

OS AND ENDS

o The Countryside

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Limerick. As to-day we find differ-
ent accents among English speak-
ers in the County, so was it among
the Gaelic speakers of the east;
the pronunciation of some of
their Irish words varied slightly
from place to place, giving to their
speech a pleasing diversity.

NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH- WEST.

The local pronunciation of
place-names and of Irish words
and phrases that are still current,
often helps us in determining just
what kind of Irish was spoken in
our townland, or parish or barony.
The Irish spoken in North-West
Limerick, along by the Shannon,
resembled closely the Irish that
one may still hear to-day around
Carrigaholt or Kibaha in Clar.
This is only what we would expect,
seeing that there was much con-
tact, much crossing and re-cross-
ing, between one bank of the
Shannon and the other, through
the centuries. For a close approxi-
mation to the Irish that sounded
not so long ago in South-West
Limerick, one need only visit the
Coolea Gaeltacht in West Cork.

IN THE LIMERICK DECIES.

The Irish formerly spoken over
the greater part of East Limerick
was the musical dialect of the
Decies, which still sounds sweetly
in the homes round Binn O'Cuans-
hon in Waterford. In January, 1946,
Eamon de Valera stated at a pub-
lic meeting in Waterford City
that he had had enquiries made as
to the Irish spoken around Bruree,
where his youth was spent, and
found it was the Irish of the
Decies. Some of us may not have
heard of the Limerick Decies, but
all of us, I am sure, have heard of
Deisi Munhan, as the Waterford
Decies are known; for there is
situated the justly famous college
of Ring, with Seamus O'Neach-
adha—An Fear Mor—a West Lime-
rick man, as Headmaster.

MUSICAL DIALECT.

The territory of the Deisi, an
ancient tribe, who originally came
from Meath, extended from Water-
ford almost to Limerick City. The
Irish spoken in this territory was
very musical. Aodh de Blacam,
author of "Gaelic Literature Sur-
veyed" considers it the "most
musical of the Irish dialects. For
those unacquainted (alas!) with
Irish it might be of interest to
give a few examples of the Decies
pronunciation of certain words,
Cill-a-church—is pronounced "Kile"
in the Decies and "Keel" else-
where; Binn—sweet (of sound)—
is pronounced "Bine" in the
Decies and "Been" in most other
places; Rinne—a dance—is "Roy-
nka" in the Decies and "reenka"
elsewhere. Even to this day not a
few of the Irish words that still
survive in English conversation in
East Limerick have that peculiar
Decies ring.

EXTENT OF LIMERICK DECIES.

Part of the Decies incorporated
in Limerick came to be known as
Deisi Beg, and comprised portions
of Small County and adjoining
baronies. Canon Begley makes
Deisi Beg co-extensive with the
parishes of Bruff, Ballygaddy,
Uregare and Eflin. The parish of
Athneasy, east of Kilmallock, is
called by the Four Masters, Beal
Atha na nDeiseach—the Mouth of
the Ford of the Decies; and John
O'Donovan, writing in 1840, says
that the Morning Star River,
which flows through Small County
to join the Maigue, was at that
time called by the local Irish
speakers—Abha na nDeiseach, the
River of the Decies. I might men-
tion here that the old name for
this river was An Samhair, later
changed to Camhair, which means
dawn or daybreak; hence the
modern appellation—Morning Star.

THE BINN-LISIN

On the Morning Star lies Bruff,
called in Irish, Bruh na nDeise-
the Residence of the Deisi. Just
outside Bruff is a celebrated fairy
lios, known to all the countryside
as the Binn-Lisin; and even to-day,
among English speakers the
"binn" gets its distinctive Decies
pronunciation. It was of this
famous lios tha the Gaelic stone-
mason poet of Bruff, Brian
O'Flaherty, wrote:
"La meidhreach da ndeagh-sa
liom fein
Ar Bhinn-lisín aerach an
Bhrogha."

