Irish Travel, Vol. 05 (1929-30)

Irish Tourist Association

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The Winter Season Begins.

The Tourist Season proper is drawing to a close, and Ireland, as far as one may judge from externals, has had a remarkably good year. The Motor Race and Emancipation celebrations contributed largely to increase the volume of traffic from Great Britain, and many people coming specially for these events availed themselves of the opportunity to spend their holidays in Ireland. But even allowing for the stimulus thus given, the season seems to have been remarkably good and, what is of the greatest importance, the visitors have been thoroughly satisfied with their holidays. Remarkably fine weather, improved and cheapened transport services, and above all an improvement in the standard of the hotels contributed to the enjoyment of people coming to Ireland. It was inevitable that amongst thousands of visitors there should be some who found cause for complaint. Following our repeated requests, those complaints were furnished to us. Their numbers are small, in many cases they were due to misunderstandings, but in every case they are being fully investigated. We hope in the Off Season Period to busy ourselves particularly with the removal of the sources of those complaints, and we publish that fact as our best assurance of satisfaction for future visitors.

So much for the passing season, but we are at the beginning of another season which should provide, if not so many visitors, at least as much wealth as the summer influx. There is no question that, taken from any point of view, hunting in Ireland is not surpassed by hunting in any other country.

The annual Horse Show held in Dublin last month provided a magnificent display of this country’s wealth of horses, and particularly of hunters. The Dublin Horse Show has done incalculable good in advertising this important adjunct to a successful hunting holiday in Ireland, but the consideration of inexpensiveness, good-fellowship and diversified country are equally important, and we think hunting men looking for good sport could not do better than inquire into the possibility of satisfying themselves in Ireland. The Irish Tourist Association heartily welcomes such inquiries, and will leave no stone unturned to put prospective hunting visitors in touch with suitable hunts and satisfactory accommodation.
Irish Travel Holiday Competitions.

THE WINNERS OF THE FINAL COMPETITION OF THE SEASON—AUGUST—WILL APPEAR IN THE OCTOBER NUMBER OF IRISH TRAVEL.

Lough Kylemore, Connemara.

(Photo by L. W. Murray, St. Michael's, Liverpool, winner of the July Photo Competition of Irish Travel.)

The Lee Valley.

By Jenny Harvey. 29 South Terrace, Cork.

SOMEBODY else, no doubt, relishes this little miniature Rhine and as a short tour is unequalled for its natural beauty.

So, Stranger, welcome, and come with me away from the noisy city—which is what most of us strive to get away from—and we'll follow this winding valley, which is a haven of beauty and quietness. It runs from Cork to Macroom, through one of the most beautiful and fertile districts in the South.

Leaving the city behind, our first glimpse lies on your right as you draw near Carrigrohane. Notice the City Waterworks.

A most striking feature of the landscape is the picturesque Castle of Carrigrohane, which is boldly placed on a lofty cliff. At the foot of a wild, heather-clad hill stands the ruined church of Inniscarra, founded in the 6th century.

The scenery here and for several miles along the lovely vale merits the producing of your camera. The road now runs up the valley of the Dripsey River, keeping somewhat to the north and passing through the hamlets of Dripsey and Coachford.

The Lee is lost sight of now for some distance, which gives us an opportunity of examining the scene before us. How many world-famed artists have not put this scene on canvas: "Cutting the Corn." Men, women, and children are working might and main gathering and binding, ignoring the modern devices which does away with this labour. Men are shouting, dogs barking, women sing gaily at their work, and the "golden corn" which only yesterday swayed and rippled in the breeze now lies in stooks ready to be taken into the barn; and later the big night comes which lads
A pretty but comparatively little known
Co. Dublin Seaside Resort. By A. Hornack, Kavan, Co. Meath

Within 16 miles of the City of Dublin, close to the main bus road leading out Skerries direction, the tourist will find a pretty though little known seaside place comfortably tucked away from view of bus or rail. This is Loughshinny, midway between Rush and Skerries. A strong pier and breakwater runs out into the sea for a considerable distance, inside which fairly large boats can find safe mooring. Local fishermen ply their nets as far down as Dun Laoghaire, and make a decent livelihood by their haul of herring, mackerel and other fish. Lobster fishing is a favourite pastime from the pier. The harbour, almost landlocked, is safe, and bathing can be indulged in at all times, and there is a good stretch of beach. Loughshinny has many attractions peculiar to itself. The little harbour, with Lambay Island standing out like a sentinel in the offing a few miles away, the high cliffs, with huge slabs of slate-like rock below, affording facilities for exploration when the tide is out—for the sea has in the course of time made many crevices and caves in the cliffs’ foundations—and the lovely sea panorama from the grassy ditches above—all combined form a pretty picture.

