

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JULY 1911.

The Coronation.

THE Coronation was well observed in Seagoe. Special reference was made to it on Sunday, June 18th, at morning and evening service, and on Coronation Day, Thursday, June 22nd, at 11-30 a.m.; the form of service sanctioned by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland was used in the Parish Church. Thanks to the generosity of the Rev. Canon Blacker, who has always taken such a keen interest in Seagoe Parish, the children attending the Day Schools and the Sunday Schools were presented respectively with handsome Coronation Mugs and bright, gilt Medals. The distribution of the mugs took place in Seagoe and Hacknabay Schools on Friday, June 16th. The Rector distributed them in Seagoe School, and there was great enthusiasm during the proceedings, and loud and hearty cheers for the King and for the Rev. Canon Blacker. In Hacknabay School Miss Calvert, on the invitation of the Rector, kindly handed the mugs to the children, who were greatly delighted at the gift. On Sunday, June 18th, the medals were distributed to each child attending the seven Afternoon Parochial Sunday Schools. Medals were also given to each teacher, and the Superintendents were decorated with special ribbon badges and medals. The medals were very handsome, and almost all the children wore them during Coronation week. Through the kind invitation of the Portadown Coronation Committee all the children attending Seagoe Day School were invited to share in the Coronation Festivities in the Park at Portadown. There was great rejoicing, and every child attending received the gift of a bright, new penny, and then shared in the feast of good things provided in the Park. Unfortunately the rain greatly interfered with the success of the day, but nevertheless all seemed to enjoy themselves very much. Coronation Day, 1911, will be long remembered by young and old in Seagoe Parish.

An Interesting Letter.

The Misses Dawson send the following very interesting account of their work in South America. The letter was written specially for Seagoe Magazine. We are sure their many friends in Seagoe will be glad to hear of their welfare. The good example they have set should stir up fresh enthusiasm for Mission Work in the Parish:—

Colegio, Inglese,
Alberdi, South America,
May 3rd, 1911.

After starting from Liverpool on February 4th we had several days of quite peaceful weather, but when about half-way across the Bay of Biscay we came

into a swell from the Atlantic, which made us a little ill one morning and badly damaged a few of our animals, for we carried a complete farmyard on board, and had cattle, sheep, cocks and hens, geese, turkeys and a delightful bulldog, rejoicing in the name of "Billy." I am sure our Seagoe friends will think he was all the better for that title. We had even a cat, which was afraid of us, but loved the sailors very much. We stopped at Las Palmas, but no one landed, and after some hours employed in coaling we continued our journey—this time through summer seas, with the bluest of blue skies overhead and its reflection on the sea. We sighted several places en route—the Cape Verde Islands—St. Vincent and Fogo, but only from a distance. Then the coast of South America came into view at Pernambuco. We also saw from afar Fernando Narshna, an island once very much used as a convict station, and a little still. We had several attractions and amusements by the way, not the least the good old captain, who did his utmost to make our days pleasant, and succeeded remarkably well. As we steamed along we passed a great many flying fish, which looked rather like swallows skimming the waves; one flew on board and was caught. We also had several big ships pass us, and two came almost alongside us, and the flag-signalling between us and them was most interesting to watch. Off the coast of South America, but a long way from land, we saw very curious boats—rafts with a sail on top, and the two or more men in them, either standing, or sitting on a chair, fishing. They look most unsafe, but they say they are not, and they are called Catamarans. When we reached Monte Video we stopped there the greater part of two days, and one day the captain took us, five ladies, ashore, showed us some of the town, gave us a tram drive to a nice watering-place called Poeitos, and treated us to lunch there. Monte Video is a rather pretty town, hilly, and with beautiful Playas, which are nice sheltered gardens, some of them full of flowers, with seats in them for the people; they resemble, a little, Stephen's Green in Dublin, and some of the pretty squares in the home cities.

