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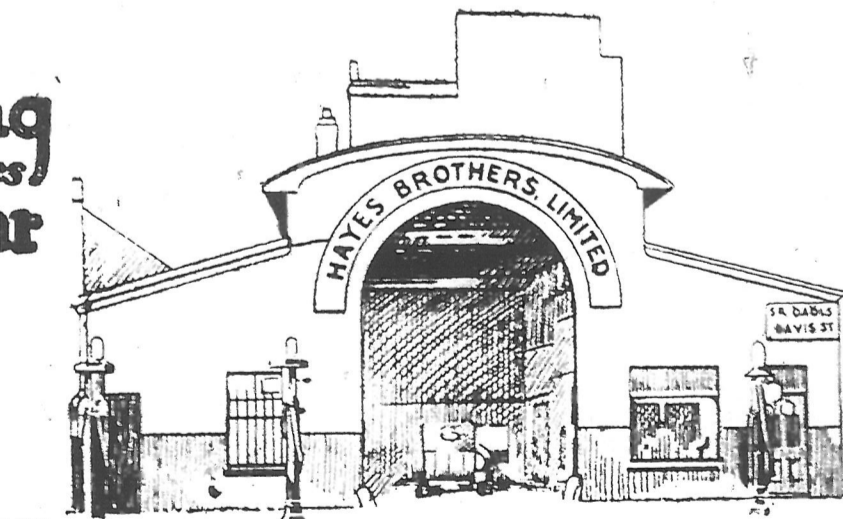
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A CO. LIMERICK GHOST STORY

By A. M. P. Cooke.

One summer afternoon towards the middle of the nineteenth century, my grandfather, J. S. B. Peppard, of Cappagh, was riding quietly along the Nantenan road towards Askeaton. The day was very warm, and the shade of the over-arching trees was delightful. He rode on slowly past the imposing entrance to Nantenan, when sud-

Death of Dr. A. P. Graves

Great Irish Song Writer.

Son of a Former Bishop of Limerick.

We regret to record the death, which took place last Sunday, of a distinguished litterateur, Dr. Alfred Perceval Graves, M.A., D.Litt., F.R.S.L., at his home, Erinta, Harlech, in his 86th year. He was a famous Irish song-writer, and especially celebrated as the author of that ever popular ballad "Father O'Flynn." He was a son of the Right Rev. Charles Graves, D.D., who was Bishop of Limerick 1866-1899. He was born in Dublin in July, 1846, and came of a talented family. Many years of his earlier life were spent in Limerick, and long after he had left it he took a great interest and pride in the old city and its historic associations. He was a frequent visitor here from time to time, his latest being some years ago.

Dr Graves received his education at Windermere College and Dublin University where he had a most successful career as a classical scholar. In 1926 he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by the Senate of Dublin University. As an athlete Dr Graves distinguished himself while at Trinity College, and was a member of the famous eleven of 1867.

After leaving Dublin Dr Graves entered the Civil Service in 1869 and became a Private Secretary at the Home Office. Like Charles Lamb he found time to perform his duties and also contribute to the "Contemporary," "Spectator," "Blackwood," and "Cornhill Magazines," as well as to write both prose and verse for "Punch."

In 1875 he was appointed Inspector of Schools, later becoming chairman of the Representative Managers of the London County Council Schools and founder of the London Educational Committee. Dr Graves was also a Commissioner and expert witness on the Cinema Inquiry Commission.

In 1874 he was married to Jane, daughter of Mr James Cooper Cooper, J.P., of Cooper Hill, Co. Limerick. Five years after her death in 1886 Dr Graves married Amalie Ritter von Ranke, the daughter of a Professor of Medicine at the Munich University. Of his family of ten children—six sons and four daughters—Robert distinguished himself with the novel, "Good-bye to All That."

Dr Graves took a profound interest in folk lore and traditional songs, and one of his most popular compositions was the ballad "Father O'Flynn." He was one of the founders of the Folk Song Society, and a founder-member of the Folk Lore Societies of Ireland and Wales.

After a number of musical works—including "Irish Songs and Ballads" (1879), "The Blarney Ballads," "The Green Above the Red," and "Home Rule Satires," the latter being written in conjunction with his brothers Charles and Arnold Graves—he wrote the Irish musical play, "The Absentee," which was produced at the Court Theatre, London, in 1908.

