

1925

sandbanks to the right-hand side add greatly to the pleasure of the journey.

I was greatly surprised at the narrowness of the streets in Ballyshannon; and at Dunderavan, a totally wrong preconceived idea which I had formed of the place as being only an inconsiderable little village depending for its trade and progress almost entirely on summer visitors was dispelled by discovering that it is quite a large, well-kept, prosperous-looking town with splendid houses and a lovely situation.

The road-side cottages between Dunderavan and Sligo are kept

very neatly and trimly. Reached  
Sijiq at 6 pm.  
Tuesday, 6th. Oct., 1925.

Left the Victoria Hotel  
(Ramsay's) at 10.30 and motored  
towards Bellina. Low, misty, close  
morning; no view of anywhere  
except close to road. Lovely,  
level, smooth road through a  
district consisting almost  
all the way of an extensive  
plain which, from the signs  
afforded by vegetation, crops,  
and trees, has very good soil.  
Were surprised to see how late  
a great portion of the harvest  
was in the district we passed  
through. The main dependence  
of the people for stock-feeding

is on hay, with the result that only very small patches of oats, potatoes, and turnips are sown, but extensive meadow fields line the roads on both sides all along. In every hayyard very large, neatly built hay-stacks, but only a few small "Sheeps" of oats.

Another very remarkable feature is the small number of animals to be seen in the fields; in an equal distance by Donegal one would see five or six beasts to the one to be seen here. The houses are very comfortable looking and very neatly kept, with, in nearly all cases, creepers and flowers trained along the



fronts.

As we approached Ballina the mist lifted and the day dried. We passed through several little villages between Sligo and Ballina. We passed through Ballina and proceeded to Bofield Preparatory School where we met Miss Gillespie of Fweedore and Misses Duggan and Boyle of Meenachady and Ardabeg, respectively, together with the respected Principals, Mr. and Mrs. League O'Leary who very kindly entertained us at their magnificent home where we spent about an hour and a half. After rest and refreshment with our hospitable hosts we proceeded on our journey, and passed through a picturesque



district along by Ballyvaughan,  
Castlebar, Falmaine, Belcarra,  
Styide, Herefort, and so on to  
Galway. The scenery on this  
portion of the route was of the  
same general character as  
that through which we had  
passed earlier in the day. In  
the south of Co. Galway, a  
noticeable feature was the  
number of little woods or  
groves which we passed  
surrounding some landlords'  
or magnates' castles and demesnes,  
and it was painfully evident  
that where these gentry had  
their comfortable nests, the humble  
houses of the poor farmers,  
labourers, and other humbler  
classes were few and far between.

and far removed from the  
palatial residences of the  
affluent and leisured aristocrats,  
as if the former were shy and  
ashamed of obtruding their  
lowliness in juxtaposition to  
the stately grandeur of ancient  
mansions.

On our way we passed many  
old ruins of churches, abbeys,  
monasteries, and castles; but  
the most remarkable of all these  
and the one in which we took  
most interest was the ruins  
of the Abbey at Strahide, Co. Mayo,  
the birth-place and burial-place  
of one of the most pure-souled  
and highest-minded Irish men  
~~whose~~ whose patriotic aims  
and achievements ever graced

the pages of the annals of his  
native land, - the noble Michael  
Davitt, the Father of the Land  
League, the originator of the  
organisation which gave the  
final death-blow to the  
despotic feudal powers of  
landlordism and so freed the  
poor tenant-farmers of Ireland  
from a thralldom and an  
oppression almost as tyrannous  
as that under which the serfs  
of Russia groaned. Having  
been conducted to his grave and  
monument by an old native  
whose uncle was Davitt's  
godfather, and having said a  
prayer for the repose of the  
patriot's soul, we made  
another very interesting



discovery, namely, a vault  
in which are interred many  
of the more modern descendants  
of the O'Donnells of Newport,  
a collateral branch of the ruling  
family of Donegal. In the  
inscription over this vault  
are recorded the names of many  
officers & ancestors who served  
in the British, Austrian, Spanish  
and other Continental armies.  
The genealogy of the family  
being traced back to Calvagh  
who was King of Lincinnell in  
1566.

