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CO. SLIGOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN LONDON

The Co. Sligomen's Association in London held its Annual General Meeting in the Black Lion Hotel, Kilburn, London, recently, when the Chairman Mr. W. McGovern, outlined the aims and objects of the Association and made a special appeal for new members.

"By having more members", he said, "we shall be a step nearer our main objective — the acquisition of our own headquarters where Sligo people may meet and enjoy themselves and where a helping hand can be extended to Sligo natives arriving in the country for the first time.

"We all regretted to hear of the return to Ireland of our esteemed President, Mr. T. Hegarty, who, undoubtedly was one of the hardest-tion".

Concluding, he thanked all who helped in the running of the Association during the past year and he made a special mention of the "Sligo Champion" and the "Sligo Independent" for coverage during the year.

The Secretary, Mr. J. Stenson in his report, reviewed the activities of the Association and spoke of the annual dinner and dance the previous May at which the Bishop of Elphin, Most Rev. Dr. Hanly, and the Bishop of Achonry, Most Rev. Dr. Fergus attended. Another important guest on that occasion—the Mayor of Sligo, Mr. E. Tolan, and the dinner, was described as one of the most outstanding Irish functions held in London in 1960.

"No matter what our ambitions are", continued the Secretary, "most of us are destined to end our days far from our native land. But this does not necessarily mean that we should turn our back on the country of our birth. If our organisation does nothing but create an Irish social atmosphere in London, by sponsoring dances, socials and outings and our members help each other in any way we will be serving a very useful purpose.

"There are approximately 5,000 Sligo people in London and its suburbs. Reflect for a moment the force we could be if we were all united under one banner, all working with the same aim and for the same objective. It is disappointing to know that we have but a small membership, especially as there are so many Sligo-born people in London. We therefore appeal to each member to become a recruiting agent, and we earnestly request you to get at least four new members into the Association during the coming year. It will be to their advantage to become a member, and you will be playing an active part in th expansion of the Association.

"Finally — one last appeal — let us double our efforts on behalf of the Association and lay the foundations for future security, and let us remember our motto — Nothing for ourselves but for all".

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Walsh, presented his balance sheet, which indicated that the Association was on a sound footing.

The following officers were elected:— Patrons — Most Rev. Dr. Hanly, Bishop of Elphin and Most Rev. Dr. Fergus, Bishop of Achonry; President — Mr. T. A'Beckett; Vice-President — Mr. M. Watters (Dromore West); Chairman— Mr. W. McGovern (Ballymote); Vice-Chairman — Mr. B. Hunt (Sligo) and Mr. J. Pering (Sligo); Secretary — Mr. J. Stenson (Achonry); Assistant Secretary — Miss K. Wimbs (Achonry); Joint Treasurers — Messrs. J. Walsh (Dromore West) and P. Coen (Ballintogher); Publicity Officer — Mr. P. Coen; Delegate to Central Council — Mr. P. Coen and Mr. T. A'Beckett. Committee — Messrs. G. Reynolds (Sligo); M. Healy (Keash); P. Wims (Achonry); M. Burke (Dromore West); J. Connolly (Sligo) and P. Harte (Dromore West).

The Association's social and dance will be held in the New Carlton Ballroom, Uxbridge Rd., Shepherds Bush, on Friday, March 24. The guest artiste on this occasion will be Miss Maisie McDaniel, Sligo and the function will also be attended by the Irish Pipe Major. Mr. O'Dowd, Ballymote. Tickets can be obtained from Mr. John Scetson, Secretary, 43, Woodhayes Rd., London, N.W. 10. Miss McDaniel will be engaged in London from March 14th to March 24th.

The President of the Association, Mr. T. A'Beckett, Tubbercurry, in his youth was thought to be a possible world champion prize-fighter and at the age of 18 he reached the final of the Irish Amateur Championships. He then went to England where he defeated the amateur middleweight champion of the North of England. He turned professional but decided to quit the ring when he found his eyesight deteriorating.

