

Local history



Leader Memories

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'Leader' urges leadership

'Limerick expects from its representatives in the Dail something more than the unsatisfying and not very fruitful service of merely walking into the lobbies to vote at the sound of a division bell'

Not for the first or, indeed, last time in its eventful history the Limerick Leader urged our local politicians to show leadership by coming together to formulate a strategy in which both the city and county could benefit, especially as the Shannon Electrification Scheme would be unveiled in the near future. Ald. Dan Burke, in an interview with the Leader on Wednesday, October 3, 1928, said he had "no difficulty in meeting the other deputies in the constituency in an economic conference."

THAT the seven Dail Deputies for Limerick City and County should come together "for a heart-to-heart talk as to how they may best advance the interests of their constituency" is strongly approved by Alderman D. Bourke, T.D. In our editorial of Friday last we threw out the above suggestion and since then we have received from all quarters and from all classes' cordial endorsement of the suggestion. In an interview accorded to a "Limerick Leader" representative Deputy Bourke expressed himself as only too willing to meet the other deputies of the constituency in an economic conference. Alderman Bourke, who displayed a thorough grasp of local conditions and requirement, set out what good would likely result from such a conference. He also spoke of the need for an industrial council.

was being done in the direction of broadcasting the suitability of Limerick as a centre for industrial activity. There was very little use in telling one another that the City of Limerick was in a particularly advantageous position; that it was in the centre of the Saorstát; that it was the largest part of the Western Seaboard, and that it was at the head of the largest waterway of the country. These and other facts should be circulated far and near

MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN

There were many other local questions, too, said Mr. Bourke, that could engage the attention of an industrial council. The unemployment problem so far as it concerned the city and county was a subject calling for immediate attention. Then, again, they had the housing question. An exchange of views, and concerted action on the part of the deputies of the constituency would, he believed, result in securing state financial aid for a housing scheme. There were innumerable matters of great local concern with which a conference of the deputies could grapple. "It is not necessary in this interview," he said, "that I should go into these in detail. What I have already said covers a pretty wide field and is a programme, though very limited, that would give us deputies something to do and think about," he said good-humouredly.



LIMERICK LEADER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1928.

Things That Matter

FATHER Philip's address to the Limerick Rotary Club on Monday was a clarion call that should help very materially in having local apathy replaced by a spirit of active enterprise and initiative. It was at once an indictment and an encouragement, for while it pointed out that this now highly favoured centre has not yet begun to make the most of its opportunities it showed that the city has still time and scope for such action as will make its future one of great and assured progress and prosperity.

In his stimulating address Father Philip gave an interesting but by no means exhaustive outline of developments that are quite feasible in this city if the proper steps are only taken towards their achievement. He indicated several directions in which new ground can be successfully broken in the matter of starting factories and made a very practical and useful suggestion as to a first step that ought to be taken in this connection. He strongly advocated the formation of a Civic Industrial Council, the function of which would be "the attracting of new industry to the city and the fostering of old ones." Such a council, if properly constituted, would be of tremendous advantage and no time should be lost in setting it up.

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willing to meet the other deputies of the constituency in an economic conference. Alderman Bourke, who displayed a thorough grasp of local conditions and requirements, set out what good would likely result from such a conference. He also spoke of the need for an industrial council.

ALD. D. BOURKE, T.D.

Public Spirited Lead

The suggestion made in our editorial of Friday last that the seven Dail Deputies for the constituency - Ald. D. Bourke; Messrs. Geo. Bennett, T. Crowley, J. T. Nolan, James Colbert, R. O'Connell and P. Clancy - should come together "for a heart-to-heart" talk as to how they may best advance the interests of their constituency for the city in the Dail, though the City and County are one constituency, strongly approves of the suggestion.

ALD. BOURKE'S VIEWS

Interviewed by a Limerick Leader representative today on the subject, the Alderman said that he was only too willing to take part in any conference with the other deputies of the constituency with a view to furthering the claims of Limerick City and County. "I am in thorough agreement with Father Philip when he spoke of the necessity of starting an Industrial Council for the city," he said. "It appears to me," he continued, "that a great deal of good would follow both for city and county by the formation of such a council; furthermore, I am of the opinion that if the civic heads of the city and county took the initiative no difficulty would be experienced in finding the nucleus of a progressive council.

