

FREEMEN OF LIMERICK

Impressive Civic Ceremony New Art Gallery Opened

In a colourful setting at the City Hall, Limerick, on Monday, the Freedom of Limerick was conferred on Mr. Sean Keating, R.H.A., and Mr. J. M. Flood, B.L., former District Justice.

Mr. Flood, who retired from the Bench in March, 1947, after 25 years, was voted the Freedom in recognition of his efforts for the advancement of the cultural and artistic life of Limerick, and in particular for his work in establishing in Limerick the first provincial Art Gallery in Ireland.

distinction which was so highly valued. Since he came back to Limerick, continued Mr. Flood, he had been touched by the goodwill and affection shown him by the citizens. It was good to feel apparently that in the administration of the law he had let no scores, and no words could convey how much he valued the great honour conferred on him that day, and he would regard the occasion as the greatest moment of his life. (Applause.)

A NOTED ARTIST

The conferring of the Freedom on Mr. Sean Keating was then proceeded with.

The Mayor said that Mr. Keating, a native of the city, had shed lustre on his name and on the city of his birth since his entry into art as a career. He had made an indelible mark in his profession, and the City Council deeply appreciated his distinction. Mr. Keating had given to the nation and the world paintings of Irish life which reflected the true spirit of the people and the real character of the country. He was well worthy to be enrolled a Freeman of his native city.

Ald. D. Bourke, T.D., joined with the Mayor in paying tribute to Mr. Keating, as did Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., and Ald. J. Reidy, T.D.

Mr. Keyes said the citizens had followed with pride the growth of Mr. Keating's reputation as an artist and looked forward to his achieving even greater distinctions. They were proud that he was a product of the Municipal Technical Institute in his youth.

The City Manager then read the Certificate of Enrolment, after which it was placed in itsasket and presented by the Mayor amidst prolonged applause.

Returning thanks, Mr. Keating said he could not adequately express the deep feelings which he had at the great honour conferred on him in becoming a Freeman of Limerick. He was proud of his Limerick origin, and felt that the Corporation must be the first body of its kind to confer such a distinction on a painter. Limerick was a city of dignity and manners. He always felt its atmosphere, and also that Limerick people had a vivid imagination and only needed a vivid vocabulary to be entirely distinctive. A great honour had been done him, but he felt that it arose from the city and was part of the city. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for their kindness to him as a Limerick man, and did not hesitate to say that the Technical School gave him the chance that he might not have got otherwise.

MAYORAL LUNCHEON

Subsequently the Mayor entertained the new Freeman, the members of the City Council, officials and Press representatives to luncheon in the Royal George Hotel.

PRESENTATION TO MR. KEATING

During the afternoon a motor car was presented to Mr. Sean Keating by the Mayor at the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of a group of citizens, wishing to pay a personal compliment to the noted artist, who, in the words of Very Rev. Canon Moloney, P.P., V.F., was prodigal in his gifts not only to Limerick but to Ireland.

Bishop's Address

The Art Gallery was opened by the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, in the afternoon. The attendance included the Mayor and Corporation in civic robes, and a very distinguished gathering of citizens.

In the course of his address, the Bishop said the opening of a Municipal Gallery of Art was a great and significant occasion. "There is a significance for us here in Limerick; in the fact that this event has not taken place until the middle of the twentieth century. The chequered history of our country, I suppose, a sufficient explanation. It may be idle to speculate now as to what progress we should have made in the cultivation of the arts if circumstances had been more favourable."

Dr. O'Neill said—"It seems clear, at any rate, our earlier history that our people were endowed with an artistic temperament, which found notable expression in illumination, metal work, etc. examples of which survive in our museums. Be that as it may, the day has come at last when Limerick takes this great step forward in cultural progress, and if the delay in its coming seems to demand some explanation we certainly do not need to explain or apologise for the event we now celebrate. If civilisation means anything it means the diffusion of the highest ideals of truth and beauty."

THE ARTIST'S MEDIUM

"The artist, whatever his medium may be, whether he be poet or painter, musician or sculptor or architect, is one who sees certain aspects of truth or beauty more vividly, who is impressed by them more deeply and who expresses what he sees and feels for the uplift of us all. He is a great artist when he has the deepest impressions and when he is master of the medium of his expression. Therefore, I am proud to have been invited to preside at this opening ceremony. "The Church has always been the

patron of the arts and I have no doubt that she will continue in the role. If the Church in Ireland has sometimes been reproached for lack of patronage, the explanation is not far to seek. Existence comes first, and we have ample signs, especially in the progress of the art of stained glass, that with better times our artists will secure more and more ecclesiastical encouragement. But the Church must not be alone in this. The opening of a gallery will result in the opening of people's minds, and I am confident that the events of to-day will have far-reaching consequences and will do much to contribute to the well-being of our native artists."

Mr. Flood, who was warmly received, said that the opening of the Art Gallery marked the culmination of years of effort. The project was first mooted in 1937, but owing to shortages of materials and other difficulties work was held up for a very long time.