There are not many visitors in this little-known spot, and those who patronise it return year by year. Houses are, however, being erected rapidly in the neighbourhood, and there are many vacant sites suitable for bungalows. Building sites are available. A two-acre site overlooking the harbour was sold recently in a city auction room for £115; in addition the purchaser was offered the landlord’s interest for £60. A sum of £165 for the fee-simple of the property is a fair indication of the value of land here for speculators. Lord Holmpatrick is the landlord. The fact that there was a coastguard station here until recently is an indication of the importance of the little harbour as a refuge when heavy seas and rough easterly gales render the passage of coastal and Channel vessels somewhat difficult. The coastguard station accommodated four men. It was destroyed by fire during the troubled period of the Anglo-Irish conflict, when adjoining coastguard stations suffered a similar fate. The pier affords a lovely view, and the tired traveller can rest at ease all day on the granite seats inhaling the life-giving ozone from Rush Harbour direction over four miles of sea.

A walk of a mile brings the tourist to the bus leading to the city or to Skerries, so that there is no danger of one running short of any article not procurable in the local store.

Loughshinny in one way is a “dry” place, but perhaps this is an advantage. The local pumps, however, serve for all and sundry, and the supply is I learn never failing. I saw a fisherman hard at work pumping, and a glass of the cool water confirmed the old man’s solemn assurance that “this is the best drinking water in Ireland.” Visitors in search of something more exhilarating can hire a boat and get rowed across to Rock-a-Bill, the well-known lighthouse station opposite Skerries, Lambay or Rush.

Lisdoonvarna. By Patrick Murray, Jnr., Templederry, Thures.

What! going to Lisdoonvarna! Surely you don’t mean it! ” ”Yes! I have decided on spending my holidays there this year.” Some of my friends laughed at my folly, some sympathised with me, and some ironically asked if I suffered from “rheumatism,”
like all the visitors there. Undoubtedly a large number of old and infirm people visit Lisdoonvarna, but it cannot by any means be included in the category “For Old Folks only.” Plenty of young people come to drink its beneficial sulphur, iron and magnesia waters, to breathe its pure and bracing air, and to visit the numerous beauty spots and places of interest in its neighbourhood.

Lisdoonvarna is remarkable for its deep, narrow ravines, eaten out of the limestone plain by winding rivers, and consequently for the very high bridges which span those rivers connecting the hills on either sides. It is a place ideally suited for a quiet holiday if desired, but there are ample opportunities for young folk to enjoy themselves. Tennis seems to be the most popular game, with croquet a good second, and the town is well supplied with tennis courts and croquet lawns.

The bus service from Lisdoonvarna to Limerick, and to the railway at Ennistymon, is very good, and so visitors may easily spend a day in Limerick, Lahinch or Kilkee. The accommodation in the town itself is excellent and varied to suit all purses.

Personally, I enjoyed my first visit immensely. Corkscrew Hill and the Spectacle Bridge are sights I cannot easily forget, and the sea at Doolin and the huge Cliffs of Moher will live long in my memory. My only remark to my friends on returning was, “He who laughs last, laughs best.” The last laugh is worth waiting for.

**Attractions of Iveragh.**

*By Edward Clifford, High St., Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry.*

IVERAGH, in South-West Kerry, possesses scenery of exquisite beauty and loveliness. The district is almost encircled by high, purple-clad mountains, interspersed with grey boulders and murmuring streams. In the West the mountain barrier is replaced by the turbulent breakers of the mighty Atlantic. In the middle of the valley stands the enterprising town of Cahirciveen, which contains the beautiful edifice known as the O’Connell Memorial Church.

The visitor will be amply repaid by visiting the Cliffs of Killellan, which lie to the west about three miles from Cahirciveen. These rugged barriers rise out of the foaming breakers, and the loud crashes of the waves as they dash against the cliffs can be heard from afar. Near the cliffs the silver sands of the White Strand stretch, and these are the “Merica” of all Cahirciveen bathers.

Castlequin lies outside the town. The residence is surrounded by trees, which serve as ideal dwelling-places for our “Feathered Friends,” who charm the place with their harmonious melodies. Here also the air is laden with the sweet perfume of wild flowers, which grow in great profusion.

At Caharn, the ruins of the birthplace of Daniel O’Connell may be perceived, covered with ivy and other creeping plants, the whole forming a cloak of a delicious green hue.

Ballyearbery Castle, a proud relic of the Fenian days, is situated in the west and is now in ruins.

