

# AT LIMERICK FARMS Sheep Losses Heavy LEYS ON ANIMAL FERTILITY

(P. ROCHE)

Johnny has not impressed with his knowledge, but his desire to shine in the neighbourhood.

**FERTILIZER RACKET**  
The fertilizer factors modest about their prices was simple, and when we gave in this column smoked some of them out began to appear, but they being broadcast, believe me, that the Sugar Company, really belonging to us bought huge quantities of in Europe—for sale back a nice profit. Then three rows of organised traders in being let in on such a deal. They were let in can sell the various fertilizers leisure. On potato they will make about £1 11s. Is it any wonder that the of the control from anti-popular—or any wonder farmers pay £25 for what perhaps we are expected to eggs to make up the

**MORNING CALVES**  
The calving season here, far-intend to sell stores later than the young calves. It simple job, bloodless and nd takes very little time Judging by present drifts mely likely that in a year unless, or polled, animals worth considerably more nals with horns. Skulling animals is a dirty business set with many legal re-which farmers sometimes ignore, whereas treating a better job and needs cal skill. The new wire ishoring adult animals is fty tool, but must be used an anaesthetic. Whether s should be dehorned or present the subject of very e, but the ayes are wit- with pedigree breeders of le like Friesians and Ayr-

**FE AND TOP DRESS**  
rown corn is generally too and it is good practice to own now. Whether a sub-ressing of nitrogen will be or not, depends upon the of the land. I think that always pays to put out one eight of nitrate of soda to provided this is done early Late dressings of nitrogen nly the yield of straw and ore likely to lodge, while dressing increases the rain and has no appreci- in inducing lodging. Some ts with potash as an aid lodging have been incon- rather suggest that the ay be worth while. The quite a marked effect on quent crop whether a mea-root crop.

**ISS AND STERILITY**  
a big volume of scientific favour of the idea that e new leaf-and-clover leys e of sterility in cattle and Certain forms of sickness stock have also been o these very rich pastures is again the tendency to pest"—give the animals ce of different leys and result. It is too soon to ic on whether swift-grow-astures laid down for two ing are harmful or not. e week I noticed a rather ng on a neighbour's farm. ck of Border Leicesters ng and every animal was ough they seemed to have g that should have had and they were on a good ow. For a couple of days te out repeatedly and tly to an ivied wall where he leaves greedily. The disappeared in a few days. drawing any pronounced from this fact as we are ch inclined to erect im-ories on trivial facts. Still resting and somewhat in

more eggs recently because corn-growing had laid the foundations for profitable poultry keeping and had given the people meat to eat instead of eggs. That we sold more cattle—three and four year olds—can scarcely be claimed to be due to a Minister who is just a year in office. If, as we are told, there was too much wheat in the country last year, some of it should have been milled to provide pollards, middlings and bran for feeding and so increase the number of pigs to near what it was before the war. Of course we have more butter now when we are not compelled to use all our own at every meal for lack of substitute. I fear that the cows must have been deceived into milking more—if that is what is claimed—by reading the outpourings of Mr. Dillon's scribes. Mr. Dillon has plenty of pep and may do real things. It would be a pity if he lost the confidence of the farm people by cheap play-acting.

### BEEF MACHINERY

In spite of its attractions as a cash crop and its value in the rotation, farmers are slow enough to sign beef contracts. The causes of this reluctance are—scarce and dear labour and lack of machinery to harvest their crop. But we must grow wheat and beet, or at least one of them, and the news that about 800 beet lifters will be manufactured in England this year should give us hope. Shall we get any of them? Maybe so, but I fear that the general attitude across the water is not too friendly. Already Ireland is banned at the great Highland Show; with a meat famine in England—10d. worth a person a week—Irish beef is at no great premium, and every English journal contains letters and speeches protesting against Ireland getting the chocolate factory in Rathmore, Co. Kerry. Labour for thinning beet and other root crops is also scarce except near the towns, and urban labour on the farm is no great benefit. Without being brutal about it, let us say that certain undesirable contacts are made which afterwards lead to trespass and more serious troubles. Speed is also important and casual labour is rarely speedy.

### PROGRESS?

A midland friend was telling me at the Limerick Bull Show that electricity and tractors have been a mixed blessing. Farming in a big way, he has two tractors, and when the electric current came to the area he installed all the electrical devices possible. At first he was besieged by men wanting to work for him, and, of course, he wanted a new type of man. But though the work was much easier and conditions better, the men did not stay—they wanted city or factory conditions and felt that they were really mechanics. Dirty or unpleasant work they eschewed entirely, they arrived by the calendar and knocked off by the second-hand of their wrist watches. This day after a dance at least one was absent, and the man who worked the milking machine insisted on having a helper so that he could have weekly time off. He has four elderly men who have been with him for 23 years and only for throwing these out of a job would turn completely to cattle. I fear that is only a preview of many farm pictures of the future. The small farmer, who is the backbone of the country, is in a still worse position. It is a curious fact that a bad employer in a big way can get good workers for a miserable wage, while small, and generous employers cannot get men at all or only the incompetent.

