

PICTURES



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THE "IRON CURTAIN"

WHAT IS TAKING PLACE BEHIND IT

Twenty-one nations are to-day trying to solve the problems of shattered Europe. While they wrangle over treaties, millions of people are striving to live in a dozen war-torn countries under incredible conditions. Millions more are being driven from their homes as the big powers juggle with boundary lines.

"The Irish Press" will shortly publish a series of articles which will illustrate these conditions, and tell the story of these people who have been caught up in war and its aftermath. They will be written by its staff reporter, Alan Bestic, who has just returned from Europe.

Bestic spent four months on the Continent, and visited half-a-dozen countries. He will write first of the rapid revival of France, which has changed amazingly even in the past four months; of the solid, hard-working Czechs, now putting their house in order after Europe's longest occupation; and of the enormous problems facing the defeated countries that are trying to serve four masters.

He will describe, also, his month in Poland, behind what has been termed by one politician "the iron curtain of Europe." He will tell how the valiant Poles are reacting to a Communist Government and, what is perhaps more important, how the Communist Government are reacting to non-Communist Poles.

Both arguments—those of the Government and those of the Opposition—will be given, and there will be stories of arrests, of bandits, of dramatic disappearances, and of political unrest that often threatens to become open civil war. The views of the Polish

OBITUARY

MR. WILLIAM MULCAHY.

It is with deep regret we record the death of Mr. William Mulcahy, Newcastle View House, Garryowen, who died on the 29th August, 1946 (R.I.P.), after a short illness. He was for nearly 60 years a member of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Family, and was employed as Outdoor Inspector for the National Health Insurance Society, and a founder member of the Court Sarsfield Foresters' Society.

He was father of Rev. Father David Mulcahy, S.M.A. (who is at present home on holidays from Africa), also of Mr. William Mulcahy, City Rate Collector, and uncle of Rev. Father Gerard, O.F.M., Rome, and Rev. Father Adrian, O.Carm., Dublin, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Solemn Office and Requiem High Mass was celebrated in St. John's Cathedral by Rev. Father D. Mulcahy (son), assisted by Rev. Father Gerard Mulcahy, O.F.M., deacon, and Rev. Father Adrian Mulcahy, O.Carm., sub-deacon (nephews), with Rev. Father Fee, C.C., St. John's, master of ceremonies.

In the choir were—Rev. Father Moran, Rec. Father O'Grady, Rev. Father Brassil, Adm., St. John's; Very Rev. Father P. J. Kelly, Provincial, African Missions, Cork; Rev. Father J. Lee, S.M.A.; Rev. Father W. Murphy, S.M.A.; Rev. Father J. Collins, S.M.A., and Rev. Father D. McKenna, Mill Hill Fathers, Freshford.

The funeral, which took place to Raheen, Crecora, Cemetery, was followed by a very large congregation of people.

Rev. Father D. Mulcahy, S.M.A., officiated.

Chief mourners were—His sorrowing wife; William, Patrick, Edward, Michael, Martin (sons); Mrs. Lil McNamara (daughter); Edward Mulcahy (brother); Mrs. Bridget Toomey (sister), etc.

Mass cards—Beloved Wife; Edward; Martin; Bill and Eily; Pa and May; Peter and Lil; Michael and Chrissie; Ned and Family; Bridget and Family; Aunt Bride and Family; Earnie and Reg; Eddie and May, Wexford; Seamus and Ciss, Tralee; Toomeys, O'Briensbridge; Denis and Bridget Toomey; Kittie Lennon; Liam Mulcahy, Ennis; Maria and Michael; John and Francis; McNamara Family, Kuckanes; McNamara Family, Islandee; Coughlan Family, Newtown; McNamara Family, Park; John and Bridie, Adare; Mary McNamara, Adare; Mrs. O'Dwyer, Islandee; Pat and Kitt, Islandee; Olive and Ridge, Islandee; Scanlan Family, Fanningstown; Clohessy Family, Fanningstown; Davy and Chrissie; John and Madge; Robert and Emily, Dublin; Tom McMahon and Family, Dublin; Pat and Hilda, Dublin; O'Brien Family; Mick Ward; D. O. Clardha; Freda; Moynihan Family; Curry Family; P. Daly and Family; Mrs. Cuanneen and Family; Jack and Kathleen; Tom Doyle; Mrs. Minihan; William and Kate Collins; Thomas and Josie Doherty; Lancy McGrath; Mollie O'Callaghan; Pat and Mary B. Ryan; Angela and Mrs. Kenny, Pat and Michael Fitzgerald; Pat Kiely; Nan Minihan and Family; Paddy Brown and Family; Thomas Madigan, Tralee; John Hardiman; Motor Drivers, Engineering Dept., Condensed Milk Co., Lansdowne; Muintear Giolla Logaigh; Mary Ryan (Rates Dept.); James Condon; Angela and Paddy; E. Stack; Mrs. Clancy Rathurd; P. Molloy; Mrs. Cross; Mrs. Minihan, Ballyvara; Joe Dempsey; John Deegan; Kate, Nellie and Thomas Cross; Mr. and Mrs. Cowpar; Mrs. Danaher; Cumann Naomh Padhraigh; O'Halloran Family; John and May Scanlan, Fedamore.

