

Sword And Mace Home Again

WITH solemn ceremony Galway's ancient civic sword and great mace were restored to the city on Thursday afternoon by An Taoiseach, Mr. Sean Lemass, in the presence of a representative gathering.

The occasion evoked much public interest and the streets of the city were lined by large crowds who watched the procession from U.C.G. to St. Nicholas's Pro-Cathedral.

The insignia were handed over to the Corporation in the Auld Maxima of U.C.G. and were then taken to the Pro-Cathedral where His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Browne blessed them, and the ceremonies closed with Solemn Benediction.

An Taoiseach inspected a guard of honour of F.C.A. under Lt. H. Duffy outside the College entrance while two Army drums rolled and three Army buglers sounded a salute. Two Army Officers, Lt. J. Young and Lt. J. Hayes carried the mace and sword which the Taoiseach had brought with him by car from Dublin into the Auld Maxima.

At a giant V shaped table the Town Clerk, Mr. P. J. Watters solemnly opened the special meeting of the Corporation in Irish.

Ald. P. D. Ryan welcomed the Taoiseach and Mr. T. J. O'Driscoll Director General, Bord Failte.

FRIENDSHIP SYMBOL

The Taoiseach said that notwithstanding their somewhat military character the insignia would always be regarded in Galway as symbols of friendship and goodwill, not only on the part of the great American in whose possession they had been but also because of the great nation to which he belonged. These insignia, he said, are part and parcel of Galway history. Apart from their value as historic treasures they are superb examples of the craft of the Irish silversmiths. I hope this sword in its sheath will henceforth signify the determination of the city to prosper in the way of peace. In expectation that they will increase the pride of all citizens of Galway in the long and proud history of their city and enhance their determination to build it up as the capital of the west and a great centre of culture and learning

and make it again one of the first emporiums of trade in these islands, I now hand over to you, Mr. Mayor, this ceremonial sword and great mace to receive on behalf of the Corporation.

Mr. O'Driscoll paid tribute to the Hearst Foundation for its generous gift of the Sword and Mace.

At the Pro Cathedral Most Rev. Dr. Browne blessed the insignia and welcomed the large congregation.

Most Rev. Dr. Browne said that Galway rejoiced in the recovery of the ancient symbols of its Corporation and thanked the noble Hearst family and members of the Irish Government and all who were responsible for their restoration to Galway.

PRESENT AND FUTURE

"We welcome these symbols back not as historical curiosities or museum pieces not with our thoughts on the past on our historic vicissitudes, but with our thoughts on the present and the future. We should see in this mace and sword the constant reminder that we are a city, that we are all citizens that we are bound to be law-abiding and to have the common good always in our thoughts and first in our wishes. It is by devotion to the common good that our city will prosper. Let these symbols remind us too to work for the common good of the nation. Galway is no longer a separate entity. It is integrated in the independent Irish nation, and its welfare is bound up with the welfare of the Irish nation.