

BIG FIRE OUTBREAK IN DUBLIN

THOUSANDS of Dubliners watched to-day as four sections of the Dublin Fire Brigade furiously fought to confine flames when, at noon, fire broke out in "The Irish Times" Offices in Fleet Street.

Within half an hour the linotype hall and machine room had been destroyed. All the machinery was rendered useless.

It is believed, phones our Dublin correspondent, that the fire originated in the Dispatch Department and then spread quickly through the whole building to which the fire fighters endeavoured to hold the flames.

The "Irish Times" Secretary, Mr. A. H. Burgess, said later this afternoon that it was very probable that they would be unable to print to-morrow morning's editions of the "Irish Times." He explained that new machinery had been installed in the new building but it is doubtful whether this could be got ready in such a short space of time.

Within a few minutes of the outbreak, the whole linotype hall was a mass of flames. A linotype machineman, Mr. B. Bayley was working in the linotype hall when he saw a cloud of smoke appear and raised the alarm. Mr. Ken Gray, Assistant Editor of the "Times Pictorial," and a stoneman named Mr. George Piper, were preparing the pages for this week's "Times Pictorial" when the alarm was raised. They had to rush out from the flames.

The only part of the entire building which escaped the flames were the commercial offices, which face into Westmoreland Street. Whilst the blaze was at its height, the commercial staff continued working quietly.

Four publications will be affected by the fire. They are: "The Irish Times," "The Times Pictorial," "The Irish Field," and "The Standard."

Tons of newsprint which were stored in one end of the building were destroyed. A number of apprentices working in the case-room had to retreat from the fire so quickly that some of them hadn't time to collect their coats. One of the reporters, on the "Times Pictorial," Mr. Noel Conway, said that he first saw a small glow of the fire which immediately seemed to grow into a ball of fire. He succeeded in saving his papers.

Garda with special "walkie-talkie" sets regulated the crowds who watched the fire.

Early on the reporters' room had to be vacated as the heat coming through from the adjoining building was unbearable. Firemen equipped with hatchets hacked away the windows of the old building to run in water hoses.

Efforts To End Shipping Strike

A conference will open in Dublin to-morrow in an endeavour to bring the Irish shipping strike to an end. The Irish Shipping Federation at a meeting to-day decided to send representatives to to-morrow's conference.

The conference will be representative of all interests affected by the dispute.

A TINKERS' BRAWL

In a brawl between tinkers in Limerick on Friday night the knife was used, and two of the men were treated in Barrington's Hospital for wounds in the abdomen and head. Arrests in connection with the affray are to be made.

EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

LIMERICK CO. COMMITTEE will have £24,785 in the coming financial year with which to maintain its services for the County's agricultural community.

The Committee will not need that much money, Mr. P. Connolly, Department of Agriculture Inspector, told last Friday's meeting of the Committee. He estimated that the services would only cost £21,210, leaving the Committee with a credit balance of £3,575 at the end of March, 1953. This would mean that there would be no extra demand on the County rates for the coming year's administration.

The Committee, Mr. Connolly pointed out, had only four permanent instructors which included the Chief, Agricultural Officer, Mr. M. Gleeson. It had also two temporary men. He said that that was absolutely inadequate to meet the needs of such an important agricultural county as Limerick.

MORE IMPORTANT ITEM OF PROGRAMME

"I am only expressing a view," he pointed out. "You may or may not agree with me. You will agree that your instruction service is the most important item of your annual programme. Consequently you need a good, big staff of instructors. I suggest that you give serious thought to the appointment of at least two additional temporary instructors. I think you should also make permanent some of your present temporary staff. I know the members of this Committee, instead of going backwards, will march with the times and improve its services especially since you are in such a fine financial position as you are."

Mr. J. W. Cauty agreed with the Inspector. He said that if the Committee had not got the staff to give the people of the County value for which they were paying they might as well scrap the whole thing. He would suggest adjourning the matter to the next meeting with a view to having a serious discussion on the Inspector's suggestion.

Mr. J. Hayes, Co.C., said he too agreed that the Committee's present staff was inadequate. In North-East Limerick they had never had the services of an instructor.

Mr. P. W. Ryan, Co.C., said the Committee should be unanimous about the appointment of at least two additional instructors. He said one instructor should be stationed in Cappamore with a view to a better coverage of North-East Limerick.

