HOUSING

Labour's Election Programme

The following is copy of a letter of congratulation, dated 20th inst., sent to Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., Minister for Local Government, by Mr. Sean Hogan, Smithstown, Bunratty, Hon. Secretary of Ennis Area Branch Emergency Housing Association —

"Dear Minister,—The Ennis Area Branch of the Emergency Housing Association at meeting, assembled on the 16th inst., unanimously directed me to tender to you our heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Minister for L.G., and to pledge you our entire support and co-operation in your efforts to carry out to the full the 1948 G.E. Labour Programme relative to Housing, viz.:—

"Labour's task for social security is directed to the task of providing every family with a separate dwelling at a rent within its means."—Mr. Wm. Norton, T.D. "Irish Independent," January 20th, 1948.

"We have pleasure in recalling that as far back as the 6th September, 1941, you, in referring to Housing and kindred problems declared —

"We Labour Party) are prepared to offer our services in any shape or form in joining with the Government in solving the problems (Housing, etc.), but we feel it our duty to shock the Government into a sense of the irresponsibility they have shown up to now with a matter that is so vital to the people."

We feel you are now in a position to realize, at least, one of your dreams—the total abolition of slum dwellings. In that good work we pray God to crown your efforts with success.

Yours sincerely,

SEAN HOGAN, Hon. Sec.,
Ennis Area Branch, Emergency Housing Association.

PATRICKSWELL FIRE

"To the Editor, "Limerick Leader."

Dear Sir,—Through the med um of your widely read paper, I wish to submit my thanks to all those who rendered assistance to me on the occasion of the recent fire which broke out in my premises at Patrickswell.

Special thanks is tendered to the local Gardai and the Limerick Fire Brigade on their prompt arrival at the scene of the outbreak within ten minutes, thereby preventing the fire from spreading and causing more serious damage.

Hoping this will be accepted by all in grateful thanks,

I remain, Editor, yours faithfully,
THOMAS REIDY.

MOTHER OF TWO NUNS

Death of Mrs. Geaney, Enniscouch

Mrs Mary Geahey (nee Dillane), Enniscouch, Rathkeale, who had been in failing health for some time, passed peacefully to her reward on the 19th inst. She was the widow of the late Mr. Tim Geaney; both herself and her late husband were held in very high esteem by the general public in Rathkeale. Two of her daughters are in religion with the Order of St. Joseph of Cluny and it was a well deserved privilege and consolation that deceased, who was an exemplary Catholic mother, should have one of these — Sister Bernardine — with her in her last moments. The other nun, Sister Patrick, is doing splendid work in the missionary field in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she has been for a number of years.

A very fine attendance was present at the removal of the remains to St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, on Friday evening, 20th inst., and there was an extremely long cortege of cars, including many from Templeglantine, where the Dillane family have been always very popular, when the funeral took place to Clouncagh Cemetery on Saturday. The officiating clergy were—Very Rev. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F; Rev. M. Quinn, P.P.; Rev. P. Lynch, P.P., and Rev. G. Enright, C.C.

MUINTIR NA TIRE

ELECTIONS TO GLIN COUNCIL

Glin Guild of Muintir na Tire held a meeting on Sunday night for the election of officers and members of the Council. Very Rev. M. Ryan, P.P., presided, and was elected President. Mr. Seamus Duggan, N.T., and Mr. James Dore, Secondary Teacher, were elected Secretaries.

The following were also elected as members of the Council:—

Ladies—Mrs. Mary Geogeghan, Turraree; Miss Mollie Costello, Faranmiller; Mrs. John Culhane, Draper; Miss Katherine O'Driscoll; Miss Nora Condon; Mrs. James Dore; Miss E. Flanagan, N.T., Ballygoughlan.

Farmers—Messrs. Pat Fitzgerald, Cahara Cottage; James Stack, Cahara House; Pat Hogan, Cahara; Gerard Fitzgerald, Clonoughter.

Traders — Messrs. James Hogan, Victualler; David Mangan, Glynn's Agent.

Labour — Messrs. Thomas Normile, Mortimer McElligott, Michael Culhane and Dan Mulvihill.

FOUNDER OF THE C.Y.M.S.

Famous Priest Of Limerick Diocese

WORK AND CAREER OF DEAN O'BRIEN

THE subjoined very interesting article on the work and career of the famous Dean O'Brien, Founder of the Catholic Young Men's Society, has been specially written for the "Limerick Leader" by Mr. M. J. Egan, Vice-President of the C.Y.M.S. in Dublin.

