

**SOUVENIR  
ISSUE:  
CENTENARY  
SPECIAL.**

LIMERICK

ALL OTHER events in Ireland in 1916 paled into insignificance beside the Easter Week Rising in Dublin. The headlines in the "Leader" of 26th April read "Dublin Sensation. Position of Affairs Today. Gunboat in Liffey. Troops occupy Liberty Hall."

A number of Limerick men were prominent in the Rising. Ned Daly of Limerick city, and Con Colbert of Athea, were among the leaders executed after the Rising. Eamon de Valera of Bruree, the last commandant to surrender, would undoubtedly have met a similar fate but for the fact of his American birth; instead, he was sentenced to penal servitude for life. Dr. Richard Hayes, also of Bruree, Eamon Dore of Glin, and Garrett Mac Auliffe of Newcastle West, were other prominent Limerick figures in the Rising.

On New Year's Day, 1917, the Adare Tobacco Factory was destroyed by fire. Lord Dunraven had promoted the growing of tobacco in Adare as far back as 1908, when the Adare Cigarette Co. Ltd. was established. He planted 30 acres and put up the factory buildings. There were some other growers in Adare, and also in the Askeaton, Ardgah and Kildimo districts. During the peak curing period the factory employed well over 100 workers.

A lady, Mrs. Maryinne O Mara, an ardent nationalist, who died in Bruff on the 8th February, 1917, at "a fine old age," had the proud distinction of dining with Daniel O Connell and lunching with Charles Stewart Parnell.

Ten thousand people attended a Gaelic league *aerálacht* at Kilmallock on Sunday, 15th July, 1917; and there was a very large attendance at a *feis* in Ballyanders the following Sunday.

The year ended with the historic General Election which saw the pro-1916 Rising party, Sinn Féin, win a resounding victory. Sinn Féin captured all three Limerick seats. Dr. Richard Hayes winning the East, Con Collins the West, and Michael Colivet the City. It was the beginning of a dramatic new chapter in Irish history.

The first meeting of Dáil Éireann, the first democratically-elected All-Ireland Parliament, took place on the 21st January, 1919. On the same day occurred the Soloheadbeg Ambush, generally taken as the first action in the War of Independence. On the 13th May, Sean Hogan, who had taken part in the Soloheadbeg incident, and who had been captured later, was freed in a daring rescue at Knocklong railway station as he was being conveyed under a strong armed escort to Cork.

**THE YEAR 1920**, saw the War of Independence reach a new intensity. The *Limerick Leader* headlines listed below (dates of the "Leaders" given) partly tell the tale as far as Co. Limerick was concerned; where considered necessary an explanatory note is added:

# Limerick role of honour in struggle for Independence

**COUNTY LIMERICK 1916—1932** □ THE RISING □ ADARE TOBACCO FACTORY BURNED □ DINED WITH O CONNELL, LUNCHEd WITH PARNELL □ 1918 ELECTION □ KNOCKLONG RESCUE □ WAR OF INDEPENDENCE IN CO. LIMERICK □ SALESIANS COME TO PALLASKENRY □ THE CIVIL WAR IN CO. LIMERICK □ BULGADEN GOLD RUSH □ DROMCOLLOGHER CINEMA DISASTER □ LENTEN REGULATIONS □ BENEDECTINES COME TO GLENSTAL □ FINDS IN WEST LIMERICK □ HIRING FAIR □ WIRELESS IN KILMEEDY □ REMEMBERED THE FAMINE □ CO. LIMERICK EN FÊTE FOR EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS □ LONGEVITY □ ETC., ETC.



Comdt. Michael Sgade, IRA, killed by the British



A grim faced President Eamon de Valera, pictured outside Strand House, the residence of Mr. Stephen O'Mara, on the fateful morning of December 6, 1921, minutes after receiving a telephone call that the Treaty had been signed in London. The picture was taken by Egleston Bros.

## Gold rush hits Bulgaden

Knocklong Creamery burned" (L.L. 27/8/1920)  
"But and Wreckage in New West" (L.L. 22/9/1920)

"The Abbeyfeale Tragedy" (L.L. 24/9/1920). Note: The tragedy in question was the shooting in cold blood, by a Black and Tan, of Patrick Hartnett and Jeremiah Healy, who were walking out the road from Abbeyfeale.

