

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1970

LIMERICK IS PROUD

IT WOULD APPEAR that there are some who would like us to believe that Limerick is a city to be ashamed of . . . a city of poor housing, gross unemployment and slave labour. It has been said that ours is a city of conservatism and intolerance. Such statements are completely without foundation and it has now been shown to the people of Ireland just how the sincere efforts to safeguard and improve the lot of our citizens can be twisted to suit the aims of those who wish to harm the good name of Limerick and whose wish it is to sow the seeds of unrest in our midst.

IT IS BECAUSE OF this that we pay tribute to the members of the City Council who have gone on record to protest against the unfair attacks being made on this city. It was Councillor Jack Bourke who pointed out that anyone could check at the local Labour Exchange to ascertain the true position of unemployment. True, the enquirer is likely to be referred to Dublin because of ridiculous red tape on the part of some officials, but the information can be located, and this shows quite clearly that Limerick is not badly off. The latest survey available shows that 1,400 were "signing" but as Councillor Frank Glasgow pointed out many of these were, in fact, over the age of 65 and in retirement, and were "signing" only to avail of their stamps-not to seek work.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED that the actual number available for work at the Labour Exchange is not more than 300. There is no mass unemployment here. Where housing is concerned, the records show that Limerick is among the foremost in this country, and our Corporation and City Council can be proud of their efforts. We know of no slave labour, and we do not believe it is in Limerick. The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and the various other unions throughout the area do their work well and while there is the occasional strike, Limerick's industrial relations will not be found wanting. Ours is not a decadent city. Indeed, as was wanting. Ours is not a decadent city. Indeed, as was pointed out at the City Council meeting, Limerick is the only area in this country to show an increase in its population of ten per cent . . . and to make matters even better, we have a growing economy which is certain to make Limerick and the Shannon Region the most thriving areas in this country within the near future.

IT WOULD APPEAR that there are some who would have us believe that to support Christianity in the Ireland of the 70s is something to be ashamed of. We condemn this way of thinking. There is every reason to be proud of our Redemptorists in Limerick and the Arch-Confraternity. Few will attempt to deny that their work for the social and spiritual life of this area can power be hopoured enough. If Christian principles do never be honoured enough. If Christian principles do not permeate the social and economic lives of certain not permeate the social and economic lives of certain sections of Limerick, the fault cannot be placed at the feet of our Redemptorists or at the feet of any of our clergy. It has always been the policy of the Limerick Leader to uphold everything that hase been for the good of our local community and for the traditions of our way of life and we are proud of the fact that we have always supported any organisation or individual who have worked for the advancement of better living standards for all our people. We will continue to do this for dards for all our people. We will continue to do this for Limerick—a city of which we are proud and we make no apology for our stand.

A SWIMMING POOL

THE BIG STORY of the week-end was the announcement that Limerick is to get a heated indoor swimming pool. We are told that the cost will be £125,000 and that it will be of Olympic standards. The dateline for the realisation of the dream of so many Limerick people has been given as 1972. It is our sincere wish that the dream will come true. It can come true and it is the results of Limerick to make sure that it is up to the people of Limerick to make sure that it does. It will call for the support of every man, woman and child who feels that there is a need for such an in this important city of ours.

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO Mr. John Jennings—the man WE PAY TRIBUTE TO Mr. John School Be expressed himself in no uncertain manner when he pointed out that if the people of Limerick will not do it no one else that if the people on this point. The provision of We agree with him on this point. will. We agree with him on this point. The provision of a swimming pool in Limerick has been the subject of discussion for too long. The late Donogh O'Malley as Mayor of this city did his best to bring about the realisation of the dream. He failed . . . through no fault of his own. Now Mr. Jennings has promised that when he says something, he will do it. We sincerely hope so and we hope that Limerick will support him.

IT WOULD BE A tremendous achievement if we can bring this about. We believe we can and we appeal to our readers to give John Jennings every support. He and his committee will be appealing to the public for that support. They deserve it in every way. It will be

and his committee will be appealing to the public for that support. They deserve it in every way. It will be more than just a swimming pool . . It will be a sports centre. People seem to overlook the important fact that a swimming pool is more than a recreation centre . . . It is a means of saving lives by teaching young boys and girls how to swim. The tragedies caused by drowning have been all too numerous in Limerick. John Jennings can change this heartbreak with our support . . . Do not spare it. The ambition is too great.