The River Fertha runs through the centre of the valley, and is the haunt of salmon, mullet and pollock. It has two tributaries, the Foilmore and Carhan rivers, the former being the haunt of salmon and the latter of brown and white trout.

Thus Iveragh possesses attractions both historical and beautiful, and no regret will be experienced by visiting this interesting district.

**The Isle in the West.**

*By Kenneth Rankin, 5 Heswall Road, Aintree, Liverpool.*

EVER since I was a child it has been my ambition to travel to the place where the sun sets—away there over the Irish Sea, over the dancing waves and through the shining spray, until I reached the land of the sunset’s colours. Last year I journeyed over that ever-moving sea and reached the Land of the Sunset’s Colours—Ireland.

And I journeyed round, seeing how all these wondrous colours were formed. I rode through the Gap of Dunloe, and saw the purple of the sunset on the mountain side; I tarried on the Kenmare road, and saw the blue of the sunset in the lakes beneath; I saw in the autumn tints of the trees of Woodenbridge, the browns and yellows of the evening sky.

But in Glendalough I saw all these colours together—I saw the sunset colours blended in that little valley, blended ready to be hoisted up into the evening sky. There I saw the purple mountains, the lakes—sometimes blue, sometime silver—the autumn tints of the leaves. There I saw Nature preparing her sunset.

It took but a couple of hours to climb to the head of the Wicklow Gap, and just as I reached the top the sun sank behind the purple mountains and Nature began to hoist her colours into the sky. There, to the once blue heaven, she raised the grey of her rocks, with the brown of her bogs; there she put the gold of her sand, the silver of her lakes, the crimson of her wayside flowers. The colours of the countryside became the colours of the sunset. But then Night, the eraser, swept over the sky and blotted out the vision of beauty before me.

I thank thee, Ireland, Island of the West, Land of the Sunset’s Colours, for transporting me from earth to heaven for a few bright moments.

**Ireland as seen by an American.**

*By Alison Burstone Murphy, New York City, U.S.A.*

HERE are people in America who think there is nothing to see in Ireland. When we chose Ireland for our holidays a friend said, “Ireland!
Why I’ve passed the coast but I never dreamt of stopping there!” I have proved our wisdom of choice. Ireland is not a place to be neglected, and we, who read extensively before sailing, little knew how much there is to see here. We had planned to hop to France for a week, but we are so busy that we will not have time, and, even as it is, we miss many things. Castles fairly pop out of the roadside, all of them right from a storybook picture, so many that we cannot go inside all, though we never tire of exploring them.

Then the climate! People balk because of the unwarranted reputation of the Irish climate. We have had as good weather as we would have had in New York at this season, except for a few little sprinkles, and they are so soft and misty that they do not inconvenience us. We are always prepared for rain, so when it does shower we go right ahead with our plans instead of sitting inside as we probably would at home. The first week away from Dublin we had cloudless skies and a wonderful sun; lately, though it has been cloudy, we can always see the sun somewhere—a patch of light on the hills, on the water, on the beach or fields.

Americans come to Europe largely for the antiquity of it. Our achievements are so new that we want to see the relics of peoples past. In looking for antiquities, I have never seen a place which contains the work of so many different ages as does Cashel. The beehive huts and Oratory of Galerus, on the Dingle Peninsula, should suit the most ardent antiqueseeker, and they are more interesting because the out-houses and walls are built just the same to-day by the farmers as the fortifications were two thousand years ago.

I cannot say enough about Ireland. The people are so lovely, the scenery is so beautiful, the climate is so mild, that I enjoy every minute here. I will be sorry to sail for home. When I reach home and start talking, my friends will want to come too.

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LIMERICK CITY is the principal town of one of the most fertile districts in Ireland—a district of historic associations of great beauty.

The city itself has some very fine antiquities, while the surrounding countryside, of which the main feature is the River Shannon, is famous for sport and scenery. The Shannon is one of the leading salmon rivers in the country, and its banks provide great opportunities for fishing. Tennis and golf are played throughout the city and county, and in the winter the famous Scarteen "Black and Tans" and the Co. Limerick Foxhounds hunt the district.

Racing is carried on at Greenpark, just outside Limerick City. The principal antiquities and places of interest in the city are:

- **The Treaty Stone.**—This is the famous stone on which the Treaty of Limerick was signed in 1691.
- **King John’s Castle.**—Erected in 1210—a good specimen of mediaeval architecture.
- **St. Mary’s Cathedral.**—It was about the year 1172 when Celt and Norman were contending for the mastery of the city that St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick, was founded. **The Tholsel.**—In Mary Street. Erected in 1449, and used as a Municipal building until 1673.
- When the Exchange was built. The Exchange was the repository of the "Nail" on which merchants paid their debts—hence "to pay on the Nail."

