

Corbally Park: loan for development

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On Saturday, August 12, 1939, Limerick Corporation authorised the borrowing of a loan of £1,500 for the purchase of 14.7 acres of Mr. Barry's lands at Corbally for development as a public park and swimming pool. There was much divisive discussion with many Councillors demanding that housing be attended to first and foremost but thankfully the baths were built, much later than 1939 but when they came they were a blessing for the thousands of people who used the swimming facilities

LIMERICK Corporation at a meeting on Tuesday night, the Mayor, Ald. D. Burke, TD, presiding, decided to authorise the borrowing of a loan of £1,500 for the purchase of 14.7 acres of Mr. Barry's lands at Corbally for development as a public park and swimming pool.

The City Manager said that when he had submitted this proposal at a previous meeting it was not his intention to spend £20,000 or £30,000 at Corbally. His idea was to provide a pool and some shelters at a cost of £400 or £500. A deputation from the swimming clubs in the city had waited on him and they had asked to make provision for swimming baths in the centre of the city. They were not opposed to the Corbally scheme. They had suggested different sites to him for inspection and he told them that he would go into the matter of the cost and give them an answer in a month or so. He had asked the Engineer to submit specifications on this subject. He (Manager) was in a difficulty as to whether there should be two swimming pools. Two, of course, would be more costly but personally he thought there should be two.

SHOCKING CONDITIONS

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be built at a rent of 5/6 a week because the people were not able to pay 12/- a week.

Mr. Dalton mentioned the case of a girl who was a tenant of one of the Corporation houses and was not able to pay the rent and who might be thrown out on the side of the street. The City Manager had made a statement for which everybody in the city gave him high praise, and that was to the effect that he would build no more dear houses and that he would go into the question of the uneconomic houses which could be rented from 5/- to 7/- a week. It was a terrible thing, in a Catholic city like Limerick, that conditions such as he had instanced were allowed to exist. Mr. Casey said that when Mr. Dalton had stated was correct, but he should remember that the Council had undertaken housing schemes at Janesboro and Kileely and there were preparations for the lay-out of others. Mr. Dalton: Are these uneconomic houses?

Mr. Casey: Most of them. To bring in that statement right across a matter we are discussing is not fair.

Mr. Dalton: I am dealing with the doctor's report and this living testimony to the citizens of Limerick.

Mr. Casey: The Corporation is looking after the citizens of Limerick in the matter.

