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APPRECIATION

The Late Maurice J. O'Shaughnessy

(BY A LIFE-LONG FRIEND.)

Scarcely in living memory has a death occurred at Glin more generally regretted or more deeply felt by personal friends than that of Maurice J. O'Shaughnessy. Though born at Ballyanne, Rathkeale, son of the late Thomas O'Shaughnessy, one of a well-known and widespread family in County Limerick, he came early to Glin, his mother, an O'Shaughnessy, too, being a member of the Jointer family. He attended Glin Boys School and there laid the foundation of many lasting friendships. On leaving school he took up the drapery business of a brother who went to join other brothers in San Francisco. From that on he was closely identified with Glin social life and its various activities. He soon became an outstanding member of the Glin Emmets, the local football club, founded in 1898, which was noted not only for its high standard of football but for its spirit of sport and fair play. It was a team of giants and athletes who played a strong, fast game but never descended to disorder. Maurice J. O'Shaughnessy was then regarded as one of the very best centre-field players in all Ireland. He was of splendid physique and was a sight worth seeing as he ranged the field, for he gave "centre-field" a very wide interpretation. He was then also secretary to many social and sporting events and undertakings. He was soon elected secretary of the Glin Club, a position he held for many years. This was a purely social club of a wide and influential membership and of which there are many happy memories.

He was also one of the founders of the Glin Coursing Club, which held some highly successful meetings. He acted as secretary for many years and it is to him mainly the Club's success was due. He owned and bred some high-class greyhounds, winners of important stakes, and Nap, Nutcracker and Orange Lily are remembered after thirty years. In later days and up to his actual decease he was a successful breeder with such dogs as Shannon Shore, Shannon Sweeper, Shannon Whaler, Shannon Chimies, etc., and was secretary to the revived Club till increasing official business caused his regretted retreat. But though he made many warm friends through sport and social amenities, there was another side of his life and activities. He was Clerk to the Glin District Council while still quite young and showed a business-like ability and a knowledge of Local Government procedure which was freely recognised by brother officials in the county. After the dissolution of the Rural District Councils he was for a time road foreman, and while always getting good work well done he specially endeared himself to the labourers. Every man got his due share of employment, no matter how humble or otherwise unfriended, subject always to the fact that married men with families got preference. In that intimate connection with the workers his natural charity and generosity came into full play, and he constantly gave, where needed, advances out of his own pocket and many a well-placed charitable gift that only his most intimate friends knew of. Indeed, he organised and took an active part in some parish collections for general as well as special relief, and his own personal donation was only once exceeded. These are the acts and such are the evidences of his personality that made Maurice J. O'Shaughnessy at once the most highly respected and the most genuinely beloved of the townsmen of Glin in this generation. He was big in every way, but above all in giving. It is remarkable, too, that not only did he make early and fast friends in Glin, some of whom live to bitterly deplore his loss, but he was on terms of good understanding and affectionate friendship with many of the young men of the present day, for there was a something in him, an evident goodness of heart and kindness of disposition, which attracted and held the regard of all who came in contact with him. His giant frame in its solid oak coffin was no small burden, but it was willingly shouldered by relays of young men all the way from the Parish Church to Kilfergus Burial Ground in storm, rain and sleet.

Maurice J. O'Shaughnessy combined many business activities and was successful in all. He was a rate collector, cottage rent collector, and latterly paymaster on the bog schemes. In all these capacities the members of the public met with kindness and consideration. He was not ostentatious in his professions, but was soundly national in the family tradition as became the nephew of "John the Fenian" of Ardagh and of Charles O'Shaughnessy of Kilfinane, six of whose "young men" were out in '67. He was an early Sinn Feiner and headed the poll at a ballot election of committee of the Glin Volunteers after 1916. His wife, an accomplished lady who pre-deceased him, was a member of the well-known patriotic family—the Colberts of Atha.

RURAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

On Saturday, at a meeting of Limerick County Committee of Agriculture, Mr. D. Power, Co.C., presiding.

The C.A.O. said that he had received a letter from An Taoiseach's department...

