

ROUND WITH J.N.S.

Match Colour Scheme receives No One

suggesting that this ever so slight sprinkling of new blood is going to do any harm—in fact, a little more generous leavening may yet be needed.

But let us keep to one thing at a time. J. H. Burgess, of the United Services, Royal Navy and Rosslyn Park, who, I think, was only discovered to be an Irishman last season, takes over Strathdee's job as scrum-half. In the Rest XV the selectors prefer Ray Carroll, of Lansdowne, to the Queen's University scrum-half.

STRATHDEE SHOULD BE SELECTED. I reckon Burgess deserves a run, but I cannot for the life of me accept the judgment of the selectors that Carroll is a better or even as good a scrum-half as Ernie Strathdee. The latter should have been in one of the two sides; and if not, then, surely, Herby McCracken. As a matter of fact, though neither are figuring in the trial, I rate Ernie and Herby as our two best scrum-half backs.

Friends of mine, rather abashed at Strathdee having been completely cold shouldered, tell me that the selectors know his form, hence his absence from the trial. That's an alibi I cannot accept. After all, this time twelve months ago Ernie was left out of the trial. The two scrum-halves were T. Cullen, of University College, Dublin, and Eric Kyle, of North of Ireland.

Strathdee, who had been brought back to help us win the Triple Crown in the match with Wales at Ravenhill the previous season, after having been jettisoned against England and Scotland, did not hold his place. Cullen was chosen against France—Ireland got it in the neck. So Ernie was brought back, played in the three remaining matches and Ireland won the Triple Crown again.

SELECTORS' SHUTTLECOCK. In 1947 Ray Carroll, playing better than he is now, was our chosen scrum-half against the Frenchmen. Poor Ray, for the most part of the game, was about as successful in stemming the French hordes as was King Canute in stopping the tide from coming in. So Strathdee, who must surely go down in rugby history as the most "in and out again" international ever reared by Ireland, came back again.

And, oh yes, do not let us forget that in 1948, when Ireland celebrated her only post-war triumph over France, and by scoring more points than she had ever previously done on French soil, Strathdee skipped the team. And he was dropped after it. Yes, truly Ernie Strathdee is the selectors' shuttlecock—in and out again. And I think he'll be in again, too, even though at the moment he is out again.

JETTISONED AND DRAGGED BACK. R. D. Agar, like his Ulster colleague, has also been jettisoned before—and dragged back on board again when more tempestuous seas had started whipping up. In 1947 he played against England, Scotland, Wales and France; in 1948, he played in our victorious team in Paris—and was dropped. Last season he got his place in the "Possibles" trial team.

He was missed out of the team against France at Lansdowne Road—and France won! After also missing the England game at Lansdowne Road, he was brought back for the two remaining games with Scotland and Wales. And Ireland won them both to again capture the Triple Crown.

So it can be truly said that both

WAS BIG FIGURE

In Irish Circles In New York

LATE MR. C. FITZGIBBON

THE late Mr. Cornelius Fitzgibbon, of Askeaton, whose death took place recently while home on a business visit from the United States, was for many years a big and highly respected figure in Irish circles in New York. He was brother of the late Mr. John Fitzgibbon, who was for many years a prominent and widely esteemed member of Limerick County Council and intimately and honourably connected since his boyhood with coaching and racing.

Mr. James Reidy, of The Gaelic American, New York, a native of Ballingarry district of West Limerick, and himself an ardent and life-long worker in Ireland's cause in the United States, was a close personal friend of the late Mr. Cornelius Fitzgibbon and had full opportunity of knowing his many patriotic and other good qualities. He has sent us for publication a warm appreciation of the deceased, who, he says in a covering letter, "loved Ireland intensely and gave the cause of Irish freedom devoted service through a long lifetime."

THE APPRECIATION

The following is the appreciation written by Mr. Reidy:—New York friends of Cornelius Fitzgibbon, who had resided at 674 East 22nd St., Brooklyn, and was a veteran in the Clan-na-Gael and other American-Irish organisations, were saddened by the announcement, which came to them before Christmas, of his death while on a visit to Ireland. He died at the home of his nieces at Askeaton Co. Limerick, his native place, on the afternoon of December 20. A Mass for the eternal repose of his soul was offered up at the local parish church the following Thursday morning. Interment took place the afternoon of that day in the family burial plot in nearby Lismakery cemetery. Many mourning relatives and friends attended the Mass and funeral.