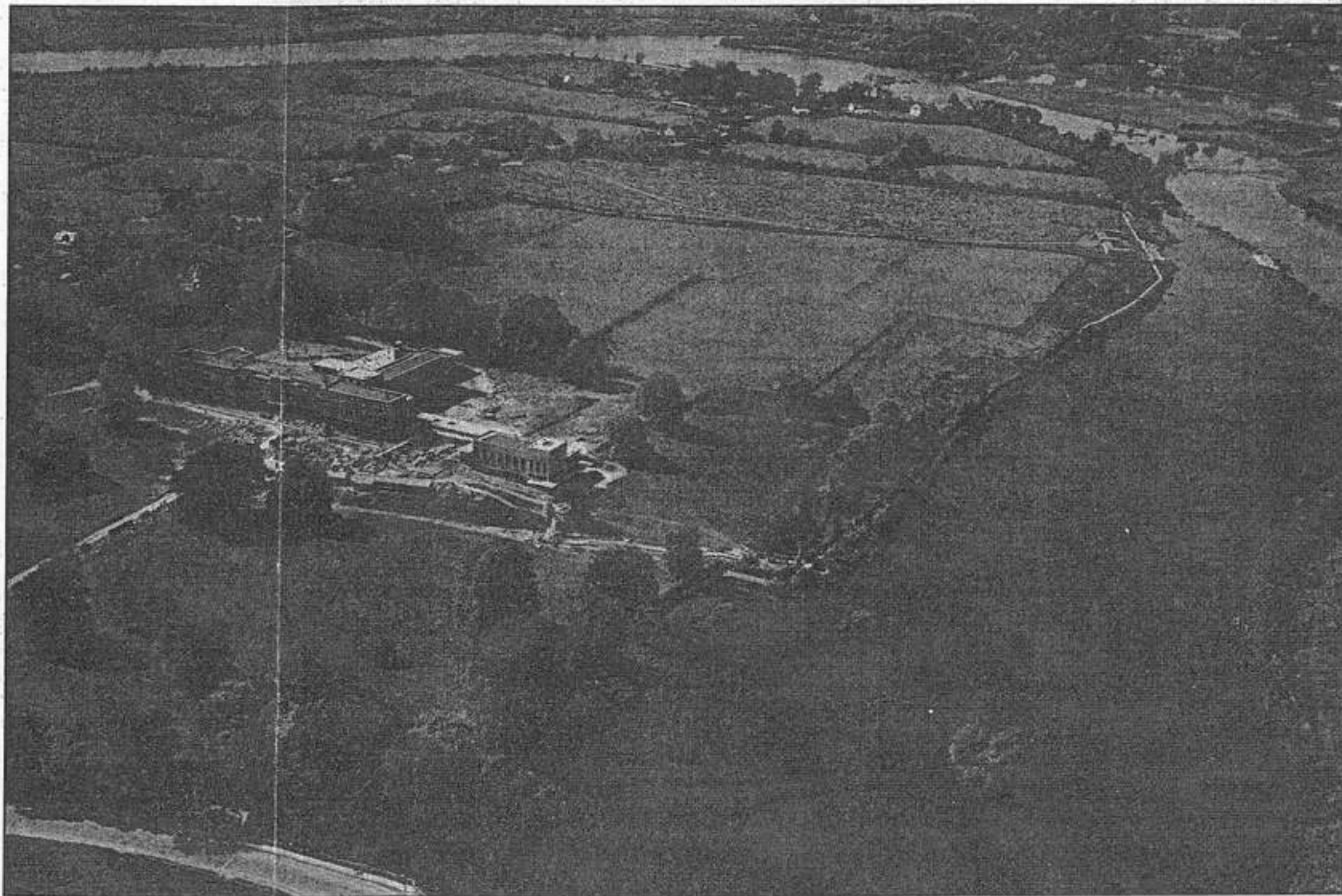
Mr. Dalton: They are taking a long time about it.

Ald. Reidy, TD, asked was not the discussion out of order. The Corporation was taking steps to build houses to displace the houses in the slum areas.

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Mr. P. Bourke said that he agreed with Mr. Dalton and he believed he was in order because in

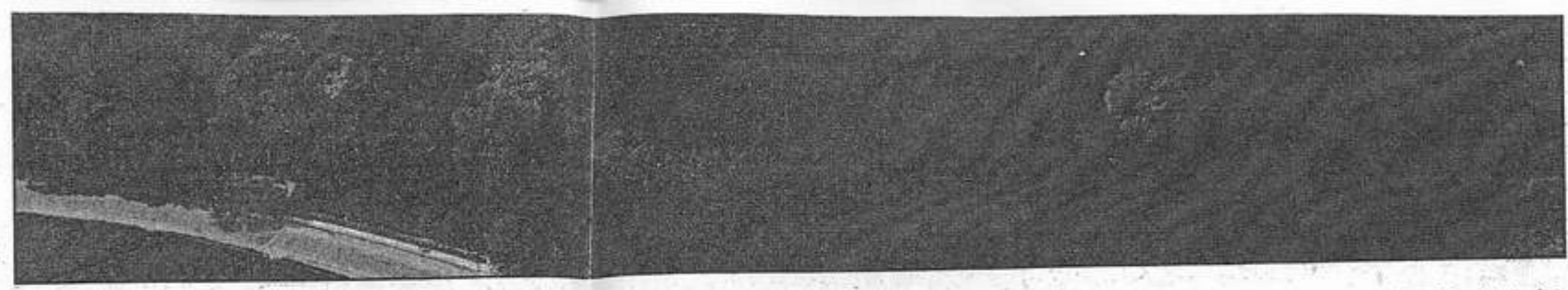


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SHOCKING CONDITIONS
Mr. Dalton said that he was interested in the reports of the housing of the working classes in the city and he thought they could afford to wait for a swimming pool and baths until they had made provision for houses. In the city there were 1,903 houses condemned as unfit for human habitation. There were instances where and father and mother with a grown up son and daughter were living in a room and surely while that class of thing were allowed to exist they could allow luxuries to stand on one side. He was prepared to propose or table a motion that the building of houses be taken up immediately. He suggested that certain sites should be cleared out and in their place uneconomic houses

