



THE TULSK MORNING HOWL

August 2024

Bulletin No. 9

The Tusk Demonstration.

Mr. P. Mangan, hon. sec., writes:—

The organising committee met on Sunday last, 12th inst., at Tusk, county Roscommon. There was a very large and representative attendance. Mr. Hugh Hennegan presided. Great enthusiasm was manifested, and several letters read and satisfactory reports received of the advanced preparations through all districts. Arrangements were made for the erecting of a platform and arches and suitable national decorations. Mr. M. Mullaigue, ex-suspect, Castlereas, was appointed chairman. A vote of thanks was passed to the proprietor, Mr. O. Farmer, for the use of his field. Arrangements were made for entertaining the guests. In the evening the various bands of the county turned out and played a selection of national airs. The committee requests that all parties will come in the interests of their country and will endeavour to maintain order.

MAY 6, 1882.

The Ladies' Land League.

Tusk (O'Kelly Branch).—Fortnightly meeting on Sunday—Miss M. A. Slattery in the chair. Resolutions passed indignantly protesting against the imprisonment of Miss Kirke and Miss Reynolds, and thanking Mr. Sexton for his exposure of the "infamous" police circular. Votes of congratulation were passed to Miss M'Connell and Mr. W. Doriss on their releases from prison. Ladies of the parish not yet members of the League were called on to join. Referring to the O'Conor Don's property and writes the name Mr. Armstrong in last report should have been Mr. Lynch.
Urlingford and Grain.—On Sunday last the Ladies' Land League of Urlingford repaired to

Castleplunket News.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

It appears from information received that the village of Castleplunket will shortly be connected by telegraph with the outside world. It seems the connection will be made from Ballintubber, which is the nearest village from which the junction can be effected. It is also reported that the communication will be extended to Tusk, which is in a direct line with this place. The proposed arrangement, it is understood, will be carried through at an early date.

THE U I LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Baslick branch was held at Kilmurray on Sunday last. The hon secretary distributed cards to the committee. It was proposed to hold a collection in aid of the Parliamentary Fund on the first Sunday in June, before and after each Mass outside the chapel grounds. The committee were instructed to spare no effort to have all the parishioners enrolled. The names of members and non-members will be published so that we may know who is with us and who is not in the final fight for the land, and also for our birthright to live as freemen in our own country.

THE COTTAGES.

A good many are asking if the proposed cottages in Castlereas Union will ever be finished. The miserable plots of half an acre each have been fenced in, but that is as far as things are at present. Who is responsible for the delay? The cottage proposed to be erected at Lisolway cross roads is urgently needed by the applicant. This dilly-dallying with an important public duty is not at all creditable to the gentlemen of Castlereas Board. We hear complaints often of the delay and apathy of the Government in succouring the Irish people. Surely the local Councils could by energy hasten the erection of those cottages for the poor people who are sadly in need of them.

A BOGUS RUMOUR.

A rumour got abroad here last week that the Congested Districts Board were sending out 50 men under a competent overseer to start work on Rathcroghan plains. The rumour was bogus and should not have received any credence from the first. When the Board begins operations they will let their intentions be known in the rural districts from which they expect to get workmen. It is understood Castlereas will be made the headquarters for the staff, who will look after the management and carrying out of the works that will shortly be commenced on the estates which have recently come into the possession of the Congested Districts Board.

LAND PURCHASE ACT.

OGULLA ESTATE.

The tenants on the Ogulla estate of the Dowager Countess of Kingstown have agreed to purchase their holdings, and signed articles for same on last Friday with the agent, Mr Robinson. The terms were 6s in the £ on non-judicial and first-term tenants; and 4s on all holdings which have been in the Courts during the late years. The tenants seemed very well satisfied with their bargain, as with two or three exceptions they are all first-term tenants having sought the hospitality of the Land Court so far back as '89.

Above: *The Nation*—nationalist newspaper—Nov. 18, 1882. Tusk National League hold massive public demonstration on land rights. More below, from the same newspaper, one week later.

