

OBITUARY

MRS. BRIDGET FITZGERALD, PUNCH'S CROSS.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Bridget Fitzgerald, Punch's Cross, Limerick, took place on Friday, 20th December, 1946, from St. Michael's Church, Limerick, to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, after 10.30 Mass, which was celebrated by her cousin, Very Rev. Edward Punch, P.P., Raheen and Crecora. The funeral cortege, which was large and representative, was the best tribute to her memory and indicative of the sympathy felt for her family in their bereavement.

The chief mourners were:—Michael (son), Mrs. J. Quinlan (daughter), Kate Punch, Mary Punch (sisters), Joseph Quinlan (son-in-law), Eileen and Madge Quinlan, Mrs. James Dundon, Mrs. T. Meenaghan, Mrs. L. F. Hickey (nieces), Mrs. S. Punch (sister-in-law), Mrs. P. F. Quinlan (piece-in-law), P. F. Quinlan, Gerard Quinlan, Dan Quinlan (nephews), Dr. Don Quinlan, Maurice, Frank, and Denis Quinlan (grand-nephews), Deirdre Quinlan (grand-niece), James Dundon, Commandant T. Meenaghan, L. F. Hickey (nephews-in-law), Patrick, David, Michael, Edward and Pat Punch (Crecora), John Punch, Alice Punch, Michael Punch (Cratloe), Edward Punch (Meanus), M. Punch (Mungret), Frank Punch, M. Punch, Dan Punch (Patrickswell), Mrs. J. McCarthy, Mrs. M. O'Grady (Rossmadda), Joseph Fitzgerald (Mungret), Michael Fitzgerald (Cloughkeating), Mrs. T. Purcell, P. Casey, D. Casey, Major J. Lewis, David Lewis (cousins).

The clergy present were:—Very Rev. Father White, Adm.; Rev. Father O'Sullivan, Rev. Father Minihan, Rev. Father Lyons, Rev. Father O'Donnell, Rev. Father O'Dea, Very Rev. Father James Reynolds, C.S.S.R.; Rev. Father Quin, C.S.S.R.; Rev. Father P. G. Meagher, O.Carm. (Terenure College); Very Rev. Father R. Roche, S.J.; Rev. Father Barragry, S.J.; Rev. Father Ryan, O.S.A.; Rev. Father Taheny, O.P.

Prayers at the graveside were recited by Very Rev. Edward Punch.

MR. M. BENSON, TUOGH.

The death has occurred of Mr. Michael Benson at his residence, Tuogh, Adare, Co. Limerick.

One of the best known and most extensive farmers in the county, he was highly esteemed for his industry and integrity. Kindly and generous, he was a thoughtful and helpful neighbour and ever ready to give a helping hand.

An impressive last tribute to his memory was the large and representative concourse of people at the funeral, which took place from the Holy Trinity Church, Adare, to the family burial ground at Donoman, Croom. Very Rev. Canon Thornhill, P.P., and Rev. Father Casey, C.C., D.D., officiated at the graveside.

Amongst the chief mourners were:—Mrs. Benson (wife), Michael and William Benson (sons), Nellie Benson (daughter), Cornelius and Paddy Normoyle (brothers-in-law), Bridget Normoyle (sister-in-law), Gerard, Agnes, Patrick, senr.; David, James, Thomas Normoyle (relatives).

ATHLETICS

COUNTY N.A.C.A. BOARD

OUR NATIONAL PASTIMES

How G.A.A. Could Help Language Revival

REVIEW OF LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Position Healthy And Sound

(NOTES BY "CRAOBH RUADH")

Another Gaelic season has ended and for the next few weeks G.A.A. legislators will be busy reviewing the past year's activities and making new plans for the future. It is a pleasant task in the majority of cases, as from all corners come reports of progress and achievement as the G.A.A. continues to expand and grow stronger, uniting the entire nation, North and South, into one great brotherhood, the greatest sporting organisation in the world. Yet it is only a little more than sixty years since Michael Cusack first dreamed of an association which would save our ancient games and pastimes from extinction and preserve our national culture and tradition. What a gigantic growth there has been from such a small beginning, but the motives that inspired the founders were pure, deep-rooted in the soil of Ireland and her historic past, and decade after decade more and more Irishmen are beginning to realise this fact and to recognise the G.A.A. for the truly National and Gaelic body it really is.

The G.A.A. and the Language.

The G.A.A. got one phase of Gaelic culture to look after and preserve, i.e., Irish games. It has done its job well. I often think, however, that while the G.A.A. is sympathetic to the cause of the Irish language and does in fact help it to a great extent, it still is not doing all it could in this direction. This is a pity, for if the G.A.A. were to throw the full weight of its vigorous and powerful organisation behind the language movement we could look for more rapid results in this sphere. It would take very little to make the G.A.A. at the moment 75 per cent. Gaelic speaking. The material is there, and all that's needed is encouragement and a strong lead from the controlling body. Attending Congress or Provincial Council meetings we find the greater portion of the work conducted in Irish and the bulk of the delegates entirely behind the language movement. So far, however, they have failed to transmit this enthusiasm to the ordinary Boards and to the playing members, and until such time as this is done the G.A.A. will have failed in its obligations to the Irish language.

A Year of Success.

To get back to our review, Limerick in keeping with the rest of the country, will report another year of success. There may be many things requiring change but generally speaking the position of the games here by Shannonside is healthy and sound. In contrast to other seasons, the programme was not completed by the scheduled time and many of our championships suffered as a result. There were many factors

and attendances set up new records. From the first match in which Treaty-Sarsfields failed by a point to Abbeyfeale, to the last one in which they reversed the decision by the same margin, enthusiasm was high, with the game gaining in popularity with every successive display. Football has come into its own by Shannonside and we should not have long to wait before Limerick kickers will again earn their rightful place in the inter-county arena. Treaty-Sarsfields were in every sense deserving champions, but a special tribute is due to Abbeyfeale, who only went under by the narrowest of margins in the third attempt.

South Liberties Took Junior Hurling Title to Familiar Ground.

There were many upsets in the Junior Hurling Championship. Fancied teams went out in the early stages and even in the last four the South were left without a representative when the divisional champions were disqualified on an objection. Still, with Castletown, Ballybrown and South Liberties left the stage was set for a thrilling wind up. Castletown assumed the role of favourites when they beat the city champions, but the Liberties never lost confidence and, playing the game of their career in the deciding round at Croom, brought the hurling title back to familiar ground. South Liberties are not new to senior hurling in Limerick and, backed by tradition, should make a worthy return to our premier championship.

Ballysteen Take J.F. Title to West.

The entry for the junior football must have been a record one and it was an exacting series of matches which saw Galbally, Ballysteen, Oola and Treaty-Sarsfields emerge in the last four. The semi-finals left Oola and Ballysteen to contest the title. It was a pity the game was played so late in the season. However, the teams overcame every difficulty, and gave a rousing display, with Ballysteen coming out on top over an Oola combination, which, with a little luck, might easily have reversed the verdict.

Minor Competitions not up to Standard.

The standard of the minor competitions was not as high as in other years. The football final was disappointing. Cloughaun, a first-class combination, failed to reach top form in their decider with Askeaton, due, perhaps, to the hard bustling tactics of the latter, and they were well extended to take the honours. There was no doubt, however, as to the city team being the best in the competition, and so we leave them worthy champions. Askeaton again provided the opposition

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