Clarence Mangan made a fine
translation of this poem; as did
also James Goggan, a schoolmas-
ter, and one of the Joyces of
Camas. Frank Roche, of Elton, the
well-known collector of Irish
music, still happily with us, took
the latter translation and re-trans-
lated it into his own skilful Irish.
According to "The Roll of the
House of Lacy," the beautiful air
of the "Binn-Lisin" was once the
anthem of the great deLacys, they,
who like so many of their blood,
became "more Irish than the Irish
themselves."

THE "SWEET" AIRY LIOS.

It was the deLacys who laid out
those beautiful gardens on the
banks of the Morning Star at
Bruff, and planted in them the
trees on which the feathered song-
sters of the wood sang so sweetly
that we yet speak of the sheltered
lios by the water's edge as the
Binn-lisín aerach an Bhrogha—
the sweet airy lios of Bruff.
The Gaeltacht has receded far
from the Limerick Decies to-day,
south-east to the fringe of Dungan-
van Bay, west across half of Lime-
rick, and across Kerry, to the wild
Atlantic outposts of the Dingle
peninsula. So has East Limerick
lost the music of its Gaelic speech.
(To be continued)

HUNT INCIDENT

Recalled By Recent Death

I N the presence of a large out-
course of his relatives and
friends (writes our Bruff corres-
pondent) the remains of J. C.
(Jim) Carroll were interred in the
vault of his family in Bruff chapel
yard last week.

The late Jim Carroll was in his
time an outstanding hunting man,
being a daring and fearless rider,
and his death recalls many out-
standing hunting incidents. There
is one incident in particular—in
the days of Captain Brodie, Gus
Hogan, Captain "Bill" Moloney,
Matt Mitchell, Father "Jim"
Moloney, now Parish Priest of
Eflin; J. P. Hogan, Vincent
Hederman, Dick O'Connell, Paddy
Coll, J. G. Lynch and Jack
Moloney, with "Tally Ho" McCar-
thy huntsman on foot to attend
to their wants—which has been
spoken of many a time.

AFTER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

It was after the Christmas holi-
days and horses and men were
fresh and keen and there was a
large number of visitors from
Cork and Tipperary. Carroll was
riding his celebrated thorough-
bred hunter, "Kuropatkin," win-
ner of races with Gus Hogan rid-
ing. Paddy Coll being on a
thoroughbred six year old mare,
winner of chases.

Atty Perse, Master of Masters,
was leading the "Limericks" that
day, and Mount Coote being
blank, a fox was found at Garry,
noe. When the fox was unstart-
ed, the hounds a magnificent pack,
were let loose. Perse gave them
a good start, then blew the horn
at the head of the field. After
some time he got into the old
Kilmallock racecourse, where he
was joined by Coll and Carroll.
The three were riding facing the
Kilmallock-Bruree road, taking
road and fences in their stride
into Carroll's own land. Next
came a big "double" and then the
famous Black Trench, which had
overflowed its banks with a big
double on the landing side. After
the double, Perse, with Carroll
on one side and Coll on the other,
and with the river in view, did
not evidently relish his position
and decided to leave, but his com-
panions would not consent, with
the result that all three were now
racing, not hunting. Carroll now
was riding "Kuropatkin" hard to
keep his place and facing the
water, put him under the whip
"Kuropatkin," swerving from it,
jumped into Perse, buying him
and Coll to the bottom of the
trench. They were both in a most
perilous position for some time,
with the horses tearing and kick-
ing and their riders tied on to the
irons.

Carroll and Coll and most of
their comrades with old Tally Ho
McCarthy, Ballygibba, are now
sleeping their long last sleep in
their respective graves—no more
horns or hunting; all quietness!
May they rest in peace.

THE OBSEQUIES.

The remains of the late Mr. Car-
roll were removed to SS. Peter
and Paul's Church, Bruff, and the
Interment took place on the follow-
ing day in the adjoining cemetery
in the presence of a very large and
most representative attendance
that was a tribute to the popularity
which the deceased enjoyed.

Officiating clergy were: Very
Rev. D. Canon O'Riordan, P.P.,
V.F., Bruff; Very Rev. Father
Foley, P.P., Knockaney; Very Rev.
J. Moloney, P.P., Eflin; Very Rev.
R. Searson, P.P., (Australian
Mission); Rev. E. Houlihan, C.C.,
Bruff, and Rev. J. Browne, C.C.,
do.; Rev. Father O'Meara, C.C.,
Knockaney.