Mr. Egan is author of a short Life of Dean O'Brien, and a fuller Life, a book of 160 pages, is to be published from him about the end of June by Messrs. M. H. Gill & Son.

A second article from Mr. Egan will also appear in our columns in a week or two. It will give a full, very interesting and graphic account of the cure of Dean O'Brien of blindness at Baptist Well, Cooliskey, Castlemahon, when he was a child.

Mr. Egan's first article is as follows:—

THE founder of the Catholic Young Men's Society, Richard O'Brien, the future Dean of Limerick, was born on the 20th September, 1809, in Carrick-on-Suir, where his father carried on a grocery business at the West Gate. On the death of the father some two years later, Mrs. O'Brien sold the business and removed with her son, Richard—her only child—to Limerick, where she made her home in the parish of St. Mary.

The child was blind, whether from birth or not is uncertain. Medical science was unable to do anything for him and his mother placed all her trust in prayer and in the healing waters of the Holy Well of St. John the Baptist, at Cooliskey, five miles from Newcastle West and twenty-six from Limerick City. This Well was widely known for the cures, especially of diseases of the eyes, effected there. The "pattern" was held each year on the 29th August—the Feast of the beheading of St. John the Baptist—and on that day the mother with her child started on the long journey to Cooliskey. Although it was evening when they arrived, Mrs. O'Brien, with her boy on her back, immediately commenced to make the traditional "rounds" of the Well, saying the Rosary as she went. On the completion of the third "round" the child's sight was miraculously restored, and in thanksgiving his mother gave him the additional name of "Baptist." The Dean himself gives a beautiful description of the cure in his book "Alley Moore."

STRONG LITERARY TASTES

Having completed his primary education in the local Catholic school, Richard was apprenticed to Mr. Lynch, a grocer, in Mary Street, Limerick. The boy had strong literary tastes and he made full use of the lending library attached to St. Mary's Church. He thus acquired an extensive knowledge, not only of Christian Doctrine and of Catholic literature, but also a wide scope of general information. He was a member of the "Sodality for teaching Christian Doctrine" and was one of its most efficient and zealous teachers.

The part played by him as a member of the local "Juvenile Liberal Club" is not so well known. These clubs for boys were literary and debating societies, where the burning questions of the day were discussed, and young O'Brien there developed a keen ambition to become a public orator. The time was indeed propitious. The country was stirred to its depths by the oratory and personality of O'Connell, Shiel, and the other patriots who surrounded the great Liberator. The effect on Richard himself and on other boys like him is thus graphically described in his last book, "The D'Altons of Crag":—

"They were the times of growing national dignity, increasing national strength, and united national movement. They were the times of O'Connell and Shiel, and all the galaxy that shone around the Liberator and raised the humblest in the land to the platform of their own large souls. Not a man seemed exempt from their enthusiasm, or even a little boy. What days they were only the sharers of that glowing epoch can feel: and what a transition from prostration to erect manhood, no one can understand who had not lived during the nation's lethargy and after the awakening. It was a light that ne'er can shine again on life's dull stream."

LONGED TO BECOME A PRIEST

Richard, then in his early twenties, was still only a poorly-paid grocer's assistant for whom no career seemed to be open. In his heart he longed to become a priest but he saw no way of ever realising this desire. The hour, however, was near at hand when God would show him the way. A holy young priest, Father John Brahan, was appointed curate in St. Mary's parish, and on learning of Richard's wish to become a priest, he offered to teach him Latin and to provide the funds necessary for his college course. Richard gladly accepted this generous offer, and when he had become proficient in Latin, arrangements were made in 1831 for his admission to St. Patrick's College, Carlow.

In the year 1832, Asiatic Cholera of a particularly virulent type made its appearance in Ireland and in that summer it raged fiercely in the City of Limerick. Richard, then a clerical student home on holidays, devoted his time and energies to nursing the patients in the Cholera Hospital. In his Foreword to the life of Mother McAuley, he thus refers to this time:—"The writer remembers the cholera of 1832 and had the happiness of spending some nights in the Cholera Hospital. It was in early summer time and life and death came in awful contrast when countless coffins moved along the roads and across the country amid the fresh verdure and blooming flowers of June."

The use of the word "happiness" in such circumstances is significant of the greatness of soul of this young man.