Telegrams and letters from—Collopy Family, Wexford; Pat Collopy, Dublin; Thomas McMahon, Dublin; Robert McMahon, Dublin; Mother Divine Heart, New Ross; Court Sarsfields Foresters Society.

MR. D. M. LENIHAN, MOUNT-COLLINS.

The death of Mr. Daniel M. Lenihan, of Mountcollins, which occurred suddenly, is much regretted by many friends and relatives in the district, where he was highly respected and esteemed amongst his fellow-farmers and the public. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Mountcollins Parish Church, the celebrant being the Rev. Thomas Lenihan, P.P., West Australia, son of the deceased; deacon, Rev. Father Fitzgerald, A.M.; sub-deacons, Rev. D. McCarthy, C.C., and Rev. J. Halpin, C.C., Abbeyfeale.

Present in the sanctuary was his Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Prendiville, D.D., Archbishop of Perth, West Australia.

In the choir were—Rev. Father Moriarty, P.P., Tournafulla; Rev. Father Bowler, P.P., Newmarket; Rev. M. Quinn, P.P., Templeglantine; Rev. Father Doyle, P.P., Queen's Park, West Australia; Rev. Father Regan, Los Angeles; Rev. Father Curran, C.C., Brosna; Rev. Father Gearin, Newmarket; the Sisters of St. Joseph's, Newmarket.

Chief mourners were—Mrs. K. Lenihan (widow), Michael and John Lenihan (Canada), Rev. T. Lenihan, P.P., Northam, W.A. (sons); Ellen, Mrs. Herlihy, and Julia (daughters).

At the funeral there was a large attendance from Mountcollins, Brosna, Newmarket, Rockchapel, Abbeyfeale, Tournafulla, Ballydesmond.

Many wires of sympathy and Mass cards were received by the bereaved relatives.

"AN COSANTOIR"

IN REMINISCENT MOOD

Abbeyfeale Of Yore

INCIDENTS OF THE PAST RECALLED

Excerpts From Old Diaries

(By J. D. H.)

More than once I have been asked to write something reminiscent of the events and experiences associated with that part of West Limerick and nearby Kerry marking the itinerary milestones of my early life. Well, there may be a few things of, perhaps, only of local interest that may vanish unrecorded, unless set down while "time is yet on the wing." My exact age is of little concern outside the family circle apparently, for I occasionally observe a little solicitude on the part of some members of my family, who now and then tender advice for my welfare, which only rouses me from happy memories of the past, wondering where my years have fled to. The village of my birth was then obscure in its importance, but now plumes itself in the arrogance of a progressive town. Few, however, may be accurate in boasting, as I do, that few towns or villages in Munster have doubled its population and proportionately its commercial position as I have seen mine do since my childhood. I can well recall the few shopkeepers who depended for their merchandise, limited as it then was, on the services of the "carmen," as they were called, who journeyed weekly the long, long road to Cork City. They usually went via Rockchapel, Newmarket, Kanturk, Banteer or Lyre, and even through Mallow. Each cart was laden with firkins of farmers' butter, which was replaced for the return journey by Cork porter, whiskey and general merchandise. From TARBERT came meal flour and even "rock-salt," which was converted into salt in roasting-pans employed in the town. Now, this period was emerging from 1878-9 into the '80's of the last century.

I saw the first bicycle arriving in Abbeyfeale. This penny-farthing contraption was ridden by one of the engineer's employed in laying down the new line of railway (W. & L. Railway) in its extension from Newcastle West to Listowel. At the time, what a delight it was for us youngsters to learn, occasionally, that another of those big steam engines, on its way from Limerick to Abbeyfeale, pulling its long range of wagons loaded with rails and sleepers, was again sunk in the public road near Goulbourne Bridge. When alive to its functions again, how delighted we were to greet its return at Mountmahon. On one such occasion a mischievous youth ventured to ride on the buffer of a wagon, and hastily alighting from his perch at the approach of the "flag-man" had a finger of his crushed. This same youth afterwards owned The Friendship Park Hotel in Pittsburg. One of Father Casey's famous football team, he died young. I saw the Abbeyfeale Railway Station built from stones raised in a quarry through which the railway line cut. This must have been my first year at the school, which stood in the grounds of the local Parish Church. While in the infant classes of this school a fellow class mate tempted me to get out on leave, and outside informed me that the first passenger train would arrive at Abbeyfeale Station about half a mile away that day. Off we set and arriving breathless at the station, we were just in time to meet the train pulling into it, and from the train we saw its two first passengers who rode in from Devon Road—Mr. W. L. Harnett, R.O., Dromtrasna (father of Dr. Ed. Harnett), and the late Mr. Wm. O'Sullivan, Springmount. This was Monday, 20th December, 1880.