The chief mourners were: Mr.
M. S. Carroll, Mr. J. J. Carroll and
Mr. P. Carroll (brothers); Mrs. K.
B. Walsh (sister); Mrs. J. J.
Carroll, Miss M. Carroll (sisters-
in-law); Messrs. I. Carroll, O. B.
Walsh, E. B. Walsh (nephews);
Miss I. B. Walsh (niece).

LATE R. J. MURNANE, M.R.C.V.S.

The funeral of the late Richard
J. Murnane, M.R.C.V.S., Newcastle
West, whose lamented death was
reported in our last week-end
issue, took place from Newcastle
West Church to Churchtown ceme-
tery and was one of the largest
seen in West Limerick for many
years. Sympathisers attended from
all parts of the country to pay a
final tribute of respect to a very
old and esteemed friend. All sec-
tions of the public, private and
professional life were represented
in the huge cortege.

The funeral was preceded by
Solemn Requiem Mass for the re-
pose of the soul of deceased. The
celebrant was Rev. M. Quinn P.P.,
Templeglantine; deacon, Rev. M.
Kelly, C.C.; sub-deacon, Rev. T.
Cussen, C.C.; master of ceremoni-
es, Rev. D. Costelloe, C.C.; Right
Rev. Mgr. Hannan, P.P., V.G., pre-
sided, and in the choir were:—Very
Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.,
Abbeyfeale; Very Rev. Canon Car-
roll, P.P., V.F., Rathkeale; Rev. M.
O'Brien, P.P., Castlemahon; Rev.
R. Power, Adm., Thurles; Rev. M.
O'Grady, P.P., Fedamore; Rev.
Father Holloway, C.C., Cahercon-
lish. The prayers at the graveside
were recited by Rev. R. Power,
Adm., Thurles.

The chief mourners included:—
Mrs. Murnane (widow); Dr. A.
Murnane-Power (daughter); John
and Richard Murnane (sons);
Elizabeth and Bridie Murnane
(daughters-in-law); John Power
(son-in-law); Mrs. K. Murnane
(sister-in-law); Miss E. Murnane
and Mrs. C. Carroll (do.); Miss M.
Murnane (niece); T. and M. Mur-
nane (nephews); C. Carroll (bro-
ther-in-law); Dr. and Mrs. O'Sulli-
van, Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Sullivan,
Mr. and Mrs. R. O'Sullivan, Mr.
and Mrs. R. Callinan, Mr. and Mrs.
M. Coughlan, Mr. and Mrs. P.
Dooley, Mr. and Mrs. Phelan
(Killaloe); Mr. and Mrs. T. F.
Clery, Mrs. Jas. Roche, Mr. Roche,
Mr. and Mrs. D. McCarthy, Mr.
and Mrs. J. Geary, Mrs. D. Geary,
Mr. Condon (Latten); Mrs. J. Car-
roll; Mr. Carroll (Ross); Mrs. M.
J. Clery, Mrs. D. Clery, Dr. P. J.
Clery, Mr. J. Clery, M. P. Clery,
P. Clery, Miss M. Clery, Miss D.
Clery, Miss Lena Clery, Mr. P.
Hartigan, Mr. P. Hartigan (rela-
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BIG STAFF CUT

Under a big plan to reduce its
deficit, British Overseas Airways

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Ladies' and C
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Vests, Knicker
Head Squares
Etc.
Men's and B
Suits, Trousers
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in seven sizes
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- 27' x 11' . . . 7/6
- 30' x 12' . . . 9/9
- 36' x 18' . . . 15/9

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and throat and on
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the rest to Vick!

AT ONCE stuffy
clear, sore throat
coughing is eased
breathes in Vick's
dicinal vapours.

nobody de HALL'S

Don't let the day's work
of you. Sit down—tre
and a glass of delicious
surprised how much e
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HALL WIN

live stock need a LAXATIVE

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'DIAQUONE'

urgative is called for, simply
increase the dose
one' is tasteless and odourless