

the Lough Derg area.
The leaflets will be dropped
in letter boxes.. The leaflet has

caused through excess phos-
phates entering our lakes and
show how those phosphates can

informed choice by explaining
what they should look for in the
ingredients of the detergent.

charged into our waters
help to reduce pollution.
The need for increase

Shannon: Lowry hits at critics



By **PADDY MORONEY**

THE Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications, Michael Lowry, has hit back at critics of Shannon, the wake of his visit there.

He had flown down to the airport to announce an investment and expansion programme, which would ultimately reach the £50m mark, all going well.

The scheme not only envisaged a major upgrad-

ing of passenger and handling facilities at the airport, but also the commencement of work, next year, of a major new road system outside the terminal building.

The new programme would have an impact on employment in the Limerick area and the Shannon locality.

In particular, the Minister has been notably critical of the stance taken by local Dail deputy Tony Killeen, in a statement critical of the government.

A statement from the

Department of Transport, Energy and Communications, declared: "Traffic at Shannon is very buoyant, attributable in large part to initiatives taken by Mr Lowry over the last five years."

It added: "Mr Lowry has repeatedly emphasised the need for close attention to cost effectiveness in all the State companies for which he is responsible."

Minister Lowry himself elaborated: "Aer Rianta is a very successful State company, returning high

profits before tax in all recent years — almost £130 million over the last five years. It was £37.5 million, last year.

"The company is projecting continuing high profits for the next five years."

He pointed out: "Traffic at Shannon increased by 18% for the first half of this year, over the corresponding period, last year.

"All the indications are that the growth figure for the full year, 1996, will be even higher.

"Financing the development programme for Shannon — £23.5 million over the years to 2001 — is well within the capability of Aer Rianta."

But he emphasised: "It is not correct to give the impression that there is no EU funding for Shannon."

The Minister elaborated: "The transport Operational Programme 1994-1999 provides for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) assistance towards total expenditure of £38 million at the three State-owned airports.

"Allocation of this ERDF aid between the three airports is kept under close and continuing review by Aer Rianta, in the light of traffic and other developments."

Bustling week for estuary

LAST week was a busy week for shipping in the estuary, with 15 ships using five ports in the estuary.

The only port that was not in use this week was Tarbert.

Four ships came into Limerick. One carried chipboard and one timber. The other two, from Whitegate, carried petroleum products, and gas/oil.

Two ships carrying aviation fuel docked in Shannon, and a ship carrying coal docked at Moneypoint.

Foynes was busy with a ship from Gdansk carrying coal. Two ships took on cargoes, while a fourth was in port as part of a survey.

One ship docked at Auginish carrying Bauxite from Kamsar for the Alumina plant. Three ships loaded cargoes of Alumina at Auginish. All three were bound for Rotterdam.



David and the Gaelic hurlers pre

Holy pilgrim

THE annual grimage of Our Lady of Holy Cross, Tipperary, on Sunday,

The ceremony began at 2. Rosary prolowed by the Cross. Ver Relic of the

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