ORDAINED AT AGE OF 30

A diligent and talented student, Richard in 1833 passed with the highest commendation from Carlow College to Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1839 at the age of 30. Shortly afterwards Father O'Brien was appointed President of the Catholic College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and remained there till 1845 when he returned to Ireland to become Professor of Theology at All Hallows, Dublin. This position, however, he did not retain for long as in 1847 we find him a curate in St. Mary's, Limerick, where his former patron, Father Brahan, was P.P. It was during his ministry there that Father O'Brien had those experiences of the Black Famine, which he so graphically described in his book: "The D'Altons of Crag."

The death of O'Connell on the 15th May, 1847, was not only a national calamity but to this patriot priest a deep personal sorrow, for he loved the great Liberator.

FOUNDATION OF C.Y.M.S.

On the 19th May, 1849, in a house in Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick, Father O'Brien founded the **"Young Men's Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,"** now known as the "Catholic Young Men's Society." For membership of the Society he insisted upon three fundamental rules, namely, (a) Monthly Confession and Communion, (b) No Party Politics, and (c) the Chaplain's Veto. These still remain unaltered. At the inaugural meeting there were only some two dozen men present and from that humble beginning has grown a mighty Society with branches, still vigorous with young life, in England, Wales, Scotland, Australia and South Africa as well as in Ireland. With consummate wisdom and foresight he drafted the Constitution and Rules of the Society, and in accordance with his intense devotion to Our Lady he placed it under her special protection and had it affiliated to the Arch-Confraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, founded in the Church of Our Lady of Victories, Paris, for the conversion of sinners.

WARM APPROVAL FROM POPE

In 1852, Father O'Brien went to Rome to pursue a post-graduate course in Theology for the Doctorate of Divinity and to submit to the Holy Father (Pius IX) for his approval the Constitution and Rules of the Society. His Holiness gave them his warm approval and in addition, from the Treasury or the Church, he richly endowed the Society with indulgences. In 1853, having obtained the degree of Doctor of Divinity, he left Rome and returned to St. Mary's, Limerick. In the autumn of the same year, Dr. O'Brien was appointed Professor of Moral Theology and Sacred Scripture at All Hallows, Dublin. During the period of his professorship he also found time to be Director-General of the Young Men's Societies, and with his usual indefatigable zeal he made many public speeches in furtherance of this great missionary work for the young men of Ireland and Great Britain and established many branches. So great was the success of the Society that in 1857 he was able to announce at a great meeting in Waterford that the membership of the Societies in Ireland and Great Britain numbered 45,000.

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

In 1858 Dr. O'Brien was appointed at an early date P.P. of Kildnane, where one of his first acts was to establish a branch of the Society. On the death of his friend, Dr. Brahan, P.P., of Newcastle West, Dr. O'Brien was appointed his successor, and on the 12th June, 1861, he was inducted into his new parish by Dean Butler. He was also appointed Vicar-General of the Diocese. He was not long at Newcastle West when he established a flourishing branch of the Society there, and in 1862 he announced at the third annual Conference at Kilkenny that there were then 28 active branches in Ireland. The Society had by that time been extended to Australia and South Africa.

When the Fenian movement started, Dr. O'Brien denounced it in vigorous terms and in 1864 he resigned his position of Director-General of the Young Men's Societies in order to be free to enter the political arena to combat that organisation. In 1865, he was appointed Dean of the Limerick Diocese.

In 1881, His Holiness, Leo XIII, conferred the title of Monsignor on the Dean. He was the first priest in the Limerick Diocese to receive such an honour.

PIONEER OF LANGUAGE REVIVAL

A native Irish speaker he started an Irish class in Newcastle West so that he was the pioneer of the Irish language revival. He loved "the sweet tongue of our mother" and regarded it as the ark which preserved the memorials of Celtic wrong and Celtic glory.

In addition to his other activities and interests the Dean found time to write three novels: "Alley Moore," "Jack Hazlitt, A.M." and "The D'Altons of Crag." He is also the author of "An Eight Day Retreat for Religious," extending to 340 pages In his contributions to the Press he used the pen-name "Father Baptist," no doubt in gratitude for his cure at the Holy Well.

In his day the Dean stood in the front rank as a pulpit orator. From his earliest years he was endowed with a gift for public speaking and he spared no effort to train and cultivate his rich melodious voice. His sermons and lectures were prepared with meticulous care and with a view to their most effective delivery. His gestures were simple and graceful and his extraordinary ability to blend pathos and power could produce thrilling effects on his audience. In England he was known as "the Irish priest with the silver tongue."