After leaving Monte Video we very soon reached the River Plate, so wide that you cannot see the opposite shore, and so muddy that it looks like a river of tea, of such a colour as our Seagoe friends get on school feast days, but not half so nice. Our ship had to anchor some miles out from port and the doctor's boat came along next morning with the doctor to examine us, which he did by inspecting us from his boat as we leant over the side of ours. He must have regarded us as healthy specimens, especially my sister and I, who were burnt brown with sun and sea. Be that as it may, we were let pass with little parley, and by 6-30 o'clock that evening, Saturday, March 4th, the good ship Bell-grano was safely docked, and we were ready to go

ashore and view Buenos Ayres. The captain made us his guests until Monday, and again under his kindly auspices we saw another town. Buenos Ayres is a most lovely city, with beautiful Playas, and like all the towns here it is built in squares. We had little difficulty with the customs, owing largely to our kind first mate's help, and on Monday night the captain and second mate saw us off at the station, and we had a comfortable night-journey to Alberdi. When we reached this place we found the new Mission House not quite ready, so we had temporary homes for a month or more, and lived in somewhat picnic style. Then on Palm Saturday we moved into the new place—quite a nice house standing in garden grounds, along with the Spanish Free School and High School, also used as a church. These grounds are sheltered by pepper mimosa and eucalyptus trees, and are one of the few pretty spots about Alberdi; for Alberdi is not pretty, with the exception of its wide river, the Parana, and sloping river banks. I wonder what our friends would say to miles and miles of almost unbroken camp ground and such dust as one seldom dreams of. Sometimes a dust-storm comes, and then an enormous cloud comes rolling up from the south, the air grows dark with dust, a great wind rises, followed by rain, thunder, and wonderful lightning; then comes cool weather and relief.

We have had some oppressively hot days since we came, but also some quite cold ones, and presently we shall have winter. Our Easter decorations in Rosario and the Talleres (railway works) were dahlias and chrysanthemums, and so when you are surrounded by spring tokens at Easter we are coming to the fall of the leaf. Now about our work—mine is principally in the High School, where I am kept pretty fully occupied each day for a good many hours, and teach English, German, and Spanish children Scripture and many other lessons. They are very dear children, and we are quite old friends now. It doesn't seem much like Missionary work, yet they say the future of the Argentine depends largely on our influencing these children for good. Then I am learning the language still, and manage to speak a little.

May 8th—You see it has taken me days to finish this letter, and there are many interruptions. Miss Cherry teaches too in school a little, does all the housekeeping, has an occasional nursing case, and is trying to get into evangelistic work, both in Alberdi and also in the Talleres (railway works), between Alberdi and Rosario, where there are many English employed as well as Spanish. She had her first little class of Spanish children on Sunday last, and will soon get into speaking the language with just a little more practice.

Two things have been brought prominently before us in our work out here already. (1.) That Satan seems much more active, a living awful presence for evil, and (2.) there is a deadly apathy in religion, which attacks even God's workers if not carefully guarded against. So we have much need of the

prayers of our Seagoe friends. How much you could all scarcely realise unless you were here along with us. I expect you have all been helping us in that way already; keep on doing so. Perhaps I ought to say before closing this letter that behind the difficulties and trials one must meet with in the foreign field there are, we hope and believe, some real bits of consolation; one is, that the presence of God does not seem further away here than in the home field, and again, there comes at times the feeling of joy that one has been privileged to fight the powers of evil in South America, however small, and needless one's own little bit of work may seem to be, and one does hope earnestly that George Herbert's words will come true:

"Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone
Is much more sure to meet with Him than one

That travelleth by-ways."

Exile from dear old Ireland, and our many friends, the life here must ever be, but an "honourable exile," please God, in the glad doing of His will.

We send kindest remembrance to all Seagoe friends.

Coronation Visitors.

