

Dungarvan Leader

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PENSMAN takes you Behind the Spotlight

PAYING FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES

I make no apology for returning once again to the vexed question of the proportion of the health bill which local ratepayers have to meet. The estimate of the Health Authority for the year 1970 shows that it will mean an increase in the general rates of 5/- in the £. It has been stated at a recent meeting of one of our public authorities that the overall increase in the rates for the coming year could well be to the tune of almost 10/-.

For years the farming community has been agitating against the enormous jump which rates have taken. What I cannot understand is the quiet manner in which Urban ratepayers have accepted the increases which they have had to face over the same period. In many respects farmers have not been as badly hit as the small urban business because of the abatements they are allowed in their rates but the point is now being reached where the impact is beginning to force even the tenants of Council houses in the urban areas into voicing protest.

There seems to be no hope that the cost of rates will become stabilised as it looks as if the system by which almost 50% of the cost of the health services have to come out of rates will be continued even when the new regional health boards will be established. Speaking in the Seanad last week during the Committee Stage of the Health Bill 1969, the Minister for Health, Mr. Childers, referring to the preparation of the estimates for 1971/72 said that these new regional boards would prepare the estimates in collaboration with the existing health authorities.

"The regional health board and the existing health authorities will have to collaborate to prepare the first regional health board budget. That will be quite a complex business but I am certain that the accountants with the present health authorities and the existing County Managers or the heads of Cork, Waterford and Limerick Health Authorities will be able to do that. That will be largely a matter for accountancy and establishing what the total cost will be for the whole area and then looking at any extensions of services and so on. It could be very difficult but with the help of a competent local civil service I do not think the transfer will be too difficult in the first year provided we can get these boards established in time so that we will have an opportunity of studying all this."

While the degree of difficulty in effecting the change-over to the new system may be subject to ministerial promise, there can be no gainsaying the difficulty and the increasing difficulty which local ratepayers are faced with in meeting these enormous costs. The sooner that Urban and Rural ratepayers join together in common protest against the rising selective burden of local taxation the sooner is there any hope of a relieving amendment of the situation.

Incidentally, since writing the above paragraph I have been informed that the estimate which will be placed before the County Council shortly will seek a rate of around 90/- in the £, an increase of approximately 11/- in the current figure. That should certainly give ratepayers something to think about!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

I was reminded of the good old days in Dungarvan by a copy of an old programme which I received during the week of an entertainment which was held in the Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday nights, April 15th and 16th, 1912.

The programme giving details of the function states that "A Grand Musical Entertainment will be given by the Literary Society Choral Class (assisted by the Intermediate Choir of the Christian Brothers' Schools) in the above Hall on Monday and Tuesday nights, April 15th and 16th, and if then goes on to state: "The Programme will consist of Two Parts: First Part—Grand Christy Minstrel Entertainment by the members of the Dungarvan

Literary Club Choral Class of 50 voices. Second Part—Grand Concert by the best local Talent assisted by artists from Waterford, Clonmel and Cork. The Dungarvan Orchestra will render a choice selection of Music under the baton of Mr. Goddin, B.M. The Concert will be conducted by Mr. John Fallon, who has specially trained the Choral Class."

Then follows a list of admission prices: 2/6, 2/-, 1/- and back seats 6d. The 2/6 seats could be reserved at Miss Cunniffe's, Main Street, where plan of Hall can be seen." The price of the programmes was one penny each.

The following songs were given in the first part of the programme: Plantation Song and Chorus, "Keep Down de Middle," by Mr. O'Flaherty; Coon Song, "My Dusky Queen of Night," by Mr. F. O'Leary, (Cappoquin); Comic Song by Mr. D. O'Leary; Song and Dance, "And It Is So," by Mr. C. Garby; Song, "Ain't You Got a Black Man?" by Mr. P. Walsh, (Cappoquin); Plantation Song and Chorus, "De Lecture," by Mr. Phil Gough; Comic Song by Mr. Tom Power, (Waterford); Duet, "Vivia (Merry Widow)" by Mr. Jack Walsh and Mr. Declan Keoghlan; Picaunimie, Lullaby, "Where the Cotton Fields do Grow," by Mr. Peter Dalton; Plantation Song, "When you hear de Banjo," by Mr. Fred Phelan; "De Ring-tailed Coon," by Mr. Tom Stokes and "Shine, Shine Moon," by Mr. D. Lynch.

In the second part of the entertainment, in addition to songs by Mr. L. J. and Mr. Power, Miss J. Curran sang "I know a Lovely Garden" and Mr. D. J. Nugent sang "My Dreams." The C.B.S. Choir sang the Part Song "Now The Curfew" and the Orchestra closed the proceedings with a selection, "In The Shadows."

This concert took place almost 60 years ago and they would hardly be anyone about now who would remember it. But the items listed in the programme show that the old days in Dungarvan were indeed good old days when it came to putting on a good entertainment.

OLD MAP

Last week I referred to an old map of Ireland which I received from Mr. J. O'Mahony in London. The map was printed in London by Edward Stanford in 1857 with the prime object of showing Round Towers of which 118 were listed. Of these only two were located in County Waterford, one in Ardmore and the other in Dungarvan. The height of the Ardmore tower was given as 90 feet and its condition as perfect with "remarkable features in its construction." The condition of the Dungarvan tower was given at the time as "foundational only."

The area of the County was given as 395,690 English acres and the population in 1851 was 162,593. The effects of the great famine of 1847 and 1848 were not referred to specifically but one of the statistics at the bottom of the map gave the population by census in 1841 as 8,175,124. The population by census in 1851 was 5,157,794 a decrease in the interim 10 years of 1,659,330.

The map is an extremely detailed one showing towns, mountains, rivers, roads, headlands, bays and harbours and peculiarly shows Abbeys as distinct from Dungarvan, the only map which I have ever seen to do so.

