ODDS AND ENDS

A Strange Affair At Kilmallock

(By AN MANGAIRE SUGACH).

Kilmallock, in its long and chequered history, was the scene of many a strange affair, but not more strange than that recorded in Boate's "Natural History," which tells us that:

"On the 7th July, 1697, at Kilmallock, in the County of Limerick, a great noise was heard in the earth, like thunder, attended with whirlwinds; soon after, to the great terror of the spectators, a bog stretching north and south began to move, as well as the pasture land which lay on the side of it, separated by a very large ditch, and a small hill in the middle of the bog sunk that. The ground fluctuated like a wave; the pasture land rising very high, and rolling on with great violence, covered a meadow sixteen feet deep. In this motion it drew after it a great part of the bog into the place where the pasture land stood before, and the chasms spouted out water and noxious vapours, and continued so to do. Numbers of people went from all places to see this surprising phenomenon, the account of which was communicated by William Molyneux, who had a farm adjoining the bog."

SOCIAL LEPRECHAUNS.

How is it that nothing like that happens in our day? The only moving bogs we see travel in small undehydrated sods, piled high on top of some turf lorry. There is a great lack of extraordinary and unnatural happenings in our age; no wells overflowing and turning vast tracts of monotonous grass land into broad and placid lakes; no black pig careering madly through some lonely glen, foretelling deeds of blood to come; no not even a ghost or fairy deigns to make his appearance of late with one notable exception, the Knockfierna Leprechaun. At the foot of Knockfierna, Limerick's celebrated 919 foot "Hill of Truth" two leprechauns posed for their photographs within the memory of twelve year old children.

As I was saying, nothing ever happens now, except for the dropping of an atomic bomb, which ceases to interest us after a few days. But the spectacle of a moving bog must have been wonderful; look at the excitement and commotion it caused; look at the tales that were told about it long after it was seen no more.

IONGNADH NAOI I.A.

I can well imagine the excitement the news caused when it was noised around. As there were no Limerick Leaders, Rambling Thadys or Mangaire Sugachs at that time to tell the neighbours of the diabolical goings on, it was some time before the strange tidings percolated through to such far-away places as Bruree, Bruff and Kilfinane. On every tongue was the query:

"Ar chuaiis an sgeal?" ("Did you hear the news?"). For, let it be remembered, the people of all that fair Limerick countryside were Irish speakers then.

The person who had not yet heard the tale replied:

"Cad é an sgeal?" ("What news?").

"Portach a bheith ag rith a ait go leait i gCilmocatlog. Dia idir sinn agus an t-olc" ("A bog running round the place at Kilmallock, God between us and evil").

CURIOUS AND CURIOUSER.

People were curious then as now, and people were prepared to profit by the curiosity of the curious then as now; so that in all probability excursions were organised to the scene of the extraordinary and unnatural occurrence. What the mode of conveyance was we can only guess. Perhaps a horse drawn wagon was employed to shake and rattle the sightseers while transporting them over the rocky roads, which must have been a little bit rough and uneven at the time, seeing the present state of some of them after all the progress we have made since the moving bog started its ramblings around Kilmallock. Any man who was fortunate enough to possess a horse hired him out at so much a day. Donkeys (of the four-legged variety) had not as yet made their appearance in Ireland, and were not to appear for another hundred years.

On arrival at the scene of the phenomenon the excursionists paid a penny to be admitted to the fields that gave a view of the peregrine morass. Then they stood and gazed in amazement at the strange and fearful spectacle. When they grew tired of watching they could listen to the piper who played jigs and marches for their delectation, and the men folk could retire and drown their wonder in a measure of uisge beatha.

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE.

Perhaps the people did not view the happening in that light. Perhaps they regarded it as they regarded the appearance of the Black Pig in the Black Pig's Dyke, as a sign of great trouble to come in Ireland. If they did so regard it they were not far wrong; for, in 1697 Ireland was just entering the most terrible era in her tearful history. Six years before a medal had been struck, and it bore the inscription: "Limericka capta, Hibernia subacta, Octobris 1691." ("Limerick taken, and Ireland subdued, October 1691.") Limerick lay but sixteen miles off from Kilmallock, and since Limerick fell, things were going badly in Ireland, and the first chill airs of the black Penal night were blowing cruelly across the land. It may well be that the old people, so quick to interpret such unnatural occurrences, saw in these happenings at Kilmallock the shadow of the terror to be.