EXCERPTS FROM DIARIES. More interesting to many in West Limerick and Kerry may be some excerpts from diaries I possess, of those who have long since gone to rest, but who in their leisure hours found time to record the every-day happenings of seventy odd years ago. One of these interesting records belonged to the late Captain Wm. Clarke Oliver, R.N., who on retirement from the Navy some years after his marriage, settled down in Knockbrack, Abbeyfeale, on a farm dowered on his wife, Ellen Barnett Oliver. The captain was born within the sound of Bow Bells, London, and served many years in the British Navy. During the Famine years he came to Ireland with some of the grain, which was probably grown in this country, but taken to England from it, but returned too late to avert the misery its loss had aggravated. After his death in 1899, an obituary note records that he fought in the taking of the Redan (Sebastopol, 1856—in the Crimean War against the Russians).

Having done a world cruise with the Duke of Edinburgh in his charge, it was certainly more than a little variety for him to become accustomed to the hum drum life of an Irish country gentleman in Knockbrack. In time, however, he became as Irish as ourselves, like many of his predecessors, but unlike some of the foreign settlers, he became sympathetically impressed with the wrongs of the tenant

farmers he saw around him. He did not suppress his opinions, for he took part in the first Land League meeting in Abbeyfeale. In the summer of 1879, which had been as bad for the crops, because of rain, as our own experience in 1916, he was shocked at the state of the country. On the 16th of July, 1879, he writes in his diary:—"Dry weather very badly wanted, for potatoes, turf and hay; unprecedented year for weeds; impossible to keep them under. Good weather is now needed for the hay. Work on the railway is much impeded." This had reference to the completing of the permanent way, when the Waterford and Limerick railway was about being extended into Kerry, via Abbeyfeale. August 2nd, he continues—"Fearful rains during the night; rivers and lands flooded, such as had not been seen since 1858, when many persons were drowned at Feale bridge, and along the course of the Feale. Hay and cows, etc., swept away."

GREAT, TERRIBLE FLOODS

September 8th:—"Night and day dreadfully wet and cold; great floods; terrible for the poor people trying to save hay. Turf ruined." Next day their is another despairing note:—"All day wet and windy; nothing to be done; I'm afraid the harvest is lost. A fearful prospect for the country. Hay rotting, oats flat on the ground; potatoes bad; turf lost. All, all, gloomy; cattle in bad state from wet and cold."

The dawn of hope came Sunday, 26th September, 1880:—"Great day in Abbeyfeale; a meeting and the commencement of the Land League. There were ten speakers. Large concourse of people; largest ever seen here; estimated at 4,000 from far and near. Magistrates with extra police attended, but were not required. Public houses were open until evening, but everything passed off very quietly. Indeed nothing could be better. Vereker and O'Grady were severally handled in the reference."

The Land League meetings were spreading and putting heart into the people, for October 10th records—"Large Meeting at Castleisland, The Abbeyfeale band, and a large number of people gone there." Again, 14th November, 1880:—"Large Land League Meeting at Abbeyfeale to assist the Defence Fund." Sunday, December 5th, 1880—"A Land League Meeting in Duagh. The O'Donoghue of the Glens was there."

LAND LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

Amongst other items set out in the Diary appears under date of July 2nd, 1878—"Richard Ellis (landlord of the town and adjoining country), and Fuller Harnett dead to-day." On the 4th August, '79, there was a Sheriff's sale of cattle, which Father Casey bought in for the tenant. Two days later two horses belonging to Tom Murphy, a well-known local jockey, then were burned in their stable at Convent Street. 15th of October, 1879, deaths recorded from the Fever which ravaged the town and district at the time. After attending about nineteen such cases Father Casey, then C.C., was stricken down himself with the disease, as was also Father Byrnes, C.C., who was afterwards P.P. of Dromcollogher. On the 12th August, 1880, a man named Browne was drowned in the Feale (canal pool). On the 15th another boy was drowned, and on the 17th August, '80, a great bog flood burst down the Feale from Dromadna Mor Boggs, where it burst through the side of the mountain and covered the Feale Valley with bog soil, leaving thousands of salmon, trout and eels dead on every side. The salmon were sold in various outside places at from two pence to six pence per lb.

Thursday, 7th April, 1881—"Great excitement to-day—about 150 police conveying some tenants of Lord Guillamore by rail to Limerick, because of assaults on R.I.C. and agents serving writs in Dromtrasna. There were five prisoners, including two women." Tuesday, 12th April

"Much excitement again when big numbers of police and military attended to protect witnesses examined in the Guillamore charges." The examination and depositions were in the old Court-house, then in the middle of the Main Street. On this occasion "Father William Casey, P.P. (then curate), intervened, and learning of an attempt being arranged to rescue the prisoners on the way to the railway, got about fifty men to turn the big crowd that followed back into the Square until the military were clear of the town. It was on this day that some of the depositions, taken in the Court-house, disappeared mysteriously and necessitated the further taking of them in Limerick City. From this the prisoners were returned to the Cork Assizes, where on the 9th of December, 1881, they were sentenced at from 12 months to penal servitude of 5 years."

Other interesting items may be

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