

them, but it suits a percentage of children. Parents are willing to go to the ends of the earth to raise money to keep ABA schools going. The school in my constituency receives no Government funding apart from home tuition grants, which are given to most of the children. Their parents will do anything from shaving their heads to holding duck races to raise funds. A local philanthropist who is very kind has also donated money to the school. Parents will do

provides a secure environment in which to grow up and grow old, and it strengthens communities and improves the environment."

However the newly-elected Limerick East Fine Gael TD, Kieran O'Donnell, said the Government had missed a golden opportunity to reform properly the stamp duty regime. In his maiden speech, Deputy O'Donnell said that, in the past year, some 2,000 people, just five per cent, of the 38,000 first-time buyers

paid stamp duty.

"The problem is that what is proposed in this Bill will achieve very little. All it does is eliminate stamp duty for 2,000 of 38,000 first-time buyers. It does nothing for the person moving house, and there are various reasons people move. Should they be penalised if they have to move from one area of the country to another by reason of their job, or because there has been an increase in the size for their

family? This Bill, concerned, is nothing

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WEST Limerick's has called on the and Children to re move the Central site beside the new Hall in north Dubl

Council restores City Freeman title to earl who lost it over his conscription call

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE fourth Earl of Dunraven has been reinstated as a Freeman of Limerick by Limerick City Council 89 years after he was stripped of the honour because of his support for conscription during the first World War.

At a private protocol meeting at City Hall last week, councillors unanimously agreed to formally approve the decision and this was passed by the full Council this Monday.

Tadhg Moloney, Munster Royal Fusiliers Association, of which Lord Dunraven was an honorary colonel; local historian Dr Matthew Potter and Liam Irwin, head of the history department at Mary Immaculate College, were instrumental in putting the matter back on Council's agenda, and have been in discussions with the city manager, Tom Mackey, and last year's Mayor Joe Leddin since March.

"I felt he was done an injustice. He was entitled to his freedom of speech as an alderman. The Dunraven family have been informed of the reinstatement and are thrilled," said Mr Moloney. In one of his autobiographies, entitled Past-times, Lord Dunraven stated that the decision to strip him of his title was of "dubious legality", as there is no clause in the law that outlined the criteria for then Limerick Corporation to



Lord Dunraven: the family is delighted and grateful that the situation has been reversed

take back the honour.

At the protocol committee, Cllr Gerry McLoughlin said the views of most councillors were that "times have moved on".

"With the peace process in the North, now is the time for the City Council to take this into consideration. There was a unanimous decision to reinstate him. Lord Dunraven was a Unionist, but a southern Unionist. It was time for us to show that we could respect the views of different people. Plus, it had to be recognised that the Dunraven family have done so much for Limerick throughout the years," said Cllr McLoughlin.

The fourth Earl of Dunraven, Windham Thomas Wyndham-Quin, received the Freedom of the City on December 7, 1903, but was struck off the list on May 2, 1918. Members of the Corporation at the time requested that the Earl return his parch-

ment, but he refused.

However, Mayor Fahy has pointed out that at the time only half of the Corporation's members turned up at the meeting. Of the 20 who attended, 18 voted in favour of the motion to revoke the honour, while two, including the then Mayor, Alphonsus Mary O'Mara, abstained. "So really, only a minority voted in favour," said Mayor Fahy.

"I fully support the decision that the fourth Earl be re-instated," Mayor Fahy said this Tuesday. "They were very difficult times and Lord Dunraven took a stand on conscription which may not have been the most popular thing at the time. But at our meeting there was a genuine recognition that the overall contribution of Lord Dunraven and his family to the people of Limerick city and county far out-weighed his stance on this particular issue."

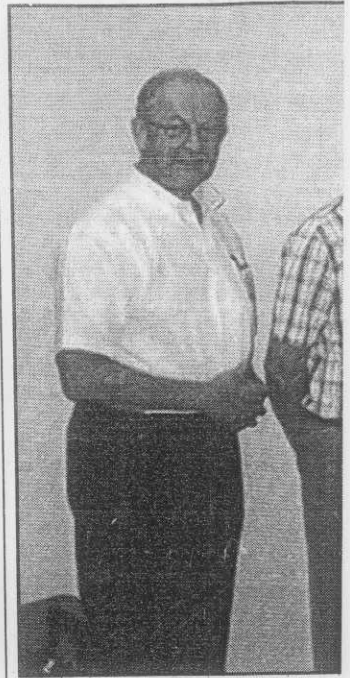
However, the Mayor stressed that the decision was not taken lightly. "There was also an acknowledgement that we do not lightly revoke decisions from previous councils. We didn't lightly overturn the decision of May, 1918."

The current and seventh Earl of Dunraven, Thady Windham Thomas Wyndham-Quin, said this Tuesday: "The family is delighted and grateful that the situation has been reversed."

There will be no formal ceremony to re-instate the fourth Earl who was instrumental in securing St Patrick's Day as a public holiday in the House of Lords in 1903. He also donated £500 for scholarships in Limerick city, and gave £25 towards Ambrose Hall's collection for the erection of a statue to commemorate Patrick Sarsfield.

"This was quite a lot of money in those days. It may be construed that he bought his Freedom, but that certainly wasn't the case," said Mr Moloney.

He was also one of the leading figures of the Irish Unionist Party who were opposed to Home Rule, and following the creation of the Irish Free State, he was appointed to the Seanad. The fourth Earl of Dunraven died on June 14, 1926, and is buried at St Nicholas' Church of Ireland in Adare.



Hands across the water: men Meehan, Shannon Development; Troy Plew manager, Shannon Developn

Tourism

THE region's tourism promoters, Shannon Development, have met with airlines and tour operators to offset concerns that Mid-West tourism is in crisis following the introduction of Open Skies.

A number of airlines cut their services to Shannon, and in a bid to maintain American services to the region, Shannon Development met Delta, US Airways, American Airlines, Aer Lingus US, CIE Tours, Sceptre Tours and Celtic Tours.

Lough Gur

A CHALICE which was gifted to a church in Lough Gur in the 1600s and later went missing and was thought to be buried in the lake, is to go on display as part of an exhibition in the Hunt Museum in September entitled Celebrating Limerick's Silver.

The only remaining medal from Limerick's earliest All-Ireland senior hurling championship success will also go on display for the first time ever as part of this exhibition. The medal was won by Mike Downes when Kilfinane defeated

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