nerick Leader.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1954.

IGS THAT MATTER

mortals to command success, but we've done we've deserved it." The Limerick Chamber of n apply this piece of Shakespearean philosophy gard to one matter at least. It has made a timely trying to secure the establishment in this city Departments of State in case the Government ing like a full policy of Civil Service decentral- y possibly fail in achieving its desirable purpose pt is worth making and merits warm commend-

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y to the good to "stake a claim" in time and icular effort can naturally count on local support to a full and enthusiastic extent. It ed some days ago that the headquarters of some the Department of Social Welfare were to be rom Dublin to Galway. The decision to this elcomed all over the country and the hope has expressed since that the step mentioned was hadowing a wider policy of decentralisation of d.

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nenal growth of Dublin has not been good even city itself, and it certainly has in many ways is to the rest of the country. It has set up nuch of a trend to the concentration of industry l and has vastly increased the drift thereto of the provinces. These developments are by no ny, as they create a top-heavy situation that ood economically or otherwise. A much better ld arise if a number of the Government depart- ransferred to other centres.

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ALISATION such as that indicated by the pro- ransfer of sections of the Social Welfare to Galway would be of great national benefit in ways. It would end the undue attraction of in due course bring industries and increased he centres to which Ministries would be trans- hat way a healthier balance would be set up the economic sense but in the national, social spheres as well. Not the least advantage to rom the new policy, if fully and properly im- ould be that it would end the idea, which largely Dublin is Ireland and that the function of the ountry is to play up to it.

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ick Chamber of Commerce has acted in the irit in making a move in time to secure one of partments for this City. It has appointed a sub- its members to consider what steps should be matter, this group to have power to co-opt It was further decided that as a preliminary- r be addressed to An Taoiseach recording at the Government's move "in this matter of ion and expressing the hope that in further the claim of Limerick to recognition in this l not be overlooked."

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and appropriate on the part of the Chamber, too, n the Department of Agriculture as being suit- sfer to Limerick. This city is the centre of what ly be regarded as the finest farming area in all rounding it on all sides are districts in which very variety of husbandry is being carried on and enterprise. It would be in full harmony ural order of things, therefore, that the Head- the Ministry of Agriculture be removed to tead of being retained where the environments holly unnatural and absurd.

THE STORY OF STONEHALL HARRIERS

The recent publication of the list of Point-to-Point Races for 1954 includes the name Stonehall Harriers at Askeaton. This is a new fixture, which may well prove to be a milestone in the life of this Hunt Club. It might be opportune to give a brief history of this very sporting pack, which is largely supported by farmers under the competent joint mastership of Miss Betty Hewson, of Castlehewson, and Mr. Michael O'Shaughnessy of Ballyengland, Askeaton, who were elected in 1953.

HUNT TERRITORY.

The hunt territory is bounded on the North by the River Shannon, on the East by the river Maigue, on the South by a line joining Adare and Rathkeale, and on the West by a line joining Rathkeale and Foynes. It thus roughly comprises the ancient Barony of Kenry. Probably there were many private harrier packs in this district from the time when hunting became an organized sport. The first one the writer has definite knowledge of was a pack hunted by the Hunt family, of Inchirourke up to the Land League days, and said to have been called the Shannon Harriers. Hunting generally was suspended at this period. Major Charles Langford, still hale and hearty, had a Harrier pack kennelled at Kilcosgrave in the 1890's, but this was disbanded when he went to the South African War. He hunted the Shanagolden district. About this period Jim Sheehy hunted his own harriers from Court, Kildimo, but he gave them up about 1904. Following on this Montiford Westropp kept a private pack at Melon, but hunted much of the present Stonehall Hunt district. He was ably assisted at various periods by the present Viscount Gulliamore (then Captain Standish O'Grady) and Tommy Lloyd of Cartown. On Mr. Westropp's death in 1914, the pack was dispersed, but was quickly revived under the style of the Stonehall Harriers by a number of local enthusiasts.

YOUTHFUL MASTER.

Mr. Paddy McDonagh of Bansha, then quite a youth, was elected Master and Huntsman, and continued in that capactiy until 1953. His father, the late John McDonagh, was a regular mounted follower up to a great age. He lived to be a nonagenarian. During Paddy McDonagh's Mastership of nearly 40 years, consistently good sport was shown. This Hunt proved an ideal medium for "entering" young horses and riders. The writer's first introduction to the thrill of the chase was with this pack, and thus was imbued with a lifelong love of horse and hound. So with countless others. Among the great personalities who were regular followers was Mrs. Whjte, of Nantenan, known to a wide public as Dorothea Conyers, the authoress. Her novels usually had a hunting background, and her characters were based on not a few of her Stonehall harrier friends. Michael O'Neill, of Kilbreedy, a notable athlete in his younger days, was another regular. "Miky," as he was called, had a ready wit and a great heart. A soldier now retired and settled in Co. Limerick, harrates how he was hunting with the "Stonehall's" one day many years ago. They approached a very high coped wall. Someone said "jump down Steve and pull a few stones from the top." Miky O'Neill chimed in, "Yerra do you think it is out with the County Hounds you are? Stand back and give me room to 'lep'."

IDEAL COURSE LAID OUT.

