

Limerick University College Claim: Some Opposing Comments Answered

IN the subjoined letter, which is a copy of one addressed to the Editor of "Hibernia," published in Dublin, some comments in opposition to the claim for a university college in Limerick are answered.

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")
Dear Sir Rev. Dr. Alfred O'Rahilly for ever forty years has proved himself a doughty champion in historic causes, pro fide et patria. And so his unsympathetic and rather hostile attitude to our University for Limerick campaign has caused pain and dismay to his many admirers and friends in Limerick. Like Allan Brock, he has been a bonny fighter. So he will not mind if I do not mince words in commenting on his article in the current issue of "Hibernia."
The National University is the University of Ireland. It has been given the monopoly of the university education of 96% of the people. It is a corporation with great privileges and equally great responsibilities. Its rights are defined in its charters. Its responsibilities are in the Christian Social Charter of Justice founded on charity. And Justice or Cothrom na hEinne is the motto of the N.U.I.

LIMERICK'S CLAIM

We believe that Limerick's claim is unanswerable. No place comes within measurable distance of it in population, educational institutions; in geographic position and economic and social potentialities. Dr. O'Rahilly questions our statistics. He suggests that a statistical enquiry might be undertaken by the Registrar of U.C.C., Professor M. D. Carey, with the cooperation of the other two colleges. We have no objection. We are confident in our own findings and in our interpretation thereof. Also we regret offers of help with a certain and perhaps justifiable amount of caution.

Last June U.C.C. advertised a course for the Higher Diploma in Education to be held in Limerick. The condition was that at least 20 qualified candidates should apply. Over 60 applications, the majority from qualified persons, were received. The course was dropped. The explanation given by the President was that the Governing Body found that they were unable to sanction the course. Unkind people in Limerick remarked that it was strange that that intelligent body did not discover this impediment before advertising the course, and that if the number of qualified applicants had been less than the minimum, the course might well have been dropped for that reason. In other words—Heads I win; Harps you lose.

Dr. O'Rahilly offers the suggestion of his former pupil, Professor Quinlan: "(1) That a stop at Limerick for Extern Examiners travelling from Cork to Galway might not be too onerous, and (2) that Ballaskerry could become part of a college of agriculture." We cannot say we are dazzled by the prospect of Extern Examiners patting the heads of a few bright boys at Fallaskerry and telling them that if all went well they would be allowed to present themselves "for the pass examination of the Institute" at Cork.

JUSTICE FOUNDED ON CHARITY

In the land of the Samaritan we find a new university is fostered. North Staff's University was

established 8 years ago on a beautiful 600 acre site. Manchester, the reddest of the red-brick universities, and Cambridge, the greyest of the senior ones, vied with each other in providing academic and administrative aid to help its faltering first steps. The millionaire house of Frazer opened its purse strings and showered benefactions on it. It had a roll of 417 in 1934; to-day, it has just over 800. This is a practical example of the operation of justice, founded on charity.

There will be no going back on the position achieved by the 1908 Universities Settlement, which was a tremendous advance on the 1845 Act, condemned the same year at the Synod of Thurles. At the same time while incorporating the Jesuit University of Dublin in the N.U.I., the 1908 Act had the effect of extinguishing the Jesuit University of Faculty, Mungrat, Limerick. And this without one word of apology or title of compensation. So Limerick can be excused if it casts a rather cold eye on this bulwark, of which it found itself on the outside.

Rev. Dr. O'Rahilly suggests there may be something for Limerick in the possibility of a Recognised College. We rather think not. The formula of a Recognised College was tailored to fit the unique status of Maynooth. The non-Conformist conscience of the 1908 Liberal Government balked at the awarding to Maynooth of full University College Status. There being no Non-Conformist Conscience now available, Limerick looks for her University College.

QUESTION OF COST

Have we seriously estimated the expense? We have. Where is the money to come from? That is an easy one. From the same source as that for University College, Cork, —namely, the pockets of the taxpayers. We would naturally expect many endowments. But we could hardly hope for any as great as those lavished on Cork by the Limerick merchant, Honan.

The article is headed "What does Limerick want?" Answer—Limerick wants full degree courses in agriculture, arts, commerce, medicine, science, engineering and law. We want a university college for the countless advantages it will bring to the people of all North Munster.

