

DARK SHADOW OF TRAGEDY

Mars Glory Of Great Motor Race

INQUEST STORY

Deep Sympathy

The tragic fate of the Duke of Grafton, one of the competitors in the great International Motor Race in Limerick on Monday, threw a dark shadow on a fixture that was in all other respects a magnificent success.

The shocking occurrence caused the deepest sorrow, and the sympathy of the citizens of all classes goes out in full measure to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

The mother of the dead Duke arrived in Limerick from England yesterday and received many condolences on her great tribulation.

How the fatal accident occurred was told at the inquest held in Barrington's Hospital yesterday and afterwards the remains of the deceased were conveyed by road to Dun Loaghaire to catch the mail boat for Holyhead.

THRILLS IN PLENTY

Witnessed By Huge Crowd

The Limerick International Grand Prix Motor Race held on Monday was painfully marred by a fatal accident, the victim being the 22-years old Duke of Grafton.

While on the 1st lap of the race the Duke's car got out of control at the junction of Roxboro' and Sexton Street and skidded for a distance of 60 yards before dashing into a wall, when it burst into flames. The horrified spectators, many of whom collapsed, saw the Duke lying on the roadway, a mass of flames.

The race itself was the most successful ever run by the I.M.R.C. there being an intensity of thrills from start to finish. There was only 16 seconds between the first and second cars.

The winner was A. Hutchinson, of Belfast, driving Mr. J. W. Patterson's car. He obtained a lead shortly after the start of the race, and held it to the finish. Austin Dobson, driving an E.R.A., put up a strong challenge and finished second, while the fact that he had to retire lost the Prince of Siam a reasonable chance of winning.

LAP RECORD BROKEN MANY TIMES

The lap record was broken many times by Dobson and "Bira," the former eventually setting up a new one at 73.34 m.p.h.

The Alfa-Romeo that won last year's race put up a good performance, but Paddy Lake failed to retire with clutch trouble when well placed near the end of the race. Before him went "Bira," with locking brakes, and this left the race to a duel between Dobson and Hutchinson.

The thrills were mostly provided at the corners. Tooley (Ford) turned completely round in a skid, and T. P. Cholmondeley Tapper, in a Maserati, went up on the William Street pavement. He had a remarkable escape.

A crowd estimated at 40,000 witnessed this terrific and gruelling race and there could be no doubt of the success of the Limerick Grand Prix.

Mrs. Wisdom, one of the lady drivers, was unlucky not to finish and qualify for a plaque, for she was only 26 secs. behind when the race was declared closed. The other lady driver—Miss Ellison—handed over to her reserve driver—Mr. Tapper—half-way through the race.

RESULTS.

- 1.—A. Hutchinson, 939 c.c. M.G., 2 hrs. 56 mins. 55 secs., speed 57.14 m.p.h.
- 2.—A. C. Dobson, 1,488 c.c. E.R.A., 2 hrs. 10 mins. 12 secs., 69.69 m.p.h.
- 3.—Percy Macquart, 1,069 c.c. Riley, 2 hrs. 13 mins. 45 secs., 63.39 m.p.h.
- 4.—C. H. W. Manders, 1,645 c.c. Adler, 2 hrs. 16 mins., 57.44 m.p.h.
- 5.—Sir A. W. MacRobert, 1,037 c.c. M.G., 2 hrs. 19 mins. 24 secs., 60.37 m.p.h.
- 6.—Miss Ellison and Cholmondeley Tapper, 2,998 c.c. Maserati, 2 hrs. 20 mins. 22 secs., 63.93 m.p.h.
- 7.—P. N. Whitehead, 1,488 c.c. E.R.A., 2 hrs. 20 mins. 24 secs., 64.64 m.p.h.
- 8.—J. Tooley, 933 c.c. Ford, 2 hrs. 21 mins. 3 secs., 53.99 m.p.h.
- 9.—D. Yule, 972 c.c. C.M.Y. Special, 2 hrs. 24 mins. 45 secs., 51.29 m.p.h.
- 10.—(Outside time limit)—Mrs. Wisdom, 1,496 c.c. Riley, 2 hrs. 30 mins. 22 secs., 57.06 m.p.h.

