

He then pointed to their assembling tender on their parish the felt condolence and sorrow and the children. Right Hon. Lord Airman of St. Hospital Governor conveyed the heartfelt sympathies and common with citizens, we prize the untiring and attended by the good the children in care, which need for the the high reputation so deserved.

Telegram was from Rome community and blessing Father. reported that are poignant he funeral with victims being in pale blue

y on

they will be des, and this could, with moral supervised in such ns, well fit take an hon- and indepen- in society ir period of as passed." ter, comment- e case, said: of separation n in the case r as in that of but the dis- rents can, at console them- the reflect- he youngsters es will be from the influ- which tempted iminal paths early age in

the same other boys, been charged ing a purse p, it was sug- the prosecu- t they be or their crime, parents, who ent, assented estion. dams, howev- s punishment fished and He did not e Irish people e to see this discipline used The boys ned to terms atory.

riefs...

ry. The great f those present was described blue" with a of Protestant ulars and the ff, opening the gs, said there on but should f such a sover- had not been ir sovereignty, most pleasant mother and -law and was ay a pattern in fe (applause)." s was read out ided: "with the the immortal Long to reign shall ever be nt prayer of sty's dutiful n Limerick" (use).

listic

leader was in 1900 as most promi- nationalistic This policy the Tipperary ict Council in tance of the r's tender for y at the cost of ling a proviso uncil proceed- l be published r.

Papal Decree, the new century was ushered in by the celebration of Midnight Mass in

Practically every issue in 1900 had as its main news item the progress of the Boer War in South

The English War Correspondent said on Feb. 21 1900 that Cronje's magnificent night march

telegram arrived in Limerick today stating that Cronje has surrendered with the loss of many men and guns but no offi-

operating, the many correspondents covering the war were outspoken in their comments. One wrote on the conduct of

when he gets rid of 700 men in the easy manner which distinguished him at Stormberg. The Kilrush cor.

sooner finished when columns were filled regularly with reports of Russian-Japanese conflict.

'The Jewish Question' — great controversy

OF all the sermons that were ever preached in Limerick, that given by Fr. John Creagh, director of the Arch Confraternity, on January 11th, 1904, proved to be amongst the most controversial with far-reaching consequences that even to this day are still regularly recalled, especially in the national press.

"The Jewish Question" was the regular heading given in the *Leader* in the many reports that followed through the ensuing months. The text of Fr. Creagh's sermon was printed in full in the *Leader* and in this he laid into the Jews, especially the community in Colooney Street.

"They are the greatest enemies of the Catholic Church, they crucified Our Lord, and murdered the early Christians. They would kidnap and slay Christian children if they dared" were amongst the more blood-curdling of his claims and in a further sermon, in which he took Michael Davitt to task for his defence of the Jews, he suggested, in so many words, a boycott of Jewish trading in retaliation for what he claimed were exorbitant lending rates that were driving poor people to the edge of starvation.

His sermons, and the harassment and assault on the Jewish community that followed (50 in all as claimed by the Chief Rabbi, the Rev. Levin) made news in the national newspapers in England and there were even comments in the German papers on the question, as reported in the *Leader*, which claimed that the articles were a gross distortion of the situation. "Two or three families are completely ruined and fifteen others are only saved from actual starvation by the humane action of the local Protestants" claimed the article, and the report also quoted the London Press as styling the persecution as "an Isaiah Kisebenev." "Comment is superfluous" concluded the *Leader* report.

The "Jewish Question" was also raised in Parliament by Sir John Hennaway who asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland what steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government to protect the life, property and freedom of tradition of the Jewish population in Limerick. Mr. Wyndham replied that the persecution of the small Jewish population in Limerick has engaged the most careful and anxious consideration of the Government.

Fr. Creagh's exhortations, however, got support from several quar-



Jail Lane, off Mary Street, at the turn of the century. Now known as Emly Place, the background shows the Dutch Gables houses in Mary Street and, to the right, the ruins of the City Jail which was fronted by the centuries old Tholsel, the facade of which was demolished by the Corporation in the 1930s. To the right, where the lamp hangs, was the spot, tradition has it, where Terence Albert O'Brien, the Dominican Bishop of Limerick, was hanged by Cromwellian forces after the Siege of Limerick in 1651

ters, the Executive Council of the British Brothers League having a letter published to the effect that "they offered their sincere thanks to Fr. Creagh for the noble work he has undertaken to prevent a class of undesirable aliens, who have received the hospitality of the Irish race, from demoralising the nation, and bringing misery through their born instinct of greed, usury, and arrogance."

A letter signed 'Joseph Banister' from London claimed that "two-thirds of the London Press, owned by Jews and others owned by pimps and sexual perverts, have been filled with hair-raising yarns of horrible outrages committed on the noble, industrious, law-abiding, inoffensive Hebrews of Limerick, brought about by religious hatred."

John Redmond, M.P., in a letter said "I feel sure the good sense of the Irish people will be sufficient to protect them (the Jews) from any wrong, but I have no sympathy whatever with the Hebrew community in Limerick."

The Dublin *Express*, described as the extreme Conservative organ of anti-Catholicism in Ireland, was taken to task by the *Leader* for what was considered a gross exaggeration in stating that there was an alleged attempt to wreck a Jewish shop. The *Leader* investigated the report and found that it was two drunks who, passing the little shop of a petty Jewish dealer, Mr. Blond,

merely took down one of his shutters which was partly open. "This is how the *Express* described the shop being wrecked, and is another attempt to colour the Semitic situation in Limerick," the report concluded.