SCANLAN, THE GALBALLY-BORN PATRIOT WHO WAS SHOT TO DEATH 50 YEARS AGO.

BELOW WE PUBLISH THE FULL TEXT OF AN ORATION BY MANNIX JOYCE ON THE OCCA-SION OF THE UNVEILING AT KILMALLOCK OF A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING MICHAEL

TA PLAIC togtha anseo rigcuimhne ar Mhicheal O Scannlain, agus is maith ann i. A bhfuil scriofa ar an bplaic seo beidh se le leamh ag na daoine a thiocfaidh inar ndiaidh, agus teagnain. daoine a thiocfaidh inar ndiaidh, agus teaspainfidh se do na daoine sin cen meas mor bhi ag pobal an cheantair seo ar Mhicheal O Scannlain.
Ar ndoigh, bhi an meas sin tuillte aige. Fear brea usaal ab da e, i ngach aon uasal ab ea e, i ngach aon

Ba de thogail Ghallbhaile e, agus thainig se anseo go Cill Mocheallog i 1916 mar mhuinteoir i Scoil na mBuachalli. Muinteoir den chead scoth ab ea e, a cothaigh ina, chuid daital fearulacht gra agus don Ghaeilge thuig se, nair ar thaig sarfhir uile na ghine sin, na headh son naisinn Eireannach ann gan an Ghaeilge.

endar leis, agus lamhachadar c.

Nior deineadh dearmad riamh ar Mhicheal O Scannian i geanntar Chill Mochenlog agus mar chruthu amhain ar-sin to againn an phlaic seo a nochtadh anseo inniu le heis Scoil na mBuachaill. Ta an-chreidiuint ag du don dream dliis sin a chinn ar an bplaic ac chur suas. Go geuiti Din a saoshar leo, agus go diuga se suaimhneas siorraí do anam Mhichili Ui Scanniain, agus do anamnacha na marbh to leir fuair bas ar soo na heireann. As I have aiready said in Irish, very much credit is due to that small devoted band centred liere in Kilmailock who have had this bilingual plaque erected to the memory of Michael Scanlan. It was the same group who, had the plaque to Liam Scully erected fee old RIC barracks.

And it lis the same group who, for a considerable num.

And it is the same group who, for a considerable num-ber of years, have been car-ing for the graves of the patriot dead in Kimallock churchyard, Molaim iad as a ndiograis agus as a ndil-seacht.

and minds of his pupils the seeds of nationality and love of country.

And I might remark that he is in good company on this pillar, for on the pillar surmounting the plaque that bears his name, is another bilingual plaque bearing the names of Bishop Patrick O Hely of Mayo and Fr. Conn O Routice, OFM, of Breifine, who were martyred on the mound called the school grounds in the year 1579. And that other plaque siso bears the name of the great Geraldine leader. Seamus Mac Mulris mhic an Iarla — James Fitzmaurice Fitzgrafel—a man who, in his day, fought valiantly for Irish freedom, and whose dead body was quartered above the gates of Kilmallock in the same year, that Bishop O Hely and Fr. O Rourke died on Crochta.

Privilege

that terrible year of 1920, the year that claimed the life of Michae Scanian, and the lives of many others like him who were engaged in the fight for freedom.

Freedom.

For that reason I would like to take your minds back to years by recalling for you, for just a few moments, some of the events, events heroic, and events terrible. Of that blood-denothed year, when Irishmen fought, as never before, to free themselves from the iron grip of the British Empire.

It is against the background

Empire.

It is against the background of these events I would like to set, the sacrifice of Michael

day.
On March 6th the outlawed
Tricolour of the Republic was
defaulty flown from the Natlonal Monument in Kilmailock

troops tore the Tricolour from his coffin

British

in memory of the Fenian attack on the police barracks 33 years before.

On the night of March 19-20, Tomas. Mac Curtain, Ldrd Mayor of Cork, was murdeed by British Crown Forces.