"Funeral of John A. Lynch of Kilmallock" (L.L. 29/9/1920). Note: John A. Lynch, a member of Limerick Co. Council, was shot dead in a hotel room in Dublin by British Crown Forces.

"Prisoner's Fatal End" (L.L. 29/10/1920). Note: This referred to case of Michael Scaulan, a teacher in Kilmallock, an officer of the East Limerick Brigade IRA, shot dead after he had made a bolt for freedom from military custody in Limerick city.

On St. Stephen's Night, 1920, a dance being attended by IRA men at Cahirguillamore House, Bruff, was surrounded by 700 British troops, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries; three IRA men were killed and some 60 captured. Other events in that terrible year of 1920 were the death of Terence Mac Swiney in Brixton Prison, on the 15th day of

A LONG, disjointed but intriguing headline in the *Limerick Leader* of Monday, 28th April, 1924, must have attracted immediate attention. It said: "Treasure Hunt. In East Limerick. A Dream of Gold. Supposed 'Klondyke' in Bulgaden." Elaborating on this exciting intimation of hidden treasure, the Kilmallock correspondent of the "Leader," having discoursed wisely about the fure of gold in general, returned to the story of the moment, to wit, the gold rush then taking place in Bulgaden.

"For days," said he, "the roads leading to Bulgaden were utilised by cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles, all bent on one objective; and if you should stand by the way and be not impressed or enthusiastic about the idea, you were hailed

with the cry 'Are you not going to Klondyke?' as they sped on at as quick a pace as possible betokening the urgency of their mission . . .

The correspondent continued; "And for days and nights men delved into the soil where the treasure was supposed to lie, but chiefly by night, aided by the moon's pale beams, or, when occasion required, by artificial light; indeed the night is considered the most propitious time for such an enterprise.

"But what," asked the Kilmallock correspondent, "was the origin of the project?" "It was no more or less," he tells us, "than that two or three men had dreamt that gold lay concealed near Bulgaden Hall, the residence of the first Lord Carbery."

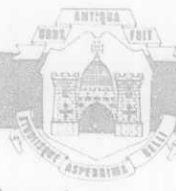
It would appear that in the wild quest for gold the "prospectors" may have damaged or destroyed an archaeological site. For the place of the digging was, according to the Kilmallock correspondent, a circular mound about twelve feet in diameter and about two feet high. A stone alignment, consisting of three standing stones, about three feet high and a like distance apart, projected outwards from the mound in a westerly direction.

The gold diggers had not dug too deeply when they came to a very large flag stone about 9 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet thick. Other large stones lay beside it. Since there was no way of lifting the central stone the diggers reluctantly abandoned their quest.

**THE NEWS OF  
THE CENTURY**



Edited by  
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Comdt. Michael Scanlan, East Limerick Brigade, IRA, killed by Crown Forces in Limerick, 1920.

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**Edited by**  
**Wainchin**  
**Seolgho**

**YOUNG PEOPLE** of today can hardly imagine a time in Ireland when not alone was television unheard of but when even a radio (or wireless, as it was called then) was a cause of wonderment. The writer of the "Kilmeeady Notes" in the "Leader" of 24th August, 1929, thought the arrival of a wireless in the parish a development well worthy of mention.

"I am informed," he wrote in the Notes, "that Mr. Thomas Ruddle, Manager of Belville Deel Bridge Co-operative Store, has installed a wireless apparatus at a large sum. This popular and painstaking manager was chiefly instrumental in advancing the above store to the high position it now holds."

The writer of the "Rathkeale Notes" in the *Limerick Leader* of the 31st January, 1931, told of the death on Sunday, 25th January, of Mrs. Kate Condon, of Kilcolman East. Aged 91, having been born in 1840, she had a clear memory of the Great Famine. "We," wrote the Rathkeale correspondent, "remember her telling how on Christmas Eve, 1847, when she went on a message to a neighbour's house, she saw the woman of the house strain a pot of turnips and turn them out on the table. This was the only food the family had in the house . . ."