Perhaps it is because we have at last left all our great sufferings behind that we in Ireland do not witness such strange occurrences to-day.

BURNING OF HEATHER

At Kilfinane Court, before Mr. H. L. Connor, D.J.,

William Sheehy, Rupula, Kilfinane, was summoned by the Minister for Lands at the prosecution of Mr. J. J. Power, State Solicitor, for on the 22nd April that he did unlawfully burn heather within one mile of the State plantation at Rupula, Kilfinane, without having given seven days notice before commencing to burn said heather of his intention to do so to the owner of the State plantation, namely, the Minister for Lands, and to the sergeant in charge of the Garda Station nearest to the said plantation.

Sergt. D. Murphy, Kilfinane, having given evidence, an undertaking was given that the offence would not be repeated and the summons was dismissed under the Probation Act.

TIRED FEET

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T.B. INFECTION

M.O.H. On Heredity Question

Is tuberculosis hereditary? This question is prompted by reason of certain comments made by Dr. James McPolin, M.O.H. for County Limerick, in his annual report for 1944.

Having dealt with the difficulty of securing beds in sanatoria, which he attributed to conditions arising out of the emergency, he states that if the influx to sanatoria was due to this cause shortages of certain articles of food, clothing and fuel—there was a possibility that when this condition passed they may revert to the pre-war state of affairs.

"The problem of T.B. in general is of such a kind that we should exercise caution in forming opinions based on observation during war years," Dr. McPolin writes. "During the last war the variation in its activity showed great abnormalities, which, when viewed from distant post-war viewpoint, took on a completely different significance from that which seemed reasonable during the war years. During the past few years in Ireland there has been a slight increase in T.B. death rates. How much this is due to emergency conditions cannot be guessed at until several years after the emergency passes.

"The experience gained in normal times concerning the whole problem suggests that the following basic conditions should be kept in mind:

1. T.B. death rates have been decreasing for many years.
2. The main weight of evidence from the best medical sources indicates that this fall is due to the biological nature of the disease and there is practically no evidence that the use of all modern methods of treatment has any effect on the death rate (Brownlee, Pearl, Drolet).
3. The duration of the disease in a patient is so long and the resulting economic strain is so great upon the patient's family, that it would seem that such families should be given a fixed gratuitous income of reasonable size and over a long period of years.
4. While the actual disease in a family is not inherited, there is a strong evidence that the disposition to the disease can be an inherited quality. In the actual conditions in which men live, the result is practically the same as if it were inherited.
5. During the early stages of the disease the patient seldom feels ill and hence only seeks advice when the disease is advanced. This cannot be remedied by education or by propaganda.
6. To find the early case it will be necessary to X-ray every member of the community once a year.
7. Very many cases that are called "early cases" do not respond to treatment.

"The scheme referred to in circular No. 53/43, dated 31st March, 1943, from the Department of Local Government and Public Health is in operation. The patient is supplied with a voucher and obtains supplies from the most convenient supplier. An average of 170 patients are receiving these allowances."

VITAL STATISTICS.

The report shows that 99 deaths from various forms of tuberculosis occurred in Co. Limerick last year. The number for the previous year (1943) was 132.

Some 1,058 patients were examined at the different T.B. dispensaries during 1944. Out of that total 180 were new patients and 122 of these were found to be affected.

GAELIC LEAGUE

COUNTY COMMITTEE

The annual Convention of the County Committee of the Gaelic League will be held to-morrow (Saturday), October 6th, at 2.30, at St. Ita's Hall, Thomas St., Limerick. The Rev. C. O'Sullivan, S.P., Kilmeedy, will preside.

The agenda includes secretary's report, treasurer's report, election of officers, the programme for the coming year, and the venue for next year's County Feis.

Branch Secretaries are earnestly requested to attend and report the progress of their respective branches during the past year.

The Convention will also discuss the resumption of the Gaedealtacht Scholarship Scheme, which had to be set aside during the war.

Ways and means of strengthening the League in the city and county and popularising Feiseanna, Aerideactanna and Ceilidhte will also be discussed.

A hearty cead mile failte is extended to all members and intending members of the League.

CASTLETROY GOLF CLUB

The Finlay Memorial Cup last Sunday attracted an entry of 79 and resulted in a popular win for Mr. Denis Kelly. Results:—

1—D. Kelly (18), 67.
2—J. McInerney (9), 68.
3—J. G. O'Donnell (14), 69.