He went into business on his own and made a success of it after a hard up-hill fight. He began making fishing tackle and he gathered agents for reels and rods. Business expanded and prospered and at the present, his turnover is more than £100,000 a year.

Sergeant's Stop Signal Did Not Register

Thomas J. Harte, 28, Temple St., Sligo, told Justice Keane at Ballyfarnon Court that when he was signalled by a Garda Sergeant to stop, his mind must have been preoccupied with something else and the Sergeant's signal did not register on him.

Harte was charged with failing to stop, and he was also summoned for having no rear white light on his car.

Sergeant M. J. Reilly, Keadue, said that he and Garda Lang were checking rear lights on cars. Witness got a signal from Garda Lang and he signalled on the driver of an oncoming car to stop. The car appeared as if it were going to stop, but then it went on. Witness followed it and stopped it three or four miles out the road. When he asked him why he did not stop, Harte said he did not interpret the signal correctly. He seemed to be genuine about that.

Witness said on the occasion he was wearing a dark waterproof coat, but visibility was good. The defendant did not give any explanation for not having a white light.

APOLOGY

Mr. J. F. Nealon, State Solicitor, defending, stated that Harte had asked him to apologise for what had happened. He did not recognise the uniform, due to the fact that the Sergeant had a dark oilskin uniform coat on.

Thomas Harte in evidence said he was driving from Kaderglan towards Drumkeeran on the occasion.

"I knew the Garda was there all right, but I must have been thinking or preoccupied with something else and the signal did not register on me. I was very much surprised when the Guard told me he had signalled me to stop. I admit the testimony, but unfortunately I did not realise it at the time that I was bbeing asked to stop" said the witness.

On the charge of failing to stop the Justice said there was an offence committed but he accepted the defendant's explanation and he applied the Probation Act. For having no white light the defendant was fined 10/-.

Fined for damaging parked car

Daniel Connell and Sean Finn, both of Marren Park, Ballymote, and stated to be at present in employment in England, pleaded guilty at Ballymote Court to charges of maliciously damaging a wireless aerial on a car, the property of Timothy J. Daly, Ballymote, on 5th January; with maliciously damaging two windows in a car, the property of Patrick Gethins, Cloonlurg, on the same date; and with maliciously damaging a window in a motor van, the property of Denis Conroy, Ballymote, also on 5th January.

It was stated that the extent of the damage done in each case did not exceed £50.

Mr. E. P. Gallagher, solr., pleading guilty on behalf of both defendants, said he was in a position to hand in receipts from the injured parties in each case indicating that all the damage done had been made good.

Mr. Gallagher went on to say that his clients were both working in England but they were at home on holidays when they were involved in the trouble which was the subject of the charges. However, by virtue of the fact that they had owned up to the damage, had run the risk of losing their employment in England had they waited at home for the hearing of the charges, and had discussed with the Sergeant the possibility of their being victimised in the matter of getting back their jobs if they remained at home until the charges were disposed of, they had since returned to England.

In the circumstances, Mr. Gallagher said, he felt that in view of the fact that defendants had pleaded guilty to the charges and had fully compensated the owners of the damaged property, the Justice might be disposed to dealing with the case other than by imposing a jail sentence.

Too Much Drink

He went on to say that his clients were both young men. They had been working in England for some time past and what had happened on this occasion was one of the rather sad things which emigration brought in its train. Like many others they were two young men who bore exemplary characters in the country of their adoption but when they came home on a holiday to spend some of their hard-earned money they took too much drink and in doing so they failed to give as much allegiance to the law of their native land as they did to that of their adopted country.

Mr. Gallagher said the incidents in question occurred around Christmas time. Both his clients had a considerable amount of money and they took too much drink with the result that they were involved in this unfortunate trouble. He had every reason to believe that defendants would be home on holidays again next Christmas and in the circumstances he felt the case might be satisfactorily dealt with by a twelve months adjournment of the charges. If such an adjournment was granted and when defendants returned home again next Christmas they would realise that if they were involved in any further trouble they would have to meet, not alone a fresh charge, but the adjourned ones as well.