"Deceased was a good Irish speaker, and it was evident from her conversation that her mind had been steeped in the Gaelic tradition in her early years. It was there in her big Irish heart that gave you a real *Céad míle fáilte* every time you came the way. And it showed itself in her good old-fashioned mind which entertained nothing but the kindest thoughts about everybody she came in contact with. She was, in fact, a splendid type of the old-time Gaelic Catholic whose religion was not like a cloak or detachable garment to be cast aside as the occasion might seem to require."

The theme of longevity cropped again in the "Leader" of the 7th February, 1931, in the Athea Notes, where it was stated that "A decade ago, a venerable woman, the widow of a farmer, attained the grand old age of 109; and later we had Dan O'Carroll, the last of the native Irish speakers in the district, giving up the ghost after almost completing the century."

A new era in Irish politics began with the victory of Fianna Fáil in the General Election of February, 1932. Eamon de Valera, reared in the Bruree countryside in Co. Limerick, had returned to power, and would remain the foremost figure in the Irish political scene for the next 40 years. The following were elected T.D.s for Limerick in that 1932 election: Fianna Fáil: Dan Bourke, James Colbert, Tadhg Crowley; Cumann na nGaedheal: James Reidy, George C. Bennett; Farmers: J. J. O'Shaughnessy.

But for those who can remember that far back, 1932 remains in their memory as the year of the 31st Eucharistic Congress in Dublin. The Congress opened on Sunday, 19th June, and lasted until Sunday, 26th. Thousands of pilgrims poured into Dublin, not only from all parts of Ireland, but from all parts of the world as well. One million people attended Mass in the Phoenix

## Inter-war years: an era of progress

By PADDY MORONEY

IN THE new mood of progress after the Great War, many innovations graced the newspaper industry.

For the *Limerick Leader*, it was a simple case of updating of the service provided, this time by an occasional column, "News by Wire", sub-headed, "The latest telegrams".

The first of these appeared on Monday evening, June 30, 1919, which dealt with events all over the world.

There is no indication as to how these telegrams reached the *Limerick Leader* from the far ends of the earth. But despite its provincial status, with comparatively small staff, means and turnover, it is likely that the *Leader* utilised the services of one of the international news agencies.

Those on the first publication of June 30, 1919, had the following diversity: disastrous earthquake in Rome, London cabinet meeting, fatal peace salute of Scottish guns, State lottery sought in South Africa, publication of Franco-British-American treaty, allies and Belgians disagree, Bolsheviks execute counter-revolutionary leaders in Hungary, railway bridge at Reims after burned, peace celebrations in London keep policemen busy, Austrian emperor ill, etc.

All the reports were short, as befits telegrams.



The service was clearly expensive, and no such column was to appear again for a number of months . . . until Monday, September 1, 1919, when "The World Outside" on Page 3, still the main news page, listed the "latest items from abroad — this day's telegrams".

These included the Russian War (post-revolution), President Wilson's initiative to close the gap between capitalists and workers through a conference, and the like.

But for all its world-wide contacts, the *Leader* clearly intended to remain "provincial". There was, in the Troubles, already enough happening in Ireland to keep it busy.

But it was also prima facie evidence that, despite the necessity to provide local news, the paper clearly went to some expense to provide readers with "the wider picture".

Effectively, this replaced the service offered by the British dailies which, quite apart from the political outlook of some, may have covered events in such depth as not to draw too much local readership.

In the simpler times that were in it — there was no widespread use of wireless, as it was called — it was sufficient for people to know broadly what was going on. The rest was word of mouth.

## Dreyfus Affair makes history

THE FIRST "Stop Press" international news event for the *Limerick Leader* occurred on the evening of Monday, August 14, 1899 — the first time also that a special news telegram was received by the paper from the Continent.

It concerned the "Dreyfus Affair," regarded today as the most infamous miscarriage of justice in the history of the Republic of France, and one of the world's most notorious trials.

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Edited by Mainchin Seoighe

ght at Dromcollogher, Limerick, involving the of no fewer than 44 adults and children, rious injuries to several . . . Dromcollogher was a town of death and

"Leader" reporter con- "When I entered the went directly to Church the scene of the tragedy, and I saw tional soldiers guard- huge pile of charred i in a corner of where ood a timber structure. ich, for the past ten served as the local

Limerick Leader of ay, 11th September. w: "On Tuesday heart- scenes were witnessed rounds of the church of



Hogan, IRA, Tankardstown, Kilmallock, y wounded in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 1920.

destroyed an archaeological site. For the place of the digging was, according to the Kilmallock cor- respondent, a circular mound about twelve feet in diameter and about two feet high. A stone alignment, consisting of three standing stones, about three feet high and a like distance apart, projected outwards from the mound in a westerly direction.