We proceeded from Stran  
on the route to Galway, and  
on the latter part of this journey  
the evening turned doubly  
and unpleasant. We reached

Galway about 6.40.

Wednesday, 17th Oct

Another depressing pall of mist over the country this morning. Went on from Galway with Linnick for objective. Passed through a very stony, rough district in South Galway and North Clare. On our way were the towns of Oranmore, Clurintree, Tilsolgan, Tuvarra, Ballyvaughan, Lidoonvarna, Lisconnor, Lghinab, Ennistymon, Ennis, Clarecastle, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Linnick. III

The geological formation of the stone strata in South

Salway and North Clare, already  
alluded to above, is very remark-  
able. In many places, the stones  
look as if built in for a large  
floor. The blocks are ~~all~~ nearly  
all square or rectangular shaped  
and in any particular patch they  
are all of uniform size and so  
closely placed that scarcely a  
blade of grass can make its  
way between them. This formation  
extends for miles and miles  
over a district taking about  
three hours' speedy motoring to  
get through. The few patches  
of cultivated land along the  
tracks seem to have the surface  
layer of these stones removed  
and soil carried in to fill  
their places. In a few glens



the stones are fewer and some soil is more in evidence. The Burren Mountains are almost entirely composed of rows upon rows of these stones running in plainly-marked horizontal lines along the length of the mountain sides without trace or sign of any vegetation, heather, fern, or any other kind. The mountain ranges have a very bleak, bare, dreary aspect. On ~~ascending~~ ascending the corkscrew road at the western end of the basin-shaped depression of Glencolumbkille, so very similar in its physical features and appearance to its namesake glen in Liconailb, the stony aspect of the landscape changes

and we come into a meadow  
tract changing farther west  
towards the coast to a richer  
soil, seemingly loamy.

We called at Lidoonvarna,  
inspected the buildings and  
partacks of the waters, then  
resumed our journey, proceeding  
southward to Brian's Castle  
and the bluffs of Moher which we,  
like all other visitors, saw with  
admiration and delight. Within  
a short distance of the bluffs is St.  
Brigid's well where pilgrims come  
to perform a turas at a little mound  
surmounted by a beautiful statue  
of the Saint and a smaller one of  
our Lord. Adjoining the Well is  
an ancient burying ground in  
which the bodies of many of the

famous O'Briens of Thomond and other ancient celebrities are interred with costly and artistic monuments erected over their remains to commemorate their names and their many real or alleged virtues.

Liscannor and Lahinch are both prettily situated, the ~~first~~ former on the north side and the latter at the head of Liscannor Bay. We stopped at Ennistimon for dinner, after which we passed through level, rich-looking country south-eastward to Ennis and along the north bank of the Shannon to Limerick which we reached at about 6.30 and where we put up at Finn's Hotel.



Thursday, 8th October.

Another grey, dull, heavy morning, but dry. After <sup>prayers</sup> toilet and breakfast went to see the Treaty-Stone. By electric or day-light, Limerick looks a very nice, clean city with fine wide streets, well-paved, and lined with rows of fine shops and other buildings. In fact the main streets rival those of Dublin <sup>in appearance</sup> and surpass them in cleanliness. Set out at 11 a.m. and proceeded through Ballynety, Herbertstown, Hospital, Knocklong, Ballylanders, Mitchelstown, Killybeghny, to Cahir and north to Cashel where we stopped for the night. On our way we made a slight detour

to visit the Mitchelstown Caves  
which we descended with Muleahy,  
the guide, and which are certainly  
a most wonderful and interesting  
natural curiosity, with their  
stalactites, stalagmites, fringes,  
curtains, pillars, and knobs all  
seeming made as if of polished  
~~ivory~~ ivory and bearing fanciful  
names of persons, animals,  
and objects which they more or  
less resemble, such as "Mary,  
Queen of Scots," "the Organ," "the  
Speaker's Chair," "the Woolpack,"  
"the Golden Fleece," the Pillars of  
"Hercules," "the Cock's Head and Beak,"  
"the Seal," "the Cat and Kittens," "the  
Beehive," "the Bed of Honour," the  
Lord Chancellor's Wig," "the  
Grangehouse," "the Tower of Babel,"