COULD ELECTRIFY AN AUDIENCE

His homilies in his own parish Church were beautifully simple and pathetic, but when necessary he could electrify an audience by his eloquence. On one occasion when preaching a charity sermon in St. Michael's Church, Limerick, in aid of the Magdalen Asylum, he so swayed the feelings of the densely-thronged congregation that rings, bracelets and other valuables were thrown into the collection. When the aged Bishop, Dr. Ryan, who presided, met him after the sermon he complimented the Dean in his own quaint way saying:—"It was a shame for you, sir, to make an old man weep."

He loved the poor—"God's poor" he called them — and gave generous alms to them even when his own means were slender. His character reflected the virtues and qualities for which the Irish priesthood is renowned throughout the world. A son of the soil, the Catholic tradition was his heritage and the Faith of the Saints and Martyrs of Ireland was in his blood. He belonged to that noble band of Irish priests of the Famine years who, by their self-sacrifice and devotion, won the admiration of all and the love and gratitude of their own people. Of those heroic priests the Dean himself testifies:—"The clergy in general — the Irish priests — for the qualities of exalted sentiment and devotedness are, and have been, worthy of the martyrs' and confessors' blood which they have inherited." In denouncing sin and falsehood, the Dean was another St. John the Baptist—stern, fearless, no respecter of persons; but in preaching the gospel of love he was like St. John the Evangelist—gentle, lovable and beloved.

Worn out by his Apostolic labours and bent with the weight of years, his fine constitution at length gave way, and after a lingering illness this tireless worker in the Vineyard of the Lord was called to his reward on the 10th February, 1885, at the age of 76, fortified by the rites of the Holy Church.

HIS WORKS ENDURE

Dean O'Brien has joined the great white-robed army of the uncanonised saints of Ireland "thick-ranked like growing corn." His works endure. The Society which he founded a hundred years ago has stood the test of time. Its primary purpose was **to put down sin and promote virtue.** That is still its aim. No nobler ideal of service could be placed before our young men and it is bound to appeal to the generous impulses of youth. The times are evil. Action is necessary and urgent. As an initial step the Societies in Great Britain, Australia and South Africa could be affiliated to the parent body in Ireland. This would constitute a great International Brotherhood of Catholic men who, inspired by the highest spiritual motives and armed with the Sword of the Spirit, would be ready and eager to go forward, with joy in their hearts, to do battle for Christ the King under the glorious banner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

A full-scale Life of Dean O'Brien, by the writer, will be published by Messrs. M. H. Gill and Son, Dublin, at an early date.

MORE TRIBUTES

To New Minister

At a meeting of the Limerick Branch of the Assurance Representatives' Organisation, held on Thursday, 17th May, a vote of congratulations was passed to Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., on his appointment as Minister for Local Government.

FROM L.G. OFFICIALS

At the annual conference of the Irish Local Government Officials' Union held in the City Hall, Dublin, on Thursday, the 12th May, 1949, a vote of congratulation was unanimously passed to Deputy Keyes on his appointment as Minister for Local Government.

Mr. T. Harnett, of the Limerick delegation, in proposing the vote, said that Deputy Keyes had always been his branch's best friend in the past and was ever ready to assist them in their efforts to obtain better conditions.

The President of the Union, Mr. P. Barry, said it gave him great pleasure to second the vote of congratulation. He had personal contact with Deputy Keyes when he had been an official in Limerick City himself and knew that he had always the best interests of the officials at heart.

ROXBORO' LABOUR CLUB

At a meeting of the Roxboro Labour Club, Mr. James Greersmith, Chairman, presiding, glowing tributes were paid to the new Minister for Local Government, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That we, the members of the Roxboro' Labour Club, extend our heartiest congratulations to Deputy Michael Keyes on his well-merited elevation to ministerial rank as Minister for Local Government.

"In common with all our fellow-workers in Limerick, we are confident that he will fill this important position with distinction and success."

KILMALLOCK LLP.

At a meeting of the Kilmallock Branch of the Irish Labour Party, a resolution congratulating Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., on his appointment as Minister for Local Government was passed.

FROM AN EXILE.

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader")

Sir—Having read in the "Limerick Leader" of the 14th inst. of the appointment of Mr. M. J. Keyes as Minister for Local Government, permit me, through the medium of your widely read columns, to add my congratulations to the many he has already received. As one of the many exiled Limerick men here in Britain it was good to read of such an honour being conferred on one of our townsmen. I am sure that Mr. Keyes will carry out his important duties with dignity and ability as a proud son of Limerick and a true representative of the Irish working class. It is inspiring to see that Limerick has a man carrying on the good work of Ireland's greatly loved patriot and champion of the Irish workers, James Connolly.

