

A Great Movement's Silver Jubilee

Muintir na Tire's historic milestone

IRELAND'S rural community movement — Muintir na Tire — is this year celebrating its Silver Jubilee. On Sunday next, the Jubilee Year will be inaugurated in Tipperary, where the first guild of Muintir na Tire was formed by Murroe-born Very Rev. John M. Canon Hayes, deceased, founder of the movement, in 1937.

The Jubilee Year will be inaugurated by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel and Emy, who was closely associated in the building up of Muintir na Tire.

His Excellency, the President of Ireland, Mr. Eamon de Valera, will be among those present.

LIMERICK is so prominently associated with the movement that the celebration of the Silver Jubilee is an occasion of great pride and pleasure to the city and county. The National President, Very Rev. Maurice Morrissey, P.P., Kiltully, Co. Limerick, holds the honour of succeeding his life-long friend, the late Canon Hayes, in that distinguished office.

Mr. Frank Lyddy, Limerick, whose name is so closely linked with Fella Lunnal as well as the General Secretary of Muintir na Tire. The organisation has been a great force for good in rural Ireland.

BLOSSOMED OUT

Canon Hayes' movement has come a long way in the last 25 years. From a very small beginning and with but a handful of faithful followers, this great Irish priest had, before his death in 1957, built up the framework of a parish community movement which has blossomed out in the years follow-

ing his passing and is now being recognised not only at home in Ireland but is attracting attention from students of community movements in many lands.

The Jubilee Year is being availed of by the leaders of Muintir na Tire as a time for consolidation and expansion, and a full programme has been put before the parish guilds which now number 400. In Muintir na Tire the parish guild is the most important unit, and it is by the work carried on down in the small local community that the leaders of Muintir na Tire prefer to judge the progress of their movement.

Guilds this year have been asked to carry out projects of a special community content involving as many as possible of the local people. They have been set a target for each guild to start a new guild in its neighbourhood. They have also been advised to start community centres and parish shows and various other activities which could be beneficial to the lives of the local people.

KNOCKLONG AND GLENBROHANE GUILD

A large and very enthusiastic meeting of above a guild was held at the Railway Hotel on 9th inst., under the Chairmanship of Rev. Timothy English, C.C.

Many matters pertaining to future activities were discussed and a special effort to make 1962 (the Jubilee year of Muintir na Tire) worthy of its great founder was heartily acclaimed by all present and the usual Anniversary Mass on 31st January in the Parish was made a permanent fixture.

The Group Water Supply schemes at Griston and Karteren were reported to be progressing very satisfactorily, and well on the way to final accomplishment, and were receiving marvellous attention from the Department's Inspectors.

The sewage scheme planned for Knocklong is in its initial stages already, and is understood to be well on the way in the course of a month or two from now.

Deep concern at the delay in carrying out the water extension project was expressed by the members, and it was decided to again remind the Council of the plight and inconvenience of the many householders who had been patiently waiting for the past couple of years to see their grievances rectified, and the amenity of a pure water supply made a reality for their homes and families. In individual cases the want of pure water and the conditions of families as a result, are appalling and, to say the least, intolerable.

It was proposed that the public lighting be augmented by installing at least an extra light at the vicinity of the Church Cross as pedestrians are in danger when attending evening services now that motor transport necessitates more watchfulness by all concerned.

Several other minor matters were dealt with, after which the meeting adjourned to Glenbrohane for the next monthly meeting.

BROADFORD GUILD

Dr. Michael O'Donnell presided at a meeting of the Broadford Guild of Muintir na Tire and there was a large attendance. It was reported that representations had been made for the provision of additional street lighting and the laying of a footpath from the library to the creamery, while arrangements were being made for the provision of litter baskets for the village.

The Farmers' Section reported that work would begin on the tidying and improvement of the local graveyards in the near future. The Workers' Section reported that they were awaiting sanction and advice from the County Council re the removal of the soil fence across the road from the church and its replacement by a concrete wall, which operation would also provide much-needed parking space.