On the night of April 3rd, 157 police barracks in various parts of Ireland were burried by the IRA, Sevences of the barracks were in Limerick

Ballylanders

On April 26th Ballyland is lice Barracks was attacked d captured by the LRA., e actual attacking patry ing commanded by a Kil-allock man, Sean T. O Rior-

on. April 28th six creamerless along the Limerick-Tiplerary border were burned by
British Forces.
On May 28th KilmallockPolice Barracks was attacked
and destroyed by the LRA,
under Sean Wall. The acqual
assault was led by Tomas Malone ("Sean Forde"). In the
attack the LRA, lost Lam
Scully, and the police lost Sergreant Keane and Constable
Moreton.

Moreton.
'On June 4th the first Black

And scorned the foeman's frown.
Oh, they were the men who conquered,
And brought an Empire down;
The Local Elections for Limotick, held in June, 1920, resulted in the election of a pre-dominantly Sinn Fein Co. Council. Among those elected were the following, from this part of Limerick: Sean Wall. of Bruff, who was unailmously chosen as chairman of the new Council; John A. Lynch, Kilmallock; John Cratwitch, Ballyahne, Kilfinanc, Liam P. Manahan, Eallyahnders, Sean T. O'Riordan, Kilmallock; William Quane, Lackendarragh, Anglesboro; Michael Ryan, Eallinamona, Hospital; Eamon Roche, Biuree.

Newcastle West

On the night of July 17th Newcastle West was sacked by Black and Tans and military. They fired indiscrimately up and down the streets smasted windows, and set a number of buildings on fire On July 23rd, two Crossley tenders filled with Black and

• QUOTE: Unarmed though he was, his pursuers poured a fusilade of bullets into him.

established.

The idea of forming such a Column came to two East Limerick fighters, Donnola O Hannigan and Patrick Clinacy, as they marched back from Liam Scully's funeral Johnny Lynch's of Tankardstown, in which house the first recruitment for that first LRA. Flying Column took place.

They marched from Scully's

They marched from Scully's funeral Sy Glin to Tankardstown, The men who in our freedom fight won fame and high rerown. They came with arms in their hands, And marched right proud and free, And Johnny Lynch he bade them stay "Till they would rested be.

In Lynch's house where Fenians stood
The daring plan took shape,
Those men who marched to
Tankardstown
Together now they'd stay;

Together now they'd slay!
A fighting force ne'er to disband.
A wholetime force whold be
The first Flying Column of In our Irish history.

Hannigan he was there that

fannigan he was there that day,
From hear old Galteemore.
And Crowley Tadhy and
And Howard who feared no
foe:
With O'Donnell, Chancy.
Tobin,
And others too beside.
They were Ireland's
Flying Column,
And Limitick's love and
pride:

Oh, they fought at Grange and Emly. Shraleria and Dromkden. And as well near Annacarty. And down near famed Bru-

Lackelly and Kildorrery.
On these were places too,
Where they struck their
blows untiring
And proved to Ireland true. Wherever the fight was rag-

ing death stood urking migh.
There the men of the Flying Column.
Showed how to dare and die.
They met the Tans and the
"Auxies",

poward Street, where they bombed and burned two houses. Two days later on a Sunday morning—the drapery premises of the famous Crowley family of Ballylanders were blown up and burned by Black and Tans, who then drove on to Garryspillane, where they burned the creamery.

On the evening of July 29th, siter an ambish at Ballynaught, military and Black and Tans drove into Bruree, hent on vengeance. They shot dead Thomas Harris, an invalid, and Patrick Duggan, a schoolboy. The fight for facility of the state of t

valid, and Fatters schoolboy. The fight for freedom continued to grow fiercer. Early in August, curfew was imposed in the Rural District of Kilmallock, and over most of South-east and East Limerick.

South-east and East Limerick.
On August 14th, Patrick Lynch, of Hospital, was taken out of his home by Black and Tans, and shot dead on the roadside.
On August 25th Cleeve's Creamery at Knocklong, was burned by Crown Forces.
On September 18th, two young Abbeyfeale men were shot dead by a Black and Tan as they walked along the road out of Abbeyfeale.

Kilmallock

On September 22nd, John A. Lynch, of Kilmailock, was murdered in his bedroom in a Dublin Hotel, by British Crown Forces.
When his body was brought back to Kilmailock, and again on the day of his internment, in Kilmailock, the town, swarmed with military and Black and Tans.

It was a scene of armed

med with military and Sister and Tans.

