

The picket line outside Ferenka this week.

STALEMATE AT FERENKA PLANT

Unofficial strikers 'reject management proposal'

BY MARTIN RYAN

MORE THAN 900 men were out of work this Friday afternoon as a deadlock situation developed between management and workers at Limerick's strike-bound Ferenka plant at Annacotty.

An offer by the management to have the matter decided before the Rights Commissioner had not been accepted by the workers, a spokesman for the company stated.

He said that the firm were willing to have the Rights Commissioner adjudicate on the dispute and abide by his decision and that if the offer was accepted by the men, with a return to work, it may have been possible to have it dealt with this Friday.

Serious

He added that the Rights Commissioner was in Limerick this Friday and because of the serious production disruption and the number of people involved the Ferenka affair could be treated as a matter of urgency for discussion.

Production has ceased at the plant since Thursday when workers took unofficial action after a man was suspended for one day for refusing to clean a toilet.

The man was given a final warning after refusing to carry out the instruction.

He had also refused to mop a floor and serve teas in the canteen, at the tea break—because he maintained that he was a machine operator.

'No response'

There has been no comment from the workers who have placed a picket on the plant. The men have refused to dis-

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The Minister for the Environment, Mr. Sylvester Barrett, T.D., at the opening of the Brighter Homes Exhibition in the Parkway Motor Inn, Limerick. In the centre is Mr. Billy Hurley, Newsoms, Limerick. On the right is the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Frank Prendergast.

LOCAL FIRM BAKES BREAD FOR COELIACS

BY LEADER REPORTER

GLUTEN-FREE bread, baked specially for coeliacs—people with a rare intestinal disorder—was withdrawn from shop shelves in County Limerick last week. The Cork bakery which supplied the special loaves found it uneconomical. But Keane's Bakery of Limerick stepped in and are now supplying the special bread.

Mr. Michael Keane, director, stated this week that after a few attempts they succeeded in producing the gluten-free bread.

Experimented

"We had to experiment as it is a very hard bread to bake," he told me. "We made two lots and we were not satisfied with them, but the third one came out fine. It is very difficult to make as it does not rise like an ordinary

loaf. We are making it in our confectionary section and not in the bread plant."

The bread which was withdrawn from the local market is made in Cork by Ranks and sold under the Mothers Pride brand name. It was brought to Limerick with another brand of slimming bread and distributed by Keane's. But Ranks found it uneconomical to send a van to Limerick and both brands were withdrawn.

Own brand

Mr. Keane said they were selling about four dozen gluten-free loaves in Co. Limerick weekly and they hope to have their own brand in the shops this week.

The special bread sells in the shops at about double the price of ordinary bread, and this is due to the high cost of producing it.

Mr. John Whelan, of Beechwood Gardens, Newcastle West, who has a daughter who suffers from the condition, said he was delighted with the news this week.

"I'm prepared to travel to Cork for this bread, and I think there is great credit due to Keane's for continuing this service," said Mr. Whelan.

Barrett
opens
homes
exhibition

BY LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK'S second annual Brighter Homes and Do-It-Yourself Exhibition—opened on Wednesday by the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Sylvester Barrett—will continue to Sunday.

It is being staged at the Parkway Motor Inn, where it takes up the whole of the main ballroom and an upstairs ballroom. The Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Frank Prendergast, and Mr. Gerry Geraghty, representing the president of Limerick's Chamber of Commerce, were among the gathering at the opening.

Last year, also in September and at the same venue, the display attracted huge crowds daily. More than fifty firms have booked exhibition space for this year's show, filling every available inch of the 14,000 sq. ft. of display area. Over half the exhibitors are leading Limerick companies, many of whom featured at last year's show and major firms from many other parts of the country including Dublin, Cork and Belfast have also put their goods on display.

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Repairing damage by teenagers who
spoil the fun at city playgrounds