His introduction to literature commenced in his college days, when he wrote a number of striking verses for "Kottabos," edited by the late Professor R. Y. Tyrrell, and published each term. The verses consisted of translations from French and German poets, and also of various original efforts of his own, which were all marked by that light touch and mastery of rhyming that characterises all his writings. He published several volumes of poems, but his best work is found in his "Songs of Killarney."

The prose and poetry of Le Fanu, who was connected with the Barrington family of Glenstal, Co. Limerick, were well edited by Dr Graves, who at one time was editor-in-chief of "Every Irishman's Library."

Dr Graves also translated a number of the older Gaelic poems, and was the author of most of the books for the Harlech historical pageants of 1920, 1922, and 1927. Last year his autobiography "To Return to All That," was considered by the critics to be one of the literary successes of the season. During the Great War, Dr Graves was prominent in maintaining supplies of good literature to the men on active service.

It may be remarked that quite recently Dr Graves wrote to the Secretary of the Bard of Thomond Memorial Committee enclosing a subscription, and also making suggestions as to how the Poet's memory might be further commemorated. Dr Graves knew the Poet intimately. He died about 30 years ago.

RURAL COTTAGE PURCHASE SCHEME.

Conference in Limerick.

A rural cottage purchase scheme was considered by a large and representative conference of Munster delegates at the Mechanics' Institute, Pery street, Limerick, on St. Stephen's Day.

Mr E. Mansfield, N.T., Cullen, who presided, said that the Association was out for a scheme of cottage purchase on houses that would be fair to all parties concerned, the taxpayer, the ratepayer, and the cottier. What was required first was an enquiry into the present position of the Labourers Acts. It would appear that the Department of Local Government were not in possession of all the facts, but an inquiry would clear the air. The Limerick County Council, he was pleased to say, had declared in favour of a purchase scheme. Mr John McCormack, the Chairman of that body, had succeeded in getting the General Council of County Councils to adopt a similar resolution. Recently the Department of Local Government had taken advantage of their powers to increase cottage rents in certain cases. The Association would deal with that matter, for they would not stand for the penalisation of any case. Lately, too, it had come under their notice that labourers and uneconomic holders were excluded when it came to the division of purchased lands. Under the Acts these were the people that were entitled to land. It was not a question of policy but a question of the distribution of purchased ranches amongst the labourers and small farmers. The Association would see to it that the Land Acts were not going to be departed from. They would also agitate to secure for rural areas the same benefits under the Housing Acts as were now enjoyed by urban areas.

Mr John McCormack, Chairman Limerick County Council, said he was in thorough agreement with the movement for a cottage purchase scheme. He had ventilated the matter at his own Council which had signified its willingness to the adoption of such a scheme. The General Council of County Councils had also approved a cottage purchase scheme, and the next step would have to be taken in the Dail.

Mr P. Clancy, T.D., said that a purchase scheme would have come long ago if the cottiers were organised. Their first duty, therefore, was to organise and force the claim for a fair scheme of purchase.

Alderman D. Bourke, T.D., said he was wholeheartedly in favour of the objects of the conference. The cottage tenant was a class which had been too long neglected, but he could assure the Association that if the Government did not do justice by these tenants the next Government undoubtedly would.

Mr J. Mackey, Co.C., said that Limerick County Council were the first in the Free State to declare in favour of a cottage purchase scheme, and in that connection he expressed the view that all other Councils would follow the lead of Limerick.

Mr W. P. Lee, N.T., having addressed the conference in favour of the scheme.

Mr Mansfield entered into a lengthy review of the financial position of the Labourers Acts from 1882 onward. He went on to say that a purchase scheme was essential, and said for years he had held certain views regarding the financing of the various Land Acts. It was only recently that Ministers had accepted his views, although they had categorically denied his contention for years. To say that the cottier had no vested interest in his cottage was an untenable argument. He was paying rent for a number of years, and there should be no difficulty in hammering out a scheme that would be acceptable to all concerned. With regard to the question of purchase money there was a hesitancy on the part of some cottiers to raise the money, but in this respect it could be raised by the State on somewhat similar terms to the method of financing land purchase. The Government would, he considered, be well advised to retain the agricultural labourers on the land, and not by any system of administration, drive them into the crowded slums of the cities and towns. (Applause).

Mr P. Bradley, Co.C., Cork, agreed with the Chairman, and said Cork was wholeheartedly united in the movement for a cottage purchase scheme which would be a great advantage to the ratepayers. In Cork they had adopted a resolution not to support any candidate at the forthcoming

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