An ideal course for the races has been laid out over bush fences at Toomdeely, one mile west of Askeaton town. This is a lovely open country with charming vistas of the River Shannon in the distance. The competitors will be in view all the time, and granted a fine day it is felt that a most successful sporting and social event will result, and thus establish more firmly than ever in the affections of the countryside the Stonehall Harriers' Hunt Club.

"GONE AWAY."

Fianna Fail: Count Cumainn: Addres By Deputy Collin

THERE was an excellent attendance at the annual general meeting of Pallaskenry Cumann of Fianna Fail. Mr. E. Enright, Chairman, presided, and Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., was present.

Dealing with Cumann activities in 1953, the Secretary reported that there had been no falling off in support for Fianna Fail in the past twelve months. On the contrary, it had become more clear to their members that the severe budgetary measures introduced when the present Government resumed office were not only wise but an absolute necessity. The results of these measures were to be seen at present when the country's economic position was vastly improved and the ship of State on an even keel one more.

The National Collection in the Cumann area for 1953 was an all-time record, the figures showing a three-fold increase on those of five years ago. Cumann finances were also in a sound condition.

ADDRESS BY DEPUTY COLLINS.

In a lengthy and detailed address Mr. J. J. Collins, T.D., discussed the political history of the past two years and dealt also with local problems which had arisen. He congratulated the Cumann on their National Collection figures, saying that it was work such as this in every Cumann area which had placed West Limerick heading the list in the returns from all the constituencies.

The Budget of 1952 had undoubtedly been unpopular, but drastic ills needed drastic remedies and the results spoke for themselves. Following this came a series of bye-elections in areas where the Fianna Fail vote was in a minority and where it was very difficult to gain a victory. The result of these bye-elections was a clamour on the part of their opponents for a General Election. This call, however, had been strongly answered in South Galway and there had been little talk of a General Election since then. Fianna fail were further strengthened by the decision of three Independent Deputies to join the Party, a decision which had, no doubt, a certain influence on the "floating vote" throughout the country.

COMING BYE-ELECTIONS.

As for the coming bye-elections, Fianna Fail were entering the fray confidently. Victories in these bye-elections would almost automatically ensure that the present Government would remain in office until the end of the statutory period.

Industrial progress in the past two years had been excellent. Agriculture in all branches, especially dairying, was on a sound economic footing. There had been a remarkable increase in the number in industrial employment. Unemployment, generally, however, still remained a running sore. At present a special committee was examining the position and planning improvements. £1,000,000 was being granted to local authorities to relieve unemployment. In Limerick, he felt sure that much of their share would be spent on the roads. A further half million was being given for rural improvement schemes, while there was yet to come the National Development Fund of £20,000,000. All these schemes were intended to grapple with unemployment, which could not be successfully solved with the limited amount obtainable by way of rates.

EXPENDITURE ON ROADS.

He had no apologies to make to anyone as regards the amount being spent on roads. In 1939 of a rate of 10/6 roads were allotted 3/6. In 1947 the figure was 3/7½ in a rate of 17/6. In the 1953 rate of 26/6 two and a half times the 1939 figure they should be allot- farmer with a valuation un and no person with an under £600 should think fit plain. They would be gettin turn a medical service se none.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Turning to local matte Collins promised to do his expedite the Pallaskenry s and water-works scheme. matters raised and which mised to deal with imm were—

The dangerous and ur wall in front of the l scheme recently complete question of public lighting housing scheme.

Roads on Land Commissi tates—tenants on the Wal tate at Bushy Island and town and on the Westropp in Mellon and Ballydoole that these roads, serving families and tenants, were dreadful state. The da bend on the main road a arty's Cross.

VOTE OF THANKS

At the conclusion of the the Secretary proposed a thanks to Mr. Collins for teresting address and the and understanding way listened to their troubles.

Mr. T. Meade N.T., secon motion, which was passe acclaim.

Mr. Collins suitably repli

OFFICERS FOR 195

Cumann officers for 1954 follows:—Chairman, Mr right; Vice-Chairman, M Howard; Treasurers, Mes Meade N.T., and Wm. Secretary, Mr. M. O Corrbu mittee members — Mess O'Brien, J. Neville, T. Wm. O'Callaghan, John Ba Moloney P. Daly, E. Shea Hogan, P. Quilty and T. M Delegates to Comhairle Ce —Messrs. M. O Corrbui a O'Brien.

EAST LIMERICK COMHAIRLE DAIL CEANNTA

The annual meeting of t Limerick Comhairle Dail tair took place at Arus Fail, Hartstonge Street.

The election of officers ensuing 12 months resulted lows:—Chairman, Senator O'Dwyer; Vice-Chairman, rick: J. Lynch; Hon. Tr Mr. Patrick J. Lynch and Kelly, N.T.; Hon. Secrets Michael J. O'Brien.

NEWPORT COMHA CEANNTAIR

A representative meeting Newport Comhairle Ceann held in the Parochial H Edmond Foley (Chairma sided. The attendance Mrs. M. B. Ryan, T.D. from all the Clubs in the a present. A number of people of the town were sent.

Important items dealing extension of the water sup the Cork Road to the Pad Lacken Memorial Park, si a pump at Derryleigh, roads and I.R.A. pension discussed.

Arrangements were mad holding of a dance on night, February 14th. T Senators will be invited t this fixture, particulars will appear in "Limerick advertisement columns.

BALLINGARRY C

At the annual general m the Ballingarry Club, a