NOT A LUXURY
Mr. P. Bourke said that he agreed with Mr. Dalton and he believed he was in order, because in objecting to the proposal he was entitled to give reasons. Mr. Dalton desired to show that there were more pressing things in the city than what he termed as luxuries. Mr. Casey: It is an absolute necessity, not a luxury. Mr. Casey: Are we on swimming baths or housing? Mr. Bourke said that he favoured the provision of houses for the people before any other expense was undertaken. He was quite in agreement with helping on anything that could be helped on, so long as the people were not in want of houses. Ald. Reidy said it should be



Corbally Baths As far back as 1939 the far seeing Limerick Corporation, in spite of a lot of opposition from Council members, purchased land for the building of a park and swimming baths. Our pictures show the baths in all their glory. The top picture by Donal McMonagle shows the building of St. Munchin's College in 1960 with the full sweep of the Shannon down to the baths. The middle picture is of much later vintage and shows the "new" pool built in the 1970s while pictured (bottom) in July 1961 are Carmel Galvin, Rita Clancy, Nancy Cowhey, May O'Connor, Mary O'Brien, Alice Clancy and May O'Halloran at the pool

remembered that a very influential deputation of citizens had come to the Manager on the subject of swimming baths and before that a representative meeting had been held to discuss the matter. Very strong and convincing arguments were advanced at that meeting. The deputation had put their views to the City Manager who was getting reports on the feasibility and suitability of sites and the approximate cost. Mr. Casey said that he did not do any more than approve of the Manager's attitude. He asked did the deputation give an offer of a free site for indoor baths. Manager: No. They mentioned a place I could get for about £2,000. What we are discussing tonight is the field down at Corbally. It is not for an indoor bath and you had committed yourself to this before I came. It will cost about £120 on loan charges. That would not go far towards settling the housing problem. Mr. Casey suggested that they wait for the Engineer's report on the suggested swimming baths.

THE CITY SCHEME
Ald. Reidy proposed and Mr. Shanny seconded that the Manager be authorised to borrow the loan for Corbally scheme. Mr. Casey: I oppose that. If you



do that the indoor baths in the city are finished. Manager: No; that is wrong. Mr. Donnellan mentioned that the land had been offered at £140 an acre and it was admitted that

it was no suitable for building purposes. The Manager had suggested £100 an acre. There were 25 acres offered then and what happened to the other 8 acres. The City Manager said he thought 14 acres were enough. The Mayor said he would like to see the provision of swimming baths, while he agreed with Councillor Dalton that the building of houses for the people should be a first consideration. The Manager said that he had made it very plain at a meeting he attended recently that the first things the Corporation had to deal with were housing and water problems. Mr. Casey proposed that the matter be adjourned until such time as the Manager had got a report from the engineer as to the cost of the indoor baths. It was not fair to spend £1,500 on Corbally while three parts of the city had no place. Mr. Donnellan seconded Mr. Casey's proposition. Mr. Shanny said that he was convinced that the Manager would be able to make provisions for the indoor baths.

abuses which were going on at the moment would be done away with. The deputation which waited on the Manager made it clear that they were not opposed to the Corbally scheme. Mr. Casey said that he was not opposed to it either, but he wanted to have the general scheme laid before the Council. The Mayor said that the Corporation were committed to this scheme already. They had passed it at a meeting last year. Mr. Casey: But we never got sanction for it. Manager: You got sanction for fourteen acres within the last fourteen months. On a poll there voted for Councillor Casey's amendment: Councillors Donnellan and Casey, 2. Against: The Mayor, Ald. Reidy, Councillors Dalton and Shanny, 4. Mr. Bourke did not vote. The original motion was declared carried. Mr. Donnellan said they had been told that the Department had given sanction to 14 1/2 acres. He asked how this come about. The Manager replied that the Department had asked him for his views. He said if he could get 14 1/2 acres it could be enough. The Department said they were prepared to sanction that. The discussion ended.

WOULD DO AWAY WITH CERTAIN ABUSES
Alderman Reidy said that there were thousands of young people bathing along the banks of the Shannon and by providing shelters and supervision certain

CORBALLY PARK

Loan For Development Scheme

“HOUSES FOR WORKERS FIRST DUTY”

CORPORATION MEMBERS' OPPOSITION