**Dominican Monastery.**—Remains situated in grounds of St. Mary’s Convent. Founded in 1272; raised to the status of a University by Pope Innocent X. in 1644. **The Walls of the City.**—Portions of the old walls may be seen behind Lelia Street.

In the country the following places should be visited:
- **Foynes.**—23 miles from Limerick. Shanid Castle. Pleasant scenery.
- **Askeaton.**—19¼ miles from Limerick. Remains of Dominican Friary dating from 1420, and a Desmond Castle.
- **Lough Gur.**—14 miles from Limerick. Of particular interest to the antiquarian. Lake covers 230 acres. On its shores are dolmens, stone circles, and in the lake crannogs or artificial islands. Very fine scenery.
- **Newcastle West.**—25½ miles from Limerick. Remains of a magnificent Desmond Castle and of 5th...

(Continued on page 14.)
“IT’S THE TOBACCO THAT COUNTS”

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CYCLING IN THE BOYNE VALLEY.

By M. L. STEPHENS.

STARTING from Dublin on my bike one fine morning recently, I rode to Balbriggan without having to get off once in the twenty miles, as the road is so level. Passing through the town, which is not interesting, I went down to the shore and rode along the flat sands to a deserted bay, where I bathed and rested. Then back to the road and on to Drogheda, where there is much of interest to see. Considerable portions of the ancient walls still remain, and there is the famous St. Lawrence's Gate, one of the ten which formerly acted as fortresses when the town was besieged by Sir Phelim O'Neill, and later by Cromwell in 1649. My destination that evening was Collon, a pretty village seven miles from Drogheda, where I stayed at "Derrabeg," the quaint old dower house of Oriel Temple, the Massereene's beautiful place. Collon village is full of interest. At the corner house lived John Foster, the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. The Catholic Church contains the famous Fitzgerald tomb in marble, and the Protestant Church is a replica of Christ Church Chapel, Cambridge.

Having explored Oriel Temple and the immediate neighbourhood, I proceeded next morning to Monasterboice, which was one of the earliest and the most famous of the religious houses of Ireland. There I saw the two ruined Churches, the Round Tower which is 110 feet high, and the three great Sculptured Crosses—two of them, for design and richness of sculpturing, surpass all similar works of that class to be found in the world. The carvings, peculiar to Ireland, illustrate passages of the Scriptures.

Four short miles brought me from Monasterboice to Mellifont Abbey, which far exceeded my expectations. There in the valley of the River Mattock was built the earliest and the finest of the 42 Abbeys erected in Ireland by the Cistercians. The monks were sent over from France by St. Bernard and the site of the Abbey was chosen by St. Malachy of Armagh as being the nearest approaching Clairvaux in its appearance and surroundings. The monks arrived in 1142, and were joined by some Irish novices, and as a result of their labours not only was an imposing monastery founded but also schools for technical, literary, and agricultural instruction, whilst the Abbey did the work of a poorhouse, a dispensary, and a hotel for the surrounding country.

Of the once magnificent pile little remains except the Lavabo, an octagon building in the Norman style, and the Chapter House, a beautiful conception of the late decorated period of Gothic architecture.

From Mellifont I rode on to Slane, and passing through the town descended by Slane Castle to the Boyne, which is wide and beautiful there, flowing between high, wooded banks, with Beau Parc dem Cime and picturesque mansion on the opposite side to Slane. A sudden desire to swim in those romantic waters came over me, so I unpacked my bathing kit and plunged amongst the reeds and water lilies, with Slane Castle reflected in the still water and visions in my mind of the ancient warriors of Erin disporting themselves thus in those romantic days of old ago.

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THE ISLAND OF ACHILL

By W. M. LETTS.

ONE of the consolations of our uncertain spring is the consideration (made in an armchair by the fireside) of holiday haunts for those days when the cornrake will cry in the long grass and the heather grow pink over the bogs.

How many people, wise people I think, have the island passion. There is a lure about an island, especially about an island in the Western seas. There is high adventure in leaving the mainland, even if you do so by a bridge across a sound, as you do in the Island of Achill off the coast of Connaught.

Achill is sure to be as beautiful as you expect. I cannot believe that anyone who goes to Achill or to Kerry or to Donegal is disappointed, though I would pray for fine weather.

Now, from England one may approach Achill by steamer and train, and in this case the train conveys the traveller to Achill Sound, on the mainland, and he or she can be met by a motor from any hotel chosen. Or, if the traveller brings a motor car, there is a journey by quite good roads right across Ireland.

