

ANCE.

TACKS

UT-OFF

ND

HOCKS

1 Disaster

ains Follow

CHOIR

Broadcast

the pupils of the school, St. Michael's, from Radio 1st was most successful viewpoint, and a high standard of piece, "Avenge the silent. Here the choir's blend of the right blend of the choir's inter-our mountains" successful. The har- particularly the singing of "Aice, good, but colour- wever, were very retation of "Castle a made the hack- idge" sound plea- was conductor, and mpere.

NCREASE

ance on Saturday Exchequer Return ed. December 31, st year there was 0 in revenue over this year shows a 477,558 over 1938. of £1,019,211 in over the previous year is £868,316.

THE CAR

Advice

s who, because of nd other reasons, r car for the pre- well to study the a which were sug-

the floor by rais- our tyre pressures the radiator, petrol uld do no harm to gine oil into each See that the body olished; smear all e. Put a few and movable parts d windows; if you hrow over the car,

you will need to three times during t in trim and the e inspected and prevent corroding. rage.

SCILLY ISLANDS

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affected, and stre- ade to prevent the

ome of Major A. A. man of the Scilly cca for visitors, be- ons and beauty. It Gardens, known all

OF DUBLIN

LY ILL.

issued a statement st Rev. Dr. Byrne, in, is seriously ill, ers for his recovery se. Seven years ago he stant at the Ponti-

SUCCESSFUL DANCE

New Year's Night Function

Big Attendance at the Stella

Over one thousand people chose to dance in the New Year at the Stella Ballroom, and as a result, the annual New Year's Night Ball was an outstanding success. The ballroom was a perfect setting for the function, and on the stroke of midnight the dancers gave a spontaneous welcome to 1940. The building was plunged into darkness and beams of light played on a scroll wishing all present a Happy New Year.

Amid the general clamour those present bid good-bye to 1939, and for the remainder of the function made doubly Merry in the first hours of 1940.

WELL ORGANISED.

The music was supplied by Louis Lee and his Gypsy Band, and was a big factor in ensuring the success of the function. The splendid floor was crowded with dancers throughout the night, and the beautiful gowns worn by the ladies combined to make a brilliant kaleidoscope. From the viewpoint of organisation the ball was a tribute to Mr. W. R. Lee and the Stella Management, who provided a most pleasing supper for the many guests.

The attendance included—Mr. E. O'Carroll and party, Dr. C. O'hessy and party, Mr. and Miss Dwyer and party, Miss K. McCarthy, Misses Van de Velde, Mr. K. Bradshaw and party, Miss W. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ryan, Inspector and Mrs. Brazil, Mr. V. O'Connor and party, Miss M. Bourke, Miss R. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. D. O'Sullivan, Misses O'Rourke, Miss Leahy, Mr. R. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. W. O'Neill, Miss M. O'Brien and party, Mr. and Mrs. R. Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. T. Quinn, Mr. K. Duggan and party, Mr. W. Feehan and party, J. O'Farrell, E. Walsh, M. O'Donnell, J. O'Dwyer, Miss McMahon, Miss Moran, T. Hutchinson, J. Gould, T. O'Kelly, W. Sheehan and party, F. Carroll, G. Hayes, R. Berson and party, Misses P. Carey, Miss Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, P. O'Connor, T. Ryan, J. McCarthy, Misses Cooney, M. Cooney, R. Cunningham, Miss J. Holliday, and party, J. Foley, M. Fitzgerald, Miss Daly, J. Hurley, A. Riordan, G. Riordan, Miss P. O'Donnell, T. Hinchey, A. Craig and party, P. McMahon, Miss E. Fitzgibbon, Miss Treacy, Miss Brown, Mr. and Mrs. R. Barry, Miss Quaid, Misses Reid, Misses Peppard, Mrs. R. O'Sullivan and party, M. Gallagher, Dr. McNamara and party, M. Crowley and Mrs. Crowley, J. Leahy, Miss Stephenson, Miss Doran, Miss B. Kelly and party, etc., etc.

