

# LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

## Roads In Effin Area

### PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS

MR. J. W. CANTY (Chairman) presided at a meeting of Limerick County Council on Saturday, at which the following other members were present:—Senator M. O'Dwyer, Messrs. D. Clancy, R. M. Clery, P. Clohessy, P. H. Donegan, P. Fitzsimons, J. Hayes, T. Hennessy, M. Hickey, P. Langan, P. Lillis, D. J. Madden, T.D., D. McAuliffe, P. T. McCarthy, J. J. McNamara, T. O'Connell, P. M. O'Connor, M. O'Donnell, D. O'Grady, J. Quaid, D. P. Quish, P. W. Ryan.

The officials present included the Co. Manager (Mr. P. J. Meghen), the Co. Secretary (Mr. T. F. Broe), the Co. Engineer (Mr. G. Aherne), the Consulting Engineer (Mr. P. J. Sheahan), and the Chief Officer of the Public Health Department (Mr. J. J. King).

At the outset, Senator O'Dwyer suggested that the Council should formally thank the Earl of Dunraven for his courtesy and hospitality to the Council members when they paid him a visit during the week. "We very deeply appreciate the manner in which he received us," said the Senator, "and I now propose that we thank him officially. The visit was well worth while."

The Chairman seconded the Senator's vote of thanks, which was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

Standing Orders were suspended in order that the Council might receive a deputation from the Effin Guild, Muintir na Tire, regarding the condition of roads in that area.

**WERE IN BAD STATE.**  
Rev. Father McCarthy, C.C., who acted as spokesman for the deputation, told the Council that for many years efforts had been made by his parishioners to draw public attention to the really deplorable condition of the Effin roads, particularly of the Charleville-Ardpatrick link road. Promises had been given that this much used road would be properly repaired, but it was now worse than it ever was for lack of even the minimum amount of maintenance.

Mr. Quish agreed that a number of the roads in that area were in a really bad state of repair, and he was surprised the County Engineer had not tackled them.

The County Engineer said he would be only too glad to have these roads put into repair but, he asked, where was he to get the money. When each year the Council budgeted for the maintenance and repair of its roads, it specified the roads that were to benefit during that particular year. There was no money earmarked which would put the roads in the Effin area into a desirable state of repair. "If I had the money, I would be delighted to have this work

done," he said. Replying to Mr. J. J. McNamara, the Engineer said there were many worse roads in the county than the link road from Charleville to Ardpatrick.

Mr. McNamara—Now that all the main roads have been practically improved, I think the Engineer should concentrate on the smaller roads and put them into passable repair. I think the Government should be asked to make more grants available now for smaller roads.

In reply to the Chairman, the Engineer said he would try during the next few weeks to devote some money to the repairing of the roads in the Effin district.

The deputation then withdrew. **PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS.** Mr. Lillis moved, pursuant to notice, that the stream flowing through Milltown, Ballinaguile and Kiltannon, and into the Greanagh River be included for drainage and cleaning work in the scheme being prepared by the Co. Engineer under the Local Authority Works Act.

The Engineer said that in his first list, which he put before the Council at the last meeting, he had left out a number of smaller works which would be put before the Council later on in a second list. He would examine Mr. Lillis's suggestion, and have it included in that second list.

Mr. Madden seconded Mr. Lillis's motion, which was unanimously adopted by the Council.

Also pursuant to notice, Mr. Ryan moved that some improvements be carried out in the vicinity of Ballinure graveyard, in the parish of Murroe.

"At the moment," said Mr. Ryan, "there is no gateway leading into the churchyard. The only entrance is over an old stile. The road at this point is very narrow, and I would suggest that it be widened to give adequate room for traffic. In order to carry out this work satisfactorily, it would in my opinion be necessary to take over a small portion of Mr. McCoy's lands—about a road."

Mr. Hayes seconded Mr. Ryan's motion, which was referred to the Co. Engineer.

Mr. Langan said that the graveyard in Athea was a disgrace. The Council should do something to put it into a proper state, and to clean it.

Mr. McAuliffe—That graveyard is really a disgrace. But the graveyard in Abbeyfeale must be the worst in the country. I wouldn't be buried in it for the world.

The Chairman asked the Co. Engineer to see what could be done about Mr. Langan's suggestion.