AGRICULTURE

Limerick County Committee

Mr. D. Power, Co.C., presided at a meeting of Limerick County Committee of Agriculture in Limerick on Saturday. The other members present were:—Senator D. J. Madden, Co.C.; Messrs. J. McCormack, Co.C.; R. M. Clery, Co.C.; D. McAuliffe, Co.C.; J. J. McNamara, Co.C.; D. P. Quish, Co.C.; J. Fitzsimons, Co.C.; C. Ryan, Co.C.; J. W. Gandy, Chairman, Co.C.; P. H. Donegan, Co.C.; P. Langan, Co.C.; T. O'Connell, Co.C.; P. O'Connor, Co.C.; P. F. O'Shaughnessy, Co.C. Mr. M. Gleeson, C.A.O., was in attendance.

The C.A.O. stated that he had received a letter from the Department in connection with the National Ploughing Championships at Ballinasloe, intimating that the expenses of ploughmen would be paid. The C.A.O. added that an allocation of £20 had been already made by the Committee.

The Chairman asked did they send competitors last year.

The C.A.O. said that they did not send any last year, but they would probably be sending them this year.

Chairman—How will the expenses be met?

C.A.O.—The expenses come out of the allocation made for ploughing matches.

In reply to Senator Madden, who asked what representation the Committee had at the national championships.

The C.A.O. said that the County Committee had the nomination of a person.

The C.A.O. mentioned that a letter had been received last September from the County Vocational Committee offering the use of their schools for lectures by the staff of the Agricultural Committee, and a letter had since been received from the Department stating that these arrangements had been made.

Mr. McCormack—I propose that we approve of that. It is a step in the right direction. The Vocational and Agricultural Committees almost stand for the same thing.

Mr. Clery—We are glad to know that there are happy relations between the officers of the Committees.

Mr. McAuliffe said that the attitude was to make the rich man richer, and the poor man poorer.

The Chairman in a reference to the managerial system said that it was a very strange thing to see two inquiries going on in the twenty-six counties at present.

The discussion ended. The C.A.O. said he had received a letter from the Department giving £2,800 for the lime subsidy scheme. This was £200 of an increase on last year, and amounted to £4,000 altogether.

The C.A.O. said that he had received a reply to the Committee's resolution asking for the suspension of the Livestock Breeding Act in so far as it applied to ordinary type of cross-bred shorthorn bull, in which the Minister said that it would be retrograde. The resolution had been adopted by only three Committees and did not find favour with the majority.

"A piece of irony," commented Senator Madden. "When the will of the people suits them look how they use it. It was a pity the other Committees did not see the wisdom of our resolution."

Chairman—I think very few counties are as interested in cattle breeding as Limerick.

Mr. McAuliffe said that he had already spoken about the proposal of the Railway Company to take over the lorries. This was very unfair, and the Committee should protest against it. There were poor unfortunate people in the country who had gone to the banks to buy lorries and now these were being thrown aside. "They might as well go out with guns and shoot the people," said Mr. McAuliffe, adding that none of the Limerick Senators or T.D.s had protested against it, but they would come around and ask for votes. "I think," he said, "it is a proper disgrace. A bloody racket I call it."

Chairman—We have our duty done about that. There was a resolution passed.

Mr. Quish—I think it is a disgrace to wipe out these people.

Mr. McAuliffe—Unfortunate people are making their living out of these lorries.

Senator Madden said that he could not allow Mr. McAuliffe to make an attack on the Senators and T.D.s as they had not always the jurisdiction to stand up and make a protest, and there were only certain times when they could introduce a matter like this. He thought that since the advent of national government the whole atmosphere had been dictatorial, the inclination had been to centralise, and it was tending every day to tyranny. If this thing went on in a few years it would lead to totalitarianism. They had evidence now of where an industry in the City of Dublin was being grabbed and taken over by the Government without any reasons being given to the people. He quite agreed with Mr. McAuliffe that it was wrong to invade the rights of these people.

The question was not further discussed.

Other matters before the meeting will be found reported under separate headings.

WHEAT, FLOUR, BOOTS AND BEET

Points in relation to the above were raised at a meeting of the Limerick County Committee of Agriculture...

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