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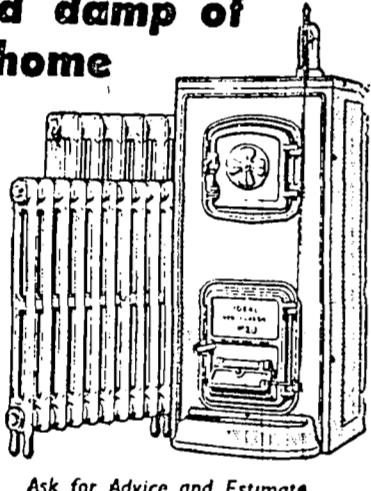
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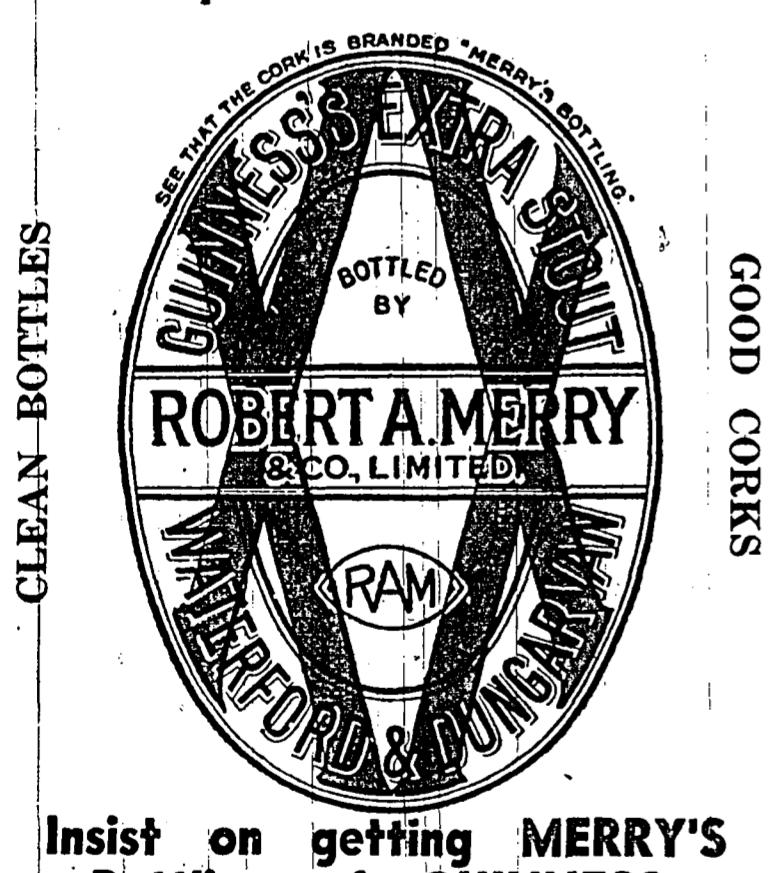
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Portlaw's New Tannery.

Scenes of Enthusiasm.

Pretty Village En Fete
for Great Event.

Solemn Blessing by
Bishop.

Minister's Address.

Amid scenes of great enthusiasm the pretty village of Portlaw had restored to it yesterday some of the industrial prosperity and activity which up to the closing years of the last century gained for it a far-famed reputation.

The occasion was the formal opening by Mr. Sean Lemass, Minister for Industry and Commerce, of the splendid new tannery initiated several months ago and now brought to fruition by the enterprising body of directors responsible for the promotion of the company known as Irish Tanners, Limited.

PROFUSE DECORATIONS.

The fact that the weather conditions were anything but favourable detracted in no way from the success of the opening ceremony. Despite the milling rain, the residents of the village, which was profusely decorated for the historic event, turned out en masse to extend a hearty lead mile salute to their revered Prelate, Most Rev. Dr. Kinane, Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and the popular Minister, who travelled specially from Dublin to perform the opening ceremony.