He was very glad to have witnessed the opening of an Art Gallery in Limerick, and desired to pay tribute to the architects, Messrs. O'Callaghan and Gerant, and to the building contractors, Messrs. Thornbury. He congratulated the Limerick Corporation on their encouragement of the project and on the fact that it was unique in having provided funds for the building and also for the acquisition of a very valuable collection of paintings.

Mr. Flood said he also desired to thank the many Irish artists who had donated specimens of their work, and private donors who had been most generous. He regretted that some of the original workers for the Gallery, including Mr. Dermot O'Brien, P.R.H.A., and Mr. Paul Bernard, for many years the treasurer, were no longer alive to witness the fruits of their labours, and he wished to pay a sincere tribute to Mr. J. J. Johnson, Hon. Secretary, who did all the donkey work in the early years, and who had done his work faithfully and zealously.

Mr. Flood concluded by paying tribute to the help given by Mr. Robert Herbert and his staff, and said that the future of the Gallery was safe in the hands of Mr. Herbert, who would be the curator.

Mr. Johnson proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop for attending to open the Gallery, and in doing so appealed to the public to support the work of local painters, who were gaining rapid distinction.

Mr. Sean Keating seconded the proposition, and the Mayor, in a few well-chosen words, conveyed it to Dr. O'Neill.

In reply, Dr. O'Neill expressed the pleasure it gave him to perform the ceremony, and said it was his hope that the Municipal Art Gallery would go from success to success.

Tea was then served to the large gathering.

Successful Venture

Fully Justified

Limerick Schools' Drama Festival was brought to a successful conclusion on Saturday night. During the ten days in which it was held thirty-eight plays in Irish were presented by pupils of the Primary, Secondary and Vocational schools.

The Festival is unique of its type, there being no competitive element, and the aim is the fostering of the language through a most pleasant medium—the stage.

On Saturday night Rev. D. O'Brien, President of the Festival, paid warm tribute to the Limerick teachers for their co-operation, and praised the very high standard attained this year. He said the festival had fully justified itself, and the crowded audiences each night was sufficient evidence of the interest it created.

Enjoyable Fare

Savoy Concert

A concert in aid of St. Patrick's Church Funds at the Savoy on Sunday night was well patronised. The concert items were varied and the fare provided was highly enjoyable.

The St. Patrick's Boys' School Choir, conducted by Mr. Tadg O'Ceallaigh, contributed some delightful choral items, while solo contributions were given by Miss Maura Naughton, Miss Josephine Scanlon and Mr. Louis Moloney.

Irish dancing was gracefully performed by pupils of the Green School, and comedy highlights were Nobby Clark and Pat Foster.

Gumann Dramaideachta Luimnigh presented a bi-lingual sketch, and to wind up Johnny McMahon and his band, with the dainty little Anita, and Miss Breda Halpin, soprano, made a splendid combination in an all-round good programme.

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	12.15	6.00	
	1.23	7.08	
	1.35	8.15	
	2.43	9.23	

DAY	dep.	p.m.	p.m.
	8.00	12.15	6.00
	9.03	1.23	7.08
	11.03		
	1.15		
	3.18	1.35	8.15
	4.18	2.43	9.23

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ARCH SERVICES

EASTER DAY.

Y'S CATHEDRAL—Holy Com-

m. Matins and Holy Com-

m. a.m. Processional Hymn,

Antiphon; Psalms, 2 and 118;

Stanford in B flat; Jubilate;

Antiphon, "Hallelujah Chorus";

Kyrie-Credo, Stewart in G;

Preacher, the Lord Bishop;

—Processional Hymn, 792;

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

Flat; Anthem, Selections

deissiah" (Handel); Hymn, 151;

Hymn, 998.

UEL'S CHURCH.—Holy Com-

m. 8.30 and 10.10 a.m. Matins

Communion, 11.30; Preacher,

nith. Evensong, 8.30; Preacher,

Bywell. Week-days, daily.—

Evensong, 8.0. Monday and

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and

Holy Communion, 10.30 a.m.

and Friday—Litany, 11 a.m.

Touplins, 9.15.

URCH—Holy Communion, 8

ing Prayer and Holy Com-

30; Preacher, the Archdeacon.

ayer, 8.30; Preacher, Rev.

hanson, B.A.

CHURCH.—Holy Communion,

Morning Prayer and Holy Com-

30; Preacher, the Archdeacon.

CHURCH—Holy

8 a.m. Morning Prayer and

union, 10.45; Evening Prayer,

cher, Rev. Canon Hewetson.

T & PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES—

Church, 11.30; Rev. Gerald G.

Presbyterian Church, 12.0.

Cromie, M.A., LL.B. United

service in Methodist Church.

People's Easter Service).

MEETING HOUSE (Ceil St.)—

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1.30; Gospel Meeting, 8 p.m.



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