ADVERTISE THE FACILITIES

Deputy Bourke proceeded to say that now was the time to advertise the potentialities of Limerick as an industrial centre. Other places that could not, by any stretch of the imagination, offer such attractions in that respect as Limerick were proclaiming to all and sundry the special facilities they were capable of providing for people contemplating starting new industries.

"There is no gainsaying the fact," said Ald. Bourke, "that ours is the best distribution centre for the south and west. I recall one captain of industry saying that it was the very best in Ireland."

QUESTION FOR LIMERICK

The future of Limerick was very promising, Deputy Bourke continued. The provision of cheap power from the Shannon Scheme was bound to lead to the establishment of new industries. "The big question for Limerick is what use is Limerick going to make of the Shannon Scheme" he emphasized. A conference on the lines suggested by the "Leader", he added would go a long way to answer that question. Too little

with which a conference of the deputies could grapple. "It is not necessary in this interview," he said, "that I should go into these in detail. What I have already said covers a pretty wide field and is a programme, though very limited, that would give us deputies something to do and think about," he said good-humouredly.

"WILLING TO CO-OPERATE"

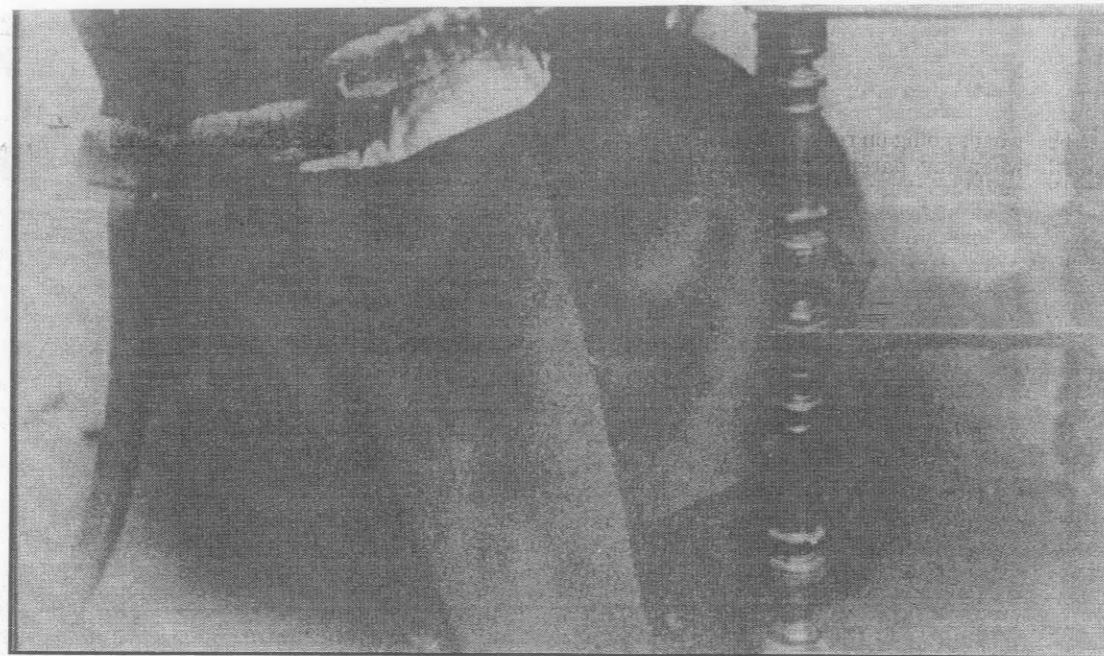
"For myself, I am at any moment ready to attend at any conference or meeting called together to discuss local economic questions. There is no reason in the world why a meeting of the deputies should not take place on these lines." "Who should take the initiative of summoning the deputies together," the Alderman asked. "Well, as I have already said," he replied, "I think the initiative should be taken by the civic heads of the city and county acting together. The concern of one is the concern of all. I have been thinking over this matter for some time, and I am strongly convinced that there should be no delay in the holding of this conference. It will not now be possible, I fear, to have a meeting of the deputies before the Dail opens, but if we could have even an informal meeting it would be very desirable."

BEET AND CEMENT FACTORIES

"There are many matters affecting the city that require attention," our representative suggested. "Yes, that is true. We have the preservation of the city water supply in its relation to the Shannon Scheme to safeguard. More money is urgently needed for houses - and in this connection I would like to point out that if the seven deputies acted as one in forcing the claims for grants to meet the housing shortage I believe much progress could be made - and then we have our roads, the completion of which in concrete, should be pressed with all speed." "What about the beet sugar factory?" "Yes, that is another matter. Some years ago there was much talk and speculation of starting a cement factory here, but in late years the project has evidently died.