# NOTED OARSMAN

## Passes Away In U.S.A.

### ONE OF FAMOUS LIMERICK FOUR

THE death has taken place in the U.S.A. of Mr. "Jim" Shanahan, who was one of the famous Limerick four who won fame for the Shannon Rowing Club many years ago. The other three were Paddy Healy, Mick O'Brien and John Hall. Only the last mentioned of that wonderful quartette survives.

### WELL-KNOWN IN INSURANCE CIRCLES

The following references to Mr. Shanahan's demise appeared in a recent issue of an American newspaper:—

"James F. Shanahan, 63 well-known in life insurance circles in Chicago and Aurora, died yesterday in St. Joseph's Hospital, Elgin. He was a former executive of the Union Central Life Insurance Company here. Shanahan, who lived on E. Wilson Rd., just outside Batavia, Kane County, was a successful weight thrower in his younger days, and still held the central A.A.U. record for 56 pound weight throw and the hammer throw. He is survived by his widow, Florence; four sons, the Rev. Michael, Edward, James Jr., and William; one daughter, Mary Catherine, and three grandchildren."

### SPECIAL OBITUARY

The following special obituary has been sent us for publication by an intimate personal friend of the deceased and his family, Mr. James G. Fitzgerald, 3927 Polk Street, Chicago, Ill.:—

The unexpected death, at a comparatively early age of Mr. James F. Shanahan, of Batavia and Chicago, Illinois, has caused sincere sorrow and regret to his wife, sons and daughter, and to a large circle of friends and acquaintances who knew well his very excellent qualities in the business, social and athletic life.

The late Mr. Shanahan familiarly known as "Jim" was a native of Clonshire, Adare, Co. Limerick. After attending the local National and Christian Brothers' Schools, he entered the drapery concern of John McBirney and Company, Limerick, where through his integrity and courtesy he made numerous friends amongst the general public and the management. During those years, resident in the ancient city, he became an enthusiastic oarsman. His prowess gradually asserted itself in the ranks of the Shannon Rowing Club. He, with the late Paddy Healy and others, won many trophies throughout the various rivers and lakes, from the Shannon to the Bann.

### SUCCESS IN THE U.S.A.

Being of an adventurous nature, he sought further fame and fortune by emigrating to the United States, where, here in the Middle West, prosperity shone on his energetic efforts, in the various fields of insurance and real estate. In the athletic arena throughout the years, he won fame in throwing the 56 lbs. weight and the 16 lb. hammer, being up to his death a record holder in these events in connection with the Central Amateur Athletic Union contests.

He leaves behind him to mourn his loss, his wife, Florence (nee McCulloch) Shanahan; sons, Edward F., Rev. Michael J., James F., junior, William, and daughter, Mary Catherine.

The high esteem in which he was held was demonstrated by the large and representative number of people who attended the wake, both in Chicago and in Batavia, and at the funeral. Requiem High Mass for the repose of his soul was offered at Holy Cross Church, Batavia, Rev. Michael J. Shanahan (son) was the celebrant.

Rev. Father Kissane was deacon; Rev. L. R. Day was sub-deacon. Monsignor Donovan preached the sermon.

Eight priests took part at the final obsequies at the graveside on August 9th.

### WORTHY SON OF ERIN

Deeply engrafted in his stout soul was the faith of his fathers. A worthy son of Erin, and a devoted citizen of his adopted country, a loving husband and father, and a hospitable friend has gone from this life.

May the sacred soil of Mount Carmel Cemetery rest gently on his manly breast. May he enjoy the eternal reward of God, promised to His faithful servants. R.I.P.  
JAMES FITZGERALD,  
Chicago, Illinois.

### ALL ABOUT BABY

#### A MESSAGE TO EVERY MOTHER

That bundle of sweetness in your arms is the most precious thing in the world—but sometimes very worrying. He can't tell you what's bothering him, and mother has to be so vigilant—so careful—so able to decide and act.

# MUST CHANGE METHODS

## Present Agricultural System

### IMPORTANCE OF PARISH PLAN

#### Co. Manager's Paper At Rural Week

A CHANGE in agricultural methods was desirable if better results were to be obtained, said Mr. P. J. Meghen, B.E., County Manager, in the course of a paper read by him on "The Parish Plan for Agriculture" at Tuesday's session of the Muintir na Tire Rural Week, now in progress at Mungret College.

Senator E. Richards-Orpen presided and the Lecture Hall was packed to capacity. The attendance included Right Rev. Dr. Hodges, Protestant Bishop.

