SHANNON ROWING CLUB: SPEECHES AT ENJOYABLE FUNCTION

THE inaugural dinner of Shannon Rowing Club was held in the Club premises last Saturday night and proved a most enjoyable and pleasant function. Over 75 covers were laid.

The dining room was a tasteful setting for the occasion with the club colours, while the trophies won during the current season were displayed side by side. Mr. C. J. Quinn, President of the Club, presided and the attendance included, Mr. Rev. Monsignor Long of the English Mission, Mr. Michael J. Reeyes, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, the Mayor, Ald. G. E. Russell, Ald. J. Carew, T.D.; Mr. A. E. Goodwin, Capt. James Devoy, Major R. Deakin, and Mr. Louis Fine, representing Castletroy Golf Club.

APPLICATIONS OF HONOUR.

Also amongst the audience as guests of honour were four district rowing clubs who, in their time, were outstanding oarsmen in Ireland and won considerable honours, including three gold medals. The oldest being Mr. E. O'Toole who will be 82 next week. The clubs were the Tullamore, Irish, Killarney, and Tullamore. Mr. John Hall and Mr. A. McNelis.

The victorious schoolboy crew and maiden eight champions were also guests of honour.

Rowing clubs and other sporting organisations in the City were strongly represented. Apologies for inability to attend were read from the President of L.A.R.U. and Capt. P. Collier.

The dinner was dedicated to the nature of a victory celebration in honour of the victory of the Schoolboys' Eights Championship of Ireland and the L.A.R.U. Maiden Eight (Championship of Ireland).

The Chairman, Mr. Quinn, re-read the citation of the famous oarsmen:

"Rowing is a glorious sport, Rhythm, splash and swing. Comes the call, "Easy, all, We rest, then memories cling."

He then proposed the toast of Ireland, which was given full honours.

ROWING HISTORY.

The toast of Shannon Rowing Club was proposed by Jack Gleeson, who traced the history of the Club since its first success in 1867. He said that after that memorable victory the Club was founded the following year and the first six oars were first introduced in Ireland.

Despard’s Coals

YOU CANNOT BUY BETTER.

HALPIN’S TEA

WILL THE TURKEY COST MORE THIS YEAR?

Reprieve of I.R.A. Men Under Death Sentence Recalled

THE reprieve of three prominent I.R.A. men sentenced to death for their active participation in the Anglo-Irish war.—Messrs. Timothy Murphy, Edward Punch, and John Joseph Egan, Ennis—is recalled by the death a few days ago of the last mentioned.

The death of Mr. Joseph Egan, Steer's Terrace, Ennis, recalls a famous Habena Corpus order granted by a High Court Judge in Dublin during troubled times (writes Mr. Egan correspondent).

Mr. Egan played a prominent part in the struggle for Irish independence. While armed and carrying despatches for the I.R.A. he was captured by British military within a few miles of Ennis, tried by military court, and sentenced to death.

APPLICATION IN HIGH COURT.

This led to an application to the High Court Judge for a Habena Corpus, and he made an order directing the Commander-in-Chief (Sir General McReady) of the British Forces in Ireland and others to produce in Court at a certain date the body of Mr. Egan.

The Habena Corpus proceedings were brought as a means of gaining time for the making of representations to the authorities, to spare the life of Mr. Egan.

RESpite GRANTED.

The respite was granted, and Miss Mary Neylon, Matron of the Clare Co. Infirmary, travelled to Ennis and succeeded in inducing her brother, Sir Joseph Neylon, a Civilian, and higher executive officer of the British Civil Service, to intercede for Mr. Egan with the British Home Secretary. A reprieve was granted, but whether due to the intervention of Sir Joseph or the fact that the British had taken steps to quash the Habena Corpus Order is not known to the writer. In any case, Mr. Egan was not executed, but sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

RELEASED DURING THE TRUCE.

He was released at the time of the Truce, according to the Free State Army, where he held the rank of Captain. After he had taken his discharge from the service he was appointed as a clerical officer on the staff of the Clare Co. Council.

The application had been in the hands of the English Minister, Mr. Alex: Egan, of Steer's Terrace, Ennis, and the Interment took place on Saturday at Dromcoliffe Cemetery, Ennis.

FURTHER DETAILS.

In reference to the foregoing account supplied us by our Ennis correspondent, the following further details will be of interest.

At the time John Joseph Egan was under sentence of death two Limerick men—Timothy Murphy and Edward Punch were in a similar position because of their active connection with the I.R.A. campaign. The late Father W. P. O'Reilly, S.J., then attached to the Jesuit Community at the Crescent, Limerick, was on terms of intimate personal friendship with the famous London Jesuit, Father Bernard Vaughan, and he decided to use his influence in that quarter to save the lives of the three men. Father Bernard Vaughan, in turn, used his influence with Lord Ebrington, then British Lord Lieutenant in Ireland, and by that means Messrs. Egan, Murphy and Punch were rescued from the hangman's rope. This is the story of the reprieve as told to the present writer by the late Father O'Reilly himself.