

# City's Famine Graveyard is about to be doubly blessed

THE CITY'S Famine Graveyard may be the unconsecrated ground where many hundreds of local people—Fever victims, paupers, and those—died in hard times, may have been buried in unholly ground for medical reasons, or may unwittingly have been left to the worms to dispose of them, and it is both Exchange, to bless the area during the Masses there on All Souls' Day. Alderman Ian Luddon has now suggested that a special blessing should be said which would call to us for long well and living memory.

Mr Luddon was speaking at an informal meeting of the Corporation Committee's Committee held at the lately restored St Brigid's cemetery, at Watch House Cross, Moynross. Mayor Cllr. J. H. Truscott and the committee chairman, Cllr. Kevin Kelly, agreed that a blessing of the area should soon be undertaken, while Mr. Truscott said the ground had been previously unsanctified.

The 1849-50 area was owned and used by the Union Workhouse, the original function of the old St. Camillus Hospital. It was outside the built-up area, and was thus set apart because of fear of fever contagion. Burials were officially recorded during the sicker days following the Great Famine of the late 1840s.

"People from some noted Limerick families were buried here," observed Cllr. Frank Prendergast, social historian and member of the council committee. "The great bard, Frank Land, came to the city and took ill and is interred here. The Bard of Thomond wrote about seeing burials here."

But plans are afoot for a development of the area, which had lain derelict for so long.

The cemetery has already been landscaped over the past months by the Corporation, under a Social Employment Scheme. The entire entrance path from the main road has been resurfaced, and paths and gates provided. The old cross, dating, it is presumed, from the Great Famine itself, has been erected in limestone stone, and the grass has been cut.

## Burial mounds

It will not be possible to undertake further landscaping because the burial mounds would be disturbed. A deep layer of topsoil will be necessary to allow planting. In the meantime, some trees and tree planting around the 200 meter will take place.

"One would not wish to develop it in any way which would disturb the mounds," suggested Cllr. Jim O'Sullivan, and this was agreed to by Bobby Hayes and Cllr. John O'Gorman. Cllr. O'Gorman emphasised the need to finally light the tall oil lamp which crosses across the latter part of the ongoing development of the area. Cllr. Hayes suggested a lawn party would be the best type of function to proceed on the site.

It was generally agreed that it was unlikely that the area had been left undisturbed since all of the years of the famine, particularly as the state of the hospital would have been Christian-like, and would have a separate plot. It would have allowed the interment of bodies, without the presence of clerical ministrations.

However, said Cllr. Hayes, the ventroscopic to parish has been the subject of many discussions. It has been suggested to the Corporation that the area be used for the construction of a new church. However, the proposed location of the new church is being considered by the Corporation, and the matter is still undecided.

"The same people who de-



At St. Brigid's Cemetery, Watch House Cross: Peter McNamee, staff officer, Limerick Corporation; Joe Lyons, superintendent of cemeteries, Limerick Corporation; Cllr. John O'Gorman, Cllr. Jim O'Gorman, Cllr. Kevin Kelly, Alderman Ian Luddon, Mayor of Limerick; Alderman Tom Luddon, Cllr. Frank Prendergast, Cllr. Eddie Hayes and Cllr. Jim O'Sullivan, environmental officer, Limerick Corporation.



Locomotive  
damaged

## How painful Crucifixion

By GUY COOPER

Illustrated by GUY COOPER