

**MUINTIR NA TIRE:
SOUTH LIMERICK
EXECUTIVE**

The annual general meeting of the South Limerick Executive of Muintir na Tire was held only at Ardpatrick. Delegates representing the following Guilds were in attendance: Ardpatrick, Bulgaden, Bruff, Galbally, Knocklong, Kilfinane, Martinstown. A letter was received from Effin regretting that they could not attend. Rev. D. Houlihan, C.C., Ardpatrick, Chairman, presided and extended a very warm welcome to the delegates. Mr. J. J. Meade, P.C., Hon. Secretary and a member of the National Executive, gave a very comprehensive and highly interesting account of the progress and activities of each Guild in South Limerick. The completeness of the report was a tribute to Mr. Meade's efficient and painstaking work as Hon. Secretary to the Executive.

THE PARISH PLAN.

Some very important matters were discussed including the Parish Plan. Mr. Meade stated that there was no intention on the part of Muintir na Tire to drop the Parish Plan. It was their own plan and only Muintir na Tire had the right to say what was to be the future of it. It was also stated that a number of Guilds were far advanced in preparation to put the Plan into effect in their parishes.

Mr. C. J. O'Neill, Hon. Secretary, Galbally Guild, gave a very interesting account of the working of the schoolchildren's essay competition recently conducted by Galbally Guild.

Delegates from all Guilds were unanimously in favour of a motion supporting Mr. O'Neill's efforts to procure "Mercy" bus service on weekdays which could be availed of by relatives and friends of patients at the County Institutions, Croom and Newcastle West. The Secretary was instructed to make representations to C.I.E. requesting them to give sympathetic consideration to the scheme.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted in the unanimous re-election of Rev. D. Houlihan, C.C., Ardpatrick, as Chairman, Rev. D. Keogh, C.C., Galbally, was appointed co-Chairman.

When nominated as Secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. J. Meade pleaded assurance of work from other directions, but in deference to an appeal from the meeting, consented to continue in office for a further term.

All present were the guests of Ardpatrick Guild at a sumptuous dinner served by hostesses of the ladies' section.

On behalf of the delegates present Rev. D. Keogh, C.C., Galbally, thanked Father Houlihan for the warm welcome received and complimented the ladies' section on providing a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

FINE SPIRIT.

Mr. T. Burke (Knocklong), conducting the vote of thanks, said that the fine spirit witnessed that night should inspire them all to come better and more useful members of the fine organisation which they belonged.

**THE STORY OF
ST. AILBE OF
EMLY**

(By B. ROCHE)

KNOCKANEY—now a quiet fertile district between Bruff and Knocklong—was once the scene of great hostings and excitement for on its hill was built the palace of the King of Ara Cliach. This commanded a view of the Kingdom and nearby was Lough Gur, where a very ancient race dwelt. There was much feasting and entertainment between the King's palace and the castle of the neighbouring chiefs.

At that time it was the custom that the children of the Irish princes and nobles dwelt together in the king's house and were instructed in all matters required for their high estate. So at the time of which we speak there lived at the Court of King Cronan—who was then reigning—a nobleman named Olonais. He fell in love and wished to marry a gentle, beautiful maiden, also of the king's household. Her lineage was noble and her name Sanclit. For some unknown reason King Cronan was bitterly opposed to this union and made life so unhappy for Olonais that he was obliged to leave the country.

KING'S ORDER

The bride, Sanclit, was left with no one to protect her, and when her baby was born the king took possession of him and ordered him to be removed from the palace and left in some field to die. There was a similarity to the fate of Moses and this little babe, for the woman who took him away was kind to him.

She journeyed south from Knockaney, on beyond Knocklong, then turned towards the rising sun and laid the babe in a shady corner under a steep rocky cliff.

At once he was found by a she-wolf, who had her den and young cubs near by. Strange to say, she nourished and protected the babe as if he were one of her own cubs and she succeeded in keeping him alive until he was discovered by the owner of the land. This good man named Lorcan MacLuigir, was, the old chroniclers tell us, "the perfection of natural goodness." He took the baby home and had him brought up as his own son. He called the child Ailbe, which means found under a rock. This rock is still to be seen—leach Ailbe—and gives the name to the surrounding district, Anglicised to Lackelly.

**EDUCATED AND ORDAINED
IN ROME**

We do not know very much of the life of the boy at this period. To a very old manuscript preserved at Salamanca we are indebted for information regarding his early life. The boy grew up and was given to some men from Britain who were trading in Ireland. From Britain Ailbe went to Rome, where he was educated and ordained priest and consecrated Bishop. He was baptised A.D. 360. This was 72 years before St. Patrick came to Ireland, but where he was baptised we do not know.

