

After the parade through Limerick they could buy whiskey at 3d. a glass.

Christmas Shopping Sixty Years Ago

SOME OLD PLACES AND PRICES RECALLED

This week we span sixty years to return to the good old days of 1909—the prices were right anyway—and join the happy throng of city and country shoppers who crowded the streets during Christmas week.

At Michael Egan's, 9, 10 and 11 Patrick Street, a quart of whiskey sold for 5/-, and a gallon of liqueur whiskey guaran-

teed over ten years old, for 26/-. Tea was on offer from 1/4d. to 2/8d. per lb., and splendid port wine at 30/- per dozen bottles.

FOWL

At the densely-packed market place, cock turkeys were sold at 21/- per pair; hen turkeys, 10/- per pair; geese, 6/- per pair, and chickens, 2/6 per pair. Eggs were 1/6 per dozen;

butter, 1/1 per lb.; potatoes, 4 1/2d. per stone; roast beef, 9d. per lb.; and soup beef, 3 1/2d. per lb. American bacon was 50/- per cwt. (or 5 1/2d. per lb.)

Tobacco

O'Donovan's attractively displayed windows in O'Connell Street (or George Street, as it

was then known) featured dainty gold and silver-mounted cigar and cigarette holders, together with a wonderful variety of pipe racks, tobacco jars, smokers' cabinets, match stands and other accessories.

At Nestor Brothers, Havana cigars sold as low as 26/-; Continental, 10/-; Mexican, 17/-; British, 10/-; not per dozen, but per hundred! Cigarettes were from 2/- to 5/- per 100, and tobacco 4/- to 6/- per lb.

Footwear

A sale was in progress at the Limerick Boot Stores, 127 O'Connell Street. The offers included: gent's laced boots, 6/6; ladies' box-calf boots from 2/11 to 11/6; ladies' shoes from 1/9 to 7/11; infants' laced and button boots, 6d. per pair; women's carpet slippers, 6 1/2d.

At Woodford Bourne's, 102 O'Connell Street, this festive fare was on offer: Christmas mince meat, 8d. to 3/- per basin; puddings, 1/6 to 3/- per basin; plum cakes, 2/6 to 4/-; rich Christmas biscuits, 1/- to 3/6 per tin; boxes of chocolates, 6d. to 7/6; 10 years old whiskey, 22/- per gallon; 10 years old Port, 42/- per dozen bottles; old liqueur brandy, 12/6 per flask.

A. E. Kidd and Company, 4 O'Connell Street, Santa Claus presided over a huge selection of fruit, sweets, meats and Christmas stockings filled with the best of good things. Irish hams were 1/- a lb. and finest Canadian hams 7d. per lb.

At Mulligan Brothers and Todd, 3 Shannon Street, golf clubs were from 3/3 to 5/- each; golf balls from 7d. to 1/-; hockey sticks, 3/6 to 4/6; and hockey balls, 3/6 to 5/6.

At Cruise's Hotel, a table d'hôte 5-course lunch cost 2/-; 3-course lunch, 1/-; and bed, 2/-.

Music

Pigott & Co., 111 O'Connell Street, had phonographs from 5/-; gramophones from 30/-; tapered arm machines from £3-15; and records from 1/- each. Pianos could be had from £20 upwards.

Everywhere was noticed the emphasis on goods of Irish manufacture. A general appeal to shopkeepers to give prominence during the Christmas season to articles of Irish manufacture was particularly well responded to in Limerick.

Christmas Day, 1909, fell on a Saturday, and business houses reopened on the following Tuesday, December 28. In the hospitals, the workhouse and other institutions, the festival was made bright and joyous, and hospitality was lavish.

But, even though whiskey was as cheap as 5/- a quart, there was very little drunkenness. Perhaps very few people could afford it!