Roscommon has come well to the front in the meetings of the week. The Tusk demonstration, for which arrangements had been made long beforehand, was held on Sunday, and was in every respect a great success. Contingents headed by bodies of horsemen were present from over thirty-three districts, despite the terrible inclemency of the weather. Mr. James O'Kelly, one of the county representatives, and Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., were present, and both gentlemen received a warm welcome. The first resolution passed by the meeting gave expression to the unabated confidence which the men of Roscommon had in Mr. Parnell and the members of the Irish Parliamentary party who act with him. Mr. Sullivan spoke to this resolution, and congratulated the county on the good work it had done for the national cause at the general election. If other counties did likewise, Mr. Sullivan said, the Irish representatives would be able to do much more in the House of Commons than they had as yet accomplished. A second resolution approved of the Parliamentary conduct of the county members, Dr. Commins and Mr. O'Kelly, and assured those two gentlemen that the constituency had full confidence in their ability, integrity, and patriotism. Mr. O'Kelly, in returning thanks, urged the people to rally round Mr. Parnell, as that gentleman, in Mr. O'Kelly's opinion, was the only man capable of leading his fellow-countrymen. At a subsequent period another resolution was adopted, calling on every parish to take immediate steps to complete the organisation of the county.

Below: *Roscommon Messenger* June 24, 1911. The O'Conor estate changes hands

MILTOWN ESTATE.

The finishing touches are just now being given to the above by the C D Board. The new homesteads are all occupied and the landscape around Castleplunket will in a very short time present a different view to the observer.

TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE LUSITANIA

Miss Ellen Lyons, of Enlis, near Castleplunket, is supposed to be amongst the missing of those who lost their lives on the ill-fated steamer Lusitania. The poor girl was daughter of Mr Michael Lyons, Enlis, and had been for the past six years in the United States, and was returning to Ireland on a visit to her parents when she met her untimely end.

Above: News of Annie Lyons ('Ellen' here was erroneous) of Emlagh, one of the casualties on the doomed ship Lusitania in 1915, *Roscommon Messenger*, May 15, 1915. Tusk History Society are researching this story at present



Above: T.D Sullivan M.P, who was the Member of Parliament that appeared at the Tusk demonstration in 1882 (covered in the left column) pictured here in the *Penryn Illustrated Paper*, April 1886.

All of the above: *Roscommon Messenger*, May 20 1905

Remembering: Michael Neary (1894-1975), farmer and Republican. From *A Dictionary of Roscommon Biography* by Mike Lennon.

A native of Shrove, Tusk, Michael Neary joined the Killina Company, 2nd Battalion, North Roscommon IRA Brigade in 1917. He later transferred to the Tusk Company and was appointed its captain. He was arrested in January 1921, beaten and released only to be re-arrested three months later. He was sentenced to fifteen years at a court-martial but was released in the general amnesty of January 1922. He took the Anti-Treaty side during the Civil War. He spent a further three months in prison between September and November 1922. Afterwards, he returned to farming. He died in the Sacred Heart Home, Roscommon in May 1975 and was interred in Kilcooley Cemetery.

Arthur Murphy, actor, lawyer, dramatist and editor was born at Clonyquin, in the County Roscommon, in the year 1727. His father was a merchant of repute who unfortunately perished in 1729 on his passage to Philadelphia, so that the education of the son devolved on his mother who sent him to the College of St. Omer where he remained six years and became a thorough master of Latin and Greek. After some years at home he went to Cork but went to London turning to literature. His first play was *The Apprentice*, next *The Orphan*, *All in the Wrong*, *Arminius* and others, and two new plays.

Above: *Tuam Herald*, Oct. 28, 1928; describing the oft-forgotten Clonyquin native - playwright Arthur Murphy

NOTICE—TOBERELVA BURIAL GROUND: REPAIRS TO BOUNDARY WALL.

The Castlereagh Rural District Council will, at their meeting to be held on SATURDAY, the 24th day of MAY, 1913, receive and consider Tenders from competent persons for certain repairs to the Boundary Wall of Tuberelva Burial Ground in accordance with a specification which may be seen at the District Council Office, Castlereagh, any day during business hours, meantime. The work must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Councillors representing Castleplunket Electoral Division, on whose certificate alone any payment for work done will be made. Tenders, endorsed "Burial Ground Repairs," must be lodged with the Clerk of the Council before 12 o'clock, noon, on the day above-named. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender, and may reject all Tenders.

By Order,
P. A. FLANAGAN,
Clerk of the Council.

District Council Office,
Castlereagh, 10th May, 1913.