Macquart won the 1,100 c.c. class. Dobson the 2,000 c.c. class, and Miss Ellison and Cholmondeley Tapper the over 2,000 c.c. class.

At a dance held in the Stella Ballroom on Monday night the Mayor (Ald. D. Bourke, T.D.) presented the prizes to the successful competitors. As President of the Race Committee, he congratulated each, and said the event had provided great enjoyment to the citizens, but he regretted the fatal accident to the Duke of Grafton, and offered on behalf of the citizens sympathy with the relatives.

THE ARRANGEMENTS.

The arrangements for the race were as perfect as they could be. Hundreds of marshals, Civic Guards, military and observers lined the entire course, ready at a moment's notice to carry out their own special jobs.

FIRST AID SECTION.

Catholic Boy Scouts were everywhere on duty as first-aid men, and in this connection it must be stated that they rendered invaluable services in Sexton Street when the Duke of Grafton and five spectators were injured. Their coolness and promptitude with which they went to the aid of the injured, were very creditable. In O'Connell Avenue and O'Connell Street members of the St. John Ambulance Corps were on duty, so that every possible facility of first aid was available should the necessity arise.

INQUEST ON DUKE.

At Barrington's Hospital yesterday Mr. J. S. McNeice, City Coroner, held an inquest touching on the circumstances of the death of John Fitzroy, 9th Duke of Grafton.

examine every car before it could take part in the practices or races. He examined the Duke's car on Friday, and paid particular attention to the brakes and steering. They were in perfect condition. He examined the wrecked car that morning, and found that the right-hand side of the car, on the right-hand side, was badly bent, roughly about 18 ins. There was a distinct mark on the hub cap, which showed it must have struck something. He examined the brake connections and linings, and they were still in perfect condition. He thought it was pretty obvious that the petrol tank came in contact with the wall, and the fuel spilled on the red-hot exhaust pipe and ignited. In such a contingency the car would become completely enveloped in flames.

SHOCK AND HEART FAILURE.

Dr. W. J. O'Sullivan said the deceased died from shock and heart failure, following extensive petrol burns.

Hugh Caruthers Massey, Hazelhurst, Swave, Hampshire, England, said he was a personal friend of the deceased, whom he accompanied to Limerick. Witness was his pit representative and spoke to him before the race. Witness went to the scene of the accident and accompanied the deceased in the ambulance to the hospital. He identified the remains as those of John Fitzroy, 9th Duke of Grafton, with whom witness went to Cambridge. Deceased did not suffer from any physical disability, but wore glasses. These gave him normal vision, and when racing he wore the same lenses in racing goggles. His ordinary vision would not be normal.

Dr. S. McDonagh said he examined the deceased on the course and had him removed to hospital. Burns completely covered his body, and he was in a bad state of collapse. He remained conscious up to a short time before death. In his opinion death was due to shock and collapse following extensive petrol burns.

CAR AND DUKE IN FLAMES.

T. E. O'Donnell, solicitor, Limerick, said he was section marshal at number 2 section, which included the scene of the accident. He saw the Duke's car, and after coming through the bend it left the track. After going about ten yards it skidded slightly, and the back portion struck the pier at the entrance to the Christian Schools. Simultaneously it burst into flames, and then travelled 40 or 50 yards, more or less on the footpath. The footpath from the place of impact to where the car came to rest was one sheet of flame. Everything possible was done to render the deceased first aid.

Albert Bennett, 11, James Street, Limerick, said he was a marshal at the race, and was near the Duke's car when it came through the bend, skid and strike the wall. It then burst into flames. Witness ran up immediately and turned a fire extinguisher on it. The Duke was lying in flames about three feet from the car, and appeared to be badly burned. He said: "I am all right. I am not too bad." He had no clothes on him, as they had been burnt off. Deceased walked a yard and witness helped him on to a stretcher, which he was removed to the Shell petrol yard. Dr. Molony then came on the scene. Witness put bandages on the deceased's arms, which he told witness not to lift too high. Deceased was then removed to hospital.