Blackguardly Act

Supt. J. Kelly, prosecuting, said the damage from which the charges resulted was done while a pantomime was in progress in the local cinema. There were a number of cars parked outside the cinema on the night in question and defendants, for no reason whatever, pulled the wireless aerial of Mr. Daly's car and smashed the windows in the other two vehicles. There was nothing which could excuse defendants' behaviour on the occasion and it was plainly and simply a rather blackguardly act.

Justice Barry said there was far too much of this kind of thing going on, and far too many were getting away with it.

"I will put manners on them," added the Justice, fining Finn £5 in respect of the damage done to Daly's car, and Connell a like sum in respect of the charge relating to Gethins's car.

In the case of each defendant, the Justice marked the other two charges aken into account and in default of the payment of the fines he directed that each defendant be sent to jail for two months.

WRITER RECANTS STATEMENT ON CASEMENT DIARIES

Miss Ethel Mannin, the well-known novelist and travel writer, has recanted a statement she made in Sligo last March that she was convinced the Casement diaries were genuine.

At the conclusion of a lecture given in Sligo Municipal Technical Schools on last Friday night by Dr. Roger McHugh, University College, Dublin, who spoke on W. B. Yeats and his place in Irish politics, the Chairman of the Sligo Yeats Society, Mr. T. McEvilly, who sponsored the lecture, read a statement from Miss Mannin.

In this, Miss Mannin said that when she addressed the yeats Society last March she quoted Yeats on Casement and interpolated a statement that she had examined the diaries in the Record Office in London and was convinced that they were genuine, "because I didn't see how they could have been tampered with—the mechanics of such a thing defeated me".

Stating that she now wished to recant that opinion, Miss Mannin's statement continued—"When I examined the documents in London I had not seen the letter from Alfred Noyes quoting Casement's letters to the Anti-Slavery Society and I did not know of the existence of the public diaries — of which I have now seen photostats. What Casement wrote to the Anti-Slavery Society makes it all too clear how the diaries and note-books in London could have been faked and forged—he speaks of the two notebooks in which he had left blanks for the insertion of relevant lesters and of part of the diary having been written in pencil. the originals of these letters, incidently, are in the library of Rhodes House, Oxford. The Dublin diaries cover the years of the Putamayo period of the London diary and are not merely totally devoid of indecencies of any kind or any hint of homosexuality, but are very different in tone as regards the wretched Putamayons whose exploitation he had gone out to investigate and whose condition commanded his utmost compassion.

"Even when I believed that London diaries to be genuine", continued Miss Mannin's statement, "my admiration for Casement as a great Irish patriot and champion of freedom and justice for oppressed peoples remained unaltered. His private life, I told myself, was his own affair. Now that I no longer believe him to be the moral pervert, these tampered with diaries and no ebooks make him out to be, I am deeply grieved that ignorance of the existence of the genuine diaries should have led me astray and even more grieved that I should have given public utterance to a belief based on ignorance.

"I now joint with those whose dearest wish it is that this gallant and noble Irish gent.eman and martyr should be vindicated as above reproach in his private as in his public life".

When Miss Mannin delivered a lecture on W. B. Yeats in Sligo last March under the auspices of the Yeats Society, she stated that before coming to Sligo she had examined the Casement; Diaries in London — having got permission to do so on the strength of the lecture—and that she now was convinced that they were genuine. The matter arose from a letter which Yeats had written to her regarding his poem in defence of Casement, which he had written at the time. It was included in the collection of 50 letters which W. B. Yeats had written to Miss Mannin, in the 1930's, and which she donated to the County Sligo Museum, prior to delivering this lecture.

Miss Mannin wrote to Miss N. Niland, Librarian, Sligo, recently, stating that as a result of further investigation on the subject of the Casement Diaries she now wished to recant the opinion expressed on th occasion of her lecture in Sligo in March last, and enclosed a statement thereon for release to the public Press. She afterwards agreed to Miss Niland's suggestion that it would be an appropriate time to release this statement at the lecture on W. B. Yeats and he place in Irish Politics, planned by the Yeats Society, Sligo.