Fourball:—

1. H. O'Donovan and J. G. O'Donnell, 7 up.
2—L. Fine and F. Kavanagh, 6 up.

LADIES' BRANCH.

Sunday next — Turkey competition, 18 hole stroke. Cards from 11 o'clock. Draw for partners.

LIMERICK GOLF CLUB

Sunday, 7th October—Lifeboat Competition—Fourball v. Bogey. Open all day.

LADIES' SECTION.

Countess of Granard Cup (Ladies Foursomes)—Miss G. Toppin and Miss D. Hall.

Lloyd Cup Final (Saturday, 6th October) Miss Rose Dineen and Miss Ann Daly.

PARNELL ANNIVERSARY

(To the Editor "Limerick Leader")

Dear Sir—Through the columns of your patriotic journal I wish to remind your numerous readers that Saturday next October 6th, will be the anniversary of the death of Charles Stewart Parnell. That event will be fittingly celebrated in Dublin, Cork and other cities. What about Limerick? It will be the fifty-fifth anniversary of his death. The Uncrowned King, as he was called, did much to improve the lot of the Irish people. A lot of reforms were carried out through his exertions in a hostile Parliament, notably the Land Bill, Labourers Cottages Act, the Abolition of Flogging in the Army, and other useful Acts. Parnell was one of the most remarkable men of his time, and worked hard to right the wrongs of this country. In his last speech at Creggs, Co. Galway, he told his hearers to stand firm, and concluded by saying: "There is no limits to the march of a nation." If Parnell lived there would be a country of 32 counties.—Yours truly,

JAMES GLEESON.

C COMPANY OLD I.R.A.

A special meeting of C. Coy, Old I.R.A., will be held at the Clare Chambers, on Sunday, October 7th, at 1 p.m. Very important business. All former members are expected to attend. (—)

PASSING OF I.R.A. MAN

Sketch Of His Activities

(BY ONE WHO KNEW HIM).

Where are the Boys of the Old Brigade,
Who fought with us, side by side?

Alas! It is with feelings of sadness that I recall the words of the old ballad, as I sit myself down to pen this little sketch to honour the late Tom ("Corky") Ryan, a former Section Commander of "C" Company, Limerick City 2nd Batt., I.R.A.

I realise that nowadays with records so numerous and cheap, and scores of medalists parading themselves at every conceivable opportunity before a sceptical public, it is hard to visualize that way back in the early twenties there were men and boys; aye, and women, too, whose only thought was to serve the cause and whose only ambition was to make Ireland free. Yea, 1916-1918, the preparatory period, 1919-1921 the active, were in Limerick, as throughout Eire, the hard times when Ireland's future was in the melting pot and history in the making; that that future was not blighted was in no small measure due to the single minded, simple earnestness of men, of whom Thomas Ryan was a typical example.

"Corky," as he was familiarly known to his associates, joined the Volunteers early in 1917, and later became Section Commander of "C" Company, Limerick 2nd Batt. From the outset his enthusiasm knew no bounds and he threw himself wholeheartedly into the movement. So that in 1918 we see him with the Volunteers on duty in the streets of Waterford during the hectic clashes of the Dr. White Captain Redmond bye-election.

Again, after undergoing a course of training in the Roger Casement Club, Gerald Griffin Street, we find him on that fine Sunday morning in April, 1919, amongst the small groups, making their way by divers routes to the Limerick Union where the first act in the drama, the first real engagement with the Crown Forces, after Sologhead, took place. "Corky," tall, strong and sturdy, as he then was, was one of the party that overpowered the armed R.I.C. within the hospital ward, and that evening, with simple boyish pride, we find him at a Thomondgate fireside displaying his trophy, an R.I.C. man's revolver which he had taken after the fray.

Later, during the murky, misty evenings of November, 1920, we come across "Corky" amongst a small group, scattered around O'Connell Avenue, in the vicinity of the New Barracks, eagerly watching and waiting an opportunity to strike a serious blow against the Crown Forces, which culminated in an attack on General Prescott Diecies, Chief of the British Intelligence Staff.

And in April, 1921, we find him with a small group of companions, scouring the John Street area in search of Black and Tans, and recall the indescribable scenes as the bomb burst and revolvers splashed fire in the attack on the Black and Tan patrol at the Cabbage Market, the dead and wounded lying on the pathway, the streets crowded with pedestrians, the general stampede, in which the attackers intermingled with the people flying through bye-ways, lanes and alleys, as the Black and Tans poured out from the adjacent barracks on a campaign of vengeance, to initiate a night of terror such as had never before been experienced in Limerick.

