

This engine of the old West Clare Railway, now in honourable and secluded retirement, recalls the colourful days of the "iron road" in Ireland.

## IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR THE IRISH...

# WHEN THEY OPENED THE LIMERICK JUNCTION

JULY 1, 1848, was a great day for Ireland and the Irish railways. On that day the Limerick Junction was officially opened, and the first locomotive train direct from Dublin to Limerick left Kingsbridge. The construction of the Junction was an All-Irish job, and at the time, great pride was taken in that fact. Irish contractors, artisans, carpenters, smiths and labourers pooled brain and brawn to complete the work towards one great object, perfect safety.

The first locomotive on this direct line travelled the entire way "under the wonderful agency of steam power" and arrived at the terminus of the Waterford and Limerick line in Limerick City at 2.15 in the afternoon after covering a distance of 122 miles in 4 hours, including stoppages. Such afeat was proclaimed an event without parallel in the South-West of Ireland.

The establishment of the Limerick Junction heralded unheard-of facilities for industrialists and farmers alike. Benefits followed fast, and on the Monday after the official opening a regular service was initiated. Down-trains left Dublin at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon, 1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. on weekdays. Sunday services were generous, too, with trains leaving at 11 a.m., 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Surely the dust of our forefathers was stirred at the astonishing fact of completing a journey from Limerick to Dublin not only in the same day, but in less than twelve hours. Only a half-century previously it was considered good speed and better luck to reach the Capital in five days by horseback, or four days by coach and horse, with lots and lots of highwaymen to divert the boredom of a long journey!

### STEAMING INTO HISTORY

Guest of honour in this special train that was destined to

stand under Sub-Inspector Seville was on duty at the station.

### SLATTERY'S MOUNTED FOOT

In between the martial might and the pomp and circumstance came a lighter moment. Much amusement was occasioned by the manoeuvres of a body of workmen employed on the line by a Mr. Mulqueen, the contractor.

They ceased work and marched forward in order, three abreast, with spades, shovels and picks to the number of seven hundred, flanked by about two hundred horsemen. This formidable body formed line, changed position, advanced, etc., in the fields adjoining the Junction, to the admiration of the military officers who were present.

At 3 p.m. it was announced that the train from Dublin was in sight, and in a few seconds it reached the Junction amidst

loud cheers. The band of the 64th played the National Anthem, the detachment of the 43rd presented arms, and the assembled crowd received his Excellency, who occupied a seat in the last carriage, uncovered. Major General Napier congratulated his Excellency, and during his twenty minutes stay at the Junction the distinguished visitor viewed the surrounding countryside, which looked fertile and splendid in the summer sun.

### RECEPTION AT DUNDRUM

At 3.30, the necessary preparations having been completed, the train started from the Junction for Dundrum, nine miles distant, where it arrived in a few minutes. The Lord Lieutenant and his staff alighted from their private carriage and were received by Lord Hawarden, who escorted them to his mansion.

The band of the Enniskillen Dragoons, and the brass band

of the 85th Light Infantry, both of which came from Dublin for the occasion, played "God Save the Queen."

The army officers in their resplendent uniforms, and the ladies in their finery, presented a picturesque sight as they passed through a shady grove on to the specially prepared camp ground. There, the gay and distinguished company poured into the refreshment tents, which were generously supplied with the choicest foods and drinks. The guests numbered about six hundred.

A squadron of the 6th Dragoon Guards and a guard of honour of the 6th Regiment were stationed in front of the entrance to the Royal tent set apart for his Excellency and the visitors.

A flourish of trumpets announced the arrival of the Vicerey at the banquet hall, and all present stood until his Lordship had taken his seat at the head of the table.

George Carr, Chairman of the Company, presided at the banquet, and the success of the new venture was toasted and spoken to by many distinguished guests. The company then rose from the festive board and again took their seats in the train, and the colour and pageantry of the historic day had ended.

## CORK GIRL BECOMES SCHOOLS' CHAMPION

A 16-year-old pupil of St. Aloysius School, St. Mary's of the Isle, Cork, Anne Marie Mulane, won the final of the Schools Breadbaking Championships which was held at the City Theatre, Limerick.

Twenty-seven girls, aged from 12 to 17 years, represented their counties in the final. The competition, which was sponsored

by the E.S.B. and the G.E.C. of Ireland Ltd., attracted over 10,000 entries from schools in all parts of Ireland.

The winner was presented with the first prize of £100 and the E.S.B. Perpetual Cup by Mr. P. J. Dowling, Head of Sales Department, E.S.B., and Mr. Martin McCourt, Chairman and Managing Director of G.E.C.

Second place went to Dublin

ran, Marillac Secondary School, Upper Kilmacud Road.

The third prizewinner was 16-year-old Ellen Ryan of St. Joseph's College, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Waterford, who represented Tipperary South Riding.

The judges were: Miss M. Bonal, Department of Education; Mr. William Ryan, Executive Chef, Shannon Airport, and Miss M. Fitzpatrick, Chief Demonstrator, E.S.B.

### Church Notices

#### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

##### ST. MICHAEL'S UNION

St. Michael's—8.30 a.m., Holy Communion; 11.30 a.m., Morning Prayer; Preacher, The Lord Bishop. 7 p.m., Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

St. Philip and St. James—10 a.m., Holy Communion. Preacher, Canon C. J. Price, M.A.

##### LIMERICK METHODIST CHURCH

11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.: Preacher, Rev. A. E. Nelson.

## POP TEN

- (1) Green, Green Grass of Home Tom Jones
- (2) What Would I Be Val Doonican
- (3) Good Vibrations Beach Boys
- (4) My Mind's Eye Small Faces
- (5) Just One Smile Gene Pitney
- (6) Gimme Some Lovin' Spencer Davis
- (7) Morningtown Ride Seekers
- (8) Dead End Street Kinks
- (9) Holy Cow Lee Dorsey

"A pint for me" I said....

"and take one down the course  
to a little man in a jockey's cap....

You can't miss him—  
he'll be carrying my horse!"



- the mos

Closing date Mar. 3rd. for the  
**LINCOLN SWEEP**