A DANGEROUS CORNER

There is reason to believe that the authorities of St. Mary's Cathedral will accede to the wish of the City Council to have the boundary wall of the Cathedral at the corner of Bridge Street and Nicholas Street removed and rebuilt a few feet back in order to facilitate traffic. The particular spot indicated is very dangerous and accidents have occurred there from time to time. The permission of the authorities of the Cathedral has been requested to permit the Corporation to broaden the roadway by removing the angle of the boundary wall, and we understand endeavours will be made to comply as far as possible with the wishes of the Council.

SUDDEN ILLNESS

DEATH OF FARMER IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

The death took place, after a few hours' illness, of Mr. Ed. Coll, Baili-philip, Croom. Deceased, who resided with his brother, was taken suddenly ill on Sunday morning. Rev. T. Mortell, P.P., Banogue, attended to administer the last rites, and later deceased had medical attendance, but passed away that day. Following removal of the remains to Banogue Church, interment took place at Croom on New Year's Day in the presence of a large procession of sympathisers. Rev. Fr. Mortell, P.P., Banogue, recited the last prayers at the graveside.

Much sympathy will be extended to the surviving brother of the deceased and a wide circle of relatives.

PURDON'S ALMANAC, 1940.

VALUABLE PUBLICATION.

The ninety-ninth edition of "Purdon's Almanac," the Year Book of "The Farmers' Gazette," which embraces all those features which have made it an indispensable publication for Irish agriculturists in the past. The Alphabetical and Daily List of Fairs for both Eire and Northern Ireland in 1940 are a particularly useful feature. The Land Stewards, Gardeners, and Stock Salesmen's Directories, with the weights, measures, stock returns, the personnel of the Department of Agriculture and the Northern Ministry, County Committees, Instructors, etc., and the special articles makes the publication of special value

EMERGENCY DAIL

To-Morrow's Meeting

Full Attendance Expected

The emergency meeting of the Dail which has been called for Wednesday has excited much interest in political circles, and it is likely there will be a full attendance of Deputies.

There will possibly be two Bills on the Order Paper for introduction—namely, a Bill to amend the Emergency Powers Act, and a Bill to repeal and re-enact, with certain alterations, Part VI. of the Offences Against the State Act.

The House will be asked to pass the Emergency Powers (Amendment) Bill at the sitting on Wednesday, as it is urgently needed.

The Opposition Party, who in the crisis of last September showed their willingness to give the Ministers all the powers they required to meet the crisis which had arisen, will, no doubt, accede to the wishes of the Government; but it is not improbable that there will be a considerable amount of criticism, especially in regard to the use which has been made of the emergency legislation in the meanwhile.

Some Deputies have already intimated their intention to raise the question of the use made of the Emergency Powers Act, particularly in connection with the recent farmers' trouble. They say that a use of the Act was not contemplated when it was going through the House in September last.

The Seanad has been summoned to meet at 3 o'clock on Thursday.

THE GULF STREAM

Now Further North

The well-known Swedish meteorologist, J. W. Sandstrom, whose weather prognostications, based on long and careful studies of the Gulf Stream, have aroused international attention, will embark on his twelfth meteorological expedition next summer. On this occasion he will undertake measurements of the ocean surface temperature right across the North Atlantic. The expedition vessel will, as usual, be Golfstrommen, Mr. Sandstrom's own boat, which is now on the stocks at Narvik, Norway. During the summer of 1939, Mr. Sandstrom explains, the warm Gulf Stream water reached further into the Polar basin than ever before. The Arctic Sea was ice-free around the whole of Spitzbergen, and the open sea stretched as far up as 84 deg. N., or nearly half way between the North Pole and Spitzbergen. Several kinds of fish, such as cod, etc., which were formerly not to be found in the ice-cold waters around Spitzbergen, have now appeared there since the water became warmer. The Gulf Stream now forms a continuous band of warm water across the entire North Atlantic, from the tropics in the south to far north of Spitzbergen in the north, and its breadth is about 500 kilometres (310 miles).

