

MURROE COURT: LICENSING AND FISHERY CASES

AT Murroe District Court on Tuesday, before District Justice Gleeson, Inspector Pender prosecuted Thomas Clarke, Portnard, for a breach of the licensing laws on Sunday, November 23rd, last.

Mr. Blood-Smyth, solr., Limerick (for Mr. D. J. O'Malley, solr.), appeared for the defendant.

Guard Bourke said that on Sunday, November 23rd, he visited the premises of Thomas Clarke at 7.40 p.m. and found nine men drinking in the bar. Seven of the men were travellers, but they were not entitled to be on the premises after 7 o'clock.

To Mr. Blood-Smyth, solr., complainant said that the barmaid could have made a mistake in respect of two men—ones of whom had returned from England the previous day. The barmaid told witness that she understood closing time was 8 o'clock.

GENUINE MISTAKE. Miss Rose Harts said she was looking after the premises for Mr. Clarke for the past two years. She was under the impression that closing time on Sundays was at 8 o'clock. On this occasion all the men represented themselves as travellers.

In reply to Inspector Pender, witness said that she made a genuine mistake.

Replying to the Justice, she said that closing time during the summer was 8 o'clock, and she believed that it was the same closing hour for the whole year round.

Fining the defendant 40/- for allowing liquor to be consumed on the premises, the Justice said that a genuine mistake could have been made.

The men found on the premises and present in court were each fined 5/- and the others, who did not attend, were each fined 10/-.

FISHERY CASE. John Daly, Clerk to the Limerick Board of Fishery Conservators, summoned John Crowley, Moore Street, Cappanore, for having used a stick for the purpose of disturbing fish on the Ballyvooren River on the 8th January.

Mr. Blood-Smyth, solr., Limerick, appeared for the complainant. The defendant was not professionally represented.

Patrick Ryan, water-keeper, said that he was on duty on the 8th January on the Ballyvooren River and he saw Sean Crowley and a man named Sean Keane coming towards him along the bank of the river. John Crowley was poking the water with a stick about nine yards long. Sean Keane had a three-pronged fork with a long handle.

Mr. Blood-Smyth told the Justice that Keane had gone to England before the summons could be served.

DEFENDANT'S DENIAL. John Crowley, defendant, denied the charge and said that he never fished in his life. He was walking along the bank of the river on this occasion with his hands in his pockets. Keane was using the fork to cover a stack of turf.

In reply to the Justice, defendant said he was never in court before on a fishery charge. He was snaring rabbits for the past forty years. On this occasion he had his hands in his pockets walking along a public path.

Mr. Blood-Smyth — You were often up in court before.

Defendant — I was not often up before. I was up once for catching rabbits. I was away in Galway for the past twenty-eight years.

Mr. Blood-Smyth — I know you well.

Defendant — You do not know me well.

Patrick Ryan, water-keeper, was again called by the Justice and he said that defendant had a stick about nine yards long and he was poking the river with it.

Defendant was fined 40/- and £2 9s. costs.

NO LIGHTS OFFENCES. Fines ranging from 2/6 to 20/- were imposed on a large number of offenders against the lighting-up regulations.

Sergt. Tobin, Murroe; Guard Whiteside, do.; Guard McMahon, do.; and Guard Clifford, Caherconlish, were the complainants.

OUT OF THE PAST

By ROBERT HERBERT

RACING in Limerick, and, in fact, throughout the country, was run on very different lines, in the last century, from the customary meeting of to-day. In 1840, the meeting took up four days, and on each day there were only two races, but several heats in each of them. The race-course was at Newcastle, on the site now generally known as Backguard Hill. Racing fans may be interested in the following schedule of rules and conditions:—

QUEEN'S PLATE ARTICLES. 3lb. to mares and geldings; subscribers of two sovereigns to pay one shilling in the pound entrance, all others double, if entered at the post; upon entering each horse the colour of the rider to be declared, and should he appear in any other colour, the owner to be fined one pound; no confederacy to elude this article will be allowed the winner; each horse to pay one sovereign for scales and straw, and one sovereign to the judge; all horses on entrance to pay five shillings; all races to be run to such regulations as may be made by the stewards, whose decision is to be final; no horse can be allowed to start for any race, whose stakes, entrance money and fees are not paid in full, otherwise, although a winner, will be disqualified. In order to prevent false starts any jockey who gives unnecessary trouble at the post will be disqualified from riding again during the meeting. Horses to be at the post for the first day precisely at half-past one, under a penalty of one pound, which must be paid before starting; nothing given for a walk-over; 7 lb. allowance for half-breeds. All horses to appear at the winning post, and to be conducted by one of the stewards to the starting post; any horse not complying with this rule will be disqualified.

