

# Trustees appointed for Harrison Memorial Hall

The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland have appointed, subject to any objections being made within fourteen days from last Sunday, the Bishop of Elphin and eight local clergy and lay people to be Trustees of the Harrison Hall, Roscommon. The Trustees will then be empowered to decide the future of the Hall, for which an offer has been made by the Bank of Ireland Ltd. Notices outlining the appointments were posted on the doors of the Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Roscommon, and the Church of Ireland Parish Church, Roscommon, on Sunday.

Late last year The Champion quoted the Parish Priest, Very Rev. T. Canon Hanley, on the Bank of Ireland bid for the Harrison Hall. Canon Hanley said negotiations were at a delicate stage at that time.

The Champion inquiry was the result of a spate of rumours concerning the Hall, which has been a source of irritation to many people for some time because of its dilapidated condition.

For years townspeople have campaigned to have the Hall

rejuvenated but it was obvious it would cost a tremendous amount of money to put right and the parish did not seem enthusiastic about raising it.

In the meantime, Canon Hanley paid the rates on the Hall himself and was able to report in November last that the Hall was out of debt and showing a small credit balance. This was due to lettings Canon Hanley was able to make from time to time.

Only the CYMS were regular users of the Hall and they decided at a meeting towards the end of last year that they would not object to the sale of the premises to the Bank of Ireland. Most of the townspeople also agreed to the sale on the basis that it might lead to the Hall being put into better condition than heretofore.

One complaint was sent to the Bishop of Elphin. It was from Mr Brian O'Carroll, the Chairman of the Roscommon Chamber of Commerce's Industrial sub-Committee. The sub-Committee has powers to act and does not have to raise matters with the full Chamber.

Mr. O'Carroll, on behalf of his Committee, said he was objecting to the fact that the Hall was not put up for public auction so that any interested party could bid for it. He made no specific objection to the sale of the premises to the Bank of Ireland.

In his reply, the Bishop suggested the Chamber should make its objections known to Canon Hanley. The full Chamber will be discussing this at its next meeting on January 9.

Sunday's notices on the Church doors read as follows: "The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, at their meeting held on the 18th December, 1973, ruled that, subject to the consideration of any objection which may be received, they propose to make an order appointing Most Rev. Dr. Dominic Conway, D.D., the Roman Catholic Bishop of Elphin; Rev. D. W. Graham, Church of Ireland Rector of Roscommon;

"Notice is hereby given that if any person has any objection to offer or suggestion to make, he or she, should communicate the same in writing to this office within fourteen days of the date hereof."

The notice is signed "J. S. Martin, Secretary," and the address given is: Office of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, 128 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.

Late last year Canon Hanley told The Champion that the proceeds of the sale of the Hall would go to helping the social advancement and intellectual benefit of the parishioners of Roscommon and Kiltewan in accordance with the original Trust.

Very Rev. Thomas Canon Hanley, Parish Priest of Roscommon; James Moran, Ard na Greine, Roscommon, retired Co. Council official; John Joe Ward, Roscommon, merchant; Harry Salter, Mote Park, Roscommon, farmer; Arthur Perrin Pearse, The Ranelagh, Roscommon, garage proprietor; Brian Kilcline Cloonsellan, Ballymurry, Roscommon; and Matthew Davis, Cloonmurla, Kiltewan, Roscommon, farmer, to be the Trustees of the premises formerly used as a Catholic Church, situate in the Market Square, in the town of Roscommon, in the parish of Roscommon, barony of Ballintubber South, and County of Roscommon, with appurtenances, and known as the 'Harrison Memorial Hall,' being the property set forth and described in an Indenture of Conveyance dated the 8th May, 1912, and made between Most Rev. John Clancy and another of the one part, and the said Most Rev. John Clancy and others of the other part, and vesting the said property in the proposed Trustees as such in joint tenancy in fee simple upon trust to be used as a public hall for the social advancement and intellectual benefit of the parishioners of Roscommon and Kiltewan.

ROSCOMMON CHAMPION  
FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, '74