FORGERY CHARGE

Labourer Remanded

Thomas Enright, a labourer residing at Brackvaan, Bruff, Co. Limerick, was charged before Mr. Philip Mortell, P.C., at a special court at Charleville, with having, on the 22nd December last, presented a forged cheque drawn on the Munster and Leinster Bank for the sum of £10, and purporting to have been signed by one Mrs. Mary O'Mahony.

Sergeant Wm. Duggan, Charleville, gave evidence of arresting the accused and charging him with the offence. He gave him the usual legal caution and accused made a statement which he intended handing in at a later stage. As his investigations were not yet completed he applied to have the accused remanded to the next sitting of the District Court on Friday, January 5th.

Accused was remanded in custody.

KILLALOE IMPROVEMENTS

For some time past a very energetic local committee has been busily engaged formulating plans for the improvement of Killaloe and the extension of its tourist amenities.

Already great strides have been made towards the attainment of these objects, and a very ambitious programme has been laid out for 1940.

Last year for the first time after a lapse of four decades a regatta, under the I.A.R.U. rules, was held, and whole-hearted co-operation on the part of the Limerick Clubs did much to make the fixture a success despite a very bad day.

The first Sunday in September saw the initial meeting of the St. Lua Swimming Club, and their gala brought shoals of competitors from Limerick, Clare, Tipperary and Cork. Most of the regatta trophies went to Shannon Rowing Club and the swimming prizes to the Thomond Club.

The closing of winter ended the out-

LOUGH GUR

Important Finds

Pre-Historic Buildings in Co. Limerick

For four consecutive seasons archaeological excavations have been carried out in the vicinity of Lough Gur, County Limerick, under the State Employment Schemes. During these four seasons many sites have been excavated, including three stone circles, a megalithic tomb, two stone forts, a series of ancient dwelling sites, and some Neolithic houses. Each season's work has produced important results, but those obtained during the 1939 campaign have been of outstanding significance for Irish archaeology.

The work has been conducted throughout by Dr. Sean P. O'Riordan, Professor of Archaeology at University College, Cork. During this year's excavations Professor O'Riordan has had the assistance of a number of University students in addition to his ordinary staff. About twenty-five students took part in the investigations for periods varying from a few days to over a month, and this new development is looked on as a very healthy one for archaeology in this country. Some of the student helpers proved so good at field work that it is hoped that the Lough Gur excavations will prove a training ground for a new school of excavators in Southern Ireland, and thus supply a much-felt want in Irish archaeology, where the work to be done is so much in excess of the available experts.

The workmen, recruited from the local unemployed, numbered about thirty, and were employed for about three months, during which three sites were excavated.

SITE I—STONE CIRCLES.

The principal site dealt with this year was a large stone circle on the western side of the lake, near the Bruff-Limerick road, the best-known monument in the Lough Gur area, and probably the finest stone circle in Ireland. Permission to excavate was kindly granted by the owner of the monument, the Count de Salis. The fine state of preservation of this circle is due to the care devoted to it by the de Salis family as owners, and by their tenants, the Fitzgualds. This monument consists of a circle of large stones backed up by a huge bank of earth, with a smooth, level open interior space, having a diameter of about 155 ft., while the bank outside the stones varies in width between 30 and 40 feet.

Almost all the finds came from the original turf level, recognisable under the two-foot layer of filling. They consist of tools and weapons of flint and very many fragments of pottery. Of these it is mainly of the pottery finds that conclusions as to the date of the monument are based. The pottery consisted of Neolithic (Late Stone Age) Early Bronze Age, and "Beaker" wares. Since Neolithic pottery has hitherto been found only very sporadically in Ireland, except in the north-east of the country, the finding of a considerable amount of it of various types, in the stone circle, opens up quite new possibilities in Irish pre-history. What is known as "Beaker" pottery, of the Early Bronze Age, is a type well known in Britain and the Continent, but its almost complete absence in Ireland has long since been a maxim of the textbooks. Recent excavations, including that at Lough Gur in 1938, have produced some Beaker fragments.