A month later "Corky" is again a central figure in an exchange with R.I.C. at Plassy, where, in May, 1921, a young man was fatally shot.

As a member of the Active Service Unit, Tom Ryan was permanently on active service throughout the latter years of the Anglo-Irish War, and I have only touched upon a few major incidents which, I think, will be sufficient to indicate the nature and value of his service.

During the truce which followed he was married at St. John's Cathedral, and so popular was he with his comrades that after leaving the church, under an arch of blazing revolvers, lorries and cars were procured all over the city and an entire battalion of I.R.A. escorted him to the Limerick Junction to entrain for Dublin.

During the Civil War he was imprisoned and later interned at Hare Park Camp, Curragh, during which time his first child was born. His death now in his early forties, leaves another gap in the already sadly depleted ranks of "Boys Of The Old Brigade" but, more tragic still, a widow, twelve children and an aged mother, to mourn the loss of one who was their sole and only support.

Such recollections, surely, must make one pause, and the old ballad again comes to mind:

Where are the Boys of the Old Brigade?
Where are the lads we knew?

Yes; we may, perhaps, recall, but we cannot replace time, and though we overcome many obstacles we cannot barricade the gates to Eternity—Tommy McInerney, Henry Meany, Thomas Keane, Henry Clancy, Jackie Dargan and Stephen Kennedy have already passed through. "Corky" has gone to join them.

Some day a worthier pen than mine,
Their tales of noble deeds shall tell;
In Ireland's heart their names shall shine,
God rest them all, God rest them well.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

The Limerick Branch, C.B.A.I., held their annual general meeting at the Stella Restaurant on Tuesday, the 2nd inst.

In his annual report the Hon. Sec. (Mr. M. V. Fitzgerald) congratulated the winners of the branch championships during the past season and also Dr. H. G. Roche-Kelly and Mr. T. D. Cooper, who filled second place in the Munster pairs championship held at Fermoy. Dr. H. G. Roche-Kelly was also to be congratulated on his selection as president of the Munster Branch for the coming season.

The following officers and committee were appointed: President, Dr. H. G. Roche-Kelly; Hon. Sec., Mr. M. V. Fitzgerald; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. A. Tracey. Committee—Mr. and Mrs. P. McDonagh, Messrs. V. St. C. Gloster, T. D. Cooper, Thomas J. Frost, Manager, Provincial Bank, Limerick. Chief Tournament Director: M. J. de Courcy. Tournament Committee—Miss L. Dundon, Mrs. A. Moriarty, Messrs. G. Adderley, G. Fitzgerald and A. Tracey.

It was decided that the first tournament of the season be held at the Stella Restaurant on Friday, the 5th October, at 7.30 p.m.

SHARK DESTROYS NETS

A battle between a shark and eight fishermen lasted for two hours 12 miles off Lacken, on the North Mayo coast, on Friday morning. It ended when the exhausted fishermen cut the nets and released the shark. Three nets, valued £5 each, were lost.

GARDENING

Cleansing Tomato Houses

So many people have asked me recently what to do now with their diseased tomato houses that I will repeat here my instructions given in a recent article.

If the tomato plants have been attacked with tomato leaf mould only, and have not died from root or stem diseases, it will be only necessary to cleanse the house and not the soil. If, however, some of the plants have died from root trouble, then it will be necessary to cleanse the house and the soil.

To insure the crop in 1946 against leafmould "cladosporium fulvum," the house must now be either fumigated with sulpher or sprayed with formalin or cresylic acid, or an immune variety such as Vetomould must be grown next year.

FUMIGATING.

When the crop is gathered, but before the tomato plants are taken out, fumigate with sulphur candles or by sprinkling flowers of sulphur on lighted wood shavings or red hot coals. Make sure that the atmosphere in the house is dry at the time or injury will be caused to the lead paint. Four lbs. of sulphur will be required for every 1,000 cubic feet in the house. Fumigate on a calm evening. See that all ventilators, etc., are closed tight. Open up and give plenty of air the next day.

The old tomato plants can be then disregarded, the inside of the house washed down and the house may then be occupied by any other plants.