PRIEST ACCUSES COUNTY COUNCIL OF NEGLECT

THE CASE OF THE FORGOTTEN VILLAGE

Rev. M. Byrne, C.C., Faithlegg,

principal spokesman for a deputation of five from Ballygunner which was received by Waterford County Council at their quarterly meeting in Dungarvan last Tuesday accused the Council of neglecting Ballygunner and district up to this where water, housing and sewerage schemes were concerned.

Fr. Byrne said that he was Chairman of the local Branch of Muintir Na Tíre of which the rest of the deputation were also members. The deputation was introduced by Mr. T. Kyne.

Addressing the Council, Fr. Byrne said that the one forgotten place in the county was Ballygunner and the Council had neglected it and the surrounding district. Eight new houses were built there by the Council 24 years ago and having built them and installed modern bathrooms and toilets in them, the Council failed to provide a water supply for them. The tenants were allowed to use the water from the local school supply but this had to be cut off at times when levels fell and a continuous supply could not be guaranteed.

Building houses without water, said Fr. Byrne, is like providing a cart without a horse. The Council was given the site for these houses free and surely after 24 years they could provide a water scheme for them.

Fr. Byrne went on to quote other instances of neglect by the Council in their delay in repairing a public pump which was supplying 30 families and which went out of action. Although the matter was reported at once he said that no one bothered their heads about it for 3 weeks. He added that 18 years ago a housing scheme had been passed for the village but nothing had so far been done and 18 families were still waiting for those houses. This in his mind was a scandal. They were not prepared to accept the excuse that the Council had no money and added, "Ballygunner has been passed up to this and in 10 years it will be a suburb of Waterford City."

BY PASSED

In regard to sewerage he said that there were no facilities whatever in the old houses while those serving the new houses were far from satisfactory. "We feel that Ballygunner has been by-passed and we are not going to take no for an answer now," he said in conclusion.

Mr. C. Curran, Chairman said that Fr. Byrne had been very critical of the Council. It was not correct to say that the Council made excuses as they gave the facts.

Mr. P. Cahill supporting the case made by Fr. Byrne said that 12 months ago he had got 2 public

lights for the village approved but nothing had since been done about them.

Mr. Curran said that he wondered whether Ballygunner was as neglected as Fr. Byrne had claimed it was.

Mr. John Kirwan another member of the deputation said that the Council might think that what Fr. Byrne had said was critical but he was just giving the facts as they existed. He claimed that the Council had neglected Ballygunner for the past 20 or 30 years. He appealed to the Council to come forward now to do something to provide water, houses and a proper sewerage scheme for them.

OTHER SIDE OF PICTURE

Mr. K. O'Riyan said that these complaints were not peculiar to Ballygunner as they had similar problems all over the County. "These people must realise," he said, "that in a few weeks we will be asked to pass a rate of 90/- in the £. In my area people have also been waiting 18 to 20 years for houses. Ballygunner has not been neglected but we must look at the other side of the picture and see what the people can afford to pay in rates."

Mr. C. A. O'Connor, County Manager said that it was not fair to say that the Council had deliberately neglected Ballygunner. The Council were carrying out negotiations to provide a water scheme for the area.

DAIL QUESTION

Mr. Kyne asked whether the Council had been told that plans for water and housing schemes for the village had been sent to the Department for approval. He queried from the official Dail Reports for December 1969 in which Mr. Boland, Minister for Local Government told Mr. J. Pattison, T.D. that no proposals for either water or housing schemes for Ballygunner had been submitted to the Department by the County Council.

Mr. O'Connor said that while he did not have the file at his disposal he felt that they had submitted plans for houses to the Department and had told them that they were negotiating to have a water scheme from an adjoining estate extended to their houses.

The Chairman said that the best thing was to have a full report on the points raised by the deputation and by Mr. Kyne for the next meeting and the position could then be discussed again.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF COUNTY COUNCIL HAS WORSENE

They were £20,000 worse off this year than at the same time last year, Mr. E. J. O'Leary, County Accountant, told members of Waterford County Council at their quarterly meeting in Dungarvan last Tuesday.

The Council on the proposal of Mr. P. Cahill, seconded by Mr. M. J. Sluane approved an overdraft for the current quarter of £350,000.

Mr. O'Leary said that this was £50,000 more than for the corresponding period last year and the 3 reasons for the increase were 1) the loan of £10,000 for which they were committed to the Waterford Harbour Board, 2) an expected increase in this year's rate demand and 3) excess expenditure which had been passed.

The Council was at present in debt to the extent of £100,000 to the Bank but he explained that this was a lean period and things would come right when the rates started coming in.

Mr. K. O'Riyan said that the cause of all this was the high salaries.

Mr. O'Leary—The cause is that we don't live within the estimates we pass.

TRIBUTES TO LATE DISTRICT JUSTICE SKINNER AT DUNGARVAN COURT

Before the business at Dungarvan District Court was taken on Wednesday, tributes were paid to the memory of the late District Justice Leo B. Skinner, whose much regretted death occurred recently.

Speaking on behalf of the legal profession, Mr. A. R. Farrell, Solicitor, said that he wished to extend deepest sympathy to the widow and daughter of the late Mr. Skinner on the occasion of his sudden and most unexpected death.

"For all of us," said Mr. Farrell, "this is a very sad occasion as we thought he would be here with us until his retirement next August. We had no idea that he was so ill and it was a great shock to us that he died."

Mr. Farrell went on to say that all the Solicitors regarded the late Mr. Skinner as an excellent Justice and a great friend of the legal profession. During his time on the bench he had always been courteous and very kind to them and he had been patient in the extreme whenever they made mistakes and had always done everything to make things easier for them.

Mr. Farrell added that District Justice Skinner had also helped witnesses in his courts whenever he found it necessary to do so and he never knew him to be nasty or to interfere in the conduct of a case by the legal profession. He was never rude to the solicitors or offensive to witnesses or to members of the Garda Síochána and it was a tribute to his memory that during his period on the bench he had cleared up most of the antiquated type of crimes, such as rows in dance halls, in his whole area.