Brother Patrick K. Ennis, Christian Schools, Limerick, said he was in the car, looking at the race. He saw the Duke's car come through the bend, travelling at from 40 to 60 miles an hour. The car bumped before taking the bend. It skidded and the driver turned to the left, when it skidded in the opposite direction. It then crashed into the wall and EVERYTHING IN ORDER.

In reply to Mr. Ennis, who was President of the I.M.R.C. and was Clerk of the Course for the Limerick Race. He had to see that the conduct of the competition was proper in every respect, and each competitor was required to qualify in practice by doing at least 3 laps, one of at least 45 miles per hour. The deceased completed 10 laps, eight of which were well above the qualifying speed. It was a very serious test—the qualifying test—and properly carried out. Three drivers, who did not qualify, were not allowed start in the Limerick Race.

What would cause the car to bump was there any obstruction?—Nothing more than the ordinary hazard road race drivers must be prepared to meet.

Mr. Ryan—The conditions for the race were in fact much better than those obtaining during the trial?—Yes.

And the Duke had proved himself a competent driver in the trials?—Yes.

What was the cause of the jury's verdict in accordance with the evidence, and that the deceased died as a result of an accident while motor racing.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY.

The Coroner said it was a very sad case and they were all deeply sorry that the young nobleman and sportsman should meet his death in this way. He had known him as a sportsman to the very last, for although he was suffering intensely he did not grumble once. On behalf of the citizens and the country as a whole he (the Coroner) wished to extend deep sympathy to the relatives.

Mr. Fox expressed the sympathy of the L.M.R.C., who deeply deplored the death of the young Duke.

Mr. Ryan tendered the condolence of the local committee, and Inspector Brazil, on behalf of the authorities and the Garda Force as a whole.

Dr. C. B. Molony, Chief Medical Officer to the Race Committee, said they were very sorry that their best efforts had proved unavailing.

Dr. McDonagh and the foreman of the jury also joined in the vote of sympathy.

Mr. Massey, on behalf of the relatives and friends of the deceased, returned thanks.

AT HALF-MAST.

The Tri-Colour over the City Hall was yesterday flown at half-mast, symbolising the sympathy of the citizens.

REMOVAL OF REMAINS.

Immediately after the inquest at Barrington's Hospital the funeral of the late Duke of Grafton left by road for Dun Loaghaire to catch the mail boat for Holyhead at nine o'clock last night.

The coffin was covered with wreaths of natural flowers. These were from the mother of the deceased nobleman, Lady Gavin Hume Gore; Major Gavin Hume Gore, of the Irish Motor Racing Club, and the Limerick Motor Race Committee.

COMPETITORS LEAVE.

The competitors in the International motor car race left the city last evening. They expressed themselves as being greatly pleased with their visit and with the welcome extended them, as well as

BRIQUETTE FACTORY

Interesting Project

FIRST STEP TAKEN

A move has been inaugurated with a view to having a briquette factory set up in connection with the Newport and Castleconnell bogs.

This was the upshot of a meeting of the Newport Co-Operative Turf Society held at Bunkey.

Mr. Stephen McKeogh presided at the meeting, and the following members of the committee were also present: Messrs. Sean O'Carroll, John Lenthall, D. Sheppard, M. O'Sullivan, P. Tierney; and the Secretary, Mr. James Wixted.

A vote of sympathy was passed to the relatives of the late Chairman, Mr. D. F. Hayes.

Mr. Timothy Sheehy, M.C.C., was appointed to fill the vacant position occasioned by Mr. Hayes's death.

LETTER FROM LAND COMMISSION.

The Secretary read the following letter, which Mr. M. Ryan, T.D., had received from the Irish Land Commission:

"With reference to your letter of the 17th ult., addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary, inquiring as to the position of the proceedings for acquisition of the Mackey and O'Connor estates, we wish to inform you that the Land Commission are about to have a scheme for the division of the Cloon Commons on the Mackey estate prepared, but until this scheme has been completed and settled it will not be possible to say when the land will be divided.

