

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1924.

Organist of Seagoe for Fifty Years.

This month Mr. Thomas Henry Wilson completes his fiftieth year as Organist of Seagoe Parish Church. He was appointed by the Select Vestry under the chairmanship of Archdeacon Saurin in February, 1874. During this half century—1874-1924—Mr. Wilson has scarcely ever been absent from his post, and during all these years he has gathered round him successive generations of young people to assist in the musical services of the Parish Church. He has succeeded in keeping up a high standard of musical efficiency, and the Parishioners and others who worship with us from time to time have always noticed the heartiness and good tune and time of the singing at our Services. The kindest of feelings have always existed between Mr. Wilson and the members of the Choir, and the discords which so often mar the relationships between Choir and Organist have in this case been conspicuous by their absence.

Seagoe Select Vestry at their last meeting, held on Monday, January 21st, unanimously resolved that a Testimonial be raised in the Parish to mark the 50th year of Mr. Wilson's tenure as Organist of Seagoe Parish, and a Committee was formed to carry it into effect.

We offer Mr. Wilson on behalf of the Parish our hearty congratulations on reaching his Jubilee as Organist of Seagoe, and we true that he may have many years of further service in leading the praises of God's people in the House of Prayer.

Old Seagoe Choir.

From the year 1816, when the present Church was consecrated, the Choir occupied places in the gallery, which at that time, and until the Church was restored, reached half-way down the Church. In those days there were no such things as Harmoniums or Organs, and the singing was quite unaccompanied, or at times assisted by Violins or Flutes. The starting note was sounded on a large square wooden flute-like pipe (now in the possession of the Rector). It is 18 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and has a moveable square rod in it which according as it was moved formed the required note. It is marked for the octave from c. to c. About 1863 a Harmonium was brought into use. Mrs. Saurin, wife of the Archdeacon, took a great interest in the Choir and she presided at all the practices, which at that time were held in the Hall of the Rectory. The Harmonium in Church was always played by Mrs. Saurin who was a skilful musician. In 1873 Mr. Charles Wilson—a brother of Mr. T. H. Wilson—was appointed Organist, and he held the post until February, 1874, when the latter was appointed. He was only 14 years of age at the time, but having a good voice and being musically inclined he had been a member of the

Choir. Mr. Wilson has a vivid recollection of the Choir practices in the Rectory. Sometimes the Archdeacon or Mrs. Saurin would ask him to sing some special Psalm or Hymn. He remembers the Archdeacon singing an old Hunting Song: "Tally-ho! Tally-ho!! Tally-ho!!!"

The last time the Choir sat in the old gallery was at Evening Service (7 p.m.) on Sexagesima Sunday, February 9th, 1890; the Rev. Robert Quirk preached. From February 16th the Services were held in the Parochial School until Sunday, August 2nd, 1891. On Friday, August 7th, at 3 p.m., the Church was reopened after being restored, the Preacher being the Very Rev. J. W. Murray, Dean of Connor. 750 people were present to witness the Consecration of the new Chancel and South Aisle by the Bishop, the Right Rev. Thos. J. Welland, D.D. The offerings amounted to £61 10s. The Bishop preached at the Services on August 9th, Morning and Evening. The Choir then, for the first time, sat in the Chancel.

A photograph of the Choir taken in 1890 is in the possession of Mr. Wilson, and the following are in the group:—

Misses Lizzie Rock, Maggie Lavery, Margretta Sweeney, Minnie Hughes, Fanny Walker, Emma Jane Rock, Sarah Ann Uprichard, Mary Jackson, Minnie Kennedy, Minnie Lavery, Annie Sweeney, Eliza Killow, Hester Uprichard, Caroline M'Cully, Eva M'Cully, Annie Ferguson, Martha Bailey, Mary Ann Montgomery; Messrs. Jack Bailey, Sam Rock, David Wm. Walker, Tom Ferguson, Hugh Bailey, James Albin, Hugh Albin, Mr. Wickham, C. M. Wilson, T. H. Wilson.

A great event in the history of Seagoe Choir was the erection of the present Organ. It was placed in the Church as a Memorial to the Baroness von Steiglitz, who died on January 23rd, 1899. The Dedication Service was held on Thursday, April 19th, 1900. It was largely attended. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Down (Right Rev. Dr. Welland). His text was Rev. xiv. 5, 6. At the Service the Organ was played by Mr. Charles M. Wilson, Organist of Newtownards Parish Church, and brother of Mr. T. H. Wilson. He gave a Recital at the close of the Service, for which many remained. The first suggestion for the purchase of a Memorial Organ was made at a meeting of the Select Vestry held on Monday, 20th March, 1899. The Organ was built by Messrs. Foster and Andrews, of Hull, and cost £350. On Wednesday, April 18th, 1900, a Resolution of Thanks was passed by the Vestry to Mr. A. Macoun for his kindness in lending to the Parish Church an American Organ for nine years since the re-opening of the enlarged Church.