For myself I chose to break the journey at Athlone, because I started from Dublin after lunch, but an early start makes the journey—187 miles—possible in one day, or a night spent at Westport would mean time to look at the Mayo mountains and quiet hours among the yellow flag flowers. The drive from Westport to Achill Sound and across the island is rich in beauty. Mountains and sea and bog, in all lights and colours, are given most lavishly to the traveller. Here in Achill you see the traditional Ireland. Barefooted, dignified women in shawls and red petticoats, kerchief on head. Here you see all the beauty of labour out of doors as they cut and foot the turf and carry it. You pass donkeys with their panniers bestridden by a boy or by a woman sitting sideways. Or you see two women treading their blankets in tubs heating on turf fires. You feel in a little world remote and friendly.

For the visitor there are several hotels. Dugort has two or three. We preferred one close to a stretch of sand, a lovely bathing place. Behind the hotel lies Slievemore, a mountain that is not too hard a climb, and in front is Blacksod Bay, losing itself in the Atlantic.

It is a wonderfully picturesque spot, and the hotel is a comfortable, simple place and a good centre for the many walks, drives and climbs which the island can give. It is, of course, an island for artists, and many besides Paul Henry have tried to show the world the wonder of sea and mountains here. There is sea fishing for those who want it, and you may wait hopefully, as I did, to see seals in the caves near Dugort. You may bathe, you may drive over roads that might be better and might be worse. You may climb the slopes of Achill Head and look out towards America or look back at the tumble of Mayo mountains and the islands set in that wonderful sea. You may watch the fishermen in their currachs down on Keem Bay, or dream of the past near Druid stones in the heather or near the castle of that pirate queen, Grace O’Malley (Granuaile), who thought herself greater than the sovereign lady, Elizabeth of England.

A motorist had better inquire about the island road he proposes to take, for there is a lack of danger signs which I hope by this year the Automobile Association will make good. For example, the road to Achill Head appears to be possible, but after Captain Boycott’s gates it becomes decidedly impossible, and there is no place to turn. We found two gallant ladies with a new Morris-Oxford in a horrid pickle on the lower stretches of the road. That the driver managed at last to turn the car, under skilled advice, was a feat of heroism as well as of skill. But the more mountainous roads, beautiful as they are, need caution.

Limerick for Holidays (Continued from page 11)

October convent. Nearby is Ardagh, where was found the famous Chalice, now in the National Museum.

Rathkeale.—17½ miles from Limerick. Remains of Castle and Abbey. German Palatines settled here early in 18th century, and German names are still common amongst the people. Castleconnell.—8 miles from Limerick. World famous for its salmon fishing.

At Abbeyfeale there is the remains of an Abbey founded in 1186 by Brian O’Brien for Cistercian monks. Below the town is Port Castle, where an heir to the Earl of Desmond was residing when he fell in love with and married one of his father’s tenants, thereby incurring the odium of his relatives, who forced him to flee the country with his bride.
KILLEGAR AND ITS MEMORIALS.

By L. S. GOGAN,

The ancient church and cemetery of Killegar is situated at the southern end of a long, grassy ridge which dominates the verdant slopes south of the Scalp (An Scalp), the imposing road through which one passes from Dublin into Wicklow. The ridge, which is geologically a high-level gravel deposited by the Irish Sea ice, overlooks the main road between the Scalp and Enniskerry (4th na Scáridh, rocky ford), and is reached by taking the first turn to the left after leaving the former. This road leads up a stiff rise: when the first long level is reached a sandpit and the ruined church beyond it can be seen across the fields to the left.

The situation was a delightful one for a church settlement, looking over, as it does, one of the most pleasing champagnes in Ireland, that surrounding Bray and Enniskerry and nestling between the romantic heights of Wicklow and the more sober highlands of Dublin. As we approach the site we find that the northern end has been eaten into in recent times by sand quarries, while in a depression at the southern end, surrounded by a modern battlemented wall, replacing the early cairn cairn noted by O’Curry, we find the ancient church and cemetery, the latter of which is still used. On the summit is a ring of boulders suggesting a stone circle, but actually, like the ridge itself, deposited by the ice. As it is at the northern end we find the chief water-supply, a small mountain stream, one wonders if this were not the first centre of occupation. The townland is named The Monastery, perhaps from the fact that certain of the lands in this district pertained to St. Mary’s Abbey, Dublin.