The Land Commission recently instituted proceedings for the acquisition of the lands at Annahotry, the property of the late P. J. O'Connor, but at present it is not possible to say when these lands will be divided.

"VERY GOOD NEWS."

The Chairman said that it was very good news to hear that the bogs were to be taken over and divided by the Land Commission. He advised the Society to make application for the building of a peat briquette factory, as the bogs are centrally situated, being on the main Dublin-Limerick road and only a short distance from Castleconnell and Birdhill railway stations.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Limerick and Tipperary T.D.s with a view to having this project pushed forward.

It was mentioned that the Society was prepared to purchase from three to four hundred tons of turf immediately.

ESTEEMED FIGURE

FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEAD

The death of Mr. Bartholomew C. Collins, of Kingslake, Abbeyfeale, occurred on Tuesday evening after a tedious illness, and the announcement caused general regret amongst his numerous relatives and throughout West Limerick and adjoining Kerry (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent). Mr. Collins was the first member for his division elected at the institution of the Limerick County Council, and he carried the confidence of the electors in that position until failing health compelled him to retire. In his time no more popular or conscientious member assisted in the work of his county administration, and few commanded more respect in the Council. He retained completely to the end the confidence and respect of the public of every class and shade of opinion. A nationalist of honest, independent convictions, he never hesitated to express them. Generosity was the outstanding mark of his character. There was no more generous contributor towards the national movements of his time, and he occupied a prominent position in the estimation of the poor. Few who stood in need of his services or his aid appealed to him in vain. His death is very widely and sincerely regretted, and by none more so than the few of his old fellow members of the Council still left to mourn his passing. His widow, Mrs. Collins, has the sympathy of many in her bereavement.

REWARD OF FAITH

A REMARKABLE STORY

A little girl's faith in Our Lady of Lourdes has been rewarded by a vast improvement in her sight, which failed almost completely two years ago.

The girl, Bridget O'Farrell, aged 12, of Barna Lodge, Clonmel, accompanied the recent Irish Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Following a visit to the shrine, it is reported that her sight was improved to such an extent that she was enabled to read printed type. Since her birth her sight was weak and the defect became more pronounced following an attack of measles five years ago. Two years ago it became worse still, and the child was deterred from reading, writing or sewing, according to her mother. She went to Lourdes firmly believing that she would be cured. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger O'Farrell, and had been studying the Braille system for blind for some time.

LOUIS DE COURCEY'S LAND SALES

On Tuesday last Mr. Louis de Courcy, Auctioneer, Clonlara, offered for sale by auction the farm, with thatched house, situated at Ballyear South, Ardaraunrisha, for the rems. of James Dooley, deceased. Area, 11 acres 3 rods 39 perches. Statute measure; annuity to the L.L.C., £10 6s. 6d.; P.L.V., £3. Bidding opened at £40, and after spirited and brisk competition reached £210 and auction fees, at which figure it was knocked down to Mr. John Moloney, Ballycar. Mr. Noel P. Shep. sold, 56 O'Connell Street, Limerick, had carriage of sale. Satisfactory prices were also realised at the clearance sale which followed.

FIANNA FAIL SYMPATHY

At the monthly meeting of the Joseph O'Donoghue Cumann of Fianna Fail, held on August 2, on a motion by Mr. Jeremiah Keen (chairman), seconded by Mr. John Boland, a vote of sympathy was passed with the Mayor, Alderman D. Bourke, T.D., on the death of his brother, who died in the U.S.A.

the enjoyment they got out of the race. All the competitors, needless to say, were much distressed at the fate of the Duke of Grafton and expressed the most sincere sympathy with the bereaved relatives.

TURNED ON AGAIN!

Supply That Was Cut Off

USERS HELP THEMSELVES

How a public water supply that was cut off was turned on again by some of the parties affected was described at a meeting of the County Limerick Board of Health on Friday of last week, Mr. Michael Ryan, Co.C., Chairman, presiding. The County Water Inspector, Mr. G. McAuliffe, submitted a report on the Doon water supply, and stated that in accordance with the instructions of the Board he had cut off the supply from the premises of those people in the village who had refused to pay water rent.

