

LIMERICK CRAFTSMEN AND THE ROYAL COACH

Mr Enoch Dalton retired from the service of the Great Southern Railway, which he had joined 50 years before as a youth of 14 in the coach and wagon department of the locomotive works. That was previous to the merging of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Companies in the Great Southern and Western Railway system. At that time hundreds of skilled men were employed in the Limerick works, and continued so up to the expiry of the guarantee given by the Directors of the acquiring company.

Mr Dalton was a student at the School of Arts and Crafts in the Athenaeum during the principalship of M A Brophy. His subject was carving, for which he won several prizes in the examinations held under the auspices of the South Kensington College. Soon after the completion of his apprenticeship Mr Dalton was transferred to Inchicore, which offered wide scope for his abilities.

His big opportunity came in 1902, when he was selected to execute the carving of the oak panelling and furniture of the coaches built for King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra during their visit to this country.

How the youthful Limerick craftsman discharged that exacting commission could only be realised by those who inspected the work. The royal train was in Limerick in 1915 during the visit of Lord Wimbourne to Adare manor and was open.
