

ADER

PRICE TWO PENCE

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 70 covers were laid.

The diningroom was very tastefully decorated for the occasion with the club colours, while the trophies won during the current season adorned the sideboard.

Mr. C. J. Quin, President of the Club, presided and the attendance included: Rt. Rev. Monsignor Long, of the English Mission; Mr. Michael J. Keyes, 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.

GUESTS OF HONOUR.

Also amongst the attendance as guests of honour were four senior members of the Club, who, in their time, were outstanding oarsmen in Ireland and whose combined ages totalled 317 years, the oldest being Mr. E. O'Toole, who will be 82 next week. The other members were Mr. M. Harrigan, Mr. John Hall and Mr. A. McNeice.

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

Rowing clubs and other sporting organisations in the City were all strongly represented.

Apologies for inability to attend were read from the President of I.A.R.U. and Supt. P. Coleran.

The dinner was also in the nature of a victory celebration in honour of the victories of the Schoolboys' Eight Championship of Ireland and the I.A.R.U. Maiden Eight (Championship of Ireland).

The Chairman, Mr. Quin, recited the following tribute to the victorious 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 musical honours.

ROWING HISTORY.

The toast of Shannon Rowing Club was proposed by Mr. Jack Gleazier, who traced the history of the Club since its first success in Glenbrook in 1867. He said that after that memorable victory the Club was founded the following year. In 1872 sliding seats were first introduced in Ireland

Despard's Coals

YOU CANNOT BUY BETTER.



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 fight—Messrs. Timothy Murphy and Edward Punch, Limerick, and Mr. John Joseph Egan, Ennis—is recalled by the death a few days ago of the last mentioned.

The death of Mr. Joseph Egan, Steele's Terrace, Ennis, recalls a famous Habeas Corpus order granted by a High Court Judge in Dublin during troubled times (writes our Ennis 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 Habeas Corpus, and he made an order directing the Commander-in-Chief (Sir General McReedy) of the British Forces in Ireland and others to produce in Court at a certain date the body of Mr. Egan.

The Habeas 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.

RESPIRE GRANTED.

The respite was granted, and Miss Mary Neylon, Matron of the Clare Co. Infirmary, travelled to England and succeeded in inducing her brother, Sir Joseph Neylon, a Clareman, 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 Habeas 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, and later entered 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, an appointment he held up to the time of his death. He is survived by his widow and two sisters, one, Sister Mary St. John Egan, of the Good Shepherd Convent, India, and the other, Miss May Egan, of Steele's Terrace, Ennis.

Interment took place on Saturday at Dromeliffe 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 Fitz-Alan, 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.

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