### THE CENTRAL IDEA

Mr. Meghen said that Muintir na Tire was keeping to the central idea—that development could not come unless the people participated in the planning.

In Ireland the rural parish was a fairly reasonably-sized community, and they felt that all the scientific knowledge and all the new methods could be brought into use in the country only by organising the farmers on a parish basis, and that the parish would be their "area demonstration."

### DEFECTS IN THE PRESENT SCHEME

Having quoted the report of the Commission on Vocational Organisation on the defects in the present system, Mr. Meghen said that as regards the necessary remedies, they would find that Dr. Henry Kennedy, in drawing attention to the method of approach used in the Tennessee Valley Authority schemes, had given them the clue they needed in the matter. What they needed was a scheme that would bring an enthusiastic response from the farmers and workers themselves. They could not hope for results if there was not a change in methods. For fifty years the approach had been from a centralised Government Department.

For the first twenty-five years they might blame the British Government or the "troubled times," but for the last twenty-five years we were in charge ourselves, and there was little difference.

Mr. Meghen quoted from Mr. David Lillenthal's book on the Tennessee Valley Authority, in which the author stated that it was evident that that plan could only become a reality if the people affected did much of the planning and participated in most of the decisions.

Muintir na Tire had asked the Minister for Agriculture to start the Parish Plan with a number of parishes in which the people had come together to help themselves in a Parish Guild of Muintir na Tire.

### HOW SCHEME WORKS

Explaining how the scheme worked, he said, that the local farmers, having discussed matters at the Parish Council, welcomed the agent's visit to their farms, and all details of crops and livestock were discussed in a friendly atmosphere. Soil-testing was arranged; veterinary inspection took place, and it had been found possible to get all the animals protected by injection of the necessary vaccines.

The latest information was provided about poultry, and details of all Departmental schemes were dis-

cussed and application forms checked by the agent, thus saving much time both locally and in the Department.

Stressing the necessity for bringing all centralised planning into close working with the farmers and workers, Mr. Meghen said that history had shown clearly that the Central Government could not get that co-operation from the people without a very special effort. The experience in America had shown that the people would come in and work the schemes if they felt that there was a desire to consult them, and if their effort was appreciated.

### MUST BE LOCAL RALLYING POINT

The realised that in Dublin, at the headquarters of a great Department, it would not be possible to give this feeling. There must be a local rallying point, and they suggested that the solution was the Parish Council, as suggested by Father Hayes and Muintir na Tire.

The Department could do much by releasing its officials from too rigid control, and by encouraging them to co-operate with the local groups. There was no need for anyone to stand on his dignity in this matter. The agricultural instructor and the various experts must live in the country parishes and enter into the spirit of the community. Working with an active Parish Council they would have an authority they never possessed before, and they would be welcomed as friends wherever they went. There was an enormous task before them all in rural Ireland, and Muintir na Tire proposed that its solution would be found in the parish plan for agriculture.

### GOING ON THE RIGHT LINES

Right Rev. Dr. Hodges, proposing the vote of thanks to Mr. Meghen, said that although he had read a lot about Muintir na Tire and always been an admirer of its work, this was his first time to be at such a gathering. He had learned much of the rural problems and he was of the opinion that the development of rural life could not be controlled from high-up offices in the Departments. Muintir na Tire, as he understood it, was the perfect organisation to ensure the quickening of rural life. He was glad of the opportunity of being present, and so testifying his interest in the organisation, and of expressing his conviction that it was going on the right lines.

Dr. P. Moran, R.M.S., Ardee Mental Hospital, seconding the vote of thanks, said that if we did not have an agricultural revival soon, then agriculture would sink. He thought the suggestion of demonstration farms all over the country was feasible, but it would have to come slowly.

The vote was passed with acclamation.

### THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Very Rev. J. M. Hayes, P.P., founder of Muintir na Tire, expressing his pleasure at the visit of Dr. Hodges, said that his presence there was a guarantee of the unity of all classes and creeds in the problems of the land. They in Muintir na Tire had struggled to get the community spirit into agriculture, and in their ranks they had men and women of all classes.

He added that Dr. Hodges had shown a real knowledge of the aims of the organisation.

During the day the delegates paid a visit to the Shannon Airport, where they were conducted on a tour of inspection. At night they were entertained by the Limerick Operatic Society in the Concert Hall in the College, and later attended a cell in a marquee in the college grounds.

A.M.D.G.  
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