The stone finds included flint scrapers, blades and arrow-heads, as well as stone axes. A fragment of a bronze bracelet was also found. On the evidence of the finds a date of about 1700 B.C. is suggested for the erection of the monument, and the evidence obtained goes to show that it had a ritual purpose; that it was a pagan religious centre; a prehistoric temple.

SITE II—NEOLITHIC HOUSES IN KNOCKADOON.

The second site, excavated by kind permission of Mr. R. Ryan, T.D., was a group of Neolithic houses situated in Knockadoon, once an island, now a peninsula in the lake.

Two house-sites were excavated. The finds consisted of Neolithic pottery, flints, stone axes, and other implements. Since some of the pottery fragments came from the actual material of the walls, there can be no doubt that the houses date from the Late Stone Age times.

While it was possible to excavate only two houses on Knockadoon, there are indications of the existence of many others and it is possible that further work there may show that the site is really a Stone Age village.

SITE III—EARLY CHRISTIAN PERIOD DWELLINGS.

The third site, on a plateau on the eastern side of the lake, was another group of houses, within small early fields—the fields of the ancient farmers who lived here. This investigation was carried out on the land of Mrs. M. Connolly, who very kindly gave permission for the excavation.

In the houses were found the objects of everyday life possessed by the inhabitants—bone spoons, ornamented bone combs, flints, whet-stones, bronze pins, querns, glass beads.

The Lough Gur district is far from being archaeologically exhausted, but the work done in it so far tends to present us with an archaeological history of Ireland in miniature.

CURRENT REVIEW

People and Events

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Sunday, New Year's Day, was pleasant out of doors. There was some sunshine, but insufficient to induce anyone to take undue liberties by discarding an overcoat. The passing of the year was marked by the customary festivities—the ringing of church bells, sounding of ship's sirens, and blowing of railway whistles, as well as band playing. The crowds in the streets seemed to be larger than usual and as jubilant; they were made up of young folk, buoyant, babbling juveniles without a care. They sang and made merry, and when the New Year arrived hilarity was more emphatic. When the bells ceased pealing the crowds melted away and silence returned.

THE HOLIDAY.

New Year's Day, the Feast of the Circumcision, was observed with befitting religious ceremonies in all the churches of the city. Large congregations were present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and there were numerous communicants. Weather conditions continued favourable, it being dry and crisp. During the day the streets presented an animated appearance, and there was considerable bustle in the shops for the winter sales. New Year greetings were exchanged, and those who made resolutions to practice, say, a self-denying act during the coming twelve months, are plucky people. Because they could not agree on any single item of it, a couple of my acquaintances have made a pact not to discuss the war.

GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

A resolution of that kind requires more than fortitude, having regard to the fact that the pair are as inseparable as Juno's swans and as voluble as the Eloquent Dempsy. They have much in common, agree on a variety of subjects, but on the cause of the war their views are as divergent as those of the B.B.C. and D.J.A., which is saying something. Another acquaintance, a lady, has resolved to refrain from small talk. If her example was followed there would be less congestion in the city footpaths and more charity displayed. The man who vowed to abstain from making a joke must be given the palm, when it is considered that he holds a patent for pour rire.

THE BARGAIN SALES.

There was a rush for the bargains at the winter sales, which opened yesterday in the drapery stores of William Todd and Co. and Cannock and Co. These old-established and highly reputable firms enjoy a wide trading connection, which is attributed to the excellent value given at competitive prices. Throughout yesterday and to-day both emporiums were crowded by women, who elbowed their way to the counters to pick up the bargains, which, in the language of the salesmen, must be cleared to make room for new goods. To get shut of the old stock is the motive of the sales, which are a boon to the housewife of moderate means to replenish wardrobe and chest of drawers at a low cost.

THE REGULARS.