The ruined church, like those of Killerman (Cill Tighearmain), Kilgobban (Cill Gobain), and other churches along the same route, and originally in the old diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, probably owes its main lines to an architect of the 12th or 13th century, although Killerman has some much older features. In the chancel are several old slabs with strange designs that have puzzled our antiquaries, but from their resemblance to the sundials or mass-clocks I take it that this is what they are, the chief difference being that the radiating lines are outside instead of inside the concentric circles. They probably belonged to the original settlement. The stock and cap of a high cross are also said to be here, but I have not noticed them (Crawford). Another slab, not of the sundial class, is illustrated.

The name Killegar (kil-aygar) goes back to an Irish form, Cill Adhgair, the cell of Adhgair, a name which has been equated with that of a Welsh saint (Adgar), associated with Modroc and tea others in the Book of Llandaff; but as a form Kilchagar occurs (Hoggin, O’Monomachion), which suggests an original Cill Achaith Adhgair and implies that the first names was Achaith Adhgair, the Field of Adhgair, it is possible that Adhgair was the name of a pre-Christian owner. It may be compared to the name of a founder of a Leinster gens called the Mecen Edagar (Maca Eadhagic). If translatable, it may mean devoted (adigor).

The founder was doubtless the Leinster Saint Fionnbharr who is mentioned in several works as connected with it, and who is not to be confused with the evangeliser of Cork, who was a scion of one of the royal septs of Leinster, the Dál Meisce Corb, which ruled most of Wicklow. The founder of this sept, Wreas Corb, was son of Cú Corb and Meadhbh Leithdhéarg, from whom also by another wife, Eithne, granddaughter of Conaír, the Great, were descended the Íd Brúin Cúanlaum, in whose territory Killegar is situated, and which became afterwards (11th century) the territory of Mac Giolla Mocholmóg of the uí Dúnchadh (a sept of the same line possessing lands nearer Dublin), later still passing to the Norman baron de Ridde’sford of Bray, and finally (in the 13th century) to Kustace de Poir, from whom Powerscourt takes its name.

Fionnbharr, we learn further, was a descendant of Forcan (or Tor), son of Oíchú, son of Fothadh, and, except for his connection with Killegar, that is all we know about him. With him, however, we may associate the two iron bells discovered during the excavations, the larger between the clay and sand 3 feet below the surface on the left as one enters the pit and the smaller one presumably in the vicinity, where they had been probably buried for safety during some Viking (or other) raid as in the case of the bell of St. Patrick’s of Nendrum. The smaller bell was broken before being buried, but perhaps afterwards also. It measures 7 by 6 by 3 inches. The larger bell, which, except for part of the grooved handle, is entire, measures 8½ by 6½ by 3½ inches. Both are made of two shaped iron plates, riveted together and dipped in molten bronze, and have interior loops for the clapper, which is missing in both cases. They are of somewhat later date than St. Patrick’s bell (c. 450 A.D.) and earlier than the bronze bells, so that we may assign them to the 6th or 7th century.

The sand quarriers in the course of their operations (1927-28) uncovered a
IRISH TRAVEL.

The Rock of Muff is famous for
the fact that it is the site of a
common occurrence here until
half a century ago. Kingscourt is
beautifully situated among luxu-
riant woods and varied scenery.
From an eminence nearby a splen-
did view can be obtained over
several counties, terminating, if
the weather is fine, with Dun-
dalk Bay to the east. At Moy-
boigne, a few miles away, is a
large moat-surrounded sepilechre,
the reputed resting-place of
Fiacha, King of Ireland, who died
about the year 56. Clannaphilip
and Teevurcher are places of his-
toric interest also in this neighbour-
hood. Dean Swift wrote part of his

Gulliver’s Travels” at Quilca
House, near Virginia, a beautiful
little town on the banks of Lough
Ramor, the source of the Black-
water. This is the most famous
beauty spot in Cavan, and, luckily
for visitors, the Dublin-Cavan road
passes through Virginia. The
Marquess of Headfort has a charm-
ing seat near the wooded shores of
this lake. About four miles from
Virginia is Lough Sheelin, beloved
of antiquarians, sportsmen and
lovers of the picturesque. The lake
is over seven miles long. Sir
Walter Scott, in his enthusiasm
passing Lough Sheelin, said there
was more romance around the
Breaffi borders than in the whole
of Scotland. On one of its numer-
ous wooded islands stands the
ruined Church of St. Bride, which
Ross Castle is on its banks. Lough
Sheelin, a few miles from Lough
Gowra, to which we previously re-
ferred, completes our survey of a
county full of varied interest. It
brings us to a short but special
reference to the angling amenities,
of which it is itself the finest
centre.

Cavan lies almost entirely within
the Ballaghannon Fishery District,
an administrative division of the
Department of Fisheries. The sea-
son opens on the 1st March and
closes on the 30th of September.
The principal fish are trout, pike
and perch. Lough Oughter holds
a few salmon.