PLEW TO IRELAND LAST SUMMER

Mr. Fitzgibbon flew to Ireland last summer to settle the affairs of a recently-deceased brother-in-law. A few weeks after his arrival there, he became ill and underwent a serious operation in the Meath Hospital, Dublin. After a rest in a Dublin nursing home, he returned to Askeaton, where he seemed to be improving until he was stricken by a heart attack, which proved fatal. In his youth, Mr. Fitzgibbon was apprenticed to the hardware business in Rathkeale, County Limerick, and was employed in Dublin for some years before he came to this country in 1897. He was 82 years of age at the time of his death.

In New York, he was successful in business and in real estate investments and, although he led a busy life, he found time for active participation in the affairs of organisations which were devoted to the cause of Ireland's national independence and the advancement of his race. His generosity, earnestness and kindness won for him the affection and respect of all who knew him. He did good without ostentation and only God knew the extent of his charitable acts.

MEMBER OF MANY BODIES

A veteran member of the Shamrock Club of the Clan-na-Gael, of which Club he was Treasurer at the time of his death, he was its representative as delegate at several conventions of the Clan. He was for many years a delegate to the United Irish-American Societies of New York and was a member of the Board of Directors of that organisation. He also was a member of the Easter Week Anniversary Committee of the New York Clan-na-Gael, served as a delegate to the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and was a life member of the American Irish Historical Society. Mr. Fitzgibbon was a first cousin of the late Patrick T. Moran, of Washington, D.C., who a generation ago was prominent in the Clan-na-Gael and Ancient Order of Hibernians.

SURVIVING RELATIVES

The surviving relatives of Mr. Fitzgibbon are his wife, who is an invalid and lives in Ireland; three nieces, Misses Kathleen and Anna Fitzgibbon, of Askeaton, and Miss Elizabeth Fitzgibbon, of Dublin; and two nephews, Dr. Michael and Thomas Fitzgibbon, who reside at Askeaton. He had one son, Edward, who was graduated following a distinguished course of studies in the National University of Ireland as a barrister-at-law and died in 1936, less than two years after he had begun the practice of his profession in Dublin.

SEA SAND FOR LAND

CREAMERY LORRIES FOR TRANSPORT

The main topic of discussion amongst farmers in Athea Parish at the moment (writes our Athea correspondent) is the fight of the Athea Co-Operative Creamery, Ltd., to draw sea-sand with its lorry to the parish.

LIMERICK MARKETS—Saturday.

Butter—2/7 to 2/10 per lb. Hen Eggs—3/9 to 4/6 per doz. Duck Eggs—3/9 to 4/3 per doz. Chickens—12/- to 18/- per pair. Ducks—5/- to 13/- per pair. Old Fowl—11/- to 18/- per pair. Turkeys—3/- to 3/3 per lb. Geese—12/- to 16/- each. Eating Apples—2/6 to 3/6 per basket. Cooking Apples—2/- to 3/- per basket. Potatoes—1/5 to 1/10 per stone. Turnips—80/- per ton. Rye Hay—180/- per ton. Upland Hay—140/- per ton. Corcross Hay—115/- per ton. Weekly Cattle Market—There were 100 calves in market. They sold at from 60/- to 210/- each.

THE PADDOCKS, LIMERICK WEEKLY DAIRY MARKET

Tuesday, January 3.—Full seasonable entry at to-day's market, and a number of very choice cows on offer; strong and most representative attendance of buyers, all wanting to purchase choice dairy cows and heifers, resulting in brisk trade and sharp competition; substantially increased rates paid for dairy cows of the right stamp. The special entry sent in by Captain Lysley, Killeen, Patrickswell, sold remarkably well. Promising in-calf and calved heifers also enquired for; all round strong trade, supply not nearly equal to demand. Market almost sold up. Top price for dairy cows went to Mrs. Boland, Patrickswell, at £50, the purchaser being Mr. John Gleeson, Clondrina, near Limerick; the runner-up being Captain Lysley, Killeen, Patrickswell, at £48 10s., closely followed by Mr. Patrick Enright, Cradock, and Mr. Timothy McNamara, Knockane, Adare, at £46 each. Dairy cows, choice, £45 to £50. Half-bred Ayrshire cows and heifers, £39 to £45. Calved heifers, promising, £30 to £36 10s.—Wm. B. Pitt and Co., Auctioneers.