Headed by the Portlaw Pipers and the Thomas Francis Meagher Brass and Reed Band, a procession was formed up at the outskirts of the village and preceded the Minister to Mayfield House, the former home of the Malcolms, at the entrance to which Mr. Vincent Crowley, Chairman of Irish Tanners, Ltd., Mr. R. J. Hearne, a prominent director, and a large number of Waterford and Portlaw leading business gentlemen, were in waiting to greet him. En route they passed through streets gaily decked with flags and bunting streamers, the Tricolour, at points of vantage, being given pride of place.

A guard of honour of Gardai, under Supt. Dennehy, was also in waiting. They came sharply to attention and gave the salute as the Minister's car passed through the gate and entered the avenue.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

In front of the lodge leading to the stately mansion a platform had been erected, and from this an address of welcome to the Minister was read by M. J. Henneby, President of the Portlaw Fáilte Rianna Fail Cumann.

The party, followed by the large gathering, then repaired to the new tannery, where, on arrival at the main door, the Minister was presented with a golden key by Mr. Crowley, with which he turned the lock and declared the premises open.

BLESSING OF BUILDING.

His Lordship the Bishop, who was in waiting, attended by several members of the clergy, accompanied the Minister through the building to the tannery, where he solemnly blessed the factory. They were then taken on a tour of inspection of the different departments, and one and all expressed surprise and delight at the magnificent lay-out of the interior, the ultra-modern machinery installed, and the remarkable transformation that has been effected everywhere in the twelve months that have elapsed since the conversion of the cotton mills of yesteryear to their present requirements was first undertaken.

Amongst the large attendance were the three local Deputies—Mrs. Redmond and Messrs. Sean Goulding and N. Wall—all three of whom were given a very cordial reception.

The clergy in attendance on his Lordship were—Rev. Fr. Barron, Bishop's Secretary; Rev. J. O'Connor, C.C., Cathedral; Rev. Fr. Power, C.C., Portlaw; Rev. L. Vereker, C.C., do.; and Rev. T. Walsh, C.C., Dungarvan.

The Thomas Francis Meagher Band rendered selections on the lawn of Mayfield House during the afternoon. A feature of the day's proceedings was the projection on the screen of a film showing the factory before and after its conversion.

"SMILING DAWN."

The address of welcome was as follows:

"A dreary night of hopelessness has yielded place in Portlaw to a smiling dawn of opportunity—a dawn that gives promise of noon-day splendour."

"The Morning Star, the herald of this dawn, was the Fianna Fáil Government. Fianna Fáil has discovered the truth that every man is born with a right to human dignity, and that the possession of life and the means to his ultimate end. It had perceived as a fruitful cause of human misery the denial of this right, the neglect, in social life, of justice and charity. Faithful to a primary duty of Government, it must remedy this; it

brought itself in the general well-being and private prosperity."

GOD-GIVEN TALENTS.

"In pursuit of this end he did the very obvious thing, it began to use the treasure nearest to hand, the God-given talents that were not meant for cold storage, whether they took the shape of the natural resources of the country or the ability to develop them."

"They cleared the decks for action, they provided an opening for the Irish Tanners in Portlaw."

"It is our privilege to have with us to-day a Minister of that enlightened and beneficent Government; we greet him with unbound enthusiasm; we greet him—we offer him our sincerest thanks."

REVERED PRESIDENT.

"But, apart from his representative capacity, we wish to greet Mr. Lemass because we know with him rested the final decision to rescue Portlaw; and, above and beyond all, we regard in him a Minister altogether worthy of our revered President, Mr. de Valera."

"We shall have bright homes; we shall be able to enjoy the laughter of our little ones. Their prospects are bright. They may spend their lives near the green fields, the laughing rivers, the deep woods of their beloved Portlaw, and near the decent church that tops the neighbouring hills. Yes, a hundred thousand welcomes, Mr. Lemass!"

"We know that Mr. Lemass is anxious for the success of Irish Tanneries, we wish to say that representative Portlaw labour, given a chance, is eager, too. They mean honourably to fulfil their contracts, to faithfully guard the interests of Irish Tanneries."