THE NEWCASTLE COURSE. The Newcastle Course had been in use from the middle of the 18th century, and if one were to judge it only on the magnificent view which it must have afforded the spectators, one would wonder why it was ever given up. However, here is a description of it before the races in that year of grace 1840:—

"Since the opening of this course, over 70 years ago, we never benefit it in such order and condition as it is in at present. This, of course, is owing to the exertions of the stewards, whose taste, science and untiring exertions have immortalised them in the estimation of the racing gentry (notice how the now familiar racing jargon is already creeping in!), as also in that of the admirers of racing amusements in general. The 'running part' of the course is not only widened, but levelled and drained, that it is now one perfectly 'dry run round'. The 'turn-gap,' as it has been called, at the 'coming-in post' is so railed in for over twenty perches at both sides, as to prevent the running horses from bolting, and to guide them to the winning post. Lest the course should be torn up by casual gallopers before or after the race palings are placed at regular distances, which can be taken up in a few minutes and replaced the moment the race is over. The tents, too, are arranged several yards away from the railing so that no person need obtrude upon the course—plenty of walking ground being left them in front of the tents, so as to prevent the foot-passengers from coming into collision with the carriages or horsemen. The construction of the stand-house, too, the first of its order in the kingdom, being like the gallery of an theatre, and calculated to contain three hundred persons, including the band, is one of the handiest of its kind ever witnessed at Newcastle."

FIRST DAY'S RACING. And now for a description of the first day's racing as supplied by a special Racing Correspondent:—"Hurra for the course! This is the list of this day's running horses, the colour of the rider and the rider's name, the weight they carry and the ground they run. Hurra for the races! Out they powder,

pell mell. Carriages, gigs, jarvies, buggies, omnibuses, gingles, donkey carts, drays, and every sort of imaginable vehicle were in requisition.

"There comes the gay and gallant sportsman with his real bit of blood; how proudly and gracefully he sits on the back of his gentle and beautiful charger! On they go. Now, now, take the weight of that fastidious customer in the dickey of yonder carriage; with what attention to geometrical proportion his stock is arranged! How nicely he does open his mouth, and what inimitable small-talk he retails to that gay and brilliant girl whose dilated eye is wandering towards some more engaging object than the tiger puppy beside her!

"By all that's magical, there goes the poor, solitary, sequestered shop-boy, toggled out in blue-coat with shining brass buttons, supporting on three hairs one of Gilham's economical 'drabs,' sporting white inexpressibles, rittan and boots. He's walking, 'pon my honour, for the sake of exercise. He never measured a yard of cloth, or sold weighed an ounce of coffee, or corked a bottle of wine, or what a supercilious eye he glances at his pedestrian neighbours, whose toggery appear a little brothy. How he admires the shape of his own boot, and how often handkerchief, yellow cotton-silk with Araby's deeply perfumed with his red and pinched nose with a view to lessen its excitability, and fan the flame that burns at its apex.

"Who is that creature whose legs and feet are dangling almost at right angles with the sides of the half-starved animal he bestrides? That is, indeed, a 'John Gilpin.' Did you ever see anything so much out of place as such a creature as that on horseback? Bravo, John. Go it, my hearty—spur away like a Trojan.

"Turn your attention to that group of factory girls emancipated from bent backs and cramped positions over a tambour frame. Almost every delicate creature of that lot you see borrowing this day of enjoyment has been fined and re-fined, summoned and re-summered; imprisoned and re-imprisoned, for being late even the one-sixteenth part of an hour, from the interminable labour from which they are confined from week to week and from month to month.

