

Minister promised to give attention very speedily to this matter, but the same hardships are still inflicted on thrifty people when they come to pensionable age. We are still advising people to be thrifty, but we do not play straight with them. If they are thrifty, we penalise them when they come to the age of 70. That is the corollary to the suggestion to be thrifty. Why do we continue to penalise a man who has been saving all his life to educate his children, who has put something away every week of his working life for the rainy day, whereas the man who was in better circumstances but who spent every penny he came up to, can come along, claim a pension at 70 and get the full pension without question.

#### THE MAN OF THE VAGRANT TYPE.

There is another type of person who gets a full pension without any question when he reaches pensionable age—the man of the vagrant type, who slashed windows, who did all the damage he could to his neighbours, and who never worried about sending his children to school. These men have been a burden on the State from the time they came into the world, proper wasters, but yet these are the very men who, when they come to 70 years of age, will get 10/- per week. The man who never did a day's work, who spent perhaps most of his life in gaol, is given the full pension, whereas the good citizen is penalised for his citizenship. That is perfectly true and cannot be contradicted.

These anomalies exist, and I cannot understand why they have not got attention long before now. I appeal to the Minister, coming into his new office, to listen with attention to the pleas put forward. The Minister himself knows these anomalies exist as well as any other Deputy, and I am sure that as the previous speaker said, the position will get his sympathetic attention. I trust that he will be able to im-

#### BROKEN.

That is the position of the blind. They are naturally reluctant, being blind, to come forward, although they are encouraged to come out and mingle with their fellow-citizens. In Limerick, we have started a class in the Technical School for blind people and we found it difficult to get them to come there. We must break down that barrier. Home teachers go into their homes to teach them this work, but the position is that if they get a few shillings for work done the pension officer comes along and uses it against them.

I suggest to the Minister that that is another glaring and outstanding case in favour of an immediate revision of the means test. Why should these little allowances, which might be called handicap allowances, be treated as income? In addition to the appeal made to the Minister on behalf of the widow and the old age pensioner, I particularly want to emphasise the appeal on behalf of the blind. No moment should be lost in removing this hardship from them. Anything they can do by their own efforts will be very limited and will not bring in more than a couple of shillings a week, and that amount should not be taken into consideration in assessing their means for pension purposes. Furthermore, if the local authority, through its welfare scheme, is prepared to supplement the 10/- given to these people, it does so purely because of their physical disability, and why should that small payment be availed of to rob them of their pensions? I think that is a matter which should have the Minister's immediate attention.

There are other anomalies, many of which have been cited by the various speakers, but I think that sufficient case has been made to excite the Minister's sympathy and interest. I hope that case will be successful in securing a revision of the means test and the removal of these hardships.

#### GLIN "CO-OP." DAIRY SOCIETY

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Glin Co-Operative Dairy Society was held on the 18th March. Mr. Thomas Stack, chairman, presided, and there were a big number of shareholders present, and also Mr. N. W. O'Brien, I.A.O.S.

The trading account and balance sheet for 1946 was considered very satisfactory, more especially in view of the alarming decrease in milk supplies.

It was the unanimous opinion that unless the price of milk to creameries was substantially increased the industry was in grave danger.

Warm tribute was paid to the committee and to Mr. J. O'Connor, manager, for his very capable management of the Society.

The usual dividend was paid to the shareholders.

Mr. Thomas Stack, Meanus, was elected chairman for the coming year.

#### DEATH.

**FOLEY (Limerick)**—March 26th, 1947, at 2 St. John's Avenue, Patrick (Paddy) Foley, after a short illness; deeply regretted by parents, brothers and sisters. R.I.P. Remains will be removed this (Wednesday) evening, at 8.30 o'clock, to St. John's Cathedral. Requiem Mass at 8.30 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday). Funeral same day at 4 o'clock, to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

#### FAILURE TO CUT WEEDS

At Bruff Court, before Mr. H. L. Connor, B.L., D.J.,

Richard Dooley, Patrickswell, Holy Cross, was summoned by the Minister for Agriculture for failing to cut noxious weeds on his lands.

