

Muintir na Tire Tour Visit To America TO HOSPITAL GUILD

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SUBSTANTIAL CREDIT BALANCE.

The Treasurer, in his report, showed that the receipts from entertainments and other activities of the Guild during the year amounted to £1,641 3s. 1d., and they had now in the bank a credit balance of £670 1s. 10d. Their assets now exceeded their liabilities by £1,231 4s., which proves that the Guild are in a sound financial position.

Dr. John P. Cleary proposed the adoption of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, which was seconded by Mr. L. Walsh, solicitor.

THE AMERICAN TOUR.

Rev. Father Bergin then addressed the gathering. He gave an account of his tour to America accompanying Rev. Father Hayes, to establish and spread the ideals of Muintir na Tire there. They had been accorded a hearty welcome everywhere they visited and donations towards the Guild had been generously contributed.

Speaking on the high wages payable in America, Father Bergin stated that he could gather from the Irish abroad that they felt they would be much better off in Ireland even on a smaller rate of pay.

He requested the local Guild of Muintir na Tire to continue the good work they had been doing and so build up a strong Parish Council.

IRISH IN U.S.A. TIRED OF POLITICS.

Referring to his short tour in America, Father Hayes said everywhere they went they had a tremendous welcome from the Irish in America, who were a very strong force and influence in American life, and he could say that efforts to help were forthcoming from all the places they visited. The Irish in America, he said, were tired of politics and they did not want to hear much about politics. They were interested in the aims and ideals of Muintir na Tire and held the Organisation as a constructive effort from Ireland. The Irish there had greeted them splendidly and he could say very sincerely that he was very proud of them and the Irish at home should be very proud of them. Appealing to the people here to stay at home and to work at home, Father Hayes stated that wages were very high in America but if the wages were high the cost of living was alarmingly high, and taking it all round, the people at home were, perhaps, better off. America, however, he continued, was wonderful. In fact, it was not a country but a continent, and it was on top of the world to-day. If our people are to emigrate, and he advised them not to emigrate, but if they had to do so, he would advise them to go to America.

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OLDEN MEMORIES NO BIG PROBLEMS

Recalled By Recent Death

LINKS WITH O'CONNELL

THE death of Mrs. Brigid MacMahon, of Main St., Abbeyfeale, relict of the late William MacMahon, formerly manager of the Abbeyfeale Branch of the National Bank, removes from Abbeyfeale its oldest resident at the age of 94 (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). A member of a family associated with the commercial life of the town for more than a century, she was a lady much esteemed for her many kindly qualities. There was a very large attendance of the public at the removal of the remains to St. Mary's Church, and also at the interment in the Old Abbey Cemetery on Sunday.

LINKS WITH O'CONNELL

Her grandfather owned one of the principal hotels between Limerick and Tralee over one hundred years ago. There O'Connell was often entertained while waiting for a change of horses to and from Derrynane. Deceased recalled many incidents connected with those visits as related by the older members of the family. Kit Shea, the old waitress, used to say "it was easier to attend the 'Liberator' than many of the squireens that patronised them." It was to the deceased we are indebted for the preservation of the old Register kept by her great grandfather, giving the names of even the horses and the drivers engaged in those journeys of O'Connell and others.

Other documents preserved include a letter from O'Connell to old Mr. Leahy ordering a relay of horses for his coach on Sunday, and stating that he would not allow any driver to drive who had not been to Mass.

HIGH TREASON CHARGE

There is also still preserved the brief O'Connell held when defending the old hotel proprietor and his son Dan, who were charged with high treason at the special Limerick Assizes for burning their own houses which the military had seized, and in regard to which Captain Rock of the Whiteboys, or "Rockites," had threatened the Leahys with reprisals if they did not dispossess the military. While the military were changing in 1821 between Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West the houses were burned, and the Leahys, who were between both forces, were charged with the burning of their own houses. If it were not for the excellent character given of the accused by prominent residents in Limerick and Kerry the accused would not have been acquitted.

INTERMENT OF MRS. McMAHON.

The prayers at the graveside of the late Mrs. MacMahon were read by Very Rev. P. Canon Carroll, P.P., V.F.; Rev. J. Halpin, C.C.; Rev. J. Liston, C.C.

Chief relatives included: Mr. Henry D. Leahy (nephew), Dan.

The County Home

STATEMENT BY THE MANAGER

THERE are no big problems of expenditure attached to the maintenance of the Limerick Co. Home this year.

So. County Manager P. J. Meghen told Limerick County Council last Saturday during its annual visit to the Home in Newcastle West.

During the year, the Manager said, the Minister for Health had taken a great interest in the county homes everywhere and had asked the officials to fill up a fairly lengthy questionnaire about the buildings and general conditions of population. They had got that document in Newcastle West and had completed it. He felt the best idea he could give to the Council of how the County Home was being run was to read the officials' replies to the Department's questions.

400 BEDS

The Manager said there were 400 beds in the County Home at the moment. There were 386 inmates - 180 old infirm men and 113 old women infirm. They tried not to keep children in the home. There were 90 people in the infirmary wards, most of them old people. There were only four mental cases in the institution. There were no deaf or dumb people in the Home, and only three blind.

"The Home is now mainly an institution for the old and infirm," the Manager said. "There are still, however, 22 people in it who suffer from tuberculosis. But I believe we will be able to get all these out when the regional hospital is completed. We don't want T.B. patients here if we can help it, but we know that some of the patients we have would prefer to be here than go to outside sanatoria where they would be far away from their people. That problem is still there and has to be tackled when the time comes."

NOT OVERCROWDED

The Manager said the Home was not overcrowded, except in the ambulance divisions where there was some slight crush, but the problem of relieving this would not be an expensive or a big one. Structurally, the building was in good shape and compared more than favourably with other county homes throughout the country.

Later on, after the Council had had lunch prepared by the sisters in charge of the institution, Mr. J. W. Canty, Council Chairman, paid a tribute to the way in which the Home was being run. The Council and the ratepayers, he said, should be thankful they had such able overseers as the sisters, Dr. Roche and Mr. J. J. King, Chief Officer of the Public Health Department.

The Co. Manager joined with the

D. Leahy (grand-nephew), Mrs. B. M. Harnett (grand-niece), Mrs. Eastwood, Dublin, Batt W. Leahy, B. M. Harnett, Justin McCarthy, J. D. Harnett (relatives).