



# A Limerickman's Diary

By OBSERVER

## Exhibition by gifted Limerick artist

An exhibition of paintings by the gifted Limerick-born artist, Thomas Ryan, R.H.A., was opened by Charles J. Haughey, T.D., on Thursday, April 22, in the Carmel Gallery, 8 South Great George's Street, Dublin 2, and will continue for two weeks.

A particular feature of the collection is the Belfast series of drawings made during the height of the trouble, August, 1969. There are 24 of these works, studies of barricades, troops searching vehicles, burnt-out buildings—particularly in the Falls Road and loyalist areas.

Many of the Belfast pictures have been already seen in Limerick during the artists' exhibition in the City Art Gallery two years ago. Titles such as "Jesus is Love"—a fully-armed British soldier on patrol duty before an evan-

gelical wall poster—makes a wry comment on the peculiar concerns of the citizens.

"The House with the Tricolour," "The Falls—Aftermath," "Inner Barricade, Albert St.," illustrate the mood and appearance of Catholic areas after the incursions of "loyalists."

In "Loyal Cul-de-Sac," "Up Paisley!" "Showing the Flag," the flag-bedecked streets of the opposite camp are in striking contrast to the grim holocaust of the barricaded ghettos.

### Portraits

A small selection of portrait drawings, part of a series begun by the artist of eminent Irish people and now numbering over 80, indicate the historical, biographical and artistic value of this collection.

Portraits of Mr. de Valera, Dr. Monk Gibbon, Captain (Lord) O'Neill and Mr. Michael Hilliard show the quality and interest of this work. It is hoped that the artist will see the series completed in book form and so appeal to a wider public.

### Dublin

The appearance of Dublin, for so long unchanged, has in the last few years suffered the "depredations" of developers. Much of value has been lost. Before the total dismissal of this once-beautiful city, those with the inclination and talent to do so might well make a record of its monuments and streetscapes.

Thomas Ryan has helped in this work and his selection of 'Dublin' drawings succeeds in capturing the aspect and

mood of the town. "Christchurch Cathedral" is a particularly fine piece of draughtsmanship. "The City Walls and St. Audeon's," "Leinster House, Molesworth Street," "Aldborough House and the Five Lamps" have, apart from their assured artistry, an invaluable claim as records.

The paintings, from the profile portrait "Lady in Green" to the well-known "President Kennedy in Dail Eireann," and the heroic "G.P.O.—1916," demonstrate the worth of a talent whose values are shared both by the spectator and the artist.

There is none of the tricks and obscurity that passes for "modern art," with its brazen buffoonery and empty snobbery, here; the painter works in an older, richer and more disciplined vein.

"Find Anything, Sergeant?" is one of a series of drawings made by Thomas Ryan, R.H.A., during the height of the trouble in the North in August, 1969.



## LECTURER AWARDED ONTARIO SCHOLARSHIP

CLEMENT REEVES, a member of a brilliant Limerick academic family, has been awarded a major scholarship, valued at some ten thousand dollars, in On-