State Must play to Crowd on Renting or Face the Consequences

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An avenue of towering redwoods dwarfs the squat neo-classical Emo Court in Co Laois, where more spectacular trees can be found in its parkland

On an April day, Jonathan Hession, editor of Impact, the trade union, is well furnished for a walk through the woods on your way to the remnants of the avenue of the grand building. He is wearing the sort of clothing that makes one think of a 19th-century adventurer or explorer, with a sturdy walking stick in one hand and a map in the other. He points out the various species of trees, pointing out how they were chosen and why they were planted. He explains that the avenue was created as a way to connect the house with the surrounding parkland, and that it was designed by the 3rd Earl of Emo, who was also a keen botanist.

The avenue is a long, straight path of redwoods, with a statue of a man on horseback at one end, and a statue of a woman on horseback at the other. The statues are said to represent the 1st Earl and his wife, and they were placed here to commemorate their love and devotion to each other.

As they walk, Jonathan points out the different trees, and how they were chosen for their beauty, their fragrance, or their ability to withstand the elements. He explains that the avenue was originally much longer, but that it was shortened in the 20th century due to the need for more space for other buildings.

It is a beautiful walk, with the redwoods towering above the path, and the occasional glimpse of the grand building ahead. It is a peaceful and contemplative place, and one that reminds us of the beauty of nature and the importance of preserving it for future generations.