This lecture was delivered by Dr. Roger McHugh, University Clg lege, Dublin, one of the main defenders of Sir Roger Casement.

FIANNA FAIL BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The Fianna Fail candidate in the Sligo-Leitrim by-election, Mr. William P. Farrell, farmer and rate collector, of Leitrim, Carrick-on-Shannon, was nominated on Friday last.

In his principal paper he was proposed by Brendan Carty, Bridge St., Carrick-on-Shannon, and seconded by Thomas Flynn, Main St., Carrick-on-Shannon. In other papers, Mr. Farrell was proposed by Frank O'Beirne, Dooneeoy, Templeboy, Co. Sligo, and James Cawley, T.C., 64, John St., Sligo, and seconded by Thomas Kilcawley, 2, Kerins Ave., Sligo, and James McGoldrick, T.C., P.C., Wine St., Sligo.

The Taoiseach, Mr. Lemass, spoke in Sligo on Tuesday night at a meeting presided over by Mr. M. Pilkington, Sligo, and at which Messrs. E. Gilbride, T.D., and W. P. Farrell, were the other speakers.

Mr. Lemass said the main issue was to secure from the people evidence of their desire for the Government's efforts to go on and they hoped to get from the people in this by-election instructions for the Government to go ahead still faster with the work it was doing.

The Tanaiste, Mr. Sean MacEntee, T.D., Minister for Health, and Mr. P. J. Finnegan, Director of Elections, South Galway, will address a joint meeting of Sligo town Fianna Fail supporters and election workers at 8.30 p.m. tomorrow night (Saturday- in Sligo Town Hall. The Mayor, Mr. J. Keveney, will preside.

Among the meetings arranged for Sunday are — Mr. G. Bartley, T.D., Minister for the Gaeltacht; Sooey 9 a.m.; Gleann 9.30 p.m.; Riverstown 11 a.m. Mr. N. Blaney, T.D., Minister for Local Government, Mullaghmore 9 a.m.; Grange 11.30 a.m. Mr. E. Childers, T.D., Minister for Transport and Power and Mr. W. P. Farrell, candidate, Curry 9 a.m.; Moylough 10 a.m.; Tubbercurry 12 o'clock. Mr. M. Hillard, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Highwood 9 a.m.; Geevagh 11 a.m.

Other meetings are — Mr. M. Kitt, T.D., Ballinafad 10 a.m.; Ballyrush 11.30 a.m. Senator O. Fyan, Dromard 9 a.m.; Templeboy 11 a.m. Mr. M. Killilea, T.D., Carrarce 9 a.m. Mr. K. Egan, T.D., Coolaney 11 a.m.; Mr. F. V. McDonnell, Strandhill. Mr. J. Groome, Calry and Rathcormac. Mr. A. Hederman, B.L., Monaghorow 11.30 a.m. Mr. C. Condon, S.C., Easkey 9 a.m. Kilglass 11 a.m. Mr. S. Flanagan, T.D., Keash 9.30 a.m. Mr. D. O'Rourke, M.C.C., Kilmactigue 9 am. Mr. M. Kilgarriff, M.C.C., Skreen, 11 a.m. Mr. J. O'Sullivan, Kilfaville.

"Sheep and Cattle Rearing" will be the subject of a lecture and film show to be given in Coola Vocational School on Monday night next, February 27th, sponsored by Messrs. Cooper McDougall. The lecture will be given by Mr. J. Thompson.

On Tuesday night, a lecture on dairy farming will be delivered by Mr. J. Coppinger, B.Agr. Sc., in Ballyrush Hall at 8 p.m.

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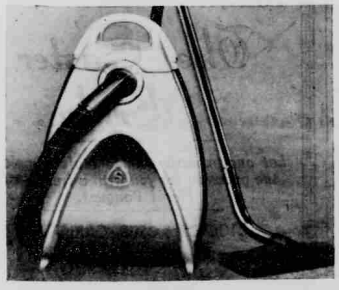

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