"Off the bench," said Mr. Farrell in conclusion, "he was a most sociable person and I have an exceptional position in expressing our sorrow to his widow and daughter."

FALLOW COTTIERS FORCED TO DRINK CONTAMINATED WATER

DEPUTATION BEFORE COUNTY COUNCIL

The plight of 25 people including 8 children who live in four cottages situated at Parkdolia, Tallow, and who, despite the fact that there is piped water within half mile of them, are obliged to drink water which has been either condemned or comes from a polluted stream, was reviewed at a quarterly meeting of Waterford County Council in Dungarvan last Tuesday.

The problem was raised by a deputation from the cottiers which was introduced to the Council by local County Councillor, Mr. Declan Aherne. Mr. Aherne told the Council that while in a deputation to a meeting which was one of the last things that he liked doing but in this case he felt there was a grave need. He said that there were 25 people which included eight children living in the four cottages and that about 12 months ago, said Mr. Aherne, the water from a pump which these people were using was condemned and a notice was put up urging them to boil it before it was used.

Since then the water has been allowed to use it. I was invited to a house of a member of the deputation and was given a cup of tea and I found the tea had a peculiar taste and was very bitter. The people are also using water from a stream which flows down from the Kilmal mountains and this is being polluted further up. All the deputation is asking is that they be given an extension from either the Glenwillim piped supply or from the Tallow scheme.

Mr. Michael Tobin, spokesman for the deputation, said that for the water they had to use was very bad and was condemned 12 months ago. They could not drink it or make tea with it and he concluded: "the children haven't a drop of water to drink."

Mr. J. Fahay, T.D., supported the case made on behalf of the deputation and Mr. J. Quirk said that in all fairness to the people concerned, the Council should do something for them by providing the extension they asked for.

ENGINEER'S REPORT
A report from the County Engineer, Mr. J. D. Hally, on the request, stated that the matter would be investigated in due course. It was placed

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The first series of games will be played on Friday night February 13th. Games are as follows—Croft's at home to Ducey's; Park House at home to Elstead's; Downey's at home to Foley's; Collier to game.

The second series of games to be played on Tuesday night February 17th are as follows—Anchor at home to Croft's; Elstead's at home to Downey's; Elstead's at home to Downey's; Foley's no game.

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WATERFORD FAIL TO LAOIS

Laois 4-9, Waterford 2-3

Waterford's hopes of being a force in the current year's Munster Senior Hurling Championship faded considerably at Portlaoise last Sunday when Laois beat them 4-9 to 2-3 in the National Hurling League.

For the home county this was their first win since advancing to this division two years ago, but they certainly deserved it. In a game that was somewhat spoiled by the deplorable conditions, the Waterfordmen, though first to score with a goal and a point inside two minutes could never match the home side. In fact, the further the game advanced, the more evident it became that the Munstermen were completely off form. Never were they able to overcome the wintry conditions.

Showing three changes from the side beaten by Limerick in the previous week's challenge, the majority of their players were completely outclassed by a Laois side that displayed remarkable fitness when one considers that they have been inactive since November last.

Defenders like P. Gigg, J. Dooley and the Mahons, together with forwards like P. Dowling, M. Delaney, G. Conroy and the Kennan brothers, proved far too alert for their Waterford opponents, while E. Moore was at all times the master at midfield. In comparison, Waterford could only look to P. Conroy, M. Gaffney, M. McGrath, M. Hickey, P. Enright, and P. McGovern to show anything like their true form.

Scorers: Laois - E. Keenan (2-1), M. Delaney (1-3), G. Conroy (1-0), T. Keenan (0-3), P. Dowling (0-2). Waterford - P. McGovern and M. Connors (1-0 each), P. Enright (0-2), R. O'Rourke (0-1).

Laois: J. Carroll, W. Delaney, P. Mahon, P. Conroy, P. Gigg, M. Mahon, J. Dooley, E. Moore, D. Sheeran, F. Keenan, P. Dowling, M. Delaney, T. Keenan, G. Conroy, M. O'Connor.

Waterford: M. Foley, S. Walsh, M. Gaffney, M. Conroy, M. O'Rourke, P. Walsh, M. McGrath, M. Connors, M. Hickey, P. Enright, D. Mahon, J. Greene, P. McGovern. Subs. - D. Duggan for Walsh; P. O'Grady for Connors.

BLACKWATER "FISH-IN" WAS PEACEFUL

About 100 placard-carrying protesters staged a public protest meeting on Lismore bridge last Sunday and later took part in a "fish-in" on the River Blackwater, beneath the castle of the Duke of Devonshire, as part of a national campaign mounted by the National Waters Restoration League for the nationalisation of the inland fisheries.

The meeting, supported by the Waterford Comhairle Ceannairde of Sinn Fein, was attended by protesters from North Cork and Waterford city and county, who objected to the Duke of Devonshire holding fishing rights on the Blackwater between Lismore and Fermoy.

There was a large force of gardai on duty, under Supt. Matthew English, Dungarvan, but the protest was an entirely peaceful one. Members of the National Waters Restoration League issued pamphlets to the public which urged the Government to acquire all private inland fisheries, and that these fisheries be then administered by locally-formed co-operative societies to use the profits to develop watershed areas.

A parade was held through the main streets of the town, led by a group carrying a huge banner which stated "Fisheries for the people." Others placards carried slogans such as "The days of the Dukes are over," "The rivers of Ireland for the people of Ireland" and "We demand equal rights and equal opportunities."

At the protest meeting on the bridge, near the castle, where the Duke has been holidaying for the past week, Mr. Sean Kenny, a member of the National Waters Restoration League, said their organisation was set up to fight for the public ownership of privately-owned inland fisheries, like stretches of the river Blackwater, which was one of the best salmon rivers in Ireland.

The Irish people, he said, had the right to public ownership of all inland fisheries. Mr. Sean O'Connell, a member of the executive of the Sinn Fein, and Mr. Sean Walsh, Sinn Fein organiser for Waterford and Kilkenny, also spoke.

