

NEW SECRETARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MR. MICHAEL LAWLESS, deputy Secretary of the Department of Local Government since January last, will become Secretary of the Department from October 1, on the retirement of Mr. John Garvin. He will also succeed Mr. Garvin as a Local Appointments Commissioner from that date.

Mr. Lawless entered the Civil Service in 1933 as an Assistant Inspector of Taxes and in October of that year he was appointed a Junior Administrative Officer and assigned to the Department of Local Government.

An M.Sc. graduate of U.C.G. (1931) he also did a post-graduate course in Cambridge.

In 1940 he became Assistant Principal and in 1946 he was appointed Principal. He became assistant secretary to the Department in 1960.

RETURNING OFFICER

Mr. Lawless acted as Presidential Returning Officer in 1952 and in 1959 when he was also Referendum Returning Officer. Until recently he was Chairman of the National Building Agency since its inception in 1961.

He has been concerned with the growth and development of the local government system and with legislation on various aspects which include the Management Acts, Electoral Acts, the Planning and Development Act, 1963, and the recent new legislation on housing.

Mr. Garvin, who was born in Co. Sligo in November, 1904, is an arts and commerce graduate of U.C.G. and a graduate in law of U.C.D.

In 1925 he was appointed an administrative officer in the Department of Local Government and Public Health on the result of the first competitive examination for officers of this grade in the Irish Civil Service. In 1928-30 he was adviser to the Minister on the legislative measures which introduced the City Management system in Cork and Dublin, extended Dublin to include Rathmines and Pembroke and constituted the Borough of Dun Laoghaire.

In 1937 he became Principal

Officer of the Finance Section of the Department, and in 1947 he became Assistant Secretary. He was appointed secretary to the Department in 1948, and in January 1949 he became a member of the Local Appointments Commission.

Over the years he was closely associated with the housing drive, the initiation of new road works programmes, and with all phases of social reconstruction over the last two decades. He has written and lectured extensively on local government, social services, population problems, early Irish history and mythology and other cultural matters.

Some lectures were published under the pen-name of Marcus McEnery. Under another pen-name, Andrew Cass, he was known as an author for more than 20 years of numerous reviews, essays in criticism and exegeses in Anglo-Irish literature! His studies of the works of James Joyce have won him International repute.

This year he was nominated by the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of External Affairs, to deliver the James Joyce lecture in the University of Zurich.

He is married, has two sons and one daughter who is the wife of Mr. Proinsias Gallagher, secretary of the Irish Embassy at Bad Godesberg, Bonn.

Polish Reds observe millenium

The Communist Government proclaimed itself the heir to 10 centuries of Polish history yesterday with a military review featuring everything from spearmen to rocket troops and supersonic Mig-21 jets. The four-hour parade through Warsaw climaxed the State celebration of 1,000 years of Poland and was combined with the anniversary of the founding of the Communist regime on July 22, 1944.