

MUINTIR NA TIRE

St. Michael's Labour Guild

THE ANNUAL MEETING

In the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. M. Coleman, N.T., vice-president, I.N.T.O., Mr. S. O'Ceallaigh, vice-chairman, presided at the first annual meeting of the St. Michael's Labour Guild of Muintir na Tíre, held in St. Michael's Hall. There was a good attendance of members.

Mr. R. O'Dea, secretary of the Parish Council, in a review of the year's working, explained the aims and objects of Muintir na Tíre, and outlined the activities of the Guild during its first season's existence. Briefly, these activities included a very successful furniture collection on behalf of families transferred under slum clearance orders; the inauguration of a toy-making industry in the homes of unemployed members; the collection of waste paper to help to keep the Irish mills working; a free turf scheme; and a cheap milk scheme. In addition, many grievances of workers had been brought to the notice of the proper authorities and a lot done to smoothen out difficulties in a friendly way. A very hopeful sign was the spirit of close co-operation between the various groups at meetings of the Parish Council.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

Mr. M. Hickey, treasurer, said that members were slow in coming along. That should not be, and it was up to every parishioner to join. The membership fee would not keep anyone outside the ranks, as it was purely voluntary and could be anything from 2d. per year to a maximum of 5/-. Their financial position was sound.

The Chairman, in putting the reports before the meeting, congratulated both the secretary and treasurer on their good work, and referred particularly to the very considerable time and attention they were giving to the cheap fuel project. That involved tremendous work, but in Messrs. O'Dea and Hickey they had very great enthusiasts. He also thanked members of the Guild who had attended regularly at both Ozanam House and St. Michael's School to ensure the smooth working of the project. Their big need was additional members but he was confident when the full message of Muintir na Tíre was understood that defect would be more than remedied.

REPRESENTATIVES ON PARISH COUNCIL.

The following were appointed as representatives on the Parish Council for 1942:—Clerical and Trades Section—Messrs. M. Coleman, N.T.; S. O'Ceallaigh, R. O'Dea, J. Flannery, J. McInerney and R. Murphy.

Unskilled Section—Messrs. J. Clancy, J. Flaherty, E. Phelan, J. O'Dwyer, J. Meagher and M. Callinan.

Unemployed Section—Messrs. W. Drew, J. Blake, J. J. Feehan, J. Meehan, M. McCourt and D. Coffey.

It was agreed that a representative missing three meetings within three months, without giving a reasonable excuse, be deemed as having resigned.

Mr. Dan Coffey was appointed as temporary secretary, owing to Mr. O'Dea being engaged on Parish Council business.

NEXT MEETING.

MURDER CHARGE

Abbeyfeale Tragedy

NEIGHBOUR TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

In connection with the shooting affray that took place at Abbeyfeale East on Christmas Eve, as the result of which a young man named James D. Collins, aged 20 years, was shot dead, an arrest has been made.

To-day a small farmer named Laurence O'Connor, aged about 50 years, living at Abbeyfeale East, a neighbour of the dead man, was taken into custody.

O'Connor was charged by Supt. Mulcahy with the murder of James D. Collins.

Later the accused was brought before Mr. T. D. Warren, P.C., and remanded in custody to the Shanganaghan District Court on 7th prox.

The Superintendent gave evidence of arrest and stated that the accused made a statement which would not, however, be put in evidence at this stage.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVIDENCE.

The Superintendent's evidence is as follows—"I am a Supt. of the Garda, stationed at Newcastle West. On 31st of December I saw the accused at Abbeyfeale Garda Station. I charged him with the murder of James D. Collins on the 24th December, and cautioned him as follows: 'You are not obliged to say anything unless you wish to do so, but anything you do say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence against you.' He made a statement which I do not wish to put in evidence at this stage. I am further investigating this case and I ask for a remand to the District Court at Shanganaghan on 7th of January."

Asked by Mr. Ambrose, clerk, if he had anything to say, the accused said "No."

Mr. R. A. MacAulay, solicitor, is defending accused.

O'Connor has been civil bill and summons server since 1923.

WHAT HAPPENED.