Following the meeting, a large contingent converged on the entrance gate to the Duke's demesne and took up various vantage points on the river, where they began fishing.

SENSATIONAL VICTORY FOR THE FRIARY COLLEGE

St. Augustine's 6-8 (Dungarvan) Rockwell 6-0

St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan, took another big step towards Provincial honours when they defeated Rockwell College by 6-8 to 6-0 in the second round of the Colleges Junior Hurling Championship played at the Gaelic Grounds, Clonmel last Saturday.

Conditions were suitable for hurling except for a period of sleet at the beginning, backed by a high wind. During the game the hurling was always exciting to watch.

In the opening quarter, the Friary were the more aggressive side and were ably led by their captain, Michael O'Connor, who hurled his heart out right through. Timmy Sullivan who partnered Michael O'Connor at centre-field scored first for the Friary. It was not long till the twin built-doing company comprised of Aiden Barron and Daithi O'Sullivan in the full-forward line scored some fantastic goals. The fast, lightning strikers in the full-forward line which consisted of Pat O'Mahony, Donal Keary and Michael Dwyer had the Rockwell backs in a state of panic for long periods in the first half. The ball very seldom passed beyond centre-field in the period and on the few occasions it did it was turned to little advantage by the Rockwell forwards, while the Friary backs stood sound.

The half-time score was St. Augustine's 4-5 Rockwell nil.

The second half was much more closely contested and Rockwell came into the picture with the switch of Tom Maloney from the backs to the forward where he did a great amount of fantastic hurling and had four of Rockwell's goals.

The Friary half-back line stood firm in this half and Michael Flynn, the Friary's Mick Roche, was always in command while both wing backs, Sean Treacy and Seamus Hennessy, played the kind of hurling that Jim Treacy and Ted Carroll played in this year's All-Ireland.

The Rockwell backs seemed much sounder in this half and Des Hurley turned in a fine display of hurling at centre-back for Rockwell, while their goalkeeper, though small in stature was big in spirit and made some fine saves. The Friary full-back line was very much inclined to over-play the man rather than the ball but still they showed they were capable of handling the fast moving Rockwell forwards. The Friary forwards were great in this second half and were always ready to snap up half an opportunity. The Friary centre-field pair, without question, were at their brilliant best. There were two tight points between them at the end but if it were not for some give-away twenty-one yard frees, Rockwell would never have come so close. Richard Conde in the Friary goal was sound and gave a good display and was little to blame for any of the goals which passed him.

This was a fine display of hurling by the Friary and perhaps a little disappointing for Rockwell, compared to last year's display. (Report by William Fitzgerald)

CHRONIC BLOGY!

Sister asked the class, "When Our Lady and St. Joseph realised that they had lost the Holy Child, what do you think was the first thing they did?"

Said a wee fellow in the back of the class, "They knelt down and said a prayer to St. Anthony."

PEOPLE'S "RIGHT"

At the protest meeting on the bridge, near the castle, where the Duke has been holidaying for the past week, Mr. Sean Kenny, a member of the National Waters Restoration League, said their organisation was set up to fight for the public ownership of privately-owned inland fisheries, like stretches of the river Blackwater, which was one of the best salmon rivers in Ireland.

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LEATHER WORKERS AT WORK STUDY CONFERENCE



Mr. M. Bohane, Chairman Waterford Branch Irish Work Study Institute (right) chatting with from left: Mr. M. J. O'Sullivan, Mr. S. O'Donnell, and Mr. L. Cody, all from Irish Tanners Ltd., Portlaoise, Mr. M. Brennan, and Mr. J. O'Brien both from Dungarvan Leathers Ltd.

MASS DURING LENT

It is hard work on the farms this weather. They are tilling and preparing the ground for the spring. No one can expect fields full of richly-growing corn unless the labours to get the soil ready and to plant the seed. Now can any person hope to be a worthwhile, generous human being if he doesn't work and pray to make himself one. Before the great and happy spring feast of the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter we have a special time of preparation and work. In Lent we pray and do penance in a special way. We ask God to forgive us our sins, clear away our faults and turn us into generous Christians. In that Lenten time of His life, leading up to Easter Sunday, our Lord suffered and prayed for us. What do you intend to do this Lent? What little toy are you preparing to give up? There are many things we can do for Lent. We can "give things up," of course. We can give up smoking, going to the pictures or to dances. Although this is a negative approach it appears to many Catholics. It is far better than ignoring the holy season altogether. But a positive attitude of doing things for Lent is better still. We can, for example, give our time, effort or money to others. We can visit the sick, assist the old, show more charity to our neighbours. But why not go to daily Mass if we live in a town or city or within reasonable range of a country church?

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The Holy Sacrifice expresses the very purpose and meaning of Lent: during Lent we die in ourselves in order to rise with Christ through grace at Easter. Christ struggled with Satan and the powers of darkness by the very fact that we are members of His Mystical Body we are involved in this fight. At Easter we want to be ready to sing our Alleluia of triumph with our Saviour, but the victory can only be gained by the crucifixion of our natural inclinations. Therefore we must re-live our Saviour's passion with Christ in order to rise with Him as new men at Easter. Christ's passion is the highest motive for a spiritual renewal and it must be, in the sense of St. Paul, revived by us. But the Sacrifice of the Mass re-enacts in our midst the sufferings and death of Christ. As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Cor. xiii, 26). Our daily Mass is a solemn proclamation of our Saviour's death. As often as we gather around the altar we voice

WARBLE FLY ERADICATION

The statutory notification period under the Warble Fly (notification and Treatment) Order, 1967 extends from 1st February to 31st August. During this period owners of cattle are obliged to notify the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or their District Veterinary Officer about any of their animals showing warbles. Affected animals daily notified are treated and certified free of charge. There is a charge of 5/- per animal for treatment where an owner is found to have in his possession cattle which show warble infestation but which had not been notified.

UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE

In some areas quite a high proportion of stock owners have, so far, ignored the notification requirements or have complied with them only when they had animals to sell. This unhelpful attitude is responsible for any local emergence of warble infestation which may have occurred over the past couple of years. Owners of cattle are, accordingly, urged in their own, in their neighbours' and in the national interest to see to it that all animals are regularly examined for warbles, and that affected animals are promptly reported.

YOUNG CITIZEN

The February issue of Young Citizen contains an investigation of the possibility of the eighteen-year-old vote in Ireland. In Britain the age of majority has been reduced to 18 some months ago and two of the political parties whom we talked to in this country, Fine Gael and Labour, favoured a similar change here. This, of course, has already been recommended by the Committee which suggested amendments to the constitution in 1967. Another body which has been championing the cause of the young voter for a number of years is the Association of Municipal Authorities, a body composed mostly of elected members of local councils. A 'Young Citizen' team investigated the figures and estimated that approximately 150,000 young people in Ireland would be affected. They are distributed geographically more or less in similar proportions to the overall population. About half of them are in Leitrim and only one-ninth approximately in Connaught. The team also worked out that on average, some 70 per cent of these acquiring voting rights at 21 (since 1922) had no opportunity to vote in a general election until they were 23. Those born in 1934, 39, or 44 for example were 25 before they voted at a general election. The actual as opposed to the theoretical age at which people acquire voting rights is, therefore, over 21.

Our "SMALLS" Bring "BIG" Results

The investigating team also asked young people's impressions—the vast majority appeared to favour voting at 18 for reasons ranging from the fact that they wonder how seriously older people take their voting obligations to the belief that revolutionary activities could be considerably reduced among young people if they were given a say in the running of the country. Young Citizen has a readership of over 100,000 in Secondary and Vocational Schools throughout the country. It is used in civics classes and generally read by young people in the 12-17 age group.

I.C.A. WATERFORD FEDERATION

What are we going to offer our visitors this year in the way of entertainment. There are ten Guilds in County Waterford racing their brains in an effort to answer this question. The fruits of their labours will be seen on Sunday, 22nd February, in the Mercy Convent Hall, Dungarvan, when Twenty Minutes Entertainment for our "Visitors" will be presented for the Eleanor Gibbon National Trophy beginning at 3 p.m. Guilds will have already been told of their place in the draw, and will have received Marking Sheets, which have also been published in the February issue of our "Irish Countryman" on page 27. If this Competition is to be run off to the satisfaction of all, competing Guilds must be ready to go on at the time appointed. Should any Guilds have to fall out, the earliest possible notice should be sent to the Federation President, otherwise that Guild will be expected to provide some entertainment for their time on the programme. This was agreed at a Federation meeting, Dungarvan T.A. will be our hostesses and will serve teas from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

JUBILEE CUP

Another competition coming up soon is "Question Time" for the Jubilee Cup. All general knowledge experts should be getting ready for this, and it is hoped that every Guild in the Federation will enter for this cup. Closing date for entries will be 18th March, 1970.

BALLYSAGGART NOTES

Macra Na Feirme—Mr. Nicholas Wall, County Organiser, attended the first meeting of the Ballysaggart Branch of Macra na Feirme at the Community Centre on Wednesday, 4th February. There was a very good attendance and everyone seemed most enthusiastic that the branch should be a successful one. Ballysaggart had a branch in the past and in fact about 15 years ago it was one of the most successful and active branches in the county. The officers elected were: Chairman—Mr. Tommy Veale; Vice-Chairman—Mr. David Pennessy; Hon. Secretary—Mr. Jim O'Brien; Assist. do.—Miss Margaret Byrne; Treasurer—Mr. Michael Clancy; P.R.O.—Mrs. Michael Clancy. Delegates to County Executive—Messrs. Tommy Veale, Jim O'Brien and Michael Clancy. Committee—Mrs. S. Walsh, Mrs. Michael Walsh, Mrs. John Pennessy, Mrs. Wm Cunningham, Miss Margaret Byrne, Mrs. Michael Clancy. As a first function it was decided to hold a Question-Time in the Community Centre on 11th March (further details later). The next meeting is on Friday, 13th February at 8.30 p.m. sharp. All members and intending members are invited to attend. Recent Bereavements—Sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. P. J. Fennessey, Coole, on the death of her father, Mr. Michael Garvey, of Dingle, Co. Kerry, to Mr. Wm. Carey, Glenshask, on the death of his wife and to Mrs. Brennan, Cloughan, on the death of her brother-in-law, Mr. James Milieu, Cappoquin. Fianna Fail Social—A large crowd travelled from the area to the West Waterford Fianna Fail dinner and social in Voughall on Thursday night last. A most enjoyable night was had by all. A special bus travelled to the function.

DUNGARVAN BRIDGE CLUB

Winners from Friday 6th February—Miss A. Harkney and Mrs. S. Brennan, 2, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Cusack, Bridge at Lawlors Hotel, on Thursday, 12th February.

The EBS goes decimal

5.5% TAX FREE

Equal to almost 8.5% gross Paid on Shares by the EDUCATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY ASSETS £17.5M

More about decimals Knowing that .5 means a half, how do we find the decimal for a quarter and for three quarters? A quarter is, of course, half of a half. Divide .5 by 2 and we find it. The answer is .25. Remember the point and the fact that you can add ciphers after any decimal. For instance .5 or 10/- can be written as .50 as it will be in our new money system—meaning fifty pence. Three quarters or 15/- can be got by multiplying .25— a quarter— by three, i.e., .75. Thus £1. 5s will be written £1.25 £1. 10s. will be written £1.50 and £1.15s. £1.75 the .25 .50 and .75 in each case standing respectively for 25, 50 and 75 new pence.

E. SPRATT & SON, O'CONNELL ST., DUNGARVAN Head Office, Westinoland St., Dublin 2. Branches or agencies in all the principal towns.

