

REMEMBERING LIMERICK'S DAN BOURKE

THE late Alderman Daniel Bourke T.D. of Limerick City was a gentleman of sterling qualities. He was highly respected by all sections of the community for his sincerity of purpose and his humility. He was always ready and willing to give every assistance to every project for the advancement of Limerick. He was particularly interested in the welfare of the less fortunate members of the community, and his generosity was a household word. At a convention held at the Town Hall many years ago, the late Sean Moylan, T.D., a Minister of the Government, paid a special tribute to Deputy Bourke and said that his greatest problem was that his heart was too big for his pocket.

Deputy Bourke came from an old National Limerick family. As a young man he was closely associated with the great Fenian Mayor of Limerick, John Daly, known as the "Dynamiter". He was sworn in as a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood at the Limerick Centre in a house in St. Mary's Parish in 1912. He was an active member of the Irish Volunteers in 1916, and marched to Killoban — their battle station — on that memorable Easter Sunday. He was a confidant of Commandant Michael Colivet, the officer commanding the Limerick Battalion of the Irish Volunteers. When The O'Rahilly arrived from Dublin with a dispatch calling off the Rebellion, Daniel Bourke returned to the city a but, determined to strike another blow for Ireland another very sad and disappointed man, day.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
Years later, when the Second Battalion was formed in Limerick, Daniel Bourke became a member of E. Company in the Carey's Road area and participated in all the activities of this Company up to the Truce. At that time he was employed with the Great Southern and Western Railways at the Limerick Depot and was in a position to establish direct communication with the I.R.A. Headquarters in Dub-

lin. He organised a special military intelligence system among his loyal colleagues at the Limerick Terminus.

After the Truce he remained loyal to the Republic and was captured and imprisoned by Free State troops. He was a personal and trusted friend of President Eamon de Valera during his lifetime. They met at Ennis in 1917 during the election campaign when Commandant de Valera defeated his rival, Patrick Lynch, a member of the old Irish Parliamentary Party.

On his release from prison, Daniel Bourke was elected an Alderman to the Limerick Corporation and Chairman of the Limerick Mental Hospital Committee.

He was elected a Deputy for Fianna Fail to Dail Eireann in 1917 and held this seat up to the time of his death. He was elected Mayor of Limerick for five years in succession. During the last Emergency he took a very active part in organising the local Defence Force, and was a loyal supporter of the Limerick Branch of the Gaelic League. He married Miss Minnie Gavin and they were devoted to each other all through life. In his trials and success, Mrs. Bourke was always ready and willing to make any sacrifice on his behalf.

His funeral was a most impressive sight. His old comrades in arms marched in military formation before the cortege as an escort of honour. The President was represented at the funeral, and Deputy Dan Breen, of Tipperary, an old friend and colleague, delivered an oration at the graveside.

THE DREAM
At a recent lecture delivered at the Intercontinental Hotel by Mr. G. Colley, T.D., a special tribute to the work for higher education in Limerick by the late Deputy Bourke was paid by Mr. T. J. Smalle, P.C. He recalled the efforts of this splendid Limerick representative to secure a School of Technology for the City back in 1935. The opportunity was lost at that time due to the lack of public support.

It was the hope of all now that the dream of the old veteran would come to pass.

THE PRAYERS OF A LITTLE CHILD FOR "A HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

IN Limerick to-night, a mother and their eight children, between the months and 10 years, will sleep on straw on wet ground under a shelter of sack, been their home for the last two years, must continue to exist there until the £60 to buy a caravan.

The third youngest, a blonde four-year-old, told me that each night as she says her night prayers she asks Holy God to give them a house or a caravan, where they will be safe from the rain and frost. It is a prayer which has been unanswered during those two cold years.

Her mother and father have never lived in a house since they married 15 years ago and this is their second winter on the present site in St. Laurence Road, at the back of Mount St. Laurence Cemetery.

The two eldest children are staying with relatives. A 14-year-old girl with her grandmother and an 11-year-old boy with his uncle, and this is a big cause for heartbreak in this tightly-knit family.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society have given them fuel and blankets and a stove, but they have many other commitments.

NATIVE OF LIMERICK
The mother and father, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, on their behalf, have applied for a house many times but, because the husband is a Nenagh man, they have been told they are not citizens of Limerick, although the mother is a native of Limerick and she and all her children have been baptised in St. John's Cathedral.

Their tent of sacking, which is divided into two parts, is held up by bent sticks. The bedroom part has a roof of old sacks and a little tarpaulin, but the kitchen part is completely uncovered.

In the bedroom portion, which measures eight feet by five feet, all the family sleep. The floor is covered with straw and a few blankets are thrown over it. The kitchen part is

generally flooded. The father and the family employment assist children's allow there can be saying.

Their "Ward" of room. "The sleep much a we are all er said their mo this same sh which keeps a

The father a house is in John Street had a caravan away from old

ON THE But, despite pours into the they huddle o the bedroom, t and a family t this miserable which is so h not kneel up ren are well eir one little boy. The father ho work during would almost not for the t an approachi promises to be bitter of rece

This family, van for £60, his head, sa impossible su worth consid little it woul people.

We appeal 50,000 Christi their rescue, four weeks t Almost 2,000 was no roc Family in anc to-day there room for this rick.

the French in Limerick, the guitar; he 14-year-old nist from Kilh, well-known astle; violinist ter champion Seamus McClancy, cham- from Miltown the perfor-

accommodation facilities have cope with this at the Lake-

Mass at Our Church, Rosnext, Nov. 28, or all deceased Mid-Limerick endance of all ed.

AL VICE RICK

E.S.B. appointment

Mary J. Costelloe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Costelloe, Ballymacrory, Croom, Co. Limerick, has been called to Dublin to take up an appointment with the E.S.B. as a result of the recent competitive examination.

the only delivered switch!



30 instalments t's a total of allation costs s can be spread do. ee

Quick, too!
Nowadays electricity is quick — as quick as any other method—as quick as you require. The new radiant hot plates and boiling rings give



Death of Mr. P. Chan

It is with very sincere regret that we announce the death of Mr. Patrick Champion, 61 Wolfe Tone Street, Limerick. The late Mr. Champion, who was in his sixties, was a noted sportsman in his day, and was Executive Officer of the Limerick Circuit Court Office. On many occasions he acted as Deputy Returning Officer for West Limerick and won the esteem and admiration of all parties for his fairness and integrity during counts. In the early days he was a member of Old Fianna Eireann and during the Emergency he did not hesitate to offer his services to the country again. He was commissioned a Lieutenant and was later promoted Captain. He continued to serve long after the Emergency ended and proved a most popular and efficient officer.

He had a great love of sport and captained the first C.E.S. team to win the Dr. Harty Cup in 1920. A member of Young Irelands hurling team he won many trophies with them. He also played soccer with Crusaders A.F.C., excelled at handball and swimming and proved adept at hockey. Ballroom dancing was one of his favourite hobbies and here again he showed great artistry, winning many championships throughout the country.

He was deservedly popular with all sections of the community and his courtesy and good humour were a feature of

funeral to Mo Cemetery, th phases of inc commercial life of the Ci ted, as was Frank Leddin the Limerick Council and o and represen Limerick Bra tional Union o Many messa were received of the country

Irish All-Ni Patron' — J Rodgers, B 42nd LOL PILG February (Month of By Aer L COST: ex s Du APPLY to: tary, Lifford, 7