THE TWO TEMPORARY INSTRUCTORS

The Chairman (Mr. P. Maguire, Co.C.) said they should begin by making their two temporary instructors—Messrs. Frost and O'Connor—permanent. They were two excellent men and the Committee should ensure that it would retain their services.

Mr. P. O'Leary, Co.C., seconded a proposition of the Chairman to that effect.

Senator Sean Hartney—Instructors are so few in this county that I'm surprised a couple of them haven't been kidnapped by the people in the areas that have been neglected for such a long time.

Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., said they needed at least eight instructors to give the County the necessary coverage. He proposed that, as well as making Messrs. O'Connor and Frost permanent, they appoint two extra men in a temporary capacity.

SANCTION ALMOST CERTAIN

Mr. Connolly said he believed the Department would be only too glad to sanction such a move, particularly since the Committee was so well able to afford the money it would cost.

Mr. Hayes seconded the motion of Mr. Collins. It was adopted unanimously without further discussion.

QUESTION OF LIMERICK STREET NOMENCLATURE

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader")

DEAR SIR—A letter appeared in your week-end issue regarding a report from our Craobh of Ciann na Poblachta in which we suggested the re-naming of some of the streets in Limerick. We were frankly surprised to be informed that a flutter was caused in the Capital in the body calling themselves the "Limerickmen's Social Club" because of this suggestion. We feel, however, that a misconception had arisen amongst our friends. We were not aware that we had conveyed to them the impression that the streets in question were called after British Kings, as we did not say this. Our reasons for proposing the re-naming were as follows: Firstly, we felt that some at least of our National patriots should be commemorated and that a large section of City people would so agree. Secondly, a large number of our streets were changed in name many years ago by our representatives on the City Council, who are empowered by the people to do so. For instance, George Street, which was so long known thus, was quite properly re-named, after the winner of Catholic Emancipation, O'Connell Street; Colsooney Street became Wolfe Tone Street; Frederick Street is now O'Curry Street; Brunswick Street changed to Sarsfield Street. We know, however, that unlike Dublin, where you find names like Pearse Street, Sean Dermott Street, etc., none of our City thoroughfares is found to remember those who died for independence in 1916, and we thought that some streets in Limerick could accordingly be changed to the names of those patriots we mentioned, one of them having some particular claim to recognition here, he being a Limerick man, the nephew of a famous Limerick Fenian—John Daly. It is true that two of our citizens who were Mayors of Limerick were suitably remembered and we have O'Callaghan Strand and Clancy Strand.

We did not think at all of decrying the Arthurs but can we be convinced that they are more worthy of perpetual remembrance in our nomenclature than anyone else?

It is really surprising to us to be informed that we have a Father Matthew Street enclosing the City Hall. If that were so, it would not be for us or anyone in Limerick to dare to attempt overlooking such a title, but we say it is doubtful if a letter sent by our Dublin friends to such an address would arrive direct or even be acknowledged by any resident in the locality. Limerick people know that Rutland Street as a name is very much alive to-day and we think many of them would be puzzled to know why a group of men in a Dublin Social Club know it to-day only as Father Matthew Street and do not know it as any other. If our City Fathers would only see fit to make a change, viz.—Rutland Street to Father Matthew Street, we for our part would be very gratified indeed to see this place under an illustrious and honoured title, and we would search for another street to propose remembrance to the nephew of a patriotic citizen—Edward Daly.

As regards a reference to a local hotel, opinion seems divided as to why it is so called. The suggestion of changing the name was made by one of our members and was included in the final report. In this whole matter of nomenclature we are, of course, subject to the will of the people, and if it is felt that the streets mentioned, whether they are called after the Arthur family or anybody else, are to remain as they were named long ago, well it is for us to bow to their decision. We thought it was possible that our Councillors would have this question of nomenclature before them duly and we, therefore, made tentative suggestions. In conclusion, we can assure our friends in Dublin that we see things here as they are and as we think they ought to be.

Yours faithfully,
St. Joseph's Craobh,
J. O'BRIEN, Chairman;
P. J. DORE, Secretary.