IRISH HOSPITALS' SWEEPSTAKES Full Tickets £1 Quarter Share 5/- from hotels, newsagents etc. Receipts while you wait Ballysaggart Shires Service IRISH SWEEPS LINCOLN Closing date Feb. 27. Run at Doneaster

BALLINAMEELA MACRA NA FEIRME WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL QUESTION TIME In Technical School, Ballinameela On Sun. Feb. 15. Music by Pat Burko

BLUE CROSS RATIONS SOW AND BONHAM RATIONS £39 PER TON COARSE DAIRY MEAL £37-10-0 PER TON. We stock the full range of BLUE CROSS RATIONS. 1 TON LOTS DELIVERED FREE. SPECIAL PRICE FOR BULK LOTS It will pay you to buy your BLUE CROSS RATIONS from: MICHAEL BEECHER General Store, Tallow, Co. Waterford Phone 29

IT'S CHEAPER AT MOLONEYS

CLONMEL PIG MARKET (MUNSTER'S LEADING MARKET) Bacon Pigs, Pork Pigs, Store, Fat Sows and Breeding Sows. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th at 11.30 a.m. Entries to: STOKES & QUIRKE, CLONMEL. Phone 123.

ATTENTION All Farmers For Prompt Collection of all Dead and Disabled Animals—Contact: MICK DUGGAN, Town Parks, Cahir, or Phone Cahir 454—day or night

WAS WINNER AT DUNGARVAN POINT-TO-POINT RACES



Mrs. M. Connors, wife of Mr. Nicholas J. Connors, V.S., Chairman, Dungarvan Harriers Point-to-Point Committee, presenting the trophy to Dr. T. Quane, Limerick, whose horse, Rodrigusa, won the Open Lightweight Race at the Harriers' meeting last week. Sponsors of the race were Arthur Guinness, Son & Company, Ltd., and the photo includes Mr. Sonny Cummins, Area Representative, Guinness Group Sales Ltd.



VITAL CONFERENCE ON E.E.C.

Ireland's re-application for entry to the E.E.C. and the vital impact of an expanded European Community on our agriculture and economy as a whole, has prompted the National Executive of the National Farmers' Association to organise a one-day Conference in Dublin on Thursday, February 19th.

The Conference will take place in the Members' Hall, R.D.S., Ballsbridge. The Conference will be addressed first by Dr. Van Lierde who is one of the foremost authorities in the E.E.C. Head Office in Brussels. Dr. Lierde will speak on "The Farmer and Agriculture in Europe - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

This will be followed by an address by Mr. Rinec Zilstra, President of the Farmers Union of The Netherlands. Mr. Zilstra has been Union President for the past seven years and has represented Dutch farmers in their continuous negotiations and discussions on Common Market implications and decisions on their future as farmers.

The last speaker will be Professor Louis P. F. Smith of U.C.D., who is recognised as an Irish specialist on European agricultural affairs.

The Conference will end with a Question-and-Answer session, when all in attendance will have the opportunity of asking questions which will be answered by one or more of the three-man panel.

An N.F.A. spokesman said representatives from every branch of the Association will attend the Conference, stressing that developments in Europe at the present will have far-reaching effects on every Irish farmer.

CONCERN AT GROWING RATES BURDEN

In the recent weeks he had found deep and growing concern amongst the farming community, in common with all other affected sections, at the increasing rates burden, stemming principally from rising health charges, said the President of the N.F.A., Mr. T. J. Maher in Mullingar.

Mr. Maher, who was addressing the annual meeting of Westmeath Co. Executive, said that the statement by the Minister for Health in the Senate last week, announcing increased support from central funds to reduce the increase in respect of health costs this year, showed that the Government recognised that the rates burden was becoming intolerable and that there would have to be action of some kind.

Mr. Maher said that a breaking point had been reached in some areas and that point had already been passed in more than one area of the country.

Mr. Maher went on: "The Minister for Health has promised that only a 'modest' increase will occur in respect of rates for health this year because of the supplementary sum being provided in the Budget. But the fact remains that the rates will be going up again in most counties. Where is this all going to end? Can the ratepayers ever hope that the rates will be stabilised at some equitable and just level?"

"We must ask ourselves seriously: Are we getting the best possible return for the growing sums being spent each year on the health service? Are we satisfied that there is no waste? Could economies be effected by a greater emphasis on the rationalisation of services especially in the administrative sector?"

"I agree that where lack of means prevents someone paying out of his own pocket for proper medical care, then in this era of the welfare state he is entitled to the best possible treatment that can be given. But just because the money is being provided by the ratepayers or taxpayers should not result in wastage in any sphere of the services. The health bill continues to mount and mount and no one stops to call for an inquiry into whether we are getting full value for money. I think the public is entitled to ask that question now."

POOR TREATMENT OF WHEAT GROWERS

The Irish wheat growers' share of the price of the 2 lb. loaf is only 6d. The other 1/6d. represents the cost of transport, milling and baking and the cost of imported wheat.

Furthermore it is four years since farmers were allowed any increase in the price of their wheat crop. Yet during the same period the price of bread has gone up almost, exactly one third of 6d. per 2 lb. loaf. Indeed, far from getting any increase in price, the net price to the wheatgrower was substantially reduced last year under the operation of the Wheat Levy system, the reduction in the milling quota for Irish wheat could mean a further net price reduction to the

grows this year.

These facts were revealed by N.F.A. President, Mr. T. Maher, when he addressed the Killardea and West Wicklow Rural Organisations annual dinner in Naas.

Mr. Maher said there was surprisingly little public reaction to the recent news of a possible increase of 4d. in the price of the 2 lb. loaf, if present wage demands in the bakery industry were conceded and if the industry succeeded in the claim which it had already made for a rise of 2d. per 2 lb. loaf to meet a "shortfall in profits in the past two years."

The silence which greeted this announcement, was, said Mr. Maher, in sharp contrast to the public outcry of a few years ago when part of an increase, which was then being sought in the price of flour and bread, was blamed on the cost of Irish wheat. It made one wonder why public reaction to a possible price increase appeared to depend so much on who would benefit from it.