### A FARM COURT

My experience, very limited I admit, of our courts convinces me that a special court should be set up to deal with farm matters. Naturally, we all keep out of court as much as we can but when we do get there we feel bewildered. Neither justice nor lawyers have any knowledge of farm matters and in milk cases, tractor licences, trespass claims—anything in short involving technical farm knowledge—they are helplessly at

# KNIGHT OF GLIN DEAD Funeral Obsequies

The death took place on Saturday, at Glin Castle, Glin, County Limerick, of Mr. Desmond Windham Otho Fitz-Gerald, Knight of Glin. The 28th holder of the title, which dates back to 1298, Mr. Fitz-Gerald was born 48 years ago, the son of Desmond Fitzjohn Fitz-Gerald and of Lady Rachel Windham-Quin, who was the second daughter of the fourth Earl of Dunraven. In 1929 he married Veronica, second daughter of the late Mr. Ernest Villiers, M.P., and seven years later he succeeded his father as Knight of Glin.

### ANCIENT LINEAGE.

The first Knight of Glin was John Fitz-John, who was a kinsman of the Earl of Desmond. Fitz-John held sway in Shanid Castle in 1298, and, by the way, the rallying cry of the clan is "Shanid Abu!" The late Archdeacon Begley, in his monumental work, "Diocese of Limerick—Ancient and Mediaeval," deals at length with the operations of the Geraldines in the county and city, and, incidentally, he has much to say of the Knights of Glin, who were feudal lords for many centuries.

Archdeacon Begley says—"The Knight of Glin is a title that has survived the vicissitudes of time, and it is likely to continue for many years to come. It has been transmitted by Irish usage rather than by chivalry, as it was a strictly personal honour won by deeds of valour and daring on the field." There were two other Knights—the White Knight and the Knight of Kerry—but these two branches of the family have died out. The late Knight of Glin is succeeded by his only son—Desmond John—now twelve years of age. The son is at present at school in England.

The late Knight was a member of the executive of Limerick Horse Show Committee, and took a keen interest in agriculture. He was a member of the Kildare Street and Bachelors' Clubs. He is survived by his widow, his 11 year-old heir, Desmond John, and his daughters, Fiola and Rachel.

On Sunday and Monday there were many callers at the Castle to express sympathy with Madame Fitz-Gerald and the other members of the household. The family flag, of St. Patrick's blue, surmounted by the Irish harp, was at half-mast, and there were many other manifestations of regret and sorrow.

Numerous messages were received by Madame FitzGerald, including telegrams from Mr. J. Leydon, Secretary, Department of Industry and Commerce; Mr. S. J. K. Roycroft, managing director, Limerick Steamship Co.; the Earl of Dunraven; Lord and Lady Adare; Eileen, Countess of Meath; Lord and Lady Inchiquin; Sir Lancelot and Lady Olephant; the MacGillacuddy, etc.

The interment took place on Monday at 2.30 o'clock from the Castle to the family vault in the Protestant Church adjoining the estate. The coffin, borne on a farm cart in traditional style, was draped with the family flag and covered with many beautiful wreaths of natural flowers. A huge concourse attended, as practically all the inhabitants of Glin, in which business was suspended, took part in the cortege.

The chief mourners were Madame FitzGerald (widow), Miss Fiola and Miss Rachael FitzGerald (daughters); Desmond John FitzGerald (son); Lord and Lady Inchiquin, Earl and Countess of Meath, Earl of Dunraven, Lord and Lady Adare, Lord and Lady Muskerry, Miss Blennerhasset (cousins).

Right Rev. Dr. Hodges, Bishop of Limerick; Archdeacon Maxwell, Listowel, and Rev. Mr. Phillips, Rector, Glin, read the burial service.

# IRISH SUGAR CO.

# LETTER ON FERTHASER

# DAIL QUESTIONS Replies To Deputy Madden

Mr. D. J. Madden (F.G., West Limerick) asked the Minister for Defence in the Dail if he would state the number of discharge certificates endorsed "Services no longer required" which have been considered by his Department since 1st June, 1948, and the action taken in regard to each such certificate.

Dr. O'Higgins (Minister for Defence) replied that the information requested by Deputy Madden is in the course of preparation and will be forwarded to him at an early date.