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September, 1929.
THE INISHOWEN PENINSULA, DONEGAL

UP in the very North of Ireland there are two large inlets of the sea called Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly. The peninsula caused by these inlets is called Inishowen, and no better place in Ireland could be found in which to spend a holiday. The peninsula is well served by the railway, which runs from Derry City in Northern Ireland and Letterkenny in the Free State to Carndonagh, via Fahan and Buncrana and Clonmany. Bus services provide an easy means of visiting the Lough Foyle side of the peninsula. A motorist will find the roads quite good. Assume we start on our journey by train to Carndonagh, the principal points of interest are located at Fahan, Buncrana and Clonmany and Carndonagh itself.

Fahan is a pretty little village situated in a well wooded valley, and is situated on the shores of Lough Swilly; it is a charming place for a quiet seaside holiday. Buncrana ranks amongst the best bathing places in Ireland, and it too is situated on the shores of Lough Swilly, the Lake of Shadows. There is an interesting relic of the O'Dohertys, the clansmen of Inishowen, in the form of the square keep of their castle. This is situated at the northern end of the town. Buncrana is a very fine centre from which to explore the Inishowen Peninsula, with its wealth of scenery, rivers and sea. Mulroy Bay, on the opposite shore of the lake, is worth a visit. There is a good golf links and good hotel accommodation at Buncrana. Clonmany is situated amongst very rugged hills. Carndonagh is the chief marketing centre in Inishowen, and is an important centre for shirt-making, and is a convenient place from which to explore Malin Head and village, 3½ miles away. Malin Head is a well-known and conspicuous landmark to sailors. Some of the best coastal scenery in Ireland is situated here, and cliff climbing on the steep, rocky coast is a favourite pastime of visitors.

To the west of Malin Head is a projection—a mass of rocks—known as Hell's Hole from the peculiar seething effect it has on the incoming tide as it surges through the narrow passage between it and the mainland. A magnificent view of the Clonmany Mountains and the coast is obtainable from the south and west. Between Malin and Glengad Head the cliff scenery becomes positively majestic, rising up to 800 feet above the sea.

From Carndonagh it is well worth while driving to Moville and taking a bus back to Derry City. The distance from Carndonagh to Moville is 12 miles. Moville is a very pleasant resort on Lough Foyle and has plenty of accommodation. It is remarkably well situated and it has beautiful surroundings. The ridges of the Squire's Cairn and Craignamaddy are at the back, and it commands excellent views of Benevenagh and Keery beyond Limavady. The stream of shipping going up the Foyle to Derry gives an animated appearance to the Lough. There are several interesting ruins in the neighbourhood.
The Story of Monaghan.

The County of Monaghan is one of the counties of Ulster still remaining in the Irish Free State, and from earliest times it has been famous for its numerous hills and woods. The woods have nearly disappeared, but the hills surround numerous lakes which lend a touch of placid beauty to the countryside and provide sport for angler and fowler.

The history of County Monaghan is largely one of strife and conflict. Before the coming of the English Monaghan formed part of the district of Oriel, which also included Louth and part of Armagh. It was generally known as the MacMahon territory, on account of the dominance of that powerful sept. When the English came to Ulster, De Courcy formed an alliance with one of the MacMahons, but it was of short duration. De Lacy afterwards invaded his territory and burned the town and Abbey of Monaghan and erected a castle on the ruins. Invasion followed invasion until the time of Elizabeth, when the power of the chieftains was broken, and "The MacMahon" was executed.

Topography.

We have remarked that an important feature of Monaghan is the number of its hills. The Slievebeagh Mountains form an uninterrupted ridge of high land along the north-west of the county, separating it from Tyrone. Visitors to Monaghan should not fail to climb Cairnmore Mountain, from the summit of which there is a wonderful view commanding the whole county and parts of Armagh, Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim, Down, Tyrone, Louth and Meath. Island-studded Lough Erne and the other lakes of the district can also be seen from Cairnmore. On the summit of Cairnmore is a very remarkable lake, of considerable size and very deep, from which there is no apparent outlet. The waters of this lake are always in a state of movement, and there is a very wide strand. Another mountain from which there is an excellent view is Bean-hú-úine, near Crieve, towards the south of the county. The waters from this mountain flow on one side towards Dundalk and on the other towards Ballyshannon. The most beautiful lake in Monaghan is Lough Mucknoo, near Castleblayney. It is about three miles in length and covers about 600 acres. The lake contains many beautifully wooded islands, and the scenery on its shores rivals any in Ireland for beauty. Glas Lough, near the town of that name, is another beautiful lake. In all there are nearly 200 lakes in the county, many of them beautiful, and all of them charming; amongst the chief are those of Emy, Lessborough, Crieve, White Lough and Lough Avean (Abb-ean).

