

IRISH LABOUR PARTY

County Cottage Scheme

MINISTER'S ACTION CONDEMNED

A meeting of the Ballybricken branch of the Irish Labour Party, held Sunday, 7th inst., Mr. Patrick Mahon, junior, presiding, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—
That we, the members of this Branch, condemn the action of Mr. Sean T. Kelly, Minister for Local Government, in his action in reducing by £130,000 the grant for the cottage scheme in the County of Limerick. We consider it no use to be placing the fault to the bad of the collection of the rates and rates, as the grant of £250,000 was raised two years ago. As far as we see, by the curtailment of the grant nothing is considered good enough for workers by our present day legislators. During the recent County Council elections we were told by the candidates the countryside would be dotted with cottages from the banks of the Shannon to the heathland slopes of the Burren, but, alas! ere the vestiges of victory were extinguished those promises were forgotten. That we call on all labour clubs in the county to adopt this resolution and copies to be sent to the Minister for Local Government, B.O.H. and Press.
That we call on the County Limerick Labour Party to repair at once the cottages in this district as we consider that in the present state some are unfit for human habitation.—Michael Kerins, Hon. Secretary.

CAPPAMORE BRANCH.

A meeting was held at Cappamore on Monday for the purpose of making arrangements to form a company for the digging over of the Portnord bog of some hundred acres of real coal turf, and the repairing of the old road leading to the bog. A Government Inspector visited the district some months ago and reported the road and bog and reported favourably. As this industry would be a great asset to the district the members are sure the Government will co-operate with the Club and have the road made by direct labour as soon as possible. Mr. M. J. Keyes, T.D., visited Cappamore on Monday week. He met Mr. McKelvey, engineer, and Mr. Phillips, man, of the Mulkear drainage scheme, and visited Abington, Brittas, Inkeen, and New Pallas, and was delighted with this great engineering feat. Out of any serious accident, although nothing more than half the scheme is completed. Cappamore, after the recent rains, is already immune from floods, to the great relief of the people of the town and district.
E. T. McKnight, Secretary.

BALLYLANDERS BRANCH.

A meeting of the above held on Sunday, the 7th inst., the following members were in attendance—Mr. Denis O'Connell, Chairman, and Mr. Patrick O'Connell, Secretary.

The Secretary said he received a communication from the County Councilors that they would attend the conference to be held on Sunday next, 14th inst.

Following to the convention to be held on Sunday, it was decided to change the time from 3 o'clock to 4 o'clock. All the labour clubs are requested, as far as possible, to send delegates for the purpose of sending a delegation of all the clubs before a meeting of the Co. Council, date to be fixed at the conference, to put in force the fulfilment of labour through the labour clubs and the stamping of cards by givers.

Prior to the conference a meeting of the Branch will be held at 3 o'clock. All members and intending members are requested to attend.—Patrick O'Connell, Secretary.

FEDAMORE CLUB.

A meeting of the Fedamore Labour Club was held at Fedamore on Sunday, 11th inst.

After some lengthy discussions re road works, it was unanimously resolved:—That we respectfully ask Mr. T. F. Kelly, County Surveyor, to give preference

CO. LIMERICK LANDMARKS

Bruff And District

A STORIED LOCALITY

Indications Of a Great Past

INTERESTING RUINS DESCRIBED

The town of Bruff is situated in the barony of Coshma, about a dozen miles south-east from Limerick. It appears to have been a place of importance at a very early period, for its name shows that a chieftain's residence existed here in ancient times, how long ago we have no written records to tell. Bruff is a corruption of the Gaelic Brugh, which signifies a palace or distinguished residence. The old burgh or forth is still to be seen just on the outskirts of the town, beside the river Dawn or Morning Star, a tributary stream which falls into the Maigue. The ancient fort measures 150 yards in diameter, and is surrounded by a double rampart in some parts 12 feet in height, and appreciably more than a quarter of a mile in circumference. Its name in Gaelic is Brugh-na-Daise, which signifies the mansion of the ancient territory of Daise-beg. The peasantry of the district call the old earthen rath Lisin-a-Brogha, as in the old song, "Blinn llin aerach a Brogha," that is, "The melodious airy little llos of Bruff." The epithet "little" would more appropriately apply to a most diminutive llos, barely five yards in diameter, to be found about a mile distant south-east of the town, close beside the old road leading to Kilfinane, and well known to the local residents by the name of Dunmorisheen, "the strong little fort."