PROVIDING THE CAPITAL

"The conference could put new life into these two schemes. As to the beet factory, the French Syndicate state that they are prepared to provide all the capital necessary, something like £400,000, to make a start provided the Government will guarantee a subsidy. The subsidy required, while not specifically named, will not be as large as that in Carlow. The Government, however, are not inclined to subsidise any more beet factories for a year or so until they see how the Carlow factory progresses. All present indications go to show that the Carlow factory will be a great financial success. That being so, Tipperary, Cork, and other places are making claims for beet factories. It is obvious,



Deputy Dan Bourke, TD, led the talks in 1928 between the six other Dail deputies

NEW ORDER OF THINGS

What it Means for Limerick

'LEADER' SUGGESTION

Meets With Strong Support

That the seven Dail Deputies for Limerick City and County should come together "for a heart-to-heart talk as to how they may best advance the interests of their constituency" is strongly approved by Alderman D. Bourke, T.D.

In our editorial of Friday last we threw out the above suggestion and since then we have received from all quarters and from all classes cordial endorsement of the suggestion.

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therefore, that we in Limerick should be up and doing to push to success our claim for a beet factory. Joint action is the best and only way to do that."

NEW ORDER OF THINGS

Concluding, Ald Bourke said that he earnestly hoped that the movement to form an Industrial Council for the city and county would fructify, as he believed that the existence of such a council would be only in keeping

with the new order of things and was obviously essential to their material progress and welfare.

APPROVAL FROM COUNTY

In the course of a lengthy letter, which will appear in full in our weekend issue, Mr. John Smyth, Rathany, Hospital, says: "I heartily approve of your suggestion that the Chairman of the County Council, Mr. John McCormack, and the Mayor,

in the centre of the coast; that it was the largest port on the western seaboard, and that it was at the head of the largest waterway of the country. These and other facts should be circulated far and near.

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What has been very much wanted in Limerick for a long time is a lead on the part of someone in a representative capacity. There is general agreement in a loose and indefinite sort of way that this important centre has immense possibilities by reason of its situation and natural advantages and the fact that it is the virtual headquarters of the Shannon Scheme. But the initiative and driving force that would turn the vague feelings of hope and anticipation into practical action have so far been lamentably lacking. It is about time something were done in the way of a public-spirited move in the desired direction, for the personal "push" that everyone has been patiently waiting for is long over due.

In our last weekend edition we threw out a suggestion that, we have reason to know, has met with a very encouraging measure of approval: We urged that the Mayor, Councillor M. J. Keyes, and the Chairman of the Limerick County Council, Mr. John McCormack jointly call the seven Dail Deputies for this Constituency together to talk over the matter of holding an industrial conference in Limerick.

This initial step would fit in admirably with the suggestion made by Father Philip and with an earlier one made on somewhat similar lines several weeks ago by Mr. J. A. Smyth, Rathany. Our reason for suggesting that the Mayor and Chairman of the County Council take the initiative is that both city and county are closely concerned in the matter and that in the circumstances the two representatives mentioned seem to be the proper persons to lead off in the first instance in a movement calculated to benefit not only the citizens but all classes of local rural dwellers as well.

It is rather surprising indeed, why our seven Limerick Deputies have not before now come together of themselves for a heart-to-heart talk as to how they may best advance the interests of their constituency. Surely, they must realise that they have economic as well as political duties and responsibilities to see after, and there is no reason whatever why they should not join hands in some endeavor or movement that would be for the good of both city and county without in any way prejudicing or compromising the rights or policies or status of their respective parties. Limerick - in view of its new outlook and brighter prospects - expects from its representatives in the Dail something more than the unsatisfying and not very fruitful service of merely walking into the lobbies to vote at the sound of a division bell.

Apart from politics as such there are plenty local questions and problems that offer our seven city and county members of the popular legislative chamber ample opportunity for displaying their energy and persistent advocacy to the full. Somehow the voice of this constituency does not seem to have made the welkin ring in the Dail very much up to the present and that fact, perhaps, accounts to some extent for the comparatively little attention Ministers give to the requirement of the city and county. The preliminary conference which we suggest would give our Dail representatives something in the nature of a definite mandate and programme and would certainly strengthen their hands in getting for their constituency more justice and consideration that it has been receiving all along.