Guard Skeahan, Bruff, gave evidence that the total acreage was 248 acres, of which 30 acres were infected.

To Mr. T. M. Mitchell, solicitor for the defence—The defendant had cut some of the weeds later.

Mr. Mitchell said that the year came so bad the defendant was unable to cut the weeds.

A fine of 30/- was imposed.

Mr. M. M. Power, State Solicitor, appeared for the prosecution.

#### BRUFF COURT

The sitting of Bruff Court was brief, the business being disposed of in half an hour.

His Worship, Mr. H. L. Conner, stated that he would not hold the monthly sitting in April at Bruff or Hospital and consequently all adjourned cases would stand over to the May Court.

Joseph Hogan, Greenpark, Bruff, was summoned by Guard Fallon, Bruff, for driving a motor van on the public road at night without having front lights and rear light and reflector.

A fine of 10/- was imposed in the first summons, 5/- on the second, and the third was dismissed.

#### DEATH OF MR. JOHN JOYCE, TANKARDSTOWN

The death occurred recently at his residence, Tankardstown, Bruree, of Mr. John Joyce, at the age of 76 years (writes our Bruree correspondent). A member of an old and esteemed farming family, the late Mr. Joyce was a very well-known figure, and, being popular with all classes, his demise is deeply regretted. He was father of Mr. Mannix Joyce, who, under the pen-name of "An Mangaire Sugach," is a well-known contributor to the "Limerick Leader," in which his column is widely read.

Mr. Mannix Joyce is a well-known and learned writer, his writings including two plays, namely, "The Old Knocksouna Boat" and "Ormsby and the Shoemaker," both of which have been produced with much success by the Bruree Dramatic Society, and his poetic compositions, as well as his contributions generally, have made excellent reading. A member of the clerical staff of the Limerick Co. Council, Mr. Mannix Joyce is keenly interested in Gaelic affairs and is a fluent speaker of Irish. He was a prominent member of the L.D.F. during the emergency.

There was a very large and representative attendance at the interment of the late Mr. Joyce, which took place at Bruree Cemetery. Mr. Joyce is also survived by his widow and two daughters, Misses Nellie and Mary Joyce.

Officiating clergy were:—Right Rev. Dean Mulcahy, P.P., V.F., Kilmallock; Very Rev. D. Kelly, P.P., Rockhill; Rev. G. Ryan, C.C., Bruree; Rev. M. Doody, C.C., Kilmallock; Rev. J. Culhane, C.C., do.; Rev. G. Enright, C.C., Rathkeale, and Rev. J. Coll, C.F., U.S.A.

#### FISHING ON THE MAIGUE AT BRUREE

Fishing on the river Maigue at Bruree (Co. Limerick) opened rather later than usual this year, owing to the severe weather, but the conditions latterly have been more suitable.

Fly fishing on the Maigue at Bruree last week, Mr. William O'Regan, Bruree, captured a 6½ lbs. trout, regarded as the largest of its species captured in the river for many years.

#### IRISH LABOUR PARTY

The following officers and committee were elected at a meeting of the Kilmallock Branch of the Irish Labour Party:—Chairman, Mr. Wm. Hannan; vice-chairman, Mr. Wm. Curtin; secretary, Mr. M. Moroney; treasurer, Mr. J. Dillane. Committee:—Messrs. M. Moloney, R. O'Donnell, T. O'Donnell, J. Scanlan, A. O'Sullivan, P. Doherty, T. Noonan, and J. Lewis.

#### FULL MARGARINE RATION BACK

It is expected that every consumer will be able to get the full ration of margarine before the end of the week. The Irish Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., who provide the manufacturers with the raw materials for the making of margarine, have informed the Department of Industry and Commerce that the difficulties which affected the refining of oil for margarine production have been overcome, and that regular supplies are being dispatched to all manufacturers.

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