After some years Bishop Ailbe left Rome and returned to Wales and taught there. Then he left and returned to Ireland. He landed at a place called Kilroot, north of

Belfast Lough. He then turned southwards and at the Court of King Aengus of Cashel he met St. Patrick, St. Ibar and St. Ciaran. We can imagine what a happy and joyous meeting this was. Aengus was baptised and we are all familiar with the story told of him and how the steel point of Patrick's staff pierced his foot by mistake, causing his blood to flow. The good king bore the pain in silence, thinking it was part of the ceremony. Before the saints dispersed St. Patrick consecrated Ailbe Archbishop. Then he set out on his mission. First he went to Connaught and taught there until an angel told him in a dream "to return to the cross of Emly and instruct the people there."

**BUILT A LARGE MONASTIC
SCHOOL**

St. Ailbe did so and he built a large monastic school at Emly and was encouraged and helped by King Aengus. It grew in dignity and importance; St. Colmac of Dromore, St. Nessan of Mungret, and other saints were educated there. Scholars came from different parts of Europe—from France, Italy and Switzerland. Under a large ash tree were buried the students from the Continent who remained to become monks and follow the rule of St. Ailbe at Emly. Until a few years ago this ancient huge tree was standing until finally knocked during a great storm. St. Ailbe left Emly occasionally to help those who needed him. He was famed for his generosity, hospitality and kindness to all.

He died in the sixth century after a life full of good works and he was buried at Emly and mourned by all. As well as the Monastery for monks there was also a convent for holy women and widows who wished to consecrate their lives, or what remained of them, to God. Here Brian Boru's daughter-in-law, Devorgail, died a saintly death in 1080. Both monastery and convent lasted 600 years until sacked by the Danes.

**THE SAINT'S GRAVE AT
EMLY**

A very ancient cross of the traditional Celtic type with solid ring marked out by sunk panels is built over the Saint's grave at Emly. It is 1ft. 10ins. from arm to arm and 5ft. in height; about 10ft. is buried. Nearby is St. Ailbe's Well. His feast day is kept on September 12th, and to this time rounds are still made in honour of the Saint.

A town sprang up around the monastery to minister to the needs of the students and people. After the Anglo-Norman invasion it was entered by a mixed body of English and Irish, under Cathal Covederg O'Connor and Mac Costello. It had been plundered in A.D. 845 by the Danes, but it arose again. Altogether it was plundered four times by the Danes. During the Desmond wars it was a centre of activity and had two castles, the "greah" and the "small." One was burned in 1058 and the other in 1657.

Now the pretty and prosperous village surrounds the fine church dedicated to the great St. Ailbe.

**BRUREE BRANCH HC
I.C.M.S.A.:
FIRST ANNUAL
MEETING**

At the first annual meeting of the Bruree Branch of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association the following officers were elected:—
Chairman, Mr. John P. Lyons; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Carmody; Treasurer, Mr. Michael Cussen; Secretary, Mr. Michael Mullane.

Committee—Messrs. Michael Barrett, John Culhane, Michael Sheehan, John O'Brien, P. Flynn, Michael Mullins, John Kelleher, E. Costelloe, M. Chawke, M. O'Meara, W. Chawke and H. Costelloe.

It was reported to the meeting that there were 228 members in the Branch, which was a record for the area, and that the Branch members had subscribed a sum of £250 1s. 0d. to the Association's funds.

GROWING IN STRENGTH

Mr. Liam Barry, Kilmallock, General Secretary, of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association, attended and gave a general review of the Association's progress, from its infancy to the present day. It was now scattered throughout every county and was growing in strength every day. All this work had been accomplished in a little over a year. He said that Bruree and Kilmallock were the first creamery areas that gave voluntary subscriptions to the Association in Ireland.

In the course of his report to the meeting, Mr. Michael Mullane (Secretary) said that they had had a very enthusiastic meeting in 1950, when the Branch was formed and the progress made during the year had far exceeded all their expectations, as regards membership. They had secured 90 per cent. membership of all the milk suppliers to the creameries in Bruree, Athlacca and Banogue. He thanked the officers and committee who acted as canvassers and who made the Branch such a success, and especially the treasurer, Mr. M. Cussen, who, he said, made his task as secretary a very easy one.

GOOD SPIRIT

He hoped that the same good spirit would prevail in 1952, and that with such a spirit prevailing they could rest assured that the voice of the dairy farmers would be heard at last.

Messrs. R. Horgan, E. Banks, G. Liston, D. Sheehan also spoke.

The meeting discussed the resolutions passed at the National Executive meeting, and it was decided to leave future action in all matters in the hands of the National Executive.

**Teachers' Request
To School
Managers**

A meeting of Limerick Co. Committee of the I.N.T.O., presided over by Mr. J. J. Connellan, Rathkeale, Chairman, was held at Limerick on Saturday, 22nd ult. All the branches in the county were represented.

Mr. P. O'Riordan, C.E.C., wrote regretting inability to attend a special meeting with Mr. Sean Moylan, Minister for Education, which was being held on that date.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Sean Walshe, and seconded by Mr. M. McNamee, was passed.

**Midnight
Masses In
West Limerick**