TURNED ON LATER.

Subsequently he visited some of these people and found the water had been turned on. He also received information that practically all of those cut off turned on the water in his absence. He considered it would be a good idea to cut the connecting pipes to these houses, but as the street was concreted that would be rather expensive. Something, however, should be done at once as the people who were paying would probably refuse to do so next September on the grounds that the other people had water for nothing.

TWENTY USERS NOT PAYING.

The report added that there was a total of 31 houses connected. Of these 11 people were paying and 20 were not. The matter was referred to the Law Advisor to take proceedings against the people in question.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

LIMERICK FINAL DECLARED OFF

The 1935 senior football final (Ahane v. Abbeyfeale) fixed for Rathkeale on Sunday next has been declared off. This decision has been taken by the County Board as a result of Limerick winning the Munster hurling final on Sunday, qualifying to meet Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final on 16th inst., and the fact that the Ahane football selection includes a number of prominent county hurlers.

THE AMERICA CUP

ANOTHER BRITISH CHALLENGE

Britain has sent a challenge for the America Cup. It was despatched by the Royal Yacht Squadron, Gower, yesterday, to the New York Yacht Club.

The challenger will be Mr. T. O. M. Sopwith's cutter, Endeavour II.

The proposal is that the first race of the series shall be sailed on Saturday, July 24th, 1937.

LIMERICK UNEMPLOYED

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader.") Dear Sir—On behalf of the Limerick City Unemployed Association, we should like to warn the general public, whom you are appealing to for funds to aid us to try and build a club room, to make sure that only our official collectors, who are authorised to do so and wearing badges as collectors, on our behalf, be recognised.

J. FITZPATRICK, Hon. Sec.

MR. NEVILLE TURNER

Mr. Neville Turner, the Savoy Organist, who delighted large audiences as usual on Saturday night, took suddenly ill with appendicitis on Sunday night, and was successfully operated on at once in Barrington's Hospital. His many friends in Limerick will be glad to learn that he is making very satisfactory progress to recovery, and they will have the pleasure of hearing his charming selections once more in the course of a short time.

CHOKED BY SWEET

While five years old Francis Beck, son of William Beck, motor trimmer, of Eastfield Road, Duffries, was playing near his home, a sweet became lodged in his throat, and he died in Duffries Infirmary, where he was taken when it was seen that he was in danger of choking.

FREE 'PHONES IN FLATS

Free telephones for every tenant are installed in a new block of London flats. The rental of each 'phone is paid by the landlord, and only outgoing calls are charged for. People regard the 'phone as a fixture nowadays, an official of the letting office explained. "They expect a telephone laid on in the same way as electric light, central heating and water."

FOUR LAMBS WITHIN FIVE MONTHS

A ewe, the property of Mr. Matthew O'Loughlin, Ballytrevan, Bolevogue, Co. Wexford, has given birth to four lambs within five months. The first pair arrived on February 15th, 1936, and the second pair on July 14th last.

DANCE PLATFORMS DESTROYED

Dance platforms which had been used for dancing by a League of Youth picnic party on Sunday at Conna, County Cork, were found burned early on the following day.

RING AUGUST SESSION

Upwards of 400 students of Irish are attending the August session at Ring Irish College, County Waterford, and of the number about 200 are accommodated in the residential college.

EVICTED TENANT FINED

At Listowel a fine of £5 was imposed on John O'Connell, Gortecoreen, Listowel, for taking possession of a Board of Health cottage from which he had been evicted for non-payment of rent.

NEW P.C.

Mr. Patrick Elliott, creamery manager, Feale Bridge, Abbeyfeale, has been appointed a Peace Commissioner for the County Kerry.

Dr. M. F. Honan will be away from 14, Barrington Street, until August 17th.

NO INTERVENTION

Britain's Attitude

REGARDING THE SPANISH CONFLICT

Lord Halifax, the British Lord Privy Seal, has interrupted his holiday and returned to the British Foreign Office to-day, to deal with developments arising out of the Spanish conflict and France's request for non-intervention by other countries.