CASTLES BUILT BY THE DE LACYS.

A castle was built in the town, and another at no great distance from it by the De Lacys in the reign of Henry III. This family subsequently became tributary to the Fitzgeralds, and held these castles under the Princess of Desmond, in all whose misfortunes they largely participated, especially during the reign of Elizabeth. Close to the bridge may be observed the remains of Bruff Castle, which at the close of the Desmond wars, was held by Pierce De Lacy, described by the cruel and callous Carew, Lord President of Munster, as "a wise and malicious traitor." Frequent skirmishes occurred between the English garrison at Kilmallock and the followers of Pierce De Lacy, in some of which there were severe casualties on both sides. On the 4th April, 1600, a severe engagement took place here between the Governor of Bruff castle, Pierce De Lacy, and a strong force of English troops from the garrison of Kilmallock, under the command of Captain Slingsby, in which the former was defeated with the loss of 300 men, but the victors dearly purchased the triumph won by their superior numbers and better armament.

In *Pacta Hibernia*, chapter IV, there is an interesting account of one of the engagements between the forces of De Lacy and a detachment of troops sailing forth from the garrison of Kilmallock:—"The same day (20th April, 1600) Captain Francis Slingsby, commander of the Lord President's Foot Company and Garrison at Kilmallock, when there was the Lord President's two hundred foot, Captain O'Connell's one hundred and fifty, twenty-five of Sir Anthony Cooke's troops, and twelve of Sir George Thornton's Horse, drew forth in the night part of that garrison, to take the prey of the Brough, a castle of Pierce Lacys, but three miles from Kilmallock, to expect the coming forth of the prey to grass, which accordingly, about an hour after daylight came forth and they took it. Then presently the cries being raised, three hundred foot and fifty horse, led by Pierce Lacy, skirmished with them for the space of six hours;

were outlawed and lost their lands. Branches of the De Lacys were settled at Bruff, Bruree, and Ballingarry. They held to the Irish side in the struggles of the 17th century to the very last, and gave hostages to freedom's cause through several generations. They bravely stood for the poet's ideal:—

"Whether on the scaffold high,
Or in the battle's van,
The noblest cause for man to die
Is for the rights of man."

HOSTAGE FOR PERFORMANCE OF TREATY.

A Pierce De Lacy was one of the hostages for the performance of the Treaty on the surrender of Limerick in 1651, and was amongst the twenty-four persons exempted from the general pardon by the vengeful Ireton. Again forty years later, in 1691, a De Lacy commanded the party sent from the city to oppose the advance of General De Gink's forces on Thomond Bridge. When the indomitable Sarsfield signed the terms of surrender, known as the Treaty of Limerick, De Lacys were amongst the Irish soldiers, 19,000 in number, who sailed for France, in the "Flight of the Wild Geese," so often referred to by Irish writers in song and story. It was of such as these that Davis has written:—

"On far foreign fields, from Dunkirk to
Belgrade
Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish
"Brigade."

The well-known valour of these exiled sons of Ireland on many a Continental battlefield is recorded among the most glorious pages in the annals of European chivalry. They won victory and renown for the lands of their adoption and shed reflected lustre on the green hills of their own island home, the cradleland of fair women and brave men. De Lacys entered the service of Spain, and members of this family obtained high command in nearly every European army. General Maurice De Lacy, of Grodno, who served under Savaroff in Italy, died in 1820, and was a descendant in the direct line of Hugh De Lacy.

SCENE OF A SANGUINARY BATTLE.