"the Saddle,"

so, many of these sparkling in the light of the torch, candles, and magnesium wire as if they were sprinkled over or crusted with diamonds. The caves are a stranger natural phenomenon than any ~~has~~ ~~written~~ description can give an adequate idea of without an actual sight of them. At the extreme bottom the guide told us that according to engineer's calculations we were 350 feet below the surface. After emerging from our subterranean climbings, slidings, crawlings, and windings, we went on to bath and beach, which we reached at about 4:15 p.m. We spent about an hour inspecting the famous ruins of the Rock of Cashel over which we



were shown by an obliging and  
informative guide. As so many  
accounts and descriptions of  
these ruins have been written and  
are procurable at small expense  
I need say nothing here about it.

Friday, 9th Oct.

Motored from Cashel to Dublin  
through Littleton, Arlingford, Frankford,  
Kilkenny, Castlecomer, Athy, Kil-  
gully, Kogas, Rathpole.

Look in Dunmore Camps on route.  
The latter would have looked very  
remarkable had we not previously  
seen the Mitchelstown Caves. While  
those at Dunmore are not so  
extensive as the latter, what there  
is of them is much more imposing,

magnificent, and spacious than those at Mitchelstown. The wide arched entrance to the Dunmore Caves, surrounded and overhung with bushes, ferns, and greenery of all kinds, is very picturesque.

We passed through a very fine, rich territory, portions of the Golden Vale and the southern border of the Bog of Allen. This district has more cultivation and stock than we had seen in our journeys of the few preceding days.

We passed within a half mile of the Wolfhill Collieries and had a splendid opportunity of seeing and studying the system by which the coal is conveyed from the mines to the Railway Stations.

in large iron hutchers each  
weighing about 2 cwt. and con-  
taining about 4 cwt. of coal.  
These hutchers are placed at  
regular intervals along an  
endless chain crossing the road  
by which we travelled about  
midway between the pits and  
the station. While one set of  
full buckets are being carried  
towards the Station along one  
side of the chain, another set of  
empty buckets <sup>on the other side of the</sup> are passing <sup>on</sup>  
the <sup>chain</sup> opposite direction from the  
Station to the Colliery. The  
working is so arranged that  
an full and an empty hutch  
pass each other at each of the  
iron pillars supporting the chain.  
We also paid a short visit



to a creamery along our road  
and saw the different processes  
of milk separation and butter  
making in operation.

Saturday, 10th. Oct.

Mr. Ruggan & Hugo, and I  
went to Caspofort Training  
College where we saw Ross. We  
afterwards went to Kingstown,  
had a walk along the Pier, then  
dinner, after which we went out  
to Killiney Hill and enjoyed the  
magnificent view therefrom as  
the evening was glorious. Having  
gone by tram, we decided, for  
variety sake, to return by train.

Sunday, Monday, Tues., Wed.

Spent the time in Dublin and surrounding districts.

I went to Howth on Tuesday, and after a walk along the cliffs, and dinner at the Hotel, walked along the highest summits of the promontory and down the landward slope to Sutton where I took the tram back to the City. The view from the summits was glorious, as the evening was so calm, clear, and mild. Dublin Bay, with its many winds and tides, Dunleary town and harbour, Dalkey, Killiney, and in the far distance, Bray town and Bray Head, all lay to the south, plain to view.

which, to the north, lay Hawth<sup>th</sup> Town  
and breakwater at the foot of the  
hill, Lambay, Ireland's Eye, and  
the seaboard of Dublin along  
by Dalrymple, Portmarnock,  
Malahide, Donabate, and  
Kicketstown to Skerries.