SPRAYING VERSUS FUMIGATING

If, in addition to the leaf mould, root troubles have been prevalent, then the old soil will either have to be discarded and new soil put in or the old soil will have to be partially sterilised.

One of the best liquids for this purpose is formalin, and it may also be used for spraying the inside of the glasshouse to kill the spores of leafmould. The only snag is that the house will have to be empty of plants for at least a fortnight.

Where plants in small houses have been diseased with leafmould and root troubles it would be the easiest to fumigate with sulphur, and then replace the old top-soil with new loam. If new loam is not procurable the old soil must be cleansed, and this could be done at the same time as the spraying for leafmould.

DIRECTIONSS FOR STERILISING.

Mix 1 pint of 38/40 per cent. commercial formaldehyde in six gallons of water. This makes a 2 per cent. wash. Water this into the freshly forked soil in the house at the rate of 3 gallons per square yard. It will be necessary to go over the area twice at least to allow the fluid to soak in, for to be effective, the soil will have to be saturated with the solution. Cover the bed with wet sacks for 48 hours, and after these are removed, planting in the house must not be done for at least three weeks.

After the soil is saturated with the formalin solution spray the inside of the house, pipes, walls, glass, etc., as well. Then close all vents for forty-eight hours. Afterwards open the vents and remove the sacking and re-plant the house when all smell of the formalin is gone. Formalin can be had at present in Limerick and costs about 1/3 per pint or 8/6 per gallon.

WEEK'S WORK.

As I write to-day the glass is high and the sun shines brightly, and there is a great possibility of the first frost to-night. I will, therefore, spend my evening collecting in or protecting all tender plants such as marrows, outdoor tomatoes, French and runner beans and bedding plants such as heliotrope, and geraniums. Dahlias, begonias, etc. will be cut down, too, with the first night's frost, but it will be time enough to lift their roots when the tops are gone. Arum lilies will have to be protected or brought in, but a few degrees of frost will not hurt the indoor chrysanthemums. All the same, if the house is ready for them, they should be lifted and transplanted into the house, or, if in pots, they should be washed and the drainage holes cleared before bringing into the house. A degree or two of frost will not hurt apples, but it is nearly time now that most varieties were picked and stored in boxes, shelves, or in a pit made like a potato clamp.

It is time, too, that all potatoes should be out of the ground, and every opportunity of dry weather should be taken for this work, as it facilitates picking out diseased tubers and dry storing of the sound specimens. Now is a good time to select the seed tubers for next season. They should be put into potato sprouting boxes straight away. For small quantities of potatoes the circular pit is the best. Place the tubers in a circle and pile them up to a cone shaped heap. Cover with straw, leaving a chimney of straw sticking out of the top. After a week the straw can be covered with soil taken out of a circular trench around about the base of the clamp. This trench will facilitate draining of surface water, and keep the ground dry underneath the potatoes.

OTHER WORK.

Other work for the week includes the planting of the main crop spring lettuce for outdoor in April and May. This lettuce should have been sown in August and be ready to plant out now. Good varieties are for outdoor planting Passion White and May King. For frame and cold house planting use May King and Cheshunt Early Ball.

Scallions for spring should also be planted now; also broad beans and hardy varieties of peas such as pilot.

Lettuce and onions should be planted into fairly rich ground, such as that after a crop of potatoes. Plant the lettuce from 8 ins. to 10 ins. apart in lines 1 foot apart and the onions 2 ins. apart in lines 1 foot asunder.

No time should now be lost in getting strawberry runners and spring cabbage planted. The bottom leaves of Brussels sprouts should be broken off now and Savoys, etc., should also be earthed up. Also earth up leaks and celery.

Continue to put in cuttings of geraniums, carnations, roses and shrubs, and plant bulbs of all sorts.

J. J. O'CARROLL, R.Sc.O.

LIMERICK OPERATIC SOCIETY

The Savoy Theatre is completely sold out for the Limerick Operatic Society's presentation of Benedict's "The Lily of Killarney" on next Sunday night. The guest artist is Mr. Frank Ryan, of Waterford, and great things are expected from this accomplished tenor. Limerick's most brilliant soprano discovery in years—Nancy O'Carroll—plays Elly O'Connor. Other popular members of the cast include Peter Quin, John Deegan, Michael McCann, Maura Bowyer and Hugh O'Donnell. As we go to press we learn that arrangements have been completed to present a repeat performance of "The Lily of Killarney" on Sunday week at 8.30.

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