Mr. Maher went on: "Another aspect of grain-growing, which deserves much greater recognition than it has been getting, is the significant contribution which it makes to the national economy in terms of import saving. For instance if all grain produced in this country last year, for human consumption and for animal feedings, had to be imported, the cost of payments position would be out of balance to the extent of close on £30 million more than it is."

"Given the necessary encouragement our production of feed grain could improve this import-saving contribution to the extent of a further £7 million or perhaps even £10 million annually. I maintain that this money which now goes on imports would be much better spent on producing more of our feed grain requirements here at home. We are getting very poor value for much of this expenditure on imports. I refer in particular to the deplorable quality of imported material, for which we pay approximately £2 million a year."

"I hold that the Government must now take action on grain prices for 1970 having regard to the heavy increase in costs which growers have had to absorb over the past few years. There is indeed every indication that the burden of costs this year will be far in excess of anything which we have experienced up to now."

"We cannot overlook either the interests of the feeders. As I see it, the interest of both grain growers and feeders are complementary rather than contradictory and they are certainly not irreconcilable. This will become even more apparent than it is now in the context of Irish membership of an expanded E.E.C. when cereals at artificially-depressed world prices will no longer have access to this country."

SERIOUS EFFECTS OF DROP IN SHEEP NUMBERS

The decline in the national sheep flock numbers in recent years is a matter of very grave concern not alone to producers but to all those directly or indirectly engaged in the industry. This was stated by the President of the N.F.A., Mr. T. J. Maher, speaking at the annual dinner of the Irish Wool Federation in Dublin.

Mr. Maher said that unfortunately this fall in sheep numbers of approximately one million, which occurred between 1965 and 1968, had developed at a time when markets and demand for mutton and lamb had been fairly good.

These engaged in the processing industry were agreed that it was possible at this time to sell much greater quantities on the export markets and the forecast for the future held considerable promise.

On the processing side of the industry considerable progress had been made through expansion and modernisation of meat factories. With a falling sheep population, it was very doubtful if the capacity of these plants could be fully utilised.

"To those engaged in the wool sector, the alarming drop in sheep numbers must have very serious effects. How, I ask, can merchants and exporters plan adequately for the future, as plan they must, if the source of their raw material is steadily drying up? From the producers' point of view the price they receive for their wool is of paramount importance. The income from wool can make a very serious difference in assessing profit and loss on a flock of sheep."

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What better gift than could be offered to these emigrants than an annual subscription for the Leader. Just send us the name and address and we will look after it each week regularly during the coming year.

WARBLE FLY (NOTIFICATION AND TREATMENT) ORDER, 1967

FARMERS

CHECK your cattle regularly for signs of warble infestation from early February onwards and NOTIFY the Department or your District Veterinary Office of any warbled cattle in your herd.

TREATMENT AND CERTIFICATE ARE FREE for affected animals duly notified to the Department.

A CHARGE of 5/- per animal will be made for treatment where an owner is found to have in his possession cattle which show warble infestation but which had not been notified.

FAILURE TO NOTIFY WARBLER ANIMALS OR MOVING SUCH ANIMALS WITHOUT A CURRENT TREATMENT CERTIFICATE OR LICENCE RENDERS THE OWNER LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.



EVEN THE PIGS NEED COMFORT

The Department of Agriculture recently brought out a new leaflet dealing with the housing of pigs. It emphasises the importance of good housing in rearing healthy pigs.

There is no doubt that the standard of pig housing in this country is extremely poor. Although it seems that the last couple of years has seen a big improvement, particularly in the number of pig fattening units that have been established, this is no doubt due in large measure to the grants and loans that are available.

The big question frequently asked is whether it is best to convert existing housing for pigs or whether it is better in the long run to start and build new housing from scratch.

Each case has really to be examined on its merits. In either case the basic conditions must be provided. They include firstly: an even temperature - the actual temperature should be about 60-70 degrees F. but it is important that it does not actually fluctuate from 60-70 degrees F. Where the litter is very young, especially that which can be up to 80 degrees F. in the green area around the sow.

Secondly: ventilation. Big units frequently have mechanical means of controlling this but even without these, ventilation can be attained.

Some control over ventilation can be achieved by the use of condensation and this helps to keep the house dry.

draught and damp conditions cause excessive heat to be carried off by the pigs. This reduces the food conversion ratio and makes the pigs more susceptible to disease. Pneumonia or scours occur far more frequently where housing conditions are poor and in these circumstances are also harder to control.

Most of us are much more aware now than we were a few years ago about the importance of the use of cavity walls or cavity bricks in universally adopted, as for animal houses as well as for human houses, in order to reduce central heating costs we are bombarded with information about double-glazing, roof insulation, wall insulation and so on.

All of this even if we do not carry it to the extreme of double-glazing our pig houses, brings the message of insulation to us, causing certainly any one going into pig production is very aware of the importance of getting good advice on the insulation, whether for an existing house or a new one. If any one considers insulation not to be important then he would be well advised to consider some other way of making money.

In old houses for example, excellent roof insulation can be achieved by the use of straw, either loose or in bales, so that great expense is not necessarily involved. The recommended area per pig is eight square feet.

Of course, all of what has been said about pig housing applies to all types of housing, but at least the basic requirements are the same, although the requirements of individual animals vary.

Finally, one of the most important considerations in any animal house is the labour factor. Routine operations such as cleaning and feeding should be done as easily and as quickly as possible and with the least amount of disturbance to the animals.

Particularly, where pigs are bought in for fattening it is very important to distinguish pens between batches of pigs. We would like to hear from you about the pig and Bacon Commission provide a helpful and

WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Orders made: by Mr. C. A. O'Connor, Waterford County Manager, have made the following appointments to the County Council.

Engineers - Mr. T. M. Keenan, B.E., appointed temporary Assistant County Engineer for a further period of six months from January 1.

Mr. J. Shine, B.E., appointed temporary Chief Assistant County Engineer (Planning) for a further period of six months from same date.