The most celebrated prosecution and consequent imprisonment during the period of the "Jewish Question" was that of 15-year-old John Rahilly from Carey's Road who was imprisoned for a month for assaulting Rabbi Levin by striking him with a stone on the ankle. Passions were aroused by what many regarded as a severe sentence on one so young and at a specially called meeting of the Corporation it was unanimously decided "to adopt a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant requesting

clemency."

When Rahilly was released he was met at the station by a large crowd and chaired to his home nearby and made "the recipient of a silver watch and chain on behalf of a number of friends, as a token of their sympathy."

In an interview with a *Leader* representative afterwards young Rahilly said a certain warder on his arrival in Mountjoy came to him and said

"come here you Limerick Jew slayer."

"I reported him to the chief warden who asked me could I point him out, but I said I would not as it would be worse for me during the time I was to be in jail."

The period during the month of January saw the full thrust of the attacks on the Jewish community and on the 22nd of that month there were several prosecutions heard which

the *Leader* headlined: "The Jews. Today's Prosecutions. The latest phase of the Question."

The *Leader* announced Fr. Creagh's departure for the Philippines in May, 1906, and the Confraternity presented him with a valedictory address in which it was stated that "we are buoyed up with a mighty hope that you will prove another noble warrior in the battlefield of Catholicity, holding aloft

the saving cross as the living emblem of salvation on those desolate shores and by your zeal an undaunted energy in the cause of the Holy Church will take your stand as those glorious Missionaries of our faith and country who so long ago fought and won victory after victory in their struggle of infidelity, and save countless souls from the tyranny and tyranny of Satan and his myrmidons."

Millennium Briefs . . . Millennium Briefs . . .

Long day

THE rugby cor. of 1900 ("Half-Back") complained that it took the Leinster team, playing Munster in Tralee, from 2.45 pm to 11 pm to get to their destination. The train went via

Killarney. Leinster won by a try to nil and the cor. pulled no punches when stating that the Munster forwards lost the ball in the ruck on almost every occasion. "Mike Ryan played a fine game but his brother John did not

seem to be up to the mark. Musgrave at full-back was disappointing and Delany was the best of the Munster backs but it was he who left Corley steal away when the try was scored."

Land prices

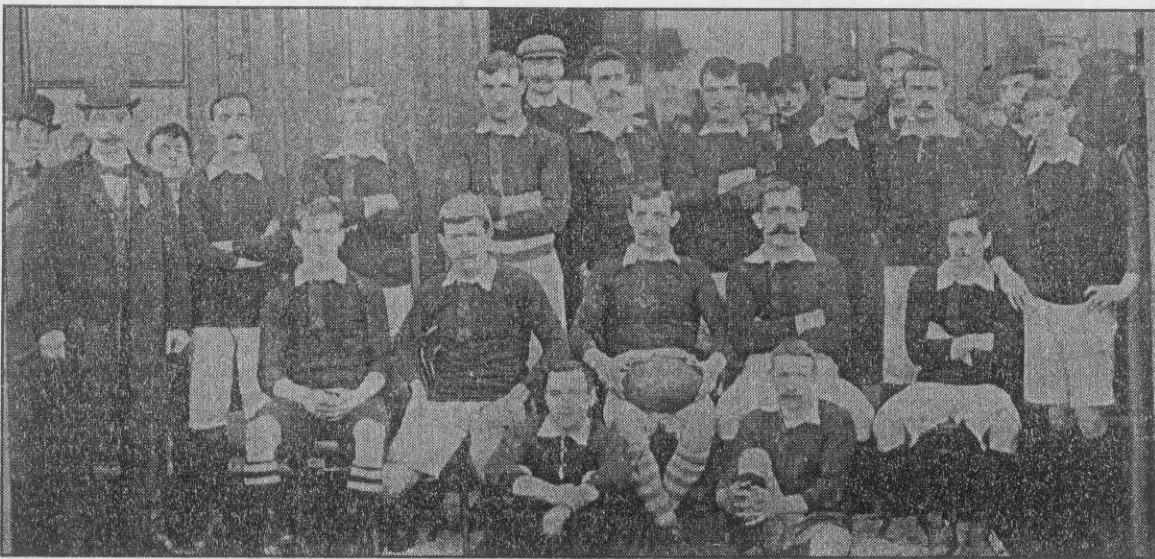
VALUE of land in C Limerick at the turn of the century was: Newcastle West: Carroward, farm of 84 acres sold for £750 to Jeremiah O'Brien, Dromcolloghe Garrane Farm, 56 acres sold to Mrs. Mary Curt for £650. Ardnacree Farm, 35 acres, sold for £575 to Mrs. Mary Curt

Prices

CATTLE prices at the turn of the century were: Prime heifer beef from £13 to £14 10s. each. Secondary, £11 10s. to £12 10s. Sheep, £2 3s. to £2 8s. each.

Grave trouble

AT Newpallas Pet Sessions, a grave owner applied to the magistrate to have a body of a woman, which he claimed was buried without permission in his grave exhumed and re-interred.



Munster team of the season 1899/1900