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INCOMPETENT MAN A MENACE

I am not challenging the man's qualities, characteristics or national service. I am talking of the appointment of a clerk of works to supervise work being carried out for the local authority, and, if you have not got a man who is competent, he is a menace rather than a help because, if a builder wants to get away with defective work or inferior materials, and there is somebody over him who is not competent to supervise the work, it is an incentive to him to 'do down' the public authority. I speak with some knowledge of this matter, because I have been a clerk of works myself. Mr. Sheehy had no training whatever—he is a farmer and has been a road ganger. The reports are on the file and, from these reports of inspectors, it is clear that he and two others were incompetent and helpless in the job they were doing.

CERTIFICATE FROM LATE CO. SURVEYOR

Donnchadh O Briain : He had a certificate from Mr. T. F. Ryan, the county surveyor, who was known to the Minister and myself.

Mr. Keyes : That did not influence the Minister at the time of his first appointment.

Donnchadh O Briain : His appointment was sanctioned.

Mr. Keyes : There is a reference by Mr. Ryan to the effect that he knew him to be a good man as a ganger. That is the only reference by Mr. Ryan, and that did not influence the then Minister, who said he could not appoint him as he had not the qualifications, but who, due to the persistence of Deputy O Briain and others, was persuaded to agree to his appointment, although he was unsuited for the position. The Deputy now accuses the Minister of political jobbery and of all kinds of corruption. I would be absolutely unentitled to appoint this man, who had ignored the terms of the advertisement. Deputy O Briain says it is a subterfuge, but this man did not recognise the terms of the advertisement. He did not write to the public authority, but to the consulting engineer who appointed him previously. He sent no credentials, qualifications or testimonials. He could not do so, because he had none, except the fact that he had worked for Mr. Sheehan previously.

Donnchadh O Briain : For the County Council.

Mr. Keyes : Mr. Sheehan appointed him on the previous occasion. He recommended him on this occasion to the County Council and the County Council sent the recommendation up here. I did not sanction it. I felt that it was

late Mr. Daniel O'Sullivan, who resided for many years with Mr. and Mrs. Sammon at Newcastle West up to his death a few years back. During their stay in Ireland the Sisters were the guests of their aunt, Mrs. O'Shea, Prospect Hill, Limerick. Both nuns are members of the Mercy Order, Sister Carmel being a nurse in their Hospital at Red Bluff, California.

WIDELY REGRETTED

LATE MR. M. O'HALLORAN, NEWCASTLE WEST

Newcastle West has lost one of its most esteemed and respected citizens by the death of Mr. Michael O'Halloran, of South Quay, who passed away during the week-end, after a comparatively brief illness. Member of a well-known Clare family, deceased entered business in the town early in the present century, and later became head of an extensive victualling trade, which he carried on very successfully until his retirement from business a short time ago. He was father of Mr. Michael O'Halloran (junr.), electrical supply stores and radio dealer, Bridge Street, and Mrs. O'Neill, Maiden Street, to whom, as well as to the widow, Mrs. O'Halloran, and other members of the bereaved family and relatives, sincere sympathy will be tendered.

Aged about 65 years, the late Mr. O'Halloran was a gentleman of many outstanding qualities. In private, as well as public life, he was kindly, unassuming and charitable—characteristics which won for him a wide and ever increasing circle of friends. He was for a long number of years prominently identified with every movement intended to advance and benefit the welfare of the town, and his demise has occasioned sincere regret throughout West Limerick.

All sections of the community

was using this money to do most urgent schemes on the They would hear very soon the Department viewed the lists. "I am confident," he "that we'll be able to do extensive jobs of drainage throughout county this year with the money we get under the Act. We will do all the work we can, considering the very big roads programme are handling."

The matter was not further discussed.

MEMORIAL PROJECT

DECISION OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Liam T. Purcell, Chairman, presided at a meeting in the Courthouse of the County Council in connection with the proposed memorial to the late Brigadier Sean Wall, Bruff, and his comrades who fell in the Irish War of Independence (writes our Bruff correspondent). There was almost full attendance of members.

A lengthy discussion took place as to the form the memorial should take.

Some members were in favour of purchasing a sportsfield and erecting a suitable entrance on which could be set plaques to perpetuate the memory of the dead patriots.

Other members favoured a monument on the site already obtained at Bruff, with the figure of a Volunteer.

A vote was taken and resulted in favour of the monument with the figure of a Volunteer on the site at Bruff.

It was decided to take immediate steps to place the matter in the hands of a sculptor and to have the monument erected as soon as possible.

were represented in the funeral to Churchtown on Sunday, following Solemn Requiem Mass in the Parish Church of Immaculate Conception.

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