"Just follow with your eye that vehicle with yellow body, patent axles and exquisitely framed panels. What a gorgeously rich carriage! Look into it and admire (that you are permitted to do legitimately) the collection of lovely women that sit vis-a-vis in it. Have you ever seen anything in nature more beautiful. Who are they? Limerick girls, by jove! Nothing like them in Europe, aye, or even in the Sultan's angling ground, Circassia itself. Prince George, and you, my Lord Waterford, if report speaks true, are on the course to-day. Take care of your impenetrable hearts. 'You may come to quiz, but stay to love'. Again behold the joyous crowds as they pour along like a mountain torrent on horseback, on foot, in divers vehicles. What a glorious assemblage of merry hearts. We have stood at the Clare street corner where the nobility take up their accustomed position. Now it is time to proceed."

AND THE RACES. The first day there were two heats with seven horses in each, and Dr. O'Neill's horse, "Splendid," won each of them and the prize. Second and third were horses whose names were more in the line of present-day racing nomenclature. They were "Smallhopes," owned by a Mr. Irwin, and "Barebones," owned by Mr. St. George. Our racing correspondent wires us, adds the report:—"The seven horses started beautifully—a sheet could cover them. The race ground was as level as a billiard table. 'Twas, perhaps, the fastest heat seen for years at Newcastle. 'Splendid' and 'Smallhopes' were whipped together to the winning post, the former winning by half a head."

GOOD RECORD OF BALLYHEA MUINTIR NA TIRE

THE annual general meeting of the Ballyhea Branch of Muintir na Tire was held in the Hall, Ballyhea, Mr. Charles O'Callaghan, Prunty, presiding.

In extending a welcome to the members and to Rev. Father T. Culhane, C.C., and Mr. W. O'Donoghue, both of the National Executive, Mr. O'Callaghan said he wished to thank them all for their attendance, as well as the Committee for their co-operation during the past year; also Rev. Father Rice, P.P., and Rev. Father O'Callaghan, C.C., for their valuable assistance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. Mr. T. Caspy, Hon. Secretary, in presenting his annual report, referred to the activities of the Branch during the past year. Their first project in 1952 was the re-surfacing of the school yard. Over 30 tons of material were used and the expenditure incurred was something in the region of £140. He also outlined the Branch's efforts to bring electricity to the parish. A number of charities were supported financially by the Branch in the parish during the past year. Food, fuel and clothing were given at Christmas to their less fortunate brethren; also a number of children were supplied with clothes for their first Holy Communion. Since the establishment of the Branch in the parish, bridges had been built, cemeteries cleaned and renovated, rivers cleaned and the danger of flooding eliminated, and grants obtained from the Department of Agriculture. A local Band had also been started in the parish.

Mrs. T. McNamara, Hon. Treasurer, presented the balance sheet, which was approved of and unanimously adopted.

SPLENDID WORK. Rev. T. Culhane, C.C., Feohanagh, a member of the National Executive, then addressed the meeting and congratulated the Branch on their splendid work during the past year, as well as on the fine attendance that night. Muintir na Tire, said Father Culhane, was an organisation based on Christian social principles to unite the people of Ireland for the common good. Having outlined in detail the aims and objects of Muintir na Tire, Father Culhane referred to the forthcoming Rural Week, which will be held in Cork this year. He said he had no doubt that Cork would rise to the occasion and he appealed to the local Branch to do their part by helping to advertise the Rural Week. He thanked them for their subscription on the occasion of the National Collection. In coming that night to Ballyhea he was coming nearer home and he was glad to be amongst the people and to see the Guild in such a flourishing state. They in Muintir na Tire were trying to make their people in rural Ireland happier and to make their lives brighter in every way. When Christ came on earth the first to meet him were the Shepherds—the people of the countryside. They were trying to spread goodwill amongst all sections of the community and he thanked them very sincerely for their warm welcome.

PLENTY ROOM TO WORK IN.

RURAL IRELAND. Mr. Wm. O'Donoghue, N.T., Freemount, a member of the National Executive, also addressed the meeting. He congratulated the Guild on their achievements during the past year. They were told, said Mr. O'Donoghue, of the great virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. The greatest of these was charity and he was glad to see that the local Guild spent some of their funds during the past year on charity. "We have Christianity in Ireland which other countries have lost," he said. "There is plenty room at home to work in rural Ireland and we in Muintir na Tire try to encourage this in every way. Through our guilds we build halls, support games, secure playing pitches and support all amenities to brighten the life of rural Ireland."

FOR ALL SECTIONS. Very Rev. J. Rice, P.P., Ballyhea, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers for their inspiring addresses. "Muintir na Tire," said Father Rice, "is an organisation that is not for any particular sec-

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