"Again, please, Mr. Lemass, accept our greetings and our sincerest thanks."

MINISTER'S ASSURANCE.

"Mr. Lemass, who was received with great enthusiasm, thanked them very sincerely for the address and the welcome they had extended to him on the occasion of his visit to Portlaw. He could assure them that it was a very great pleasure for him to come there. Many years ago he heard of Portlaw and the industrial activity which proceeded there. He had seen the passing of that activity, which had left an indelible mark on the prosperity of the town, and it was a source of personal joy to him to be able, in a very small way, to associate himself with a project which would, he hoped, help to restore to some extent the prosperity of the town."

PRIMARY CREDIT.

"The primary credit for that enterprise in Portlaw, the Minister continued, went, of course, to those who had planned, organised and financed it. The work which they were doing as a business enterprise was a work in which they could all participate in ensuring the success of their venture, because its success was going to mean much for the town of Portlaw. Therefore, he could assure the undertaking that anything which the Government could do, anything which the Department of Industry and Commerce in particular could perform to assist in ensuring the success of the enterprise and its future development would be only too gladly done."

HONOUR AND DUTY.

"It is our hope," said Mr. Lemass, "that, as was stated in the address, the establishment of this enterprise here will mean brighter homes in this town and a better prospect for the children born in it; and in anything that tends to achieve that objective it is only the duty of the Government to render assistance, because that is the main objective of the plans that are being devised for the promotion of industrial development here. If at any time those associated with this enterprise in the town of Portlaw desire to come to the Department of Industry and Commerce, or meet me personally to discuss matters affecting it or plans for its development, or anything that will regard to the prosperity and the benefit of the people of this town, I can assure you that I will on that occasion extend to them a welcome as hearty at least as that which has been extended to me to-day." (loud cheers.)

The Luncheon Speeches.

Minister's Inspiring Address.

Following the official opening, many interesting speeches were delivered at the luncheon subsequently served at Mayfield House, formerly the residence of the Malcolms, founders of the Mayfield Cotton Mills.

Mr. Vincent Crowley (chairman of the company) presided. On his right sat the Minister for Industry and Commerce and on his left sat the Mayor of Waterford (Councillor James Aylward). Others who occupied the head of the table were Dr. J. F. Crowley, London Consulting Engineer; Mr. H. G. Barlow (Managing Director), Mr. J. P. Colvert (Chairman, I.C.C.), and Rev. Father Walsh, P.P., Portlaw.

The attendance included—Mr. Kennedy O'Brien, director and general manager; Mr. R. J. Hearne, director; Mr. D. O'Callaghan, Mr. R. Hillard, Mr. J. F.