Chief Centres.

Monaghan is the chief town of the county and is very old. The Four Masters record the plundering of the Monastery of Monaghan in 820 and again in 931. This monastery flourished for about 200 years. In 1462 Sir Phelim MacMahon founded a Franciscan Monastery which continued until the abolition of the Monasteries by the English in the 16th century. Sir Edward Blaney acquired land in the district about the beginning of the 17th century. Lord Rossmore is now the principal landowner in the district. Rossmore Park adjoins the town.

Clones.—From the tourist point of view Clones is a very important centre. It is well situated on a hill, and is an important agricultural and railway centre. In very early Christian times Clones was an important ecclesiastical centre and the home of St. Tigernach,
who died there in 548. In 1095 the Abbey was rebuilt, but in the reign of Henry VIII. it was forcibly dissolved.

**Carrickmacross.**—This town is very prettily situated in the south of the county, not far from the Louth border. It is famous throughout the world on account of its lace industry, which for delicate beauty cannot be surpassed. South of Carrickmacross the district becomes very rugged, especially towards Kingscourt in Cavan.

Castleblayney, named after Sir E. Blayney, a Stuart Governor of Monaghan, is built on the shores of Lake Mucknoo, to which we have already referred. The castle grounds are open to the public. Castleblayney is an important centre of the flax industry.

**Ballybay** is situated in the centre of a very pretty district and was formerly far-famed for its linen industries and bleach greens.

**Emyvale**, situated in the north-east of the county, in the green woods of Trugh, in the Clan MacKenna country, is a good centre for fishing and shooting, and in no other locality are the woods so well preserved. Lough Emy, nearby, is a very charming lake and is famous for the number of its wildfowl, particularly swans. Wolfe Tone, with his captors, was halted for a night here in 1798 en route to Dublin.

**Glaslough** is a small town near the beautiful home of the Leslie family, whose castle—Castle Leslie—is situated on the banks of the charming lake from which the town gets its name.

**Antiquities of Monaghan.**

Monaghan is important from the antiquarian’s point of view, and Clones is the principal centre. At Clones was found a piece of Stone Age pottery, specimens of which are very rare in Ireland. This piece is of hemispherical shape and is now in the Royal Irish Academy collection. On the outskirts of Clones there is a rath with the usual high central mound surrounded by steep, concentric earthworks. There is also a Round Tower, which is rough and very irregular on the outside but constructed of smooth limestone within. The top portion has fallen. The ancient cross is very interesting, and consists of a quadrangular base three feet high with a shaft of eight feet divided into three panels. The carvings depict scriptural subjects with characteristic Celtic interlacing. The ruined Abbey is another interesting sight. The Abbey appears to date from the early part of the 12th century, and there is a curious carving on the north wall four feet above the ground. The shrine facing the doorway deserves particular notice. At Iniskeen is an Abbey ruin and the stump of a Round Tower and a Cross.

**Angling and Shooting.**

In nearly all the lakes in Monaghan there are trout, perch and pike. From Castleblayney the lower waters of the River Fane can be fished. In addition, the number of wildfowl frequenting the lakes makes the county particularly interesting to devotees of the gun. Information regarding the letting of shooting in Co. Monaghan can be had on application to the Department of Lands and Agriculture, Merrion Street, Dublin, but the greater part of the county can be fished and shot over at will.

**Golf Courses.**

Golf courses in Monaghan are situated at Castleblayney, Carrickmacross, Clones, Dardrey, Monaghan and Rossmore.

**Hotel Accommodation.**

All information concerning hotels in Co. Monaghan can be had on application to the Irish Tourist Association, O’Connell Street, Dublin.

**Transport Service.**

A branch line of the Great Northern Railway runs from Belfast through Monaghan and Clones to Enniskillen and Bundoran; another branch connects Dun­dalk with Clones, through Castleblayney and Bally­ bay, with branch line to Carrickmacross. The bus services have also opened up the other districts of the county.

**Tourist Publicity in Cigarette Cards**

We have received from Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills, tobacco manufacturers, of Dublin, a set of their new cigarette cards, one of which will be found in each packet of their cigarettes. The cards represent in colour some famous Irish beauty spots, and on the back of each card is a short description indicating the principal aspects of the place depicted. The complete set of cards number 25, and amongst the places shown are:—The Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare; Bantry Bay, Killarney, and Powerscourt. Perhaps the best picture of all is No. 5 in the series, representing Glengarriff, Co. Cork.
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