The British Note to France expresses the desire to observe absolute neutrality. Non-intervention, it says, refers to supply of arms and munitions.

All negotiations will be through diplomatic channels, and with goodwill on all sides it is anticipated that agreement will be reached in a very short time, probably within a week.

The financial assistance question has not been considered, but non-intervention may include this and aircraft and motor lorries.

No information as to the Italian attitude is available yet.

NEEDING ATTENTION

CASE FOR ABBEYFEALE IMPROVEMENTS

It is a matter of general complaint in Abbeyfeale, for some reason not understood (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent) that the authority responsible for the public lighting of the town omitted to provide a lamp in front of St. Mary's Parish Church, where the greatest unlighted span in the lighting range of the town exists. The Fr. Casey monument on the Square has been also left very much in the dark. It is expected these omissions will be soon remedied. The residents of the town have done much to express the sense of citizenship in the rebuilding or reconstruction of their houses within the past few years, but unlike most other towns, such as Newcastle West, Rathkeale and Listowel, no move has yet attained practical form to erect those artisans dwellings within the town, or the technical school about which so much had been heard some time ago. Advertisements had been issued some months ago, but nothing further appears to have brought the works any nearer reality. The improvement of the town footpaths, some of which are in a very bad way, would not be very costly, where the general expenses of the town do not lean so very heavily on the county funds, since the Roads Board fund provided for the concreting of the main street. The footpath leading to the Convent of Mercy, and partly to the Parish Hall, is in a very bad condition, so that pedestrians are obliged to risk the dangers of passing motors when obliged to use the roadway instead. It is no remedy to cart coats of macadam on footpaths like this or Bridge Street, nor is it an economic practice to replace broken flags, as in the case of the broken tarred material, as has already been done. Concrete footpaths would obviate the necessity for constant attention to repairs, and prove more economical in the end. The Councilors for the division have done everything possible to improve the town, and it is expected the matters complained of will soon be remedied.

PLUCKY RESCUE

BY WEST LIMERICK SCHOOL BOY

While a number of youths were fishing in the Allaughan, a tributary on the Feale, near Abbeyfeale, and which had been in flood from recent rains (writes our Abbeyfeale correspondent) a little fellow named Francis McNery, aged 6, son of a local trader, fell into a deep pool and disappeared. Dan Joe Riordan, aged 12, seeing the little fellow disappear and being carried off, jumped into the river in his clothes, and bringing the drowning boy up, brought him with difficulty to the shore. The rescuer is son of Mr. C. D. Riordan, of Main Street, Abbeyfeale. His prompt action saved the life of young McNery and is deserving of proper recognition.

A RARE FIND

KILFINANE DISCOVERY

Employees on the local sewerage scheme (writes our Kilfinane Correspondent) had a rare find when they came upon a stone about four feet underground, and which is at present in the possession of Mr. D. F. O'Shaughnessy, Kilfinane. When the members of the Royal Society of Antiquarians recently visited "Cush the stone" was shown to them, and Professor E. A. Maccoll said it was a corn fossil, and he had seen only one other of its kind in Ireland.

GIFT TO CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF CREAMERY MANAGER

The Kantoher Co-Operative Dairy Society have had erected in the Naheenagh Parish Church beautiful white marble altar rails in memory of their late Manager, Mr. John P. Deasy. The rails cost £150.

REDEMPTORIST CHURCH

The Feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori was celebrated in the Redemptorist Church, Limerick, on Sunday by special ceremonies. The sermon on the occasion was preached by Very Rev. Father Hannigan, C.S.S.R. (Rector, Australia), whose appealing discourse will appear in full in our week-end issue.

UNAUTHORISED HUTS TO GO

The County Dublin Board of Health at a meeting yesterday decided to take steps for the removal of all unauthorized huts in the Board's area. A member remarked that huts were springing all over the country.

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PLAYER ASSAULT

Referee's Report

SEQUEL TO HURLING MATCH