SEAGOE CHURCH CHOIR, 1924.

Misses Rachel England, Minnie Allen, Agnes Wil-

son, Mollie Cox, Gretta Atkinson, Bella Magee, Jean England, Annie M'Donald, Evelyn Webb, Ethel Best, Agnes M'Clements, May Coulter, A. Corscadden, E. Corscadden, N. Montgomery, Clara Kirby, A. Murray, Emily Cox; Messrs David Murray, Geo. Watson, Sydney Walker, George Wilson, S. Rennix, E. Dickson, A. Allen, Sam. Magee, Tom Metcalfe, James Forde.

The Edenderry "Fairies."

A delightful entertainment organised by the Messrs Hawthorne was given in the Parochial Hall on Tuesday, January 22nd, at 8 o'clock. There was a large attendance. Several Fairy Sketches formed the opening of the Programme. The children looked very nice in their gorgeous dresses and gauzy wings. The boys also did their part very well. The second part of the Programme consisted of Recitations and Songs. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Mrs. Pallet most kindly presided at the piano.

Prize Distributions.

This week—January 27th to February 2nd—we had no less than four Prize Distributions in the Parish—on Monday in Drumgor, on Tuesday in Carne, on Thursday in Levaghery, and on Friday in Hacknahay. This is, we think, almost a record even in Seagoe Parish. And in each centre there have been signs of vigorous life and much success in the great spiritual work accomplished by our Sunday Schools.

Drumgor Church Hall was crowded with the children and their parents. A splendid tea had been prepared by many kind friends. A short programme, with two clever Dialogues, followed, and was much enjoyed. The Rector then distributed the Prizes to the children who had made the best attendances during the year. He referred to the great improvement which had taken place in the Sunday School, and to the kind interest taken in it by Mr. Hopps, the Superintendent, and by Miss Agnes Guy.

Carne enjoyed itself on Tuesday evening. Mr. David Murray and other helpers had arranged a substantial tea, and a goodly array of prizes. An excellent programme of Music and Recitations was performed by the children. There is more music in Carne than in any other part of the Parish except Edenderry. The Rector distributed the Prizes. Mrs. Coulter as usual very kindly helped in preparing the tea.

Levaghery had its evening on Thursday. There are now 70 children on the roll, and the room was crowded. Tea was enjoyed, and then games, and then a splendid Christmas Tree (most kindly given by Mr. Thomas Metcalfe, the Superintendent), and then a number of splendid Prizes, also two Silver Medals generously given by Mr. Metcalfe to two of his class for good conduct and attendance.

Hacknahay chose Friday for its Prize-giving. The School was crowded. Admission was by Ticket. A hearty Tea was partaken of, and then followed an enjoyable Programme of Songs, Readings and Recitations. The Prizes were then distributed to the successful children. The Rev. W. T. Wilson presided and a very happy evening was spent.

Sale of Work.

A Sale of Work for the renovation of Drumgor Church Hall has been arranged to take place on the Tuesday in Easter Week, April 22. An energetic local Committee is actively engaged organising the Sale, and already many promises of help have been received.

Curates of Seagoe.

Hearty congratulations to the Rev. J. S. Taylor on his appointment to the important post of Rector of Lisburn.

Welcome home to the Rev. W. R. Crichton after his six years in India!

We hope soon for a visit from our distinguished former Curates.

Parish Register for January.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on January 5th, 1924:—

M'Murray—James Frederick, son of James Henry and Margaret M'Murray, of Ballyhannon.

Sponsors—Mary Maria Crawford, Sarah Ethel M'Murray.

Fletcher—Dorothy Kathleen, daughter of Joseph and Jane Fletcher, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Edith Livingston, Jane Eliza Fletcher.

Lyness—Eileen Winifred, daughter of Christopher and Mabel Lyness.

Sponsors—Jane Eliza Fletcher, Mabel Lyness.

Marriage.

Nicholl and M'Knight—January 15th, 1924, William Henry Nicholl, of Carrickblackler, to Annie Margaret M'Knight, of Drummacanvey.

Burials.

Best—January 16th, Edna Maud Best, of Edenderry, aged 16 years.

Somerville—January 30th, Joan Somerville, of Edenderry, aged 15 months.

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE.

