

My first experience of native hostility to the dairy farmers was in 1921, when the Black and Tans were still here, but it was obvious that a Truce was coming and Dublin sent down some gentlemen to investigate the possibilities of dairy farming—by stealth, of course. We met in a house in Cecil Street. I attended to give evidence but soon found I was putting my foot in it when pointing out to them that the thousand gallon cow was not a business proposition at the price of milk in those times. I simply wanted to bring them to realities; therefore, when the report appeared several months later, my name was not mentioned. This was, I think, the first of those precious Commissions so often used since to put the tin hat on the farmers. I hope we have seen the last of them but doubt it.

#### "ANYTHING BUT A HAPPY FAMILY."

In those years, '19 to '23, the Farmers' Union was a very strong organisation. With the late Mr. John Ryan, Killenure, time and again we represented the County Limerick. With only the dairy farmers with us, we were anything but a happy family, as the naked hostility of the tillage farmers and graziers of Leinster and Ulster was very hard to put up with. These gentlemen, in their ignorance, jealousy and greed, imagined they were of paramount importance to the nation, not hiding their opinions that we followed an inferior branch of farming, that we were idle and lazy, whose obvious duty it was to supply themselves—the salt of the earth, with cheap stores and the nation with cheap butter. Why not? All supermen!

It was easy to see we could not last long and the Farmers' Union committed suicide at the 1923 elections. There is little change since in that mentality, as at a meeting of dairy farmers held at Cruise's Hotel in 1946, we claimed a substantial advance in the price of milk for the season. Dr. Henry Kennedy informed us that the balance of the population would not tolerate any increase to us.

Now, the Government coercing the dairy farmers to till and with all the strength of the tillage farmers and graziers together, we find ourselves 300,000 tons short and our bread rationed to feed three millions! "Nough said."

As well as not being able to supply us with bread, they have helped nobly to reduce the butter ration to four ounces, and to ruin the dairy farmers. Hope to advert to this later on.

#### AFTER THE 1923 ELECTION.

After the 1923 elections the Cumann na Gaedheal Party were firmly in the saddle and proceeded with a Land Act to break the farmers' tenure of the land, of course without any mandate from the dupes who elected them; and then we had the bull inspections. Unfortunately, the inspectors favoured bulls of the beef breed, and there can be no second opinion that the milking capacity of the dairy cows has been much reduced as a result. We had inspectors visiting the creameries to see that no milk should be taken if not perfectly clean, a very necessary measure to which all reasonable people agreed, but our Dublin intelligentsia, finding an odd farmer careless in this matter, brought him to court and of course fined him. This matter should have been kept as private as possible, as we were large exporters of butter at that time, I used to be shocked to read in the "Daily Mail" and other English papers, how at a certain court three farmers were fined for supplying dirty milk to the creameries, the inference, of course, being, the dirty Irish are found supplying dirty milk to make dirty butter, and injured our trade. I have no doubt the Danes and other suppliers to the English market had to see that clean milk was supplied, but I never read it in the "Daily Mail."—Yours faithfully,

BATT LAFFAN.

(Continued next week.)

#### DAMAGE BY FROST.

The full extent of the damage done by the recent heavy frost and snowfall has not yet been ascertained (writes our Killaloe correspondent). One Ogonnelloe farmer reports the loss of six or seven ton of potatoes, which had remained undug because of the exceptionally wet winter.

#### OIL TANKER AT FOYNES

On Monday morning last, 17th inst., the tanker, s.s. "Daxhound," arrived in Foynes Harbour with 1,100 tons of aviation spirits for the Irish-American Oil Company.

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## OBITUARY

### MRS. BRIDGET LONDON.

The death recently of Mrs. Bridget London, wife of Mr. Wm. London, Ballinagarde, Ballyneety, removed a member of an old and highly esteemed Limerick family. Although of a quiet and retiring disposition, the deceased enjoyed the friendship and regard of a very wide circle in Limerick city and county, and her passing was deeply regretted, as testified by the large and representative attendance at the funeral, which took place after Requiem High Mass at Knocken Church to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. F. Rice, P.P., with Father O'Donnell, C.C., and Rev. Father Holohan, C.C., deacon and sub-deacon. The chanters were: Rev. Father Wall, C.C.; Rev. Father Godfrey, C.C., and Rev. Father Chawke, C.F.

Chief mourners were: William London (husband), Garda Thomas London, Comdt. Denis London, Capt. James London and Michael London (sons), Mrs. A. Forte, Mrs. T. O'Connor, Mrs. G. Allen, Mrs. S. Moloney, Misses Margaret and Sarah London (daughters), Mrs. E. Hanley (sister), Messrs. A. Forte, T. O'Connor, G. Allen and D. Moloney (sons-in-law), Mrs. T. London, Mrs. D. London, Mrs. J. London and Mrs. Michael London. Amongst the general attendance were: Major M. Higgins, O.C., 13th Battalion; Captain M. Power and Lieut. Breen, representing 12th Battalion, and Captain C. Sweeney, Military College, Curragh Camp, representing O.C. of the College.