Seagoe was well represented at the King's Coronation in London. The Rector watched the procession passing through Whitehall. Corporal Metcalfe and Private Charles Wilson, of the Irish Horse, were on special duty on the line of route. Cadet William Walker, T.C.D., of Seagoe, was present as a member of the Officers' Training Corps, and Messrs. John and Nicholas England, of Ballyhannon, went over to London on a visit and saw the procession. The two leading representatives of Portadown were Mr John Collen, D.L., High Sheriff of the County Armagh, and the Rt. Hon. T. Shillington, a member of the Irish Privy Council, both of whom were privileged to be present in Westminster Abbey during the Coronation service.

Nature Notes.

During the month of July interest in natural objects largely centres in the meadows. The blossoms of the grasses, which wave and tremble at every breath of the summer air, present us with an infinite variety of beautiful natural forms. The cutting of the meadows reveals to the lover of nature many secrets regarding the habits of birds, who hide themselves for protection in the long grass. Unfortunately the young corncrakes are often killed by the long knives of the mowing machine as they shear down the long swathes of damp grass.

A most interesting subject of study for those engaged in farming and gardening is that of the habits of insects, which infest the growing crops. The standard book on the subject, and one which every farmer and gardener should possess, is Miss Ogilvie's work on the life-habits of insects injurious to root crops and fruit trees. The book is recommended by the Agricultural Department, and contains an enormous amount of most useful and interesting information. Every farmer should be a naturalist.

Items.

The Church Attendance Cards for the third quarter will be issued in the Sunday Schools next Sunday.

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Mr. Rogers, of North Queensland, is on a visit to Seagoe Parish. Mr. Rogers is a grandson of the late Mrs. M'Collum, of Kilvergan.

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There were record attendances in Seagoe and Hacknahay Day Schools on the occasion of the distribution of the Coronation Mugs.

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The Coronation Medals distributed to the Sunday School children contained on one side a representation of the King and Queen, and on the other side the arms of the four provinces of Ireland, with the rose, thistle, and shamrock intertwined.

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The Rev. W. T. Grey hopes to pay a flying visit to Seagoe during August. He starts on his long voyage to Japan, via South Africa, on August 24th.

A Generous Response.

At a meeting of Seagoe Select Vestry, held on Thursday, June 15th, the gratifying announcement was made that owing to the liberal response made by the parishioners when visited by Mr W. R. Atkinson and Mr G. Calvert, it would be possible to have the new heating apparatus installed in the Church before next winter. A small sub-committee of the Vestry was appointed to arrange for getting the work in hand. As a result of one day's visiting Messrs. Atkinson and Calvert received promises amounting to £80. Although this will not quite cover the cost of the apparatus it was certainly a very generous offering on the part of the Seagoe people. "A liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand."

Anniversary Service.

On Sunday evening, July 9th, an anniversary service will be held in Seagoe Parish Church at 7 o'clock. The collection on that occasion will be devoted to the support of the Enniskillen Orphan Society and the Armagh Protestant Orphan Society.

Protestant Orphan Society.

On Sunday morning, July 9th, the annual appeal on behalf of the Orphan Society will be made in the Parish Church. Seagoe Parish benefits very largely by this Society, which, in conjunction with the Enniskillen Orphan Society, supports some twenty-six orphans in the Parish. Each orphan on the books of the Society receives a sum of £6 per annum, paid quarterly, and the orphan's name remains on the Society's books until it reaches the age of 14. The Society has proved a great blessing to many a struggling widow and helpless child, and we are confident that the people of Seagoe will respond generously to the appeal made on its behalf.

Collecting cards will be given by the clergy to those who would wish to help by collecting. Last year there was an increase in the amount sent in to the Society from this Parish, but there is still room for great improvement in this respect. At the last election of Orphans held in June, all the orphans (seven in number) for whom application was made were elected, one of them being from Seagoe Parish.

Hymns For July.