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St. Bartholomew when forty-six coffins were lowered into one grave. His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Keane, Bishop of Limerick, gave permission to the relatives for burial in the church grounds."

The final death toll in the Dromcollogher disaster was 48.

Fast and abstinence is not now as much a part of ordinary Catholic life as was the case in 1927, when the Limerick Leader of Saturday, 5th March, published the Limerick Diocesan Regulations for that year. The Regulations laid down that:

"The Law of Fasting allows one meal each day but the use of some food morning and evening is sanctioned (by custom, a morning collation and a light refectation in the

which said: "Glenstal Castle, Murrod, until recently the seat of Sir Charles Barrington, Bart., is to become a convent. The beautiful residence and adjoining lands have been acquired by the Benedictine Order. It is expected that a community of the Order will take possession tomorrow." The formal opening and solemn dedication of the monastery took place the following January.

A General Election in June, 1927, brought the following results for Limerick (city and county still formed one constituency): Fianna Fáil: Tadhg Crowley, James Colbert; Cumann na nGaedheal (later known as Fine Gael): George C. Bennett, Richard O'Connell; Labour: Michael J. Keyes, Patrick Clancy; Independent: Gilbert Hewson.

A second General Election, held in September, 1927, saw the following elected for Limerick: Fianna Fáil: James Colbert, Dan Bourke, Tadhg Crowley; Cumann na nGaedheal: George C. Bennett, John T. Nolan, Richard O'Connell; Labour: Patrick Clancy.

The Limerick Leader of Saturday, 18th June, 1927, told of a "Remarkable Find in West Limerick," in that part of the townland of Coole West known as Knocknaboul (Cnoc na bPóil), lying between Abbeyfeale and Athea. The find consisted of a graduated amber necklace of over 100 beads, four gold-plated penannular rings and some bronze pins. The objects, found during turf-cutting operations by a man named John Connors, lay 10 feet under the surface. (Thought to date 800 B.C. and 500 B.C., they were deposited in the National Museum.

The "Leader" report stated that some years earlier, about 400 yards distant from where the necklace of amber beads had been found, a solid oak paling, which appeared to form the side of an enclosure, had been uncovered during turf-cutting operations.

Still on the theme of "finds," the Limerick Leader of 23rd February, 1929, told of the discovery of 8 coins found in the interior of a sod of turf being broken for the fire by Mrs. P. ENRIGHT of Abbeyfeale. The coins consisted of a silver groat of the reign of David II of Scotland (1324-1371), a silver half groat of Edward III (1312-1377) out of London Mint and 3 pennies and 3 halfpennies, probably also of the reign of Edward III. The sod of turf in which the coins were found had come from Knocknasna mountain, adjoining Knocknaboul.

The "Kilmallock Notes" in the "Leader" of 30th March, 1929, had the following to say about the Kilmallock hiring fair held on Sunday, 24th March:

"The above on Sunday week at the Station Yard, Kilmallock, bore some resemblance to the gatherings that used assemble there a score years ago. Boys were largely in the majority, and I saw girls getting as much as £34 for nine months from farmers who spoke with a strong Tipperary accent, and boys who were known to be first rate servants commanded from £35 to £40."

began with the victory of Fianna Fáil in the General Election of February, 1932. Eamon de Valera, reared in the Bruce countryside in Co. Limerick, had returned to power, and would remain the foremost figure in the Irish political scene for the next 40 years. The following were elected T.D.s for Limerick in that 1932 election: Fianna Fáil: Dan Bourke, James Colbert, Tadhg Crowley; Cumann na nGaedheal: James Reidy, George C. Bennett; Farmers: J. J. O'Shaughnessy.

