carried out a similar job on the Lee Cinema in Cork and it proved most successful.

The major circuits in England are now embarked on plans to bring sweeping changes to movie-going, and the twinning and tripling of cinemas is high on the priority list.

There is a very strong possibility that the Odeon Group will twin the Limerick Savoy in the very near future.

Should the Green Group be given planning permission it is expected that work will commence on the Grand Central later this year.

When I asked Mr. Anderson if they would install automatic projection, he replied: "That is something we will have to discuss with the unions."

Such a cinema as that envisaged by the Green Group would be most welcome in Limerick.

LIMERICK EARLY ST

BY MARTIN RYAN

IN HIS FIRST official announcement on the highly controversial Limerick dairy situation, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Mark Clinton, is to support the local Lansdowne processing plan—but preferably as a co-operatively owned concern.

Sources in close contact with the Minister say that Mr. Clinton and his Department have been giving careful study to the complexity of the Lansdowne situation in recent weeks.

They indicate that the Minister now "has his mind made up" on the matter and regards the establishment of a clear policy as a matter of extreme urgency.

Therefore, it is expected that he will make an early announcement.

The Minister, according to authoritative sources this week is to back Lansdowne by ensuring that it is part of any development taking place in the area.

But he is more than anxious to see the plant taken over by co-operative ownership, ending the control of the Dairy Disposal Company in the industry in the area.

Questions

Will the Minister make it considerably easier for farmers to take control of the factory? And will he give the first option to the two existing processors obtaining supplies of milk in County Limerick, Golden Vale Food Products, or Charleville and Mitchelstown Creameries?

These are vital questions now.

And will either—or both—of them be interested in acquiring Lansdowne?

I understand that Mr. Clinton has already assured the workers at the plant that the future of their jobs will be guaranteed in any development which takes place in the area.

Because of the rapid changes taking place, and likely to further accelerate, there is a consciousness in Lansdowne that the supply of milk could drop very quickly and leave the plant, and the jobs, in a most precarious position.

This is the situation which the Minister is apparently very much aware of, when he regards as urgent the establishment of a clear policy for the area.

It was confirmed this week that ten co-operatives, eight in County Limerick—are still supplying the Limerick factory with milk and that milk supplies are up on last year.

But quite a few of these

creameries are still negotiating with the other processors and will be putting proposals for amalgamation to the shareholders during the coming weeks.

The meeting between representatives of the Lansdowne factory and the Minister for Agriculture—announced in the paper four weeks ago—has taken place and there was full discussion on the situation.

Now the official announcement from Mr. Clinton is anxiously awaited by the workers, the farmers and the processors.

New art gallery?

The reconstruction of the property at St. John's Square, Limerick, as a Municipal Gallery was at present under consideration, Limerick Corporation informed the members of the Chamber of Commerce, who had been in contact with the Corporation to ascertain if a premises suitable for housing a media art collection would be available.

The Chamber are to be further informed of any developments in relation to the matter.

Anti-stamps

Limerick Chamber of Commerce have written to the Department of Industry and Commerce strongly supporting a resolution against the use of trading stamps as an unfair method of competition owing to the restrictive arrangements which obtain regard to distribution.