Mr. T. A. Walsh, B.E., appointed temporary Assistant County Engineer for a further period of six months from January 15.

Housing - That vacancy for the post of Staff Officer, Housing Section, caused by the retirement of Mr. E. J. Keyes, be advertised and Mr. James Power to be appointed Acting Staff Officer for a period of three months from January 30 or until such time as the vacancy is filled permanently.

Temporary Clerks - That in accordance with the recommendation of the County Accountant, Mr. F. J. O'Leary, the following be employed for the supplement of Rates: Mr. Maurice McGrath, Mr. Thomas Crotty, Mr. E. J. Keyes, Mrs. Alys Walsh, Mrs. Mary Butler, Mr. William Gambon, Mr. Ambrose Bell, Mr. Maurice Whelan, Miss Monica Noonan, Mrs. Norcen O'Flaherty, Miss Ann Wade, Miss Myra Fitzgerald.

Dungarvan Premier Pigeon Club

The above held their Annual General Meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday night last. Mr. J. M. Keenan, who was elected unanimously.

A most successful past year was reported by the Hon. Secretary Mr. P. Power, and Mr. J. Fraher announced that the club was in a fairly good financial position.

The club will be stronger than ever this season as several new members have joined.

All members regret the announcement that Mr. P. Noonan who was a founder member of the club had decided to give up pigeon racing due to ill-health and all hope that he will at least retain his keen interest in the sport.

Another general meeting will be held shortly as soon as the Hon. Secretary receives the Agenda for the Munster Federation meeting which will be held in Cork.

Officers for the season are as follows: - President - Mr. M. Phelan; Chairman - J. Woods; Hon. Secretary - P. Power; Treasurer - J. Fraher.

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G.A.A. Club's Annual Social



Pictured at the Annual Dinner and Social of the Dungarvan G.A.A. Club, Antrim, held recently at the Devonshire Arms Hotel, Dungarvan, are Rev. J. F. Morrissey, C.C. President of the Club with members of the Committee.

Tallow and Round About Notes

West Waterford Fianna Fail Dinner and Social

Upwards of 270 attended the West Waterford Fianna Fail Dinner and Social held at the Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youngs on Thursday night, February 5th.

Guests on the occasion were Mr. J. Gibbons, Minister for Defence, Mr. Noel Davern, T.D., and Mrs. Davern, Mr. Jackie Fahy, T.D., Mr. John Kennedy, Minister of Commerce and Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. Declan Aherne, M.C.C., Mr. James Quirk, Mr. George Armstrong, Secretary, Mr. Noel Davern, T.D., and Mr. Jackson.

After dinner speeches were delivered by the Minister for Defence, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. James Quirk, Mr. George Armstrong, Mr. Noel Davern, T.D., and Mr. Jackson.

A very enjoyable dance followed to the music of the local Garda Sergeants' band. The largest attendance at any social yet held by the West Waterford Fianna Fail and the Committee.

The social was also a well-known athlete. He worked as a baker in London for a number of years. Dick, as he

1965. The function was held at the Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youngs.

Presentations were made at separate functions by the Youngs Youth Club and Youngs Sea Anglers Club.

Outside his duty Sergeant Gurly did trojan work for the town. He was a founder member of the Youngs Youth Club and helped to provide a premises for it. He was also a keen member of Youngs Show M.C.C. Mr. James Quirk, Mr. George Armstrong, Secretary, Mr. Noel Davern, T.D., and Mr. Jackson.

He was most popular with all members of the community and was very popular with his fellow members of the Garda Force who presented him with a canteen of cutlery to mark his departure. He is replaced at Youngs by Sergeant W. Doyle.

The Late Mr. R. Forrest, Youngs and London - His many friends in Youngs and surrounding areas learned with deep regret of the death in a London Hospital, recently of Mr. Richard Forrest, of Church Street, in his youth he was a keen cyclist and competed at sports meetings all over the South of Ireland. He was also a well-known athlete. He worked as a baker in London for a number of years. Dick, as he

was known to all was everybody's friend, and his death at a comparatively early age is deeply mourned.

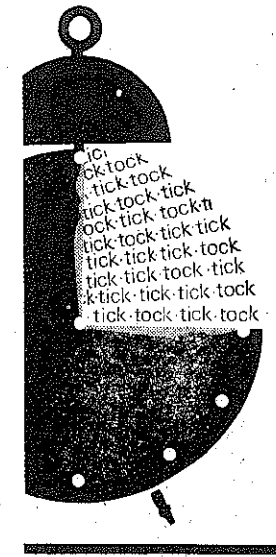
The remains were flown to Cork Airport and the funeral took place from St. Mary's Church, Youngs, on Friday, February 13th, at 11 o'clock. The Rev. J. F. Morrissey, C.C. officiated. They have a new rich sound with bright young men and are recapturing the glory of other days. Des Kelly, the founder of the Capital, still retains an interest in the band. He says "this Capital is the best we've ever had. They proved that in the ballrooms."

Congratulations On Engagement - Congratulations to Mr. Thomas Kelly, Coillbeg, Tallow, whose engagement was recently announced to Miss Kitty Daly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Daly, Quinn's Terrace, Youngs. Thomas is son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, Chapelwoman's Collection - The collection for the chapelwoman at the Church of the Holy Cross, Kiltewerny will be held on Sunday next, February 15th. The miserable pittance subscribed to this collection every year does not half compensate for the amount of work put into the job of keeping the church clean and tidy and everyone we feel sure will agree that the church is kept in a very clean condition. Let us hope

TRUE WISDOM

Don't be what you ain't. Jes' be what you are. If you is not what you am, then you am not what you is. If you're jes' a little tadpole, don't try to be a frog. If you are only jes' the fat, don't try to wag the dog. If you're jes' a little pebble, don't try to be the beach. Jes' be what you is. Don't be what you ain't.

The trouble with a lot of people who resort to prayer is they use it only as a last resort.



FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY

is the closing date for the IRISH SWEEPS Lincoln

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