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EVERY Catholic home from end to end of Ireland was adorned while the Congress lasted. Limerick, city and county, was en fête. Typical of the reports in the various local "Notes" in the Limerick Leader of Saturday, 18th June, were the following:

**ADARE:** Adare is advancing as regards the decoration of the village for the celebration of the great Eucharistic Congress. Flags are flying from the tower of our ancient and historic church, the convent, monastery and a number of houses.

**RATHKEALE:** Much whitewashing and decorating is being done and there is a keen demand for Papal flags.

**DROMCOLLOGHER:** Householders in most parts have already begun to make preparations for decorating their houses to celebrate next week's Congress. In the town lines of Papal colours span the streets and the sight is both effective and impressive.

**KILFINANE:** . . . the town also will be decorated, and already Congress and Papal flags are very much in evidence.

**KILMALLOCK:** Day by day as the great event draws near there are indications of the quickening interest of the people all around. The motor car that does not carry its Papal flag is the exception; badges are worn by all; and altogether it can be easily seen that the coming week and its historic events overshadow all other things.

And the reports continued in the following week's "Leader" (Saturday, 25th June).

**BALLYLANDERS:** Decoration schemes for the Congress have been carried out on a very extensive scale. On both sides of the street, in front of each house—even the poorest—are big growing palms, beautifully decorated and illuminated at night by varied and attractive coloured

going on. The rest of word of mouth

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A Captain Dreyfus, of the French Army, had been court-martialled on accusations based solely on prejudice and deceit. He was later to be stripped of his honour and sentenced to a penal colony. He was, years later, discovered innocent and fully restored.

But the affair remained a classic, for injustice, and came to be regarded as such a notorious instance of anti-Semitism that it became a factor in 20th century agitation for a Jewish homeland.

The story on the Limerick Leader, which appeared at 6 p.m. on the evening of Monday, August 14, 1899, was headed, "The Dreyfus Trial," sub-headed, "Attempted assassination of the Leading Counsel" and noted the report was by "special telegram."



It read: "A great sensation was caused at Rennes, this morning, by the attempted murder of Maitre Lazbori (Captain Dreyfus' leading counsel). The eminent advocate, accompanied by two secretaries, was proceeding along the Quai Chareau Briand.

"A badly-dressed man jumped from behind a wall which joins the two branches of the Canal De La Villin, and fired a revolver shot at his back. Maitre Lazbori staggered for a few moments, and then fell on his right side, unconscious. His assassin succeeded in escaping along the canal, but a large force of gendarmerie are on his track.

"The first news of the crime reached the court in the form of a request by Maitre Demange to the President for an adjournment of the court-martial, as his colleague had been shot on his way to court.

"The court retired to consider the application, and Dreyfus, who was greatly affected, was conveyed to an anteroom. In the meantime, journalists, advocates, gendarmes and others hastened to the scene of the outrage, which was a thousand yards from the court.

"The bullet entered his back, between the shoulders, and internal haemorrhage set in. The wound is dangerous. The doctors are endeavouring to stop the flow of blood."

lights. Buntings and banners hang across the street and the Papal colours, mingled happily with the National flag, are flown from the house tops, while on the window sills and round the windows are pictures of the Sacred Heart and pictures of Our Lady under different titles.

**HERBERTSTOWN:** A general display of Papal flags, mingled with the Congress crests, have shown the general interest everywhere manifested in the Eucharistic Congress.

**GLIN:** Glin is en fête for the greatest religious event ever to take place in our country. Many streamers containing

religious mottoes span the streets, while the Papal colours and other flags are displayed from every house.

The Limerick Leader of Saturday, 1st October, 1932, carried a picture of Sean Aherne, of Bosnetstown, Kilfinane, described as "hale and hearty at 102." The name Aherne must have been a kind of guarantee of longevity, for in its issue of the 22nd October, 1932, it carried a picture of Mrs. Mary Aherne, of Cratloe, Abbeyfeale, aged 103, who, according to the "Leader" report, "can still read the paper without glasses, and is hale and hearty."

