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# This train goes west on Sunday

## EXPRESSWAY LINKS LIMERICK AND MAYO ON MONDAY

BY LEADER REPORTER

**THE** Limerick - Claremorris passenger train service, which opened in 1894, closes this Saturday.

Political and other leaders in Limerick seem to have no objection, but there have been strong protests from the West of Ireland.

I travelled on the train recently and when getting my ticket I was told that I had picked a busy day as many students were going home.

One of the two coaches was full.

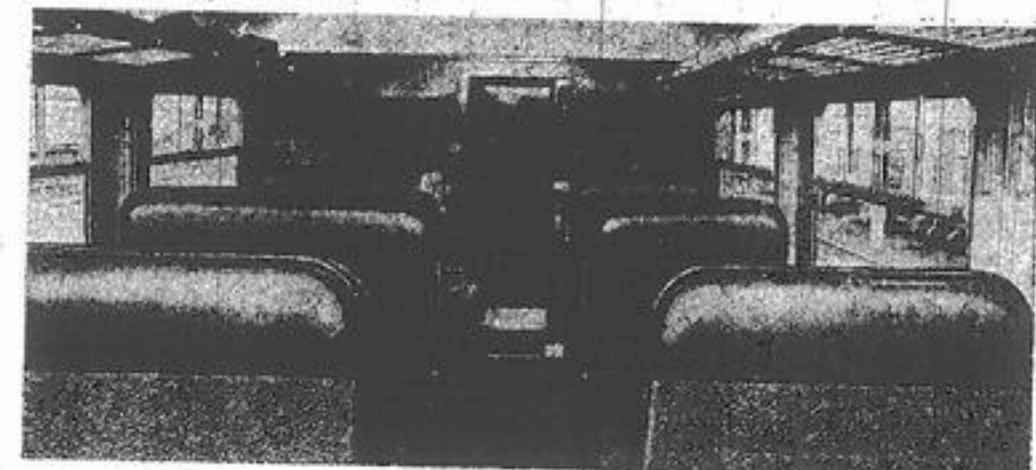
### Reading

There were no dining facilities on the train or no bar and most of the passengers resorted to reading to amuse themselves.

On the train were a number of C.I.E. staff who were obviously very annoyed at the proposed closure.

They maintained that the people of Limerick would lose out, especially in the summer months, during which, they claimed, many went to Galway and other parts of the West.

They also said that from April to October the train was quite successful, with many people going to Knock



Spot the passenger . . . a typical scene between Limerick and Claremorris.

on Sundays and many tourists using it on the weekdays.

The men said that if the C.I.E. management organised more school tours and mystery tours the line could be kept open.

According to the board of C.I.E., the annual loss on the line amounts to £250,000.

This, plus poor passenger support—less than one busload of passengers on average per day—and the need for large-scale investment to maintain the line at passenger

traffic standard, are the reasons given by C.I.E. for the closure.

The freight line will stay open.

### Alternative

Mr. Pat Rutledge, Limerick area sales manager, told me: "I don't think it will be a loss to Limerick or the passengers who use the train, as we will now provide alternative bus services".

Two new Expressway bus

services (along with existing bus services) will operate daily, Monday to Saturday, linking Ballina and Claremorris with Limerick and Cork—from Monday next.

There will be no redundancies, but 21 rail staff will be affected by the withdrawal of the passenger service.

During the present year, pilgrimages to Knock will continue to use the line, but in future years they will have to travel via Portlington, Athlone and Claremorris.

## British attache visits Limerick

BY LEADER REPORTER

**THE** AGRICULTURAL attache to the British Embassy, Mr. Roger James, was received by the president of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association, Mr. James O'Keefe, when he made a courtesy visit to the Association's headquarters in Limerick.

Mr. James, who was recently appointed to the British Embassy in Ireland and is a native of Somerset, served 43 years in Brussels before coming to Ireland.

On his visit to Limerick he discussed the general agricultural scene with

## ATTEMPTED TO TAKE A WHEEL

BY LEADER REPORTER

**TWO** YOUTHS, who admitted attempting to remove a wheel from a car at Dromkeen, told a garda that they were replacing it with a punctured wheel.

Patrick Boland, Martins-town, Kilmallock, and Patrick Hayes, 11 Iona Drive, Glasnevin, Dublin, pleaded guilty to the charge of interfering with the vehicle, when they appeared before Justice M. de Burca at Pallasgreen Court.

Garda J. O'Dwyer, Pallasgreen, stated that he was on duty at Dromkeen at 12.30 a.m. on the morning of June 2 last. He came on a scene of some scuffles outside the hall

Sept. O'Connor said that they appeared to have been coming to the dance and got a number of punctures. They drove to the dance with the flat wheel.

Justice M. de Burca: "And their idea of a remedy is to take someone else's".

Mr. M. Mitchell, solr., who appeared for defendants, said that they had abandoned any attempt to take the wheel when the garda arrived on the scene. They got two punctures on the way and then drove the flat wheel the rest of the way to Dromkeen. They had attempted to take the wheel, but had abandoned the idea at the time that the garda arrived on the scene.

Justice de Burca said that this type of vandalism of interfering with cars was quite common and he had a duty to make it quite clear to others that it would not be tolerated.

Because they had got a flat

## Two dogs not licensed

A DOON man was fined £2 for having two unlicensed dogs, which he claimed were stray animals and not his property. The prosecution was brought before Justice M. de Burca at Pallasgreen Court, where John Ryan, Main St., Doon, was fined £1 each in respect of the two dogs.

Patrick O'Malley, Glengar, Doon, said that some dogs had been attacking his livestock. He had seen the dogs on one occasion. Later he saw two dogs which he believed to have been some of the offending dogs. They were living in a hayrack, the property of John Ryan.

Garda McDonnell said that he met the defendant near the village of Doon. He told him that they were stray dogs and were not his property. In a statement he said that he owned lands at Doon South and every time he was feeding his cattle there he was bringing food for the dogs.