LOYAL NATIONAL REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

It was only what was due to justice and to common sense that such boroughs should be abolished. He had passed the other day through the village of Tusk. It consisted of some six or seven houses, a police barrack, an old castle, and some few ruined buildings, and yet this place used to send two members to parliament in the olden time. Ardfer, a village of equal insignificance, used to enjoy the same privilege; as also did several other insignificant places; but they were annihilated as boroughs, either in consequence of their corruption, or from the fact of their having mouldered into complete decay. For such places as these they did not require members, but they longed to see the day when her Majesty would be pleased to issue her writs for towns, whose importance either in point of the magnitude of their population or of their commercial relations, required that they should be adequately represented in parliament (loud cries of hear). They, the Repeal Association, undoubtedly spoke the sentiments of the Irish people. It could not be denied that they uttered the voice of universal Ireland (hear, hear).—

Above: Excerpt from an extended article and report from the Repeal Association of Daniel O'Connell, *The Nation* newspaper, 26 August 1843. Excerpt remarks on O'Connell travelling through Tusk, commenting on the days when Tusk was a 'rotten' parliamentary borough.

THE IRISH ANTI-GRAZING AGITATION.
A HUGE CATTLE-DRIVE.

During Tuesday night a tremendous drive took place in the vicinity of Tusk, when over 400 acres on the estate of the Earl of Westmeath were cleared of 200 beasts. The farms are in the occupation of Messrs Ralph and Hubert Latchewell, and James Ryan, all extensive graziers. Although the farms are adjoining, the cattle were scattered in different directions. Those on Carns and Carrogarrow farms were driven off the Roscommon Road, and up to late last night had not all been collected. The stock on Carnasteagh farm were driven towards Castlereagh. Most of these have been recovered. The police, although swarming all over the place, were unable to trace the perpetrators or effect any arrest, and are now patrolling the country in search of the scattered cattle. This is the second drive in the neighbourhood during the past week. The people are all fired with excitement, and the place is in a turbulent state.

Above: *Aberdeen Press & Journal*, 12 Dec. 1907



Captioned *Travelling in the west of Ireland* 1845 the above sketch of a Bianconi coach appeared in the *Illustrated London News* at the time. Tusk was a stop on the Mullingar to Ballina route

IRELAND.

Roscommon, April 12.
The news of the second reading of the Catholic Relief Bill has been received in this country with the proudest demonstrations of joy and independence. No sooner was it known that the majority in the Lords had been so great, than bonfires were kindled on all the neighbouring hills, and torches lighted up, which were borne along the roads in all the exulting and arrogant display of triumph. Near the little village of Tusk a party of the Police interfered to check this unnecessary ebullition of popular feeling, but the people told them "to interfere if they dared—that they were then as stout as themselves; and that they cared not a single straw for Police or Magistrates as long as the King and the Duke of Wellington were of their side." The peasantry are becoming every day more independent and united. At first they were determined to resist the Disfranchisement Bill, but after some reflection they seemed a little reconciled, as they consider that receiving a little will enable them to seek more success fully for more; and that during the next Session they can more effectually attack the tithes, and insist on an abolition, or at least a reduction, of the taxes. In the lowest public-house here you will hear no toast given by the most ignorant of the people but "the Dukes of Clarence and Wellington—Messrs. O'Connell and Peel." This shows the extraordinary change in the manners, feelings, and education of the people during the last few years. Preparations on a very extensive scale are being made to illuminate the country around on the receipt of the intelligence of the enactment of the Bill.

Above: news from Ireland, featuring Tusk people celebrating Catholic Emancipation and the Catholic Relief Bill being signed, *English Chronicle and Whitehall Evening Post*, 16 April 1829.

If CELIA KIRWIN is living, she is requested to communicate with her father, Edward Kirwin, of Tusk, county Roscommon, Ireland, when she will hear of something to her advantage. When last heard from, six years ago, she was on Long Island, New York. (American papers please copy.)

Above: *The Irishman*, June 7th 1873

DUBLIN MAIL (Bianconi's Coach)—Leaves Mullingar on arrival of train which leaves Dublin 7 15, p.m.; passes through Rathowen, Edgeworthstown, Longford, Strokestown, Tusk, Ballingar, Frenchpark, Ballaghaderin, Bellaghy, Swinford, Foxford, and arrives in BALLINA 9 50 a.m. The up coach leaves Ballina 2 30 p.m., same route, and arrives in Mullingar in time for the mail train which reaches Dublin 5 15 a.m.

Above: *The Connaught Watchman*, 17 Oct. 1855, reporting the early days of the public transport route through Tusk (see image below)