It will be recalled that on Christmas Eve at about 8 p.m. Collins was shot dead in his father's house. At the time he was seated in the kitchen, along with his father, reading a newspaper. Two Christmas candles were lighting in the window and these illuminated the little kitchen.

Although the father was seated beside his son he did not receive a single pellet, all the shot lodging in the head and body of the dead man.

NINETEEN DEAD

ROLL IN ENGLISH PAU

THE RED CROSS

Kilmallock Branch

INTERESTING FUNCTION

(From Our Correspondent).

A most pleasing and patriotic function took place at O'Flanagan's Hotel, Kilmallock, when members of the local Red Cross Branch were presented with first aid certificates by the chairman, Rev. Father Moriarty, C.C.

There was a large attendance and a telegram was read from Mr. F. G. O'Reilly, County Secretary, Irish Red Cross Society; Mr. Rioridan, Divisional Director; and Capt. Laycock, regretting their inability to attend.

The Rev. Chairman said he was very glad to be with them and to be in a position to present those present with their first aid certificates. It reminded him of his school days. He had been standing for examinations until he was 25 and there seemed to be but very little celebrations about his certificates. He remembered his first one and how he brought it home fully under the impression that it was worth at least a shilling, for which at the time he could buy a whole lot. He said to his father, "I passed my examination," and he replied, "that's very good," but that was all he said about it. He told his brother that he had got nothing from his father and his brother said, "you would get something if you didn't pass it." He hoped that the certificates which he was about to present to them that night might be treasured so that they might remember them later on, and that when members of their families saw them that they, too, might deserve a little celebration. There was one great satisfaction in being in possession of a first aid certificate—it entitled you to become a member of a very practical and patriotic organisation, and of course there was a certain share of satisfaction in getting that recognition as well.

IN THE DAYS OF PEACE.

Even in the piping days of peace it would be a good thing to know that there would be many people about who would help to look after an injured person and would be able to render first aid services. He thought the certificates should be framed so that their children and grand-children might see them in the years to come and that they might gather inspiration from them. It was absolutely certain that in the serious times with which they were confronted it was one of the greatest acts of charity to become a member of the Red Cross organisation, for by so doing they could place themselves in a position to give help where it was needed very much. They had offered their services for this patriotic purpose and he was glad that in that district there were so many people who had that proper civic spirit which brought them forward to offer their services to their country and if they did not receive any great reward or appreciation it would be a satisfaction to them all to know that they had done a good thing and he congratulated them for the foresight they had shown as well as for their high conception of duty.

He regretted very much, and he knew that all present shared that feeling, that Doctor and Mrs. O'Connor were not able to be present at their meeting but that

TOWN TO

THE NEW YEAR.

We are all just engaged in making resolutions. Unfortunately a majority of us do not long to our profession comparatively short general rule, our will way. We should all be to face 1942 with determination not to be daunted by clouds of adversity that obscure the horizon. Let us not be forgotten that better times will come.

NEW L.G.D. ACT.

It is stated that the new system will shortly be introduced by County Councils. In the new provisions of the Local Government Act, 1941, have full force and effect. The effect of this measure is to make the administration more watertight. For instance, Section 41 the power of every question coming before a duly constituted meeting authority is vested in the majority of the members who vote. This alteration will make all meetings watertight. No matter what transpires, there will be no "sleeping partners" in any meeting.

ALTERED PROCEDURE.

The procedure to be followed in the election of mayors and councillors is altered—and very much better—by Section 43. This means that for these offices may now be elected in the elections and, should they desire, vote for themselves. The old system of election was cumbersome and in some instances councils were unable to elect a mayor on account of obstructionist tactics. The new office of mayor until now has not been held. The new Act provides for direct nomination and straight voting. No longer will there be successive elections done with the object of electing any one particular candidate. This means that a majority of the electors will be present.

MUST PAY RATES.

For the future members of public bodies must not be lulled by their rate levies. If they do not pay they become defaulters, sit, act and vote. Section 44 of the Act stipulates that members who have failed before the financial year—31st March—must pay their rates or be automatically disqualified. Furthermore, before any candidate seeks election to a public body must have his rates paid for the appropriate financial year.