

"base" of a tan and the dreaded packing before jetting off for two weeks of fun in the sun. At least that's what they hope. Unfortunately, this is not always the case as some holidaymakers end up disappointed with their hard earned holiday. Maybe the hotel was not up to scratch, the food wasn't tasty enough or the beach wasn't the "white sandy paradise" they saw in the brochure. But then, what exactly can people expect from a holiday brochure? After all, a few pictures of a beach with happy holidaymakers, a brief description of your accommodation and a list of prices is hardly a true picture of what your holiday will be like. While the majority of holiday

makers have relied on word of mouth when planning their vacation. And today's technological revolution has been quick to get in on the act.

There was a time when "Mary and Joe" would ask around their friends to see where they have been and then make their choice. Nowadays, they are more likely to check out the many Internet sites which give reviews from people who have been to the resorts. Most of us would be familiar with using the Internet to book flights and holidays, but the Internet is also awash with sites giving star ratings, marks out of 10 and descriptions of just about every holiday resort you can name. From the well known holiday

ble. And, while most of the reviews are favourable, that is not always the case and there are some horror stories of holidays gone wrong. One woman who stayed in Tenerife recently described her hotel as "cockroach infested". She explained how her family arrived at 4am to find that there were 190 steps to the apartment with no help available to get up. She stayed on the bottom while her husband went to sort out their apartment. But, when he got there he found the apartment was filled with cockroaches. They tried three apartments in all, two of which had cockroaches and the third was somebody else's. Eventually after almost 24 hours in Tenerife they were offered accommodation which cost an

"The apartments were a little far away from the main areas and the hill was steep," the review said. Another hotel in Majorca is described as "gloomy, grubby and dismal". The beds in the hotel were "rusty and held together with masking tape" and the bathrooms were mouldy. Although, confusingly, the same hotel is described by another reviewer as "an excellent choice".

Limerick man Trevor Fitzgerald, who is going to Amsterdam this year, used the sites when planning his trip. "I found these sites by accident to be honest. I was just looking for information about flights and accommodation for my holiday last year in a search engine and they came up," he said.

just one star which was over, it helped what your for." As well as n and resorts offer information, bars. "This is very planning a leave the be used this w last year an We found al go and we k were getting ad. And wh their o have o mon. They a out that the people" and ions.

Limerick bishop refused to bow to British n

IN the lead-up and after the Easter Rising, the Irish bishops were reluctant to stand up to the British government or their military advisers. But, as **PADRAIG O'CUANACHAIN**, writes, the Bishop of Limerick, Thomas O'Dwyer, was not among them

WHEN I am finished, there will not be a whisper of sedition in Ireland for another 100 years, boasted General Sir John Maxwell, KCB, KCMG, CVO, DSO, the new commander of the British forces in Ireland, when he arrived in Dublin on Friday of Easter Week. He promptly set about achieving this by establishing court martials in execution of the 15 of the leaders and long terms of imprisonment for scores of others.

Over 2000 insurgents and suspects were deported and interned in English jails. Maxwell's record in the British army was horrific. He had served in Egypt with field marshal Kitchener the "Butcher of Khartoum" and while there he was involved in atrocities against civilians and prisoners of war.

As a senior general in the Boer War he was fully aware of the appalling sufferings of Boer women and children and native Africans, held prisoner in concentration camps without adequate supplies of food and medicine a policy openly condemned by many decent English people, including MP's Bishop Thomas O'Dwyer viewed the proceed

ings after easter week with horror and disdain. An energetic, able and outspoken man, a champion of the poor and especially their right to decent living conditions, he was only a curate, aged 44, when appointed Bishop of Limerick.

At the commencement of World War I, he was the only bishop to oppose the action of John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party, who, without authority from the Irish people, had effectively declared war on Germany. While the Catholic Bishops were praised by the British press for their contribution to the war effort, Bishop Dwyer's lenient pastoral in 1915 in which he denounced the war and the sufferings of small nations caused consternation and he was attacked by the jingoistic press in Ireland and England.

Obviously he, like James Connolly, understood the true nature of the war, nothing to do with the freedom of small nations but the crucifixion of the unfortunate working classes of Europe at the behest of the royal freebooters and metropolitan thieves in the capitals of Europe squabbling among them

themselves for power and colonies.

After a vicious mob attack in Liverpool on a number of Irish emigrants en route to America, the Bishop wrote scathingly, "Their crime is that they are not ready to die for England. Why should they? What have they or their forbears got from England that they should die for? It is England's war, not Ireland's".

General Maxwell wrote to various Bishops directing them to remove suspect priests from the active ministry. But he picked the wrong man in Bishop O'Dwyer when he named two priests in his Diocese who had preached against the dangers of conscription and whom the general regarded as being a dangerous menace to the peace and safety of the realm.

You appeal to me to help you in furtherance of your as military dictator of Ireland. Even if action of that kind was not outside my province, the events of the past few weeks would make it impossible for me to have any part in proceedings which I regard as wantonly cruel and oppressive. And then embarrassingly, he raised the ghost of a truly shocking act



Bishop of Limerick Thomas O'Dwyer



Gen Sir John Maxwell

Bishop's letter to Maxwell

Sir,
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12st instant which has been forwarded to me here.
I have read carefully your allegations against Rev. and Rev. but do not see in them any justification for disciplinary action on my part. They are both excellent priests, who hold strong national views, but I do not know that they have violated any law civil or ecclesiastical.
In your letter of the 6th instant you appealed to me to help you in the furtherance of your work as a military dictator of Ireland. Even if action of that kind was not outside my province, the events of the past few weeks would make it impossible for me to have any part in proceedings which I regard as wantonly cruel and oppressive.
You remember the Jameson raid, when a number of buccaners invaded a friendly state and fought the forces of the lawful government. If ever men deserved the supreme

punishment it was they, but officially and unofficially, the influence of the British government was used to save them and it succeeded. You took care that no plea for mercy should interpose on behalf of the poor fellows who surrendered to you in Dublin. The first information which we got of their fate was the announcement that they had been shot in cold blood.
Personally, I regard your action with horror and I believe that it has outraged the conscience of the country. Then the deporting hundreds and even thousands of poor fellows without a trial of any kind seems to me an abuse of power as fatuous as it is arbitrary, and altogether your regime has been one of the worst and blackest chapters in the history of misgovernment of the country.
I have the honour to be Sir your obedient servant.
Edward Thomas, Bishop of Limerick.
To General Sir J. G. Maxwell,
Commander in Chief, the forces in Ireland.

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