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"East Limerick Reid. Police barracks attacked. Midnight Encounter at Murroe" (L.L. 26/1/1920)

"Limerick Prisoners, Deported to England" (L.L. 9/2/1920)

"Killed by Military. The Limerick Shooting. Resumed Inquest on Mr. O Dwyer" (L.L. 11/2/1920)

"Fierce Encounter at Doon Barracks. Rifles and Explosives Used" (L.L. 8/3/1920)

"Rathkeale. Sensation. Sergeant shot dead and Costabile wounded" (L.L. 12/3/1920)

"Limerick Barrack Siege. Ballylanders" (L.L. 28/4/1920)

"Burning of Creameries in East Limerick. Wantonly wrecked" (L.L. 28/4/1920). Note: The burning of creameries was carried out by British Crown Forces as part of an official policy of reprisals.

"At Kilmallock after the Battle" (L.L. 31/5/1920). Note: The battle in question was the five-hour attack on Kilmallock police barracks, 28/5/1920. The barracks was left a smoking ruin.

"Police ambushed in East Limerick" (L.L. 26/7/1920)

"Terrifying scenes at Kilmallock. Three houses burned down" (L.L. 26/7/1920). Note: The houses were burned by British Crown Forces.

"Night of Terror in Newcastle West. Several houses wrecked" (L.L. 26/7/1920)

"Exchange of shots in East Limerick. Three Soldiers shot dead near Oola" (L.L. 30/7/1920)

"Sustained Fight. battle at Bruree" (L.L. 30/7/1920)

"Curfew law for Kilmallock and Charleville. Drastic Order" (L.L. 6/8/1920). Note: The Curfew regulations applied not only to the towns of Kilmallock and Charleville but to the very extensive areas of the rural district councils of Kilmallock and Charleville as well.

"The Hospital Tragedy. M. Lynch shot dead by Military on Saturday Night" (L.L. 18/8/1920)

"More Raids at Kilfinane" (L.L. 20/8/1920)

"Kilmallock Workhouse taken over by the Military" (L.L. 25/8/1920)

"Incendiarism Continues.

of a dramatic new chapter in Irish history.

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On St. Stephen's Night, 1920, a dance being attended by IRA men at Cahirguillamore House, Bruff, was surrounded by 700 British troops, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries; three IRA men were killed and some 60 captured. Other events in that terrible year of 1920 were the death of Terence M... in Brixton Prison, ... 74th day of his hunger strike, and the hanging of Kevin Barry on the 1st November.

In the midst of all the turmoil and death, the Salesians came to Co. Limerick, and the formal opening of their college at Cospewood, Pallaskeynry, was reported in the "Leader" of 14th July, 1920. And at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Paddy Ryan, Pallasgen, hammer thrower, won a gold medal.

The War of Independence continued into 1921. The "Leader" of 14th January told of armed British forces surrounding Tournafulia church and searching all the young men as they came out from Mass. Later in the month there was the story of the 58 young men captured at Cahirguillamore being each sentenced to 10 years penal servitude.

On the 3rd February six RIC men and five Black and Tans were killed in an ambush at Dromkeen. The "Leader" of 4th may reported six IRA men killed when British troops were ambushed at Lackelly in East Limerick; and the "Leader" of 9th May carried news of the death of Sean Wail, officer in charge East Limerick Brigade IRA, and chairman of Limerick County Council, killed in an engagement with British forces just across the Tipperary border.

The "Leader" of 8th June, 1921, in a news item headed "Mountjoy Executions. Knocklong Prisoners Hanged," told the story of the fate of Galbally IRA men, Patrick Maher and Ned Foley. Both had been sentenced to death for the shooting of Sergeant Wallace and Constable Enright during the rescue of Sean Hogan at Knocklong station. Maher had nothing whatever to do with the rescue; Foley was present at the station, but was unarmed.

The heading of the "Leader" of the 11th July, 1921, was the best that had appeared in the paper for many a day. It said: "Truce. Mr. de Valera addresses the Irish People." Hopes ran high that all the sacrifices had not been in vain.

The protracted Treaty negotiations, the signing of the Treaty on 6th December, 1921, the growing disunity in Sinn Fein and the IRA over

the Treaty, the ratification of the Treaty by the Dáil, by 64 votes to 57 against, on 6th January, 1922—this was the sequence of events that led to the outbreak of Civil War on 28th June, 1922.

Republican or Anti-Treaty forces and Free State or Pro-Treaty forces were in occupation of Limerick city when the Civil War broke out, and though both parties were very reluctant to engage in hostilities, fighting broke out between them on the 7th July and from then until the 21st July a large part of the centre of the city was a virtual battlefield, with all business at a standstill.