BIG FILM TREAT

Story Of St. John Bosco

Limerick citizens next week will have an opportunity of enjoying one of the finest biographical films ever screened in Limerick. The Lyric Cinema has arranged, beginning on Monday night next, to show "The Life Story of St. John Bosco," a full-length film of the story of one of the Church's Saints.

Apart entirely from its religious aspect, the film is handled with great sincerity and can very well compare, in its technical completion, with anything that has ever come out of Hollywood or Denham.

Fernando Mayer, who plays the part of the young John Bosco in the film.

It will have a special attraction for cinemagoers in Limerick since, only a few miles away is Copsewood, Pallaskenry, the first Foundation in Ireland of the Salesians, whose founder is the subject of the film.

Supplementing this remarkable life story of St. John Bosco is an Irish-made short, showing scenes of Limerick and neighbourhood and depicting the work of the Salesian Order in this country. Scenes of Corpus Christi include the 1948 Ordinations, visits of the College grounds and shots revealing the activity of mind and body which the Order's founder engendered.

I trust that with the grace of God we may see during Mr. Keyes's term of office our country once more freed from aggression and taking her rightful place amongst the nations of the world.

I am, sir, respectfully yours,

JUNIS P. KEEHAN
(A Limerick Exile).
124, Upminster Road,
Rainham, Essex.
20/5/49.

SEMAPHORE

WATCH the movements of the flags and you discover what he's saying—that's the technique of semaphore. Only those who know the code can understand the messages. Though we've just quite a bit of scouting to do, our method is not so obsolete as it can dispense with flag waving—we're scouting ahead to meet the requirements of our good friends in the trade. And our code is to do our very best to satisfy them fully.

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If you haven't tried the new Lux Toilet Soap massage technique for your skin, you're in for a delightful surprise! Lovely film stars in Hollywood and Britain are using for their skin this way. It's so simple, and it brings new beauty to your skin almost at once.

First, smooth the creamy Lux Toilet Soap lather over your face and neck. Then, with an upward, circular movement, gently massage the lather thoroughly into the skin. Rinse with warm water, then again with cold. Pat dry with a soft towel.

Do this every day, and after a fortnight notice the marked improvement in your skin. It's clearer, softer, altogether lovelier! Get a tablet of Lux Toilet Soap and start the new massage technique now, for quick, new beauty.

Captivating CLAUDETTE COLBERT, starring in Mary Pickford's film, "Sleep, my Love," says: "The Lux Toilet Soap massage technique is marvellous, keeps the skin soft, clear, adorably smooth."

LUX TOILET SOAP
-used by 9 out of 10 Film Stars

A LEVER PRODUCT

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WHY PUT UP with needless discomfort from backache, rheumatic pains, lumbago, stiff, aching muscles and joints or the common urinary disorders due to sluggish kidney action when you might get happy relief.

Many thousands of healthy people bless the day they took Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. This well known diuretic and urinary antiseptic helps sluggish kidneys to carry out their function of ridding the blood of excess uric acid and other impurities harmful to health. Grateful people, everywhere, recommend Doan's Pills to their friends and neighbours. 1/3

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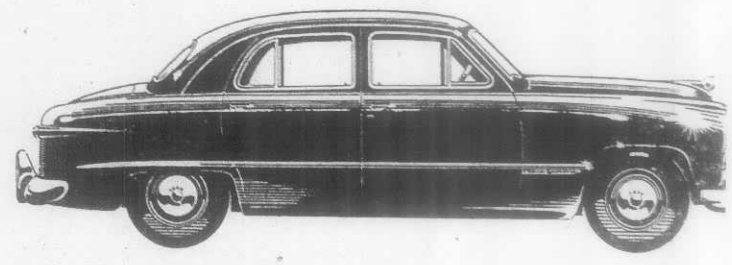

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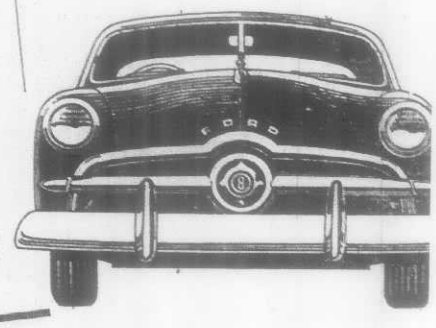

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