WOOL PRICES AND COST OF CLOTHING

WOOL prices, much in the news just now, are probably more widely misunderstood by the public than those of any other commodity, says the wool trade correspondent of the "Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury" in a recent article in that paper. The writer says:

It is easy for the public to fall into error when trying to understand wool markets. For example, if the man in the street reads on three or four successive days that wool prices in Australia are 10 per cent. lower, he may be forgiven if he assumes that the wool prices have nearly halved in a few days, but it is almost certain that he is reading of the same 10 per cent. fall reported from four different selling centres. Each Dominion centre habitually compares prices with the previous sale in that centre, and the industry knows and makes allowance for the fact, but when the public see each price movement repeated several times they receive an exaggerated impression of what is taking place.

CLASSIC EXAMPLE

A classic example of this occurred when the New Zealand sales—on resuming after a break of some months due to strikes—were reported 65 per cent. below the previous New Zealand sales. This was literally correct but merely reflected a gradual decline in the world price level which had been in progress over several months, and New Zealand re-opening prices, in fact, represented an upward move on current market levels.

Similar misunderstandings are possible when a premature attempt is made to assess the effect of a wool price fall on the cost of clothing. Much has been made of the fact that superior merino wool, which cost about 310d. per clean lb. as recently as last Easter, commands rather less than half that price in world markets to-day but the oft-quoted peak price existed only for a short time, during which little wool was bought, by Britain at any rate, and any attempt to measure possible clothing price reductions from the highest point ever touched by wool would be fantastically misleading.

GENERAL LEVEL BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES

The bulk business in wool goods is never done at the highest point of prices, and seldom at the lowest. Between the two extremes there is a general level of values which follows the fluctuations of the raw material in more modified form, and in which the sharp fluctuations in wool are ironed out by a process of averaging dearer and cheaper supplies of raw material. It is this level with which retail selling prices are ultimately concerned. Before it can be determined, any general level of wool prices needs to be maintained over a period and that is why it is almost impossible to define—at any one moment—the effect of a given movement in wool prices upon the ultimate cost of clothing.

Whether the fall in wool prices over recent months will lead to any general reduction in clothing prices depends on whether present lower wool prices are maintained over a period, but it is safe to suggest that any reductions will be less than might be suggested by comparing the recent highest and lowest prices paid for wool. The public have never paid the counterpart of the highest prices—or anything like them—and reductions from that level are not to be visualised.

Before cheaper clothing becomes a certainty it would seem that wool prices must stabilise at a point lower than that in force when existing cloth ceilings were established. Wool prices to-day are as low as at any time since early last year but, until they stabilise, few people would care to be prophetic about the price outlook for clothing.

Most of the wool which made record prices some months ago was bought by the United States, during a spurt of frenzied activity prompted by scarcity fears, and the ill-effects of which linger after the prices themselves have disappeared.

OTHER FACTORS
Other factors which counsel caution in wool generalisations are:

TOWN TO WE DONT KNOW.

A READER wants the Limerick Corporation not following the example of Sligo, who being taken to build headquarters. We are in a position to supply the sought. To be frank, why the Corporation the scheme to build a part of the grounds of over three acres of vested in the Corporation Council some twelve is to be noted that approved plans for a and that Sligo has expenditure of a con on the renovation of of its municipal Limerick, evidently, v slowly.

FIVE YEARS OLDE

Mr. Louis Hodgkins possession an old sea- rick Chamber of Com dated 1808, five year Chamber became an body, which took place discrepancy—if it be accepted as proof that is older by five years generally realised. The founded in 1808, but status until it became porated body. The possession of Mr. Hodgkins that used by the which met in the Buildings, Rutland Street Town Hall.

NEW SCOUT HALL.

The proposal to build Catholic Boy Scouts in district has given the satisfaction and pleasure to The Corporation has suitable site for the hall a term of 99 years at rent of £1 per year. It that the Trustees of Troop, who are in the direction of the hall, commence building operations possible speed. The next of assembly for the Prospect—a thickly populated—is self-evident. Indeed that every parish should at least one hall catering

LINK WITH LIMERICK

Dr. John McCormack recently appointed as Barrington's Hospital associations with Limerick a grandson of the late O'Mara, of bacon curing McCormack, though twenty, has had a

CARRIER THAT CAN CARRY FOUR SQUADRONS OF AIRPLANES