Dempsey, A.C.C., Secretary; Mr. J. O'Leary, I.C.C.; Rev. Father Power, C.C., Portlaw; Mr. W. Prator, Dr. J. C. O'Farrell; Mrs. Redmond, T.D.; Mr. Sean Goulding, Town Clerk, Waterford; Mr. J. O'Briain, Town Clerk, Dungarvan; Mr. L. Kelly, I.C.C.; Commissioner Moynihan, Mr. J. Christopher, Mr. H. Sullivan, Secretary, Co. Council; Dungarvan; Dr. Gordon Parker (Consulting Chemist, Tanners' Federation); Mr. R. B. Nolan, Rev. T. B. Walsh, C.C., Dungarvan; Mr. Joseph Nolan, Mr. A. N. Barlow, Mr. J. P. Beddy, Sec., I.C.C.; Mr. R. Dickens, Northampton; Rev. Fr. Vereker, C.C., Portlaw; Mr. Redmond Evans, Mr. L. O'Brien, private sec. to the Minister for Industry and Commerce; Mr. R. W. Wilshire, Mr. T. Kelly, Solicitor, New Ross; Mr. N. Walton, Mr. N. Wall, T.D.; Mr. Catling, Mr. E. A. Ryan, State Solicitor, Dungarvan; Mr. J. P. Brennan, Mr. I. Grant, Mr. J. Moloney, Dr. Purcell, Professor Smiddy, Mr. L. Grubb, vice-chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Waterford; Dr. Casey, Dungarvan; Mr. McCormack, manager, Munster and Leinster Bank, Waterford; Mr. Michael Governey, Carlow; Alderman Dawson, Mr. J. Tallon, Dublin; Mr. Bowen, County Surveyor, Dungarvan; Mr. E. L. Dickinson, Mr. Woods, Mr. L. Cunningham, Mr. R. V. Cave, Mr. B. Rawson, Mr. G. Evans, Mr. C. P. McCarthy, F.S.A.I.A., Sec., Boot and Shoe Manuf. Assn.; Mr. J. B. Vale, Inspector of Taxes; Mr. R. Leonard, mgr., Provincial Bank, Waterford; Mr. J. Lyons, Mr. E. J. Long, Mr. A. Heine, Mr. T. Fitzpatrick, Supt. Dennehy, Tralee; Rev. Father O'Connor, Waterford; Mr. Shipsey, Sec. and Gen. Mgr., Waterford Harbour Commissioners; Dr. Walker, Portlaw; Mr. Wm. Clarke, Mr. P. Dempsey, Mr. Fenton, Dr. Shipsey, Mr. A. C. Waish, Mr. C. Scriven, Mr. M. McBride, Mr. Joe Harpur, Mr. P. Gough, Mr. A. McCoy, Rep. Assessors; S. Parker, Ltd.; Mr. J. Henneby, Portlaw; Mr. W. H. Clarke, Sligo; Mr. Pattinson, Tannery, New Ross; Mr. W. Wagner, Mr. D. Dunlop, Mr. W. Grant, Mr. Stones, Rev. Bro. Mulhall, Principal, Waterpark College; Rev. Bro. Edmund, Principal, De La Salle College; Mr. Larminie, Biberian, Ocean Accident Insurance Co.; Mr. Ennis Boyd, Ocean Accident Insurance Co.; Mr. C. S. Jacob, Sec., Waterford Chamber of Commerce; Mr. David Foran, Portlaw; Mr. Rice, Mr. J. Croke, Mr. Scott, Mr. Dowley, Mr. McEvoy, Editor, Irish Industries, Ltd.; Mr. O'Mahony, "Irish Times."

THE LUNCH.

An excellent lunch was served by the staff of Messrs. Breen's, The Bridge, and universal satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the caterers attended to the wants of such a large gathering. The difficulty of the undertaking will be understood when it is realised that all the supplies for the luncheon had to be conveyed from Waterford and the cooking performed on the premises. The service was all that could be desired, and, to sum the luncheon up in a few words, we would say that Messrs. Breen excelled themselves in a task which would try to its utmost capacity the most experienced and up-to-date catering firm in the country. The various courses were prepared and served in first-class style, and nothing but pleasure was expressed by the many guests at the arrangements with which their needs had been attended to.

The Chairman having formally proposed the national toast, "Eire," an atmosphere of informality and pleasant congeniality descended upon the convalescence.

After a short interval, Mr. Vincent Crowley, the chairman, arose amidst applause to propose the toast of "Prosperity to Ireland." Mr. Crowley, in the course of his address, said that the selection of Portlaw for the tannery was a very happy thought, because it had a unique industrial history. A century ago it was famous for the manufacture of cotton goods and, in the premises of the new tannery, the famous Malcolms, family, which controlled the cotton industry, gave employment to nearly 2,000 workers. When the Malcolms closed down their factory some fifty years ago Portlaw became a deserted village.

The first stage of manufacture began in February last, and leather from the tannery had been available since April. The second and final process of tanning began on July 1st. The sale of the company's products was substantially increasing, and credit for this was due to the fact that the company had been fortunate enough to have associated with it at the outset Mr. H. G. Barlow, managing director, who was connected with two very important tanning companies in England. Those companies provided for the new company facilities

(Continued on Page 8.)

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