The regular bargain-chaser is a very keen person. She is an adept in the craft, and no sale would be complete without her. Watch her sifting out the articles most useful, and you see something like the practised whist player arranging his hand. She continues to gather the plums of the sales, as she knows her way round and is fortified with a pleasant manner and gives the least trouble to the assistant, who represents the virtue of patience at its best. Your casual novice, at the game is quite a different individual. She finds it hard to make up her mind; she takes up an article, examines it, lays it aside, repeats the process over and over—an unsatisfactory customer.

A GREAT ACTOR.

A note of regret will issue from the lips of the older generation of Limerick playgoers at the death of Sir Frank Benson. He was 81, and the last of the great Shakespearean school of actors. Before the 1914-1918 War he was a regular visitor to this city, where he was very popular, not only for the excellence of his art, but his unaffected, warm personality. Sir Frank was a great actor and scholar. He had a fondness for Limerick, and spoke of it as the birthplace of the most brilliant Shakespearean actress of her time, Miss Ada Rehan. He was a lover of sport, especially Rugby football, which he played with his own actor team against Garryowen in the Markets Field.

CORBALLY FLOODING.

The flooding of a big tract of pasture at Corbally is a serious loss to the owners, who can ill-afford to be deprived for twelve months or more of valuable grazing. The fixing of liability for repair to the river bank is not an insuper-

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.

The year 1940 has arrived; it was rung in with the customary celebrations, and all are speculating on what it will bring. Nobody can say, and it would be a rash person that would venture to prophecy what lies ahead of us. It is as mysterious, as someone remarked, as a starlit night in a blackout. Consequently any forecast would be vain, shadowy and profitless. Science cries halt, and the modern school of astrologers is only groping and guessing in pretending to penetrate the mists. We can, however, all hope, though dark as the outlook is, things will not become worse; that this year will see the end of war and a return of peace for which all men of good will are yearning. It would be a blessing if the rule of international law was re-established in the coming months and nations now in deadly conflict turned their attentions to the building of a better social order. The forces working for peace are influential and must be encouraged in their efforts. They must have our prayers above everything else that success may crown the work in which they are engaged. In this country we have much for which to be grateful; we are removed from the theatre of hostilities and our sovereignty is not menaced. While we enjoy that immunity it is an incontrovertible fact that we are feeling the economic reactions inevitable to the war. Had the country escaped these repercussions it would be miraculous, but Mr. De Valera took pains to assure the people that they should be prepared to make sacrifices and put up with inconveniences. So far these have not been severe, but as the war drags on they are bound to become intensive. Anyhow as long as we are not involved directly in the struggle we occupy a position which few of the contiguous neutrals enjoy. In a New Year's message to his Cork constituents, Mr. W. T. Cosgrave, T.D., stated it was his earnest hope and prayer that the people of Cork and of Ireland would have in the New Year peace, better conditions for all, and surer prospects for the welfare of the nation. The Fianna leader's allusion to peace is significant, and we will probably bear a good deal more of it when the Dail reassembles this week from the Ministerial benches. Recent happenings have had a disquieting effect, throughout the country, and the Government is certain to have numerous critics among the Opposition. It cannot escape censure, but doubtless will put a plausible defence. Goodness knows we have had more than our share of turmoil, and it is time we had a rest. It is overdue after seven centuries of alien misrule, oppression by fire and sword and the gallows. Everyone realises the injustice of Partition; it rankles in every breast, but the difficulty is to find an immediate solution. When Mr. Cosgrave expresses a hope of better conditions for all, coupled with surer prospects for the Nation's welfare, he voices what is uppermost in every mind. Unemployment continues to be a disturbing factor of our economic system, and here again the solution appears remote. It will not be found by charging the Government with apathy and indifference to the well-being of the workers whose social interests have been substantially advanced by the present administration. It has enacted legislation of a very beneficial character, and in some directions, in the opinion of many, travelled a bit too fast in providing the wage earner with a measure of comfort and security non prevalent in other lands. The Government can no more cure unemployment than its predecessors in office. Even in the most prosperous times when trade is booming there will be a percentage of idle men and women, but we have not in Limerick, at all events, a great deal to complain about in that respect. We