On my way across the hill I  
passed the reservoir for the  
water supply of Hawth<sup>th</sup> Town.  
On one of the highest peaks I en-  
countered a flock of 40 goats  
and kids, every third or fourth  
of which had a bell attached  
to its neck. As they were crossing  
my track in pairs or in single  
file, I had a very good opportu-  
nity of counting them. I passed  
through large patches of the  
most gigantic ferns that ever I



saw, reaching almost to my appetites. Between the peaks are lovely green little glens, well farmed, and giving good crops and meadows as well as luxuriant pasturage.

Thursday, 15th. Octr.

Left Dublin and went on by the Phoenix Park, Dunboyne, Black Bull, Black Bush, Dunshaughlin, Navan, Slane, Callow, Ardee, and Carrickmacross where we stopped for the night at O'Neill's Hotel. Went next morning to visit New, Poistin, and the Durylloe Boherty girls at the Convent.

On our way we visited the Hill of Tara which commands a

splendid view of a very extensive territory on all sides. On the Hill itself, the traces of its old-time splendour are visible except the circumvallations which surrounded the famous old buildings. The Statue of St. Patrick on the summit is becoming somewhat injured by the elements and the right hand is broken off across above the fingers.

Friday, 16th. Oct.

Motored from Carrickmacross to Manorbennet, through Shercock, Bailieborough, Carron, Crossdoney, along the west shore of Lough Beg, Killybegs, Newtonmore, by Lough Fadraice,

Ballinamore, Drumshambo,  
along the west shore of Lough Allen  
within a short distance of the  
Ariqua mines, Drumtedran,  
Belhaven Lake, Larkfield, and  
into Managh Hamilton. The  
country along this day's route  
is very diversified and beautiful,  
much more picturesque than  
the wide-spreading level  
tracts of the Midlands, but of  
course the latter have a much  
better soil. The land in the  
north is more fully occupied  
and utilised than in the Mid-  
lands and South of the Country.  
Splendid crops of potatoes  
were being dug along the roads.  
A very strange thurque saw  
was turf stacks thatched.



## Addendum.

Here and there all along  
our journey we met ~~with~~  
a wayside cross or monument  
erected to the memory of some  
poor victim of the Black and  
Tan savagery or of the even  
more regrettable and not less  
inhuman internecine madness  
succeeding the foreign invasion  
and wanton destruction of  
life and property.

On approaching the cliffs  
of Mather, we had a splendid  
and clear view of the Asson Islands  
in their setting in the calm,  
blue, wide-<sup>as</sup> extending waters  
of Salway Bay. The opposite

Coast and headlands of  
Galway were also clearly  
visible.

Dan Cannon moved to chair -  
welcomed delegates -

Mr. Brennan regretted  
that a agenda was indefinite -  
In the absence of the C. Sec.  
all we can do is to appt. a  
Comm. & other officials

Mr. O.D. und. that the other  
Divns. have similar mtgs. today

Mr. Breslin suggested that  
the mtg. be adjourned for a  
month, and further parts to be  
asked from in the meantime.

If Gov. cannot do some-  
thing to relieve unemployment  
Crisis will become a thing



of the past.

Mr. O'Donnell, Rft. moved  
that next Mtg. be held in  
Dunpree. Secdd. by Hed Swan.

Date Sunday 5th Dec. 1920.

O'Duffin urged better  
organization - and that  
efforts shd. be made to raise  
funds to pay for motor cars  
used at the election.

Dungloe rept. by R. Brennan  
Patrick Breslin, Ed. Swan.

Amragy: Neil & Danmoh,  
Chas. McBride, Hugh  
M. Garney.

Potahasth: - Dick Ferris  
Hugh Duffin.

Falcarnagh, Chas. Lee, Lees.  
Other members.

Local I.O.'s white, M. G. K.  
Sen. M. G.