

Historic Limerick building houses trade union's new offices

THE Limerick branch of IMPACT opened new premises at the Mechanics Institute, Hartstonge Street, this Monday. Geraldine McCarthy, chairwoman of the Limerick branch, said it was a significant night for the union.

"For the past number of years a sub-committee has been looking at getting better accommodation and that has been

going on for some time. A lot of legwork and a lot of long hours have gone into sourcing what we have today," she said.

She hoped the Limerick base would be used as a regional office, also facilitating the Clare and Tipperary union members. She said that the Limerick branch was "delighted" with the new location.

Michael McNamara of the Mechanics

Institute spoke about the building and its long history of use in trade union activities, while the union's president Stephen Lyons said the building was a fitting home for IMPACT.

"We are very grateful and delighted to be in a building with such a history of trade unionism."

He said that the move "shows the pro-

gressive nature of the Limerick branch that they have moved into this building and hopefully it will be used to the full".

Mr Lyons said that IMPACT felt solidarity with the other unions that use the Mechanics Institute and that it would be very at home in the building.

Peter McLoone, president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and a senior

member of IMPACT, also found the building to be a fitting base.

"It is fascinating to be associated in a building that is steeped in our history," he said.

Mr McLoone said that, in line with their new start, it was important for the branch to have new ambitions.

"I hope you will see it as an opportu-

nity to set targets that will strengthen not only your branch but the union overall," he said.

Shay Clinton, assistant general secretary for IMPACT in the Mid-West thanked union members for helping with the move to the Mechanics Institute and said IMPACT had received a "great welcome" to the new premises.