Defeated in the city, the Republicans successfully withdrew on the 21st July and dug themselves in what was to become known as "the Kilmallock triangle," an area bounded by Bruree, Bruff and Kilmallock. The battle for "the Kilmallock triangle" lasted from 23rd July to the 5th August. An estimated one thousand Republican troops took part, and a somewhat larger number of Free State troops who were equipped with artillery and armoured cars. This was the largest battle of the Civil War, a last stand by the Republicans, who, once again, had to retreat, this time into Cork and Kerry. The tragic and disastrous Civil War ended on the 30th April, 1923.

A General Election took place in August, 1923, and the following were the results for Limerick: Pro-Treaty Party: Richard Hayes, James Leddin, John T. Nolan; Anti-Treaty Party: Sean Carroll, James Colbert; Labour: Patrick Clancy; Farmers: Patrick K. Hogan.

1924 dawned on an Ireland on which an uneasy peace had settled after four years of warfare. The War of Independence (1919-1921) and the Civil War (1922-1923) had taken their toll, physically and spiritually. In particular, the Civil War had left a legacy of bitterness that would take many years to eradicate. In the meantime, however, life went on as best it could.

Sunday, 2nd March, 1924, saw the consecration of Dr. David Keane, a native of Ballyagran, as new Bishop of Limerick.

THERE WAS a bye-election in Limerick on the 28th May, 1924—city and county then formed one constituency. The candidates were Tadgh Crowley, Ballylanders, Anti-Treaty, member of a family who had played a very prominent part in the War of Independence, and Richard O Connell, Grange, of the Cumann na nGaedheal or Pro-Treaty Party, and also a man who had fought in the War of Independence. O Connell won the seat, getting 28,243 votes as against Crowley's 23,736.

The death of the Honourable Mary Spring Rice in December, 1924, was mourned far and wide in Ireland. Daughter of Lord Monteagle, strongly nationalist in outlook and fluent Irish speaker, she had helped Erskine Childers bring in the guns at Howth for the Irish Volunteers in 1914. She had opposed the Treaty of 1921. A very large crowd of people followed her funeral to Mount Trenchard on the 5th December.

The Americanisation of Irish life was causing worry to the Kilmallock correspondent of the "Leader," who, in his "Kilmallock Notes" on the 7th March, 1925, declared: "The fact of the matter is that exponents of the Terpsichorean art are gone jazz mad. Except in very few cases the old Irish dances are a missing feature of the latter-day programmes. Foreign dances are all the rage; the Fox Trot and the Goose Step hold sway."

The correspondent continued; "And for days and nights men delved into the soil where the treasure was supposed to lie, but chiefly by night, aided by the moon's pale beams, or, when occasion required, by artificial light; indeed the night is considered the most propitious time for such an enterprise."

"But what," asked the Kilmallock correspondent, "was the origin of the project?" "It was no more or less," he tells us, "than that two or three men had dreamt that gold lay concealed near Bulgaden Hall, the residence of the first Lord Carbery."

For the place of the digging was destroyed archaeological site. For the plan of the digging was, according to the Kilmallock correspondent, a circular mound about twelve feet in diameter and about two feet high. A stone alignment, consisting of three standing stones, about three feet high and a like distance apart, projected outwards from the mound in a westerly direction.

The gold diggers had not dug too deeply when they came to a very large flag stone about 9 feet long, 4 feet wide and 2 feet thick. Other large stones lay beside it. Since there was no way of lifting the central stone the diggers reluctantly abandoned their quest.

The final death toll in the Dromcollogher disaster was 48. Fast and abstinence is not now as much a part of ordinary Catholic life as was the case in 1927, when the *Limerick Leader* of Saturday, 5th March, published the Limerick Diocesan Regulations for that year. The Regulations laid down that:

"The Law of Fasting allows one meal each day but the use of some food morning and evening is sanctioned (by custom, a morning collation and a light refectation in the

# THE NEWS OF THE CENTURY



Edited by  
**Mainchin**  
**Seoighe**



Tom Hogan, IRA, Tankardstown, Kilmallock, fatally wounded in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 1920.