By Lieut.-Col. S. W. BLACKER, D.S.O.

(Continued from January Magazine).

MONDAY, JANUARY 15th.

Rode over to see 11th and 13th. Fine day, but roads very slippery. Attended a lecture by Lushington on "Barrage," very interesting. Brought him in to tea afterwards and had a gunner talk. H.Q. mess has dwindled to six. Shall go and see 9th to-morrow morning, and very likely stay to lunch. Hope to see Shill. and Padre.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th.

Spent morning with 9th, and lunched with them. They are all very happy and comfortable. Most interesting lecture his p.m. by Chief of Staff of the Army on Staff Duties. Simply splendid; only wish more Staff Officers had attended. Do you see Rep-ington wants 60 more Divisions? Have sent out for envelopes; I always forget I'm living in a town.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th.

Padre has settled to stay with the Battalion, and feels sure he can manage it; that's a great blessing. A horrible day; snow has never ceased falling since early morn, and, of course, is lying pretty thick. I couldn't ride, so have been studying Defence scheme, pamphlets, etc.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th.

Been out all day. Left by car at 9 a.m., and returned 5 p.m. Attended a gas demonstration, about 25 miles off. Rather interesting. Lecture in morning, and show in afternoon. It appears that we have inflicted a good deal more loss on the Bosche by gas than is generally known. Still it's a dirty game. Please send 500 more socks at once. Goodwin, who commands 12th, came with us to-day; cheery nice fellow. Snow all day.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th.

Fergie's dinner went off splendidly. We sat down 43, of whom about 6 were guests. Bde. Staff, Berry, 1st Bn., man in R.F.C. here, etc. Quite a good dinner, at 7 frcs a head, in a private room at a cafe. Mess Sergt. and waiters assisted. Toasts—"The King," "President French Republic." "Our Guests," proposed by me, responded to by Col Clarke; "The Battalion," proposed by Col Clarke, responded to by Fergie; "The C.O." proposed by Berry, in a charming speech, and drunk with musical honours. Of course far too flattering. A few songs and finally "Auld Lang Syne," "Marseillaise," and National Anthem. We dispersed at 11 p.m. We got a bus to bring them in and take them back. Snow still covers the land, and the outlook is very wintry, but a thaw is on and everything is very slushy. The glass has been steadily rising for 2 days, so I hope no more snow. A man is to be tried for disclosing his whereabouts; got a French girl to address the envelope, stamp it and post it in the civil post office.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th.

Hard frost last night and bitter N.E. wind to-day. Wore chamois waistcoat for first time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st.

Bob Maxwell just come in. Been out all day. Rode to 9th in a.m., lunched, and walked back with Shill. Roads like iron, splendid for walking. There are still 100 who have been out all the time, and not been home. Its perishing cold to-night, and my diminutive French stove has gone out. H.Q. Mess consists of Con Clarke, Campbell, Acting Staff Capt., Bde Sig. Officer, Godson, Percy (interpreter), and Lutton, learning Sig. John Keane turned up for dinner in great form, and we had a good bukh.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22nd.

Nice day, frost, and clear. There have been inter-Battalion contests going on for the last ten days, in (1) football, (2) team running, (3) layonet fighting, and (4) boxing. The finals in 2 and 2 were run off to-day. Unfortunately we lost against 12th in 1st round of footer. However, in this morning's show the Battalion showed up splendidly. We move from here Friday or Saturday. Am going to prospect to-morrow. I have managed for us to work with the 12th by special request of the 12th and 9th. Sergt. Johnston was in charge of the running team, and was splendid. They all finished together as if on parade, and did the 3 miles in 27 minutes.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23rd.

Bitter cold. Such a hard frost last night. Started off at 9 a.m. this morn and went round our new line with Brig. 207th; then lunched with him and so home; a very nice fellow. They've improved the line enormously, it's in far better condition than our last bit, and no rivers to contend with, so easier kept right. But on the left is a good deal more strafed by the Bosoche. It was a lovely sunny day with a bitter N.E. wind, which cut through one in a car. A pleasant dinner with Wilson last night, with 'C' mess of the Corps.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th.

All news from Germany now gives evidence of the pinch. Yes, I really think this year will see the end of it all. Saw 11th and 13th this a.m., and talked about the new line and my views. Another bitter day, but sunny. Fergie went out to the Base to-day on a tour of inspection.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25th.

It's very nice everyone wanting me to get the Bde. I feel prouder of that than anything. They are all so nice and easy to get on with. I told them what the Gen. said. I went out to the 9th to-day. Saw Brew, who seemed very well. There's a general combing out of back areas, i.e., Div. and Bde able

bodied to come back and do their bit in front. A very good thing. Frost still holds and very severe.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th.