In 1641 Bruff was the scene of a sanguinary battle between the English forces and the Irish Confederates, in which the latter were victorious. In 1762 the Whiteboys assembled here in great numbers and meted out punishment against those regarded as foes; and again in 1786 they visited the town on the 15th of July, burnt several houses, and destroyed valuable property. This was in consequence of many of the peasant families being evicted from their homesteads, and strangers planted in the dispossessed farms. Maddened by intolerable oppression the peasantry rose in rude and fierce array to exact vengeance on the despoilers and usurpers. In 1793 a large body of the Defenders made a desperate effort to seize the town, but were repulsed by the 34th regiment of foot and many slain on both sides. In 1822 the Rockites assembled here in great numbers, made an attempt to burn portion of the town, but were frustrated by a large body of military aided by the active exertions of some of the neighbouring gentry.

Not far distant from the town are the foundations of an ancient Friary, while to the north-west are some traces of Templemore, said to have been an ancient

SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Panegyric By One Who Knew Him

LIMERICK COMMEMORATION

The canonisation of Saint John Bosco, the founder of the great Salesian Order, was commemorated in Limerick on Sunday. Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Munchin's Church at 12 o'clock.

The church was crowded, and the Mayor (Mr. P. F. Quinlan), with the City High Constable (Mr. P. J. Forrest) the Sergeants-at-Arms, and the members of the Corporation, attended in State.

The Most Rev. Dr. Collins, the newly consecrated Bishop of Tula (Liberia), presided at the High Mass, the music for which was sung by an augmented choir. Mr. E. J. Bourke sang the solo "Jesu Dolores Victimus."

His Lordship was received by Very Rev. Canon O'Dwyer, P.P.V.F., and Very Rev. Father Tozzi, Provincial of the Irish and English province of the Salesian Order, who conducted him to the sanctuary.

Very Rev. Father Sutherland, B.A., Rector Salesian House, Bolton, was the celebrant of the Mass; Rev. Dr. Cowper, C.C., St. Michael's, deacon; Very Rev. Father McElligott, Rector Salesian House, Meath, sub-deacon; and Rev. Father Connolly, S.C., Copswood, Pallaskeenry, master of ceremonies.

The assistant priests to the Most Rev. Dr. Collins were:—Very Rev. Canon O'Dwyer, Very Rev. Father O'Connor, S.C., Copswood, Pallaskeenry; Rev. Father Gray, S.C., Copswood; Rev. Father Mortell, C.C., St. Munchin's; Rev. Father McCarthy, C.C., do.; Rev. Father Croker (Liverpool).

At the conclusion of the First Gospel, Very Rev. Father Tozzi, who knew the Saint personally, ascended the pulpit and delivered an impressive sermon on the life of the Saint, who was, he said, canonised last Easter Sunday.

He took for his text—"To Thee O Holy Mother of God we raise our voices and through these the help of the Lord came unto us." In the course of the sermon he dealt with the life of self-sacrifice of St. John Bosco, whose incessant labours for God should be an inspiration to the people of the present day who spend so much of their time in pleasure seeking. They had selected that day—the Feast of the Rosary—to honour the canonisation of the Saint, because throughout his life he had a special devotion to the Mother of God. It was she who guided John Bosco to sanctity, and to sanctity so practical, so adapted to their own domestic, economic and social conditions.

Father Tozzi thanked the Most Rev. Dr. Collins for presiding at the Mass and the Mayor and Corporation for attending in state.

At the conclusion of the Mass the relic of the Saint was solemnly venerated by the Presiding Prelate. It was then blessed in turn by the great congregation, the ministering priests being Very Rev. Fr. Tozzi and Rev. Fr. Connolly, S.C.

NOT WORKING WELL

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

At Limerick County Board of Health on Wednesday, Mr. M. Ryan, Chairman, presiding.

Correspondence was considered from the L.G.D. with regard to the operation of the Unemployment Assistance Act and its relation to home assistance.

Mr. Quinlan said the correspondence was not enlightening. What was quite clear was that, while in other counties the expenditure on home assistance had been considerably reduced, as a result of the passing of the new Act, in Limerick no appreciable reduction appeared to have been effected.

The Secretary said the operation of the Act was much less effective in the rural areas than in the urban centres, where unemployment insurance was much more