THE PADDOCKS, LIMERICK WEEKLY CATTLE AND SHEEP MARKET

Wednesday, January 4th.—Cattle—Market to-day was of much larger dimensions, more than seasonable supply, and an excellent show; strong attendance of buyers, both home and shipping, prime demand for choice feeding bullocks, and colour dairy heifers, especially in-calf and weighted heifers and bullocks, which were readily placed at slightly dearer rates. Well bred cow heifers, not too heavy in good request, and easily disposed at late rates, but dull trade for heavy cows in second class, suitable fat cattle moved out freely, but at a steadily increased supply of cows suitable for culling, resulting in moderate trade. Full normal entry of stores, both aged and young, strong readily at full recent currencies, best grades easy to cash. Steady trade for choice feeding bullocks, and colour dairy heifers, brisk trade for the right stamp of store cattle, all round trade satisfactory in this section. Very small entry of weanlings, which met a steady trade, and a most satisfactory clearance. Fat heifers and bullocks, best, £38 to £49 10s., second run, £32 10s. to £37 10s., small, £26 to £31. Cows, best, £35 to £40, second run, £27 to £33 10s., old, best, £20 to £26 15s., second run, £18 to £24 15s., 3 year old bullocks and heifers, £24 5s. to £29, second run, £19 to £23 10s. Weanlings, £17 5s. to £21 10s. Sheep—Supplies barely seasonable, but a useful turnout of buyers, which included a number of pens of prime sheep, buyers from the start showed a favourable business disposition, and were quite willing to part full value from some riled with a ready repetition of recent top rates, and in the case of prime stock, a further increase in favour of vendors, well met with quality in brisk demand and good, small sheep found favour at fair prices. Fat young ewes in fair request, and good trade active for suitable stock. Market ready to sell up with a strong bid. Fat middle weight, 160 - to 170 - second run, 154 - to 164 - small, 145 - to 152 - ewes, 130 - to 145 - Wm. B. Pitt and Co., Auctioneers.

LIMERICK CATTLE MARKET WEEKLY FAT STOCK MARKET, DECEMBER 31

Dairy Cows and Heifers.—The entry at 44 head included an equal proportion of cows and heifers, with the quality of both being some really good, and with buyers in very active attendance, including new-comers from Sligo and Cork, trade for the good cows and heifers was again strong and active, exchanges being readily effected. There was a very substantial clearance. Top price for the same went to Mr. Richard Moran, of Cradock, particularly choice, and a good one which was secured by Mr. John Gleeson, Clondrina, at £50. Top price for dairy cows went to Mr. William Lawlor, Ballinacorney, near Limerick, at £47. Best quality cow being Messrs. John McNamara, O'Connell's Mills, C. M. Namara, Limerick, and John Daly, Cradock, at £46. Fat Cows, best, £28 10s. to £34, second run, £26 10s. to £32, small, £24 10s. to £28, old, best, £22 10s. to £26, second run, £20 10s. to £24, small, £18 10s. to £22. Fat Heifers, best, £24 10s. to £28, second run, £22 10s. to £26, small, £20 10s. to £24. Weanlings, £17 10s. to £22. Fat Sheep, best, £14 10s. to £18, second run, £12 10s. to £16, small, £10 10s. to £14. Wm. B. Pitt and Co., Auctioneers.

LIMERICK CATTLE MARKET WEEKLY FAT STOCK MARKET, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

A very heavy entry in the cattle section, and with an exceptionally strong attendance of buyers, trade was active and strong with practically a complete clearance being effected under the hammer. The cattle were mostly medium weights but all were keenly bid for. In the sheep section a smaller entry also met keen competition and was easily sold under the hammer. Fat heifers, best, £38 to £40, second run, £34 to £38, small, £29 to £32. Fat sheep, £15 to £18. Lots de Courcy, Auctioneers.

ABBEYFEALE MARKET PRICES.

(2nd January). Turkeys, 28 per lb.; chickens, 18 per lb.; Guinea fowl, 2 per lb.; hen eggs, 296 to 3/- per doz.; duck eggs, 2/- per doz.; potatoes, 1 1/2 per lb.; butter, stone, 10/- to 11/0 per lb.; lard, 10/- to 11/0 per lb.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Edifying Scenes

RECORD NUMBERS RECEIVE COMMUNION

IN addition to the churches previously mentioned in our columns, Midnight Mass was celebrated in several other parishes in Co. Limerick and surrounding districts on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. In every case here were truly edifying scenes. The number of people receiving Holy Communion was a record, showing the widespread readiness and desire of the people to enter into the spirit of the Holy Year.

AT KILMEEDY.

Midnight Mass at Kilmeeedy on New Year's Eve (writes our Kilmeeedy correspondent) was largely attended, the greater portion of the congregation receiving Holy Communion. The celebrant, Rev. Father Finn, P.P., wished the congregation a "holy and prosperous new year."

AT GLENROE.

A huge congregation, embracing the towns of Mitchelstown, Kilmine and Ballylanders, attended Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in Glenroe Parish Church, Rev. Father Carroll, P.P., gave a splendid sermon dealing with the Nativity, and a large percentage of the congregation received Holy Communion.

AT EFFIN.