Another bitter day, but sunny. The 9th moved back to their old huts to-day, but can't go into the line till end of next week. They looked very well. We move back to-morrow, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from our late H.Q. Mudie, G.S.O 2, has just been posted as G.S.O. 2, G.H.Q., and is off to-day.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th.

"Neuve Eglise" Bde H.Q.

I left early in Nugent's car to attend a conference of Brigadiers and came on here, where I saw Bn. Commanders, at 2 p.m., and so have been busy all day. All leave is stopped for the present; there is a good deal of congestion of railways, owing to movement of troops. Weather still bitter. Quite a comfortable Bde. H.Q., and I have a nice room. Ricardo is seedy and in bed. Am rather weary.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th.

Another hard frost and sunny day, with N.E. wind. Had a long walk round the line, started at 9.30 a.m. and got back at 1.30 p.m. Very useful. Line quiet last night and this morning. Did you see the Home Honours?

MONDAY, JANUARY 29th.

Another sunny cold day and hard frost. Pratt will be in command of 109th when he returns. C.R. goes on leave at once. We are in a brick building fortunately, but the huts are perishing, and the line damnable. Bde. went in Sat., so you can calculate when 9th go in. Luckily there is no snow on the roads, which are as hard as iron and dusty, but snow lies on the fields. Went and saw 9th this a.m. and transport. There is a good deal of mangle about. We have none so far. Your letters now come in 48 hours!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30th.

Still bitterly cold, and trying to snow. Last night the coldest we have had. G.H.Q. has all the appts. out here. 15 to 20 days. frost here every night.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31st.

Snow in night, about 1 inch lying, but now sunny again, and not so cold. New G.S.2 has arrived, a Sikh—forget his name. We have been ordered to comb out Bde H.Q. people, and I have started on the job, conamore. Have only been able to return 12 to Battalions so far, but hope to comb out some more. One great boon in these H.Q. is we are only about a mile from Bn. H.Q. instead of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles at the last place. Also its down a good road, under cover the whole way.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1st.

Lovely sunny frosty day, no more snow, not so cold last night. Life is very busy just now. The 9th are so strong its hard to fit them into the line. They are now more than 200 stronger than the

others. Leave opens again, but we only get 8 places every 5 days, instead of 11. Big strafe on this a.m. between 4 and 5 on our right—next Division. Bosche tried to get in, but failed. Was round the line this morning and now have a long afternoon in the office

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd.

Colder than ever, but sunny. Very hard to keep warm. Bosche's plans come over daily now, result our guns positions are spotted and heavily shelled. Young Allen, in 12th R.I.R., has now been taken on by 'G' side Div. H.Q. Have managed to find room for 9th, but 1 Coy will have a cushy time in a good barn, with plenty of straw.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd.

Another sunny, frosty day; very cold night. Went round the line and saw all the 9th. They seemed quite happy and comfortable. Very quiet morning as regards shelling. The mornings are very full—a brief visit to the office, then down to the line; after lunch office for a couple of hours, round to see Battalion here, early to bed.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th.

Same weather, but colder if possible. 22 degs. frost at 9 a.m. An accident at the Bde Bombing School yesterday; killed an Officer and a Corpl; both such good fellows. We shot 2 of a Bosche patrol last night; they are lying about 50 yards from our wire. Shall try and get them in to-night. They are both dead. Bosche has been very quiet for the past 48 hours, I'm thankful to say. A good many of his 'planes come over daily, but to-day is too misty for them.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5th.

We had no thaw like you. Still an iron frost. Foggy early, but sun came out and it was nice, but cold. Tried to get the dead Bosches in last night but failed, as the Huns put a m.g. barrage on the body. Yes, I think the Army School does them a lot of good. Always a little sceptical about the Bosche having got to bedrock, but they are in a bad way, no doubt, or would not have gone in for this latest 'frightfulness.' Old man Wilson must be in a quandary, but America will never go to war, I'm sure. We have just started a heavy strafe, just S. I have instituted a new scheme of work, making Battalions responsible for areas, and not ordering working parties from Bde; at present it's working well, and everyone is delighted with it, and playing up well. The old way caused much friction, and much useless discomfort to the men.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th.

Sunny and frosty still, colder than ever. Young Shill. went out about 5 a.m. and got all papers and things from the dead Bosche—very fine performance as the snow and full moon made it almost as light as day. Had an easy day. Strafing M.G. Coy O. Young Shill, in my opinion, did a very gallant deed. The Corps were clamouring for these papers, etc.

(To be continued.)