The Ladies' Section will shortly hold a Novelty Evening at which they would like every house in the parish represented. Re the revival of the local Pipers' Band, band practices would soon commence, and the Guild would take part in the Question Time and Public Speaking competitions. It was decided to give full support to the Regional Rural Week, which was to be held at Dromcollogher.

PRESIDENT TO ATTEND

His Excellency the President of Ireland, Mr. Eamon de Valera, will be present, and is expected to speak to Dr. Morris' lecture.

Immediately prior to the inauguration ceremony, Mr. de Valera will be presented with an address of welcome by Tipperary Urban Council to mark his first visit to the town as President of Ireland.

The Charles J. Rickham Band will give the Presidential Salute, and there will be a guard of honour of military drawn up outside the hall on Mr. de Valera's arrival.

Tipperary will be on fete for the occasion and the local parish guild, which was founded by Canon Hayes himself, are making every effort to ensure that the occasion will be a worthy one.

The National Chairman of Muintir na Tire, Very Rev. Maurice Morrissey, P.P., Kiltully, Co. Limerick,

will preside at the inauguration ceremony.

The ladies of the parish guild have organised a buffet for the visitors attending the inauguration, and this will take place in the Convent of Mercy hall, which is adjacent to the Marian Hall, where the inauguration will take place.



HIS GRACE MOST REV. DR. Y. MORRIS, Archbishop of Cashel and Emy, who will inaugurate the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

PALLASKENRY GUILD

Pallaskenry Guild of Muintir na Tire held its annual general meeting in the library on Monday week last. Rev. Fr. Irwin, C.C., and Mr. M. Corboy, N.T., were among those present.

It was stated that the Guild has over 1070 on hands, £550 of which is in Prizes Bonds. The resignation of Mr. Corboy as Chairman was accepted with regret, but he remains in the Guild as a member of the Professional Section.

Officers for the year were elected as follows: President, Rev. Fr. Irwin, C.C.; Chairman, Mr. Liam Meade; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Meade, N.T.; Treasurer, Mr. M. J. O'Connell; Secretary, Mr. J. Barry. When the business of the evening was finished a highly-appreciated tea was served. This was followed by a ceil, for which Mr. Maurice Murphy, leader of the Desmond Ceil Band, assisted by another member of the band, supplied the music.

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The late Canon Hayes

Foundation 'Canon Hayes was years ahead of his time'

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MR. FRANK LYDDY, Limerick, National Honorary Secretary

The attainment of Muintir na Tire to its Silver Jubilee marks a milestone in the history of the movement, states Mr. Frank Lyddy in a special interview. Our people can look back with satisfaction on the contribution which the movement, founded by Canon Hayes in 1937, has made in the life of the nation.

When Canon Hayes, in the nine-teen-thirties, put forward his ideas inspired by the social encyclicals and pointed out the value of neighbourliness and the practical application of Christian charity and patriotism, many thought him to be a mere dreamer and said his ideas were far-fetched and nebulous. To-day these ideas are international topics and it is now conceded that in his social thinking he was years ahead of his time.

In an Apostolic Letter to Canon Hayes in July, 1954, the late Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, said: "The organisation of which you are chairman rightly looks upon the parish as the basic unit of a Christian Social Order. In order to promote the practice of justice and charity in one's own immediate surroundings, Muintir na Tire fosters a spirit of neighbourliness and of self-reliance, and it inspires individuals to devote themselves to the good of the community even at a cost of personal sacrifice. We invoke the special blessings of Almighty God upon the work of Muintir na Tire on behalf of the rural population of Ireland and it is Our prayer that its meritorious efforts to achieve its noble ideals may be crowned with an ever-increasing measure of success."

Limerick may feel proud of one of her most illustrious sons—Canon Hayes was a County Limerick man and his native county was one of the first to espouse his cause to promote his movement of neighbourliness and Christian charity. It would be well for the people of Ireland in the days ahead to listen to the teaching of this great priest.

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