### NATIONAL EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Madden also asked the Minister for Defence if he will state whether officers of the reserve (1st line) are precluded by regulations from taking part in the affairs of the National Ex-Servicemen's Association.

Dr. O'Higgins replied that he presumed Deputy Madden referred to the National Federation of Irish Ex-Servicemen, in which case the reply is in the negative.

### NEWCASTLE WEST INQUIRY.

Mr. Madden asked the Minister for Local Government if he will state when the findings of the public sworn inquiry which concluded at Newcastle West, County Limerick, on the 3rd September, 1948, into certain alleged irregularities, and into the alleged political victimisation of workers in the employment of the Limerick County Council in West Limerick, will be published.

Mr. T. J. Murphy (Minister for Local Government) replied that he expected to be in a position to publish his findings on the inquiry at an early date.

# Y.F.C. DEPUTATION COUNTY COUNCIL REMARK RESENTED

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

A Chara—My attention has been drawn to a statement made by Mr. Hickey, a member of the Limerick Co. Council, where he refers to members of the Young Farmers recent deputation as a lot of "hoboes," who hadn't a goat. This statement is a public insult to the farmers of Co. Limerick, who are the biggest ratepayers in the county. If they were depending on goats, as Mr. Hickey suggests, I think his party policy and supporters would suffer most as regards employment. The farmers are the backbone of the country and have to bear every demand put on them by hard work and responsibility, which would take more than a "hoboe" to achieve. During the recent emergency, Co. Limerick farmers worked like slaves to give Mr. Hickey his white bread and weekly ration of butter. In view of that achievement, are they worthy of such gross insult?

In conclusion, I would like to point out to Mr. Hickey that he will be sitting on the fence after the next local election. So I would ask him to come out to the Croom area, where he will be better employed, doing the country a good service, milking cows—not goats—for some hard-working farmer. He might be better off than some of our farmers in that position described in the following lines:—

"The farmer's boy to the Creamery has gone,  
And between the tankards you'll find him,  
A big ash plant in the heel of his fist  
And the rain spilling down upon him."

Kindly thanking you, dear Editor, for your valuable space.

Yours faithfully

"YOUNG FARMER."

### NOTICE.

Fishing Preserved on my Lands at ABINGTON.  
Trespassers will be prosecuted. No permission.

Signed: JOHN KEAYS.

(f9p)

not soluble in water, but all are soluble in dilute acids. This fertilizer is especially

# IRISH IRELAND Cumann Gaelach Programme

Following on their singular success last year, the Cumann Gaelacha of the locality have arranged an ambitious programme of Aerlochanna for the current season (writes our Dromcollogher correspondent). It has been arranged that this year Aerlochanna will be held on the following dates at the following centres—Sunday, May 1st, Feohanagh; Thursday, May 26th, Ashford; Sunday, September 11th, Dromcollogher.

A senior inter-county hurling tournament will be run in connection with the Aerlochanna in which teams from Fedamore, Knockaderry, Newtownshandrum and Rathluire take part, the trophy for which is a set of hurleys.

The first semi-final between Fedamore and Newtown takes place at Feohanagh on May 1st, and the opening address will be delivered by "Carbery," the famous Gaelic sports journalist. The tournament held in connection with last year's series of Aerlochanna produced some of the season's best games, and the final saw Feenagh triumph over Dromcollogher, after a drawn game.

# FOR PAROCHIAL FUNDS

# ENTERTAINMENT AT BRUFF

The Thomond Dramatic Class, Bruff, had a packed house at the Hall, Bruff, on Sunday night, when they presented the play, "My Little Irish Rose," in aid of parochial funds (writes our Bruff correspondent). The production was a very successful and enjoyable one, and all players portrayed their respective parts excellently.

Supporting items in a very fine programme included songs contributed by Miss M. O'Brien, Messrs. P. Hehir, D. Ryan, Donal Gainey, Master T. O'Donovan and Bernia O'Sullivan, and dances contributed by Misses E. Ryan, M. Murphy and L. Ryan.

A Question Time between Bruff and Hospital Schools was very entertaining and resulted in a win for Bruff, Master Michael Toomey, Bruff De La Salle School, winning the event, the runner-up being Master D. Guest, Hospital De La Salle School. The entertainment taken all round was most enjoyable.

On Thursday night of last week the Hospital De La Salle School presented the comedy, "Troubled Bachelors," to a large audience at the Hall, Bruff, and the entertainment was much enjoyed by all, the acting of the young players being much praised.

The Ennis Urban Council has struck a rate of £1 11s. in the £, an increase of 4/- in the £ on last year's rate.



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