It was a scene of armed arregance. The Crown Forces stood on the side-walks and and kept their guns trained all the time on the people who marched in the funeral procession.

On October 25th, Terence Mac Swiney died in Brixton Prison, after a hunger strike that had lasted 73 days. Two days later, that is, on October 27th, the man we commemorate today, Michael

Scanlan, was shot by Crown
Forces in Limerick City.
On November 1st, 18-yearoid, Kevin Barry, was hanged
in Mountjoy.
On November 21st, the day
we know ever since as "Bloody
Sunday". 14 British Secret
Service agents were shot by
the LRA in Dublin.
That afternoon British
Forces rained shots into the
crowd attending a football
match in Croke Park, killing
12, and wounding scores of
others.
Among those killed was

Among those killed was from Hogan, a young I.R.A. man from Tankardstown. Who was viewing the march. On December 10th, Limerick City and County, and most of Munister, was put under Martial Law.

But the I.R.A. continued to strike, and that December they ambushed British Farces at Glenacurrane and the Cross of the Tree.

Limerick

In Limerick, the year ended in a tragedy.

The IRA organised a dance in Caherguillamore on December 28th. Caherguillamore thouse, where the dance was being held, was surrounded by hundreds of military, who immediately began firing into the building.

Five IRA, men were shot dead

Five LRA, men were snow dead.

These were some of the events of that year 1920. Great men and heroic men, proved their worth that year when the test came; and among the bravest was Mich-ael Scanlan of Galbally and Ellmailock.

Kilmallock.

Men of the Galtee mountain country were never ones willingly to bow to foreign dom-

country were never ones willingly to bow to foreign domination.

The will to be free was in their blood. Michael Scanlan brought that love of freedom with him when he came to Kilmallock.

And he brought with him, too, the love of all things Inish, the love of our Irish language, our songs our cultivity. The country of the love of our Irish language, our songs our cultivity, our traditions; all the vital things that go to make Irish the love of our Irish language, our songs our cultivity, our traditions; all the vital things that go to make Irish volunteers it was the step that Pearse. Mac Donagh. Ceannt. Mac Swiney. Collins, de Valera, Brugha and innumerable others had taken. Michael Scanlan soon rose to the rank of Commandani in the East Limerick Brigade. See hing offer he was on warked man Arrested he marked man Arrested he British Forces he was conveyed in a military lory to Limerick, on October 27, 1820.

Jumped -

The lorry drew up in front of William Street Police bar-racks.

The lorry drew up in front of William Street Police barracks.

Knowing well the treatment he could expect at the bands of his captors. Michael Scanlan Jumped from the lorry and made a gallant dash for freedom.

He sought shelter in the basement of a house in Thomas Street, where he was found by pursuers.

Unarmed though he was, his pursuers poured a fusilade of builets into him.

He died a few hours later. When his remains were being hrought home to his native Galbally. the functal was stopped on the outskirts of Limerick City by the British Forces, who forcibly removed the tricolour in which the coffin was wrapped.

Today, thanks to the sacrifices of men like Michael Scanlan, the tricolour can fly in freedom in 26 of our 32 counties; and we can gather here to honour Michael Scanlan, and to honour, through him, all the dead who died for Ireland, without fear of interference from any truculant foreign soldiery.

But that is not to say that he dream of Michael Scanlan, or the dream of those who rose in Dublin that Easiertide 64 years ago, has beer realised in the full.

That day will not come until the tricolour flies over ear Irish Ireland, that will cheekshall her children.

A Juikant A tribute

MR. PATRICK Ryan, 11 Fairyfield, Kilmallock, who was a pupil of Michael Scanlan, pays the following tribute:

the following tribute:

"He was a very great Irishman. He was an illustrious son of irelkind.
"I was a pupil of his. I can recte many of the poems he thought us.
"He inspired a love of Irish history and Irish tradition in the minds of his pupils.
"He told us of the great Irish freedom fighters down along the centuries. the men of 1795. The men of 1795 when the mentioned a Patrick O'Riordan of whom a survivieng relative lives at Fairy-field Kilmallook.
"May God be merciful to the noble souls of all those who died for Ireland"

THOSE of us who won the grave injust are rampant in this Christian country and

THE COUNCIL then goes on



Social &