Rev. Dr. O'Rahilly ends by quoting from a recent speech of one of our public representatives, whose views on certain aspects of our demands we do not share. I would exit with a quotation from last Saturday's "Limerick Leader," 12-3-60.

FOUR APPOINTMENTS FOR COUNTY LIMERICK

Mr. Laurence Murnane, B.Agr. Sc., 4, Hillside Terrace, Fermoy, County Cork, has been appointed on the recommendation of the Local Appointments Commission, as Instructor in Agriculture under the County Limerick Committee of Agriculture. Mr. James O'Brien, B.Agr. Sc., Cork, has got a similar appointment under the same Committee. Mr. Alfred J. Eimes, B.E., B.Sc., Blackrock, Dublin, has been appointed Chief Assistant County Engineer for County Limerick, and Mr. Wm. A. McMahon, B.E.,

CHAMPIONS AGAIN



The Limerick C.B.S. team that defeated St. Flannan's College, Ennis (Colleges' S.F.) at the L.

QUESTION OF INDUSTRIES

(To the Editor "Limerick Leader")

Dear Sir: We have read the further letter from Mr. F. Mills in to night's (Wednesday) Leader. It is amazing the misplaced tenacity of Mr. Mills, and this Committee has far too much to do besides answering him. We would like to point out, however, that the Limerick University Project Committee is not confined to one class, as he appears to suggest. We already mentioned that the labour organisations have two representatives on it. If he reads the papers he can see the volume of support from all quarters, so his efforts at sabotage are very puny, indeed. Is it not a pity that, no matter what one does, there will always be a Mr. Mills to say one should do something else? In that way, one gets nothing.

A public meeting was held in the Stella some time ago (in the Mayorality of Mr. Liddy) to consider the question of industries. Was Mr. Mills there? That meeting set up a committee (as a matter of fact, a number of our members are on it), and we are sure they would welcome any constructive assistance Mr. Mills has to offer. The University question is an entirely different matter something in which we have an excellent chance of succeeding now so the two issues should not be confused. We are sending Mr. Mills some of the data we have compiled, showing Limerick's strong case for a Constituent College of the National University of Ireland. Yours faithfully,

LIMERICK UNIVERSITY PROJECT COMMITTEE

c/o Chamber of Commerce, Limerick.
16th March, 1960

NEW RATE MAY BE 50/11 IN £

The Limerick City Manager (Mr. T. F. McDermott) informed Limerick Corporation at its meeting last night that he will be proposing a rate of 50/11 in the £ for the coming estimates meeting, an increase of 2/2 on the current rate. The matter was not discussed.

Blackrock, Dublin, has been appointed Assistant Co. Engineer, Co. Limerick.

May I borrow his last prim sentence? "Now you see what I mean."

I remain, yours sincerely,
GERARD O'CONNOR.

Ardeevin, North Circular Road, Limerick University Project Committee, 16-3-60.

C.B.S. Beat To Take Football

SCENES of the greatest in the victory of Limerick College, Ennis, by 2-5 to 0: Mumhan (Munster College Gaelic Grounds yesterday. Limerick have completed the first—An Corn na Mumhan and they meet North Monaghan on Sunday week. That Sextons won yesterday of the trophy.

Limerick deserved their victory yesterday but they gave their supporters many anxious moments before the final whistle. Leading by seven points at the interval they seemed all set for an easy victory. But the mid-field battle which had been well in favour of the Limerick lads before half-time took a complete turn on the resumption and the Ennis boys got well on top. And, unlike Sexton in the opening half, Ennisman took their chances and sent over some lovely points.

I was rather disappointed with the display of the Sextons lads at the second half. Having seen them in all their games up to now, I expected really great stuff from them after the interval. Instead of going all out for more scores, they seemed to develop a defensive complex. The Ennis attackers had them in serious trouble at times and the situation was none too sure five minutes from the end, when there was a two-point between the sides. But once again, Limerick showed their great fighting spirit and determination; came back, and not only a vital point. But, in comparison with their disappointing second half showing, their play in the opening "30" was quite brilliant. The forwards moved beautifully, the mid-field pair dominated, and the defenders dealt capably with anything that came their way. Without doubt, they are worthy and popular champions.

GREAT GOALIE

The man who caught the most for Christians was that diminutive man in the last line of defence, Jim O'Shea. He was a real match saver, time and again repelling attacks with some wonderful saves. To him must go a big share of the credit for the victory. Seamus Cox, at full-back,