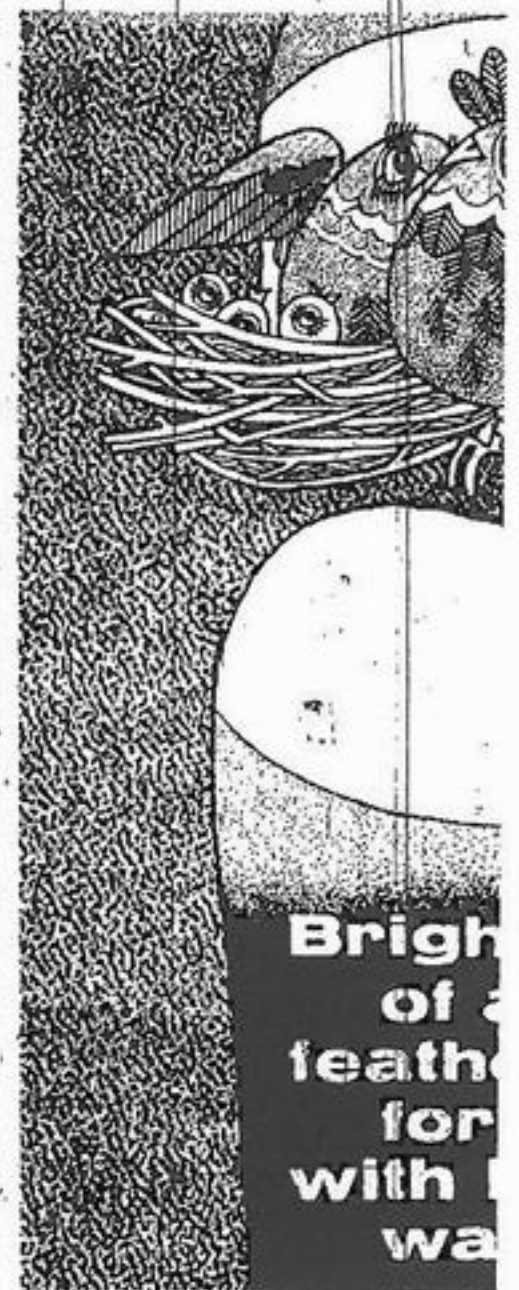
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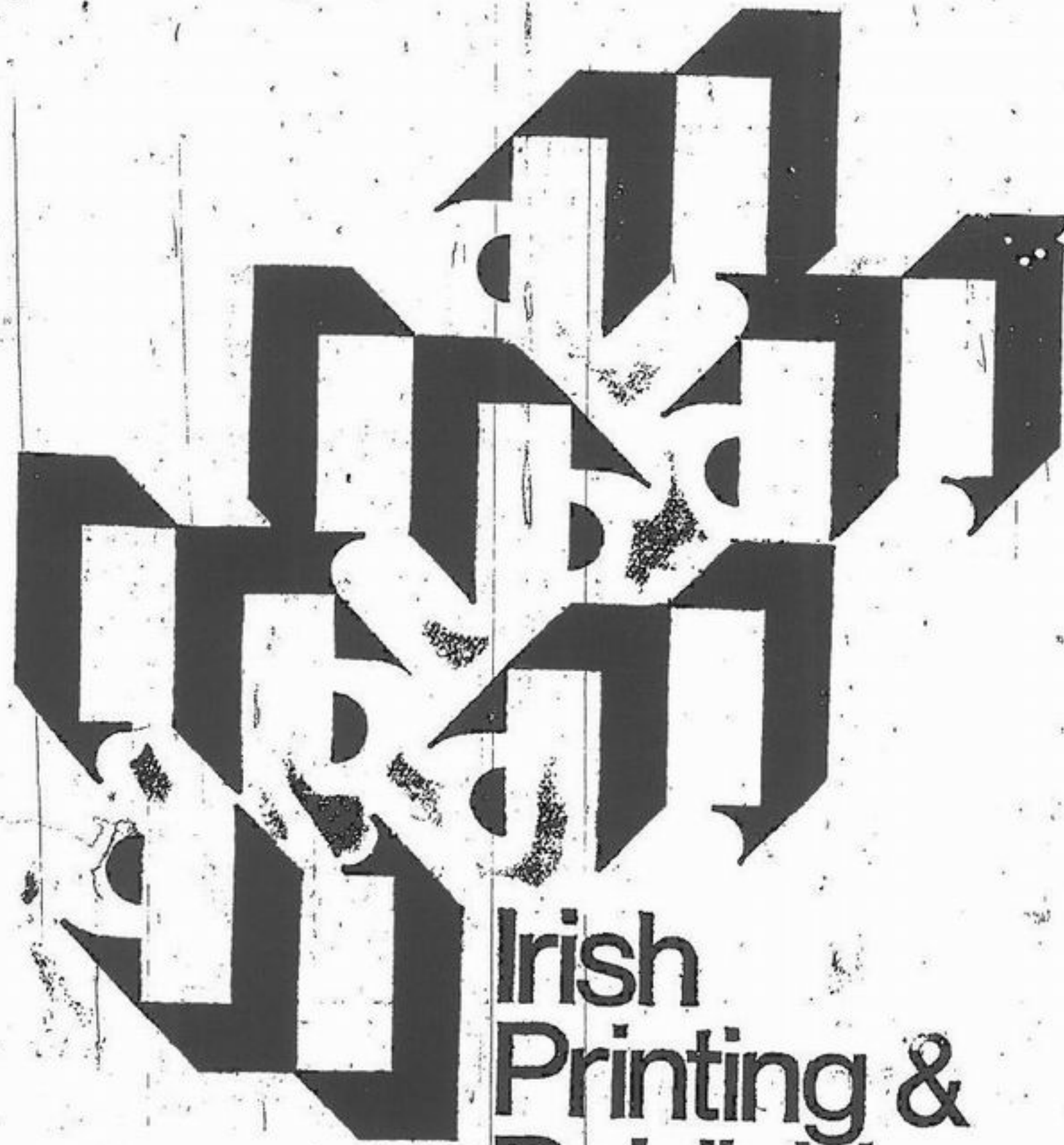


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