Amongst the many beautiful floral tributes was one from the O.C. and Staff, Military College, Curragh Camp. These were borne to the graveside by Liam London, Waterford; Billy, Juno and John London, Galway, and Micheal and Liam Allan, Limerick (grandsons).

### MR. T. DUHIG, EMLY.

Widespread regret has been occasioned throughout the district on the death, at an advanced age, of Mr. Thomas Duhig, Emly. Deceased, who was a native of Knocklong, came of a well-known East Limerick family. He had been clerk of St. Ailbe's Church, Emly, for a long number of years, and in carrying out the duties which that position called for he had been always courteous and obliging. He was father of Mr. Thomas Duhig, N.T., Rathfarnham.

His remains were removed to St. Ailbe's Church, Emly, on Monday evening, and the interment took place in the adjoining cemetery on Tuesday in the presence of a large and widely representative attendance, after Office and Requiem Mass.

The officiating clergy were: Very Rev. L. Meany, P.P., Emly; Very Rev. Dr. Slattery, D.D., P.P., Lattin; Rev. E. Ryan, C.C., Emly; Rev. T. Kennedy, C.C., Knocklong, and Rev. J. Ryan, C.C., Ballylanders.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Winifred Duhig (widow), Mary (daughter), Thomas, Patrick and Robert (sons), Mrs. T. Duhig, Rathfarnham, and Mrs. R. Duhig, Hospital (daughters-in-law).

### MR. C. O'MEARA, KNOCKCARRON.

The death occurred recently at his residence, Knockcarron, Emly, of Mr. Cornelius O'Meara. Deceased, who had reached the advanced age of 87 years, was a highly-respected member of the farming community, and his death has evoked widespread regret and sympathy with his relatives. His remains were removed to St. Ailbe's Church, Emly, and the interment took place in the adjoining cemetery after Office and Requiem Mass.

The officiating clergy were: Very Rev. L. Meany, P.P., Emly; Very Rev. Dr. Slattery, D.D., P.P., Galbally; Rev. D. Keogh, C.C., Galbally; Rev. P. Noonan, C.C., do.; Rev. E. Ryan, C.C., Emly.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Ellen O'Meara (widow), Patrick (son), Mary (daughter).

### MR. T. HARRON, MANISTER.

His many friends in the locality learned with regret of the death of Mr. Timothy Harron, which took place at his residence, Bettyville, Manister, on Thursday of last week.

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## MILK PRODUCTION

### REPLY TO CO. LIMERICK DEPUTY

Deputy Michael Colbert (Fianna Fail, Limerick) asked the Minister for Agriculture in the Dail on Wednesday if he will state whether, in view of the serious decline in the production of milk, which has resulted in a substantially lower production of butter in the current season compared with the past few years, and which is mainly due to uneconomical milk prices, he is prepared to take immediate action, with a view to fixing the price of milk delivered to creameries during the coming season at the rate of 50 per cent above the current price of 10½d. per gallon, such increased price to remain in force pending the examination of the whole question of milk prices by the Agricultural Produce Costings Tribunal which it has been decided to establish.

The Minister, in reply, said:—A preliminary survey of milk supplies received by creameries in 1946 shows that there has been a reduction of approximately six per cent, as compared with 1945, but supplies in 1946 were virtually the same as in 1944. Weather conditions in 1945 were favourable for milk production, but in 1946 were consistently unfavourable. Government policy in relation to the dairy industry is set out in the White Paper issued a year ago, in which it is stated that the guaranteed price for milk supplied to creameries will be subject to variation up or down according as the costs of milk production rise or fall. Pending the establishment of a Costings Tribunal, the examination of milk production costs provided for in the White Paper is taking place.

### BILLIARDS AT KILMALLOCK

Mr. T. Donovan defeated Mr. J. Noonan in the final of the annual billiards tournament held by the Dr. O'Dwyer Social Club at the People's Hall, Kilmallock, and became the winner of the cup and cash prize. The final score was: Mr. Donovan, 250; Mr. Noonan, 200.

The deceased had been in failing health for some time prior to his death at the ripe old age of 83 years. The late Mr. Harron was a well-known and extremely popular figure, and his genial companionship was much sought after. The remains were removed on Friday evening to Creora Church and on Saturday the cortege from there to the adjoining cemetery was of large dimensions, amply testifying to the high esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held. To the bereaved wife and family sincere sympathy is offered on the death of their father.