For the first time in a period of close on fifty years (writes our Kilmallock correspondent) Midnight Mass was celebrated in the Parish Church, Effin, on New Year's Eve to mark the beginning of the Holy Year. People came from all surrounding districts at an early hour and when the ceremony began the church was crowded. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Moloney, P.P., Effin. The largest crowd witnessed for many years approached the altar rails. Appropriate hymns were sung by the choir, with Mrs. Meagher at the organ. To mark the beginning of the Holy Year, Midnight Mass was also celebrated in Bultaden Church on New Year's Eve, and was attended by a very large congregation.

AT KILLALOE.

Approximately 1,200 people assembled in St. Flannan's Church, Killaloe, on the night of New Year's Eve, when, in compliance with the wish of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, midnight Mass was celebrated to commemorate the opening of the Holy Year (writes our Killaloe correspondent). Long before the church gates were opened the faithful had gathered and when the midnight hour struck a capacity crowd was present in the Church of the Patron Saint of the diocese of Killaloe. Almost every household in the parish was represented, while the sons and daughters of North Tipperary and Ogonnelloe were present in strength, and practically the entire congregation received Holy Communion. Very Rev. Canon O'Molloy, P.P., V.F. who, following long hours in the Confessional, celebrated the Mass congratulated the congregation on their magnificent manifestation of the Faith.

CHARLEVILLE.

To mark the opening of the Holy Year, Midnight Mass was celebrated in Holy Cross Church, Charleville, on Saturday night, the first Midnight Mass after a spell of many years, writes our Charleville correspondent. It was an edifying and most impressive ceremony and the spacious church was filled to capacity long before 12 o'clock, while a large number of people had to be content with standing room. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Rev. J. Canon Burke, P.P. Practically every member of the huge congregation approached the altar rails to receive Holy Communion. The Holy Hour devotions followed and the ceremony concluded shortly after 2 o'clock, with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

LOCAL CONTROVERSY AT RATHKEALE.

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.")

Dear Sir—A great controversy is being on in Rathkeale at present as to what year the first midnight Mass was celebrated in the town, as a recent writer seems to think that one was not celebrated by the oldest inhabitant!

I received my first Holy Communion in 1891, the year of Victor Maloney's death, and if my memory serves me right it was at the Christmas of that year or else the following one, we had the first celebration. However, I have one outstanding landmark of the event as regards the choir on that occasion, namely, a solo by our fellow townsman, the late Wm. Mully, who afterwards started as principal tenor for the Dublin Operatic Society. He also was leading tenor in one of the principle churches of Dublin up to the time of his death some 10 or 12 years ago. For this solo he was specially coached by a Limerick tutor.

Just as at our midnight Mass here last Christmas, the congregation was of huge dimensions, I well remember Father Gerald O'Connor giving the order, when the church filled, to have the front door leading to the New Road opened, so that the overflow of Mass goers would be in front of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the service. These extended to the front gate in massed formation. Life at its best is short, and this night, how best to spend it!



OF HIGH QUALITY AT LOW PRICE. The department of Agriculture records to the extent of 5 per cent of the including pigs and calves. Half of the total weight of Molasses makes it an appetising food and v cattle to eat coarse fodder. In feeding value Molasses is about equal the value of Maize and can be bought commodities. Supplies can be obtained from any Growers' Association or any Merchant.

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HUNTING COUNTY LIMERICK HOUNDS. The County Limerick Foxhounds will meet as under: Saturday, Jan. 7 ... Carraghchase (Bye Day, Back Gate) Monday, Jan. 9 ... Honeyhound Wednesday, Jan. 11, Kilminey Cross Friday, Jan. 13 ... Kilmeeedy Hour—11 o'clock. SCARTEEN HOUNDS The Scarteen Hounds (The Black and Tans) will meet as under: Monday, Jan. 9 ... Greenane Thursday, Jan. 12 ... Elton Hour—11 o'clock. Followers are earnestly requested to avoid galloping through or near dairy cattle, winter wheat, etc., and to shut all gates on the roads. CLARE HOUNDS The Clare Hounds will meet as under: Monday, Jan. 9 ... Shepperton Thursday, Jan. 12 ... Killulla Monday, Jan. 16 ... Barefield Thursday, Jan. 19 ... Spencilhill Monday, Jan. 23 ... Ballyear Thursday, Jan. 26 ... Old Ground Hotel Monday, Jan. 30 ... Latoon Note time of meet for month of January—12.30 p.m. sharp. STONEHALL HARRIERS The Stonehall Harriers will meet as under: Friday, Jan. 13 ... Nantenan Friday, Jan. 20 ... Castle Hewson Friday, Jan. 27 ... Cappagh Church Hour—12 o'clock. OAKFIELD FOOT BEAGLES The Oakfield Foot Beagles will meet at Doyle's Cross on Sunday, 8th inst., at 2 p.m. COUNTY HOUNDS