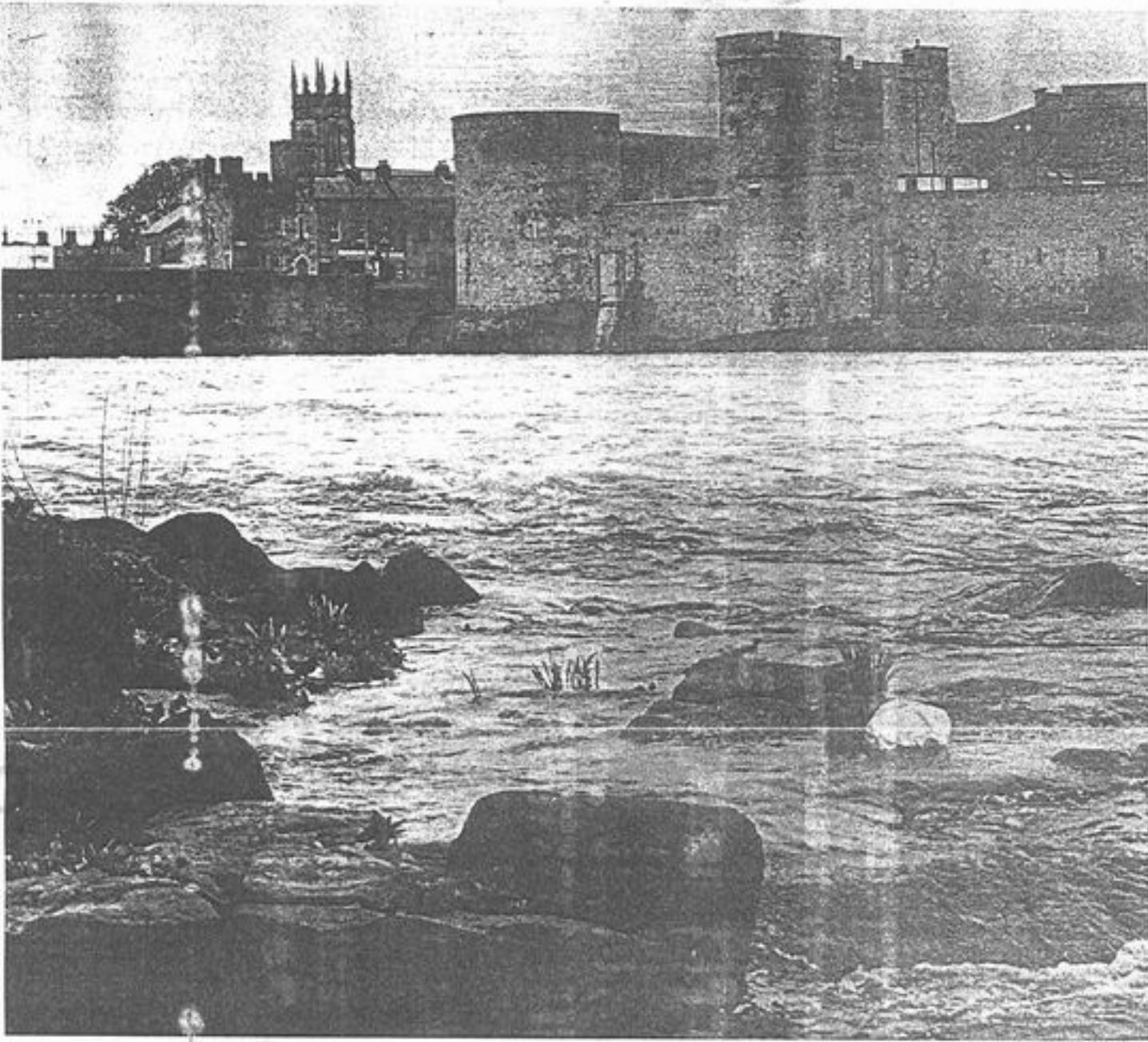


# FLOW GENTLY, GREAT SHANNON, FLOW ON TO THY SEA



THE SHANNON flows through Limerick at an average rate of 11.9 tonnes of water every second. That's 714 tonnes a minute; 42,840 tonnes an hour; 1,028,160 tonnes a day (of which more than 30,000 tonnes a day is Limerick city raw sewage); 7,197,120 tonnes a week or 375,535,440 tonnes a year.

That accounts for about a quarter of all the rainfall which flows from the entire island of Ireland.

Putting it another way, about 250 million gallons of water pass down through the river every day.

And that is apart from the enormous tidal rushes which surge through the Estuary. So strong are the tidal surges, that the water at Limerick Docks is about six per cent seawater at high tide, the water having made its way from the ocean, sixty miles downstream, being diluted by the freshwater as it mingled its way upstream at each rising tide.

## The "Bombing Field"

□ THE mention of the "Bombing Field" in a recent article in the Limerick Leader, concerning the Prospect Housing Scheme, will bring many memories for the families who occupied in the original Prospect Scheme of 48 houses (known later as the gallant 48) first called after the then Mayor of Limerick, Mr. Quin and named Quin's Cottages.

They were erected in 1912 and were a model scheme in

a green sward in the centre decorated with trees and provided a lovely playground for the children.

Many a game of "rounders" was played there as well as soccer, rugby and hurling matches - the most famous of the latter being between up-towns and down-towns.

### Battle

The "Bombing Field" was so the scene of many a tough tussle in the rugby and soccer codes.

The teams used to tug out in Donnelly's shed and Mrs. Connery and other ladies used to wash the jerseys.

Bonfire night was a night of noise and fun.

collection of firewood not to mention "pennies."

Hall's quarry "next door" was the scene of many adventures with many a youth cliff climber, chancing his arm on some very difficult climbs.

It wasn't a far distance to Jimmy Blake's Quarry, but one had to hazard the crossing of Dan Liddy's field before reaching the quarry, which harboured nests, rats and a spectral creature to delight the heart of any boy.

"Kick-the-Canny" was another favourite pastime and there were times when the hearts of a future mother were nearly broken when a shower of stones cascaded on top of their "chambers", followed by "Thunder-on-the-soussois".

Going to the pictures had to be prepared well in advance. Tom Mix and Richard Dix, Wallace Beery, heroes named "Tony" and "Silver", Los Chaney, Harold Lloyd, Hell's Angels, All Quiet . . . The Road Back, were all thrillers

There were handballers galore, sling makers, oil-trench jumpers and tree climbers, cowboys and Indians.

Merry a show was produced in various "sheds" around Christmas time and the costumes made from coloured paper would be the envy of any present day producer.

Yes, they were gallant days then, when the sun seemed shine perpetually during the holidays and there were no cakes at all.

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or comedies and would be the subject of many a conservation later on.

A trip to the Tivoli was in itself a whole adventure as you had to "go down town" and faced again the many hazards of the townspeople who had taken a rooted objection to the survival of the "suburbanites".

### Neighbours

Yes, indeed days when neighbours were neighbours and one's trouble was everyone's trouble, especially a visit to the court for playing ball on the public road or handball off the back wall of a local dwelling.

The "Bombing Field" has

I wonder if any readers would have some snaps or pictures of those boyhood days? I would be happy to publish same.

Another "popular pastime" was "Knock at Knockers," This operation was usually carried out after dark.

A long reel of dark thread was attached to knockers, which were all the fashion then and the appropriate time pulled the thread two or three times and then relaxed.

A thin piece of thread was also tied to a convenient pole and a branch of a tree or a bar opposite, over a buoy footpath at a normal person's height. Many a hat was removed unconsciously. Ladies of

course were anxious