3rd Sun. aft. Trin. Morn.—	56,	284,	261,	339.
" "	Evg. —	53,	254,	474, 318, 12.
4th Sun. aft. Trin. Morn.—	32,	237,	634,	423.
" "	Evg. —	39,	594,	379, 496, 633.
5th Sun. aft. Trin. Morn.—	478,	463,	541,	552.
" "	Evg. —	234,	557,	245, 277, 17.
6th Sun. aft. Trin. Morn.—	57,	44,	137,	257.
" "	Evg. —	241,	289,	300, 306, 25.
7th Sun. aft. Trin. Morn.—	37,	276,	562,	625.
" "	Evg. —	50,	42,	243, 120, 26.

The Excursion.

The annual Sunday School Excursion to Warrenpoint took place in splendid weather on Tuesday, June 13th. The teachers and children assembled at the Church for a short service at 8 o'clock, and were then marshalled in order and marched to the Station, headed by the Ballyhannon Flute Band. The long procession of brightly dressed children, accompanied by their teachers, looked very nice, and many were the expressions of admiration heard on all sides as it wended its way down the hill and through Edenderry towards the Station. A quick run by train brought us to Warrenpoint, and in a few minutes all had reached the famous field, where so many happy gatherings have taken place. The advance guard, consisting of Messrs. Calvert and J. Montgomery, had gone down by an early train and had everything in readiness, so that in ten minutes after our arrival the excursionists were supplied with abundant refreshments in the shape of tea and buns. Some people said the tea was not sweet enough, but most people said they had never drunk such good tea before, and we agree with them. After the refreshments the excursionists scattered in all directions. Some lounged along the shore, others bathed in the splendid new baths, others took the steamer for Carlingford or Rostrevor, others with good legs and strong lungs climbed to the "Big Stone." Motors, trams, and cars were largely patronised, and reaped a golden harvest from the pockets of Seagoe people. We believe some of the more enterprising excursionists actually climbed above Cloughmore to the summits of the neighbouring mountains. At 5-30 the second refreshment brought all back to the field, and without any delay tea and cakes raced down hungry throats, and soon the weary climbers revived and sallied out again for a round of the shops and a final look at the glorious mountains and shining sea. The return train left at 7-45, and arrived in Portadown at 8-45. There was a great

crowd of people waiting for our return. Railway Street and Bridge Street were lined on both sides as we marched through towards Seagoe. A large number accompanied us to the Church, and after hearty cheers for the King, and a word of thanks from the Rector to all who had assisted, the company separated after a most enjoyable day.

Offertories during June.

Morning, £8 6s 7d; Evening, £2 10s 2½d;
Week-days, £0 17s 1d.

Baptisms.

"Thy vows are upon me."

- June 3rd—Samuel John, son of Joseph and Mary Jane Ruddell.
 " " Eileen Sophia, daughter of Wm. James and Adeline M'Murray.
 " " Martha, daughter of William and Mary Shanks.
 " 7th—Joseph Victor, son of Joseph and Ellen Clulow.
 " 14th—Charles Samuel Armstrong, son of James and Elizabeth Twinem.
 " 22nd—Margaret, daughter of Atkinson and Mary Matilda Costello.
 " 28th—William Hall, son of John and Mary Ellen McKeown.
 " " —Herbert Victor, son of John and Mary Ellen McKeown.

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Burial.

"I give unto them Eternal Life."

- June 21st—William James Black, Ballynaghy, aged 7 years.
 " 27th—Elizabeth Graham, Tarson, aged 75 years.

Old Seagoe Notes.

The Ballad of Tommy Downshire.—We thank Mrs. William Hart, of Ballygargan, Portadown, for kindly sending us the following verses of this old ballad. In a recent issue we published four other verses, and gave an account of the origin of the outbreak:—

It was on a summer morning,
As daylight was dawning,
I heard a bugle-horn just at the break of day;
I asked what caused such smoke and fire,
And they told me it was Tommy Downshire,
And quickly with him I did hire
To go and fight that day, boys

We marched by Knock Bridge to the canal,
We viewed the mainmast, tight and tall;
Tommy says now should you fall
Be loyal and be true, boys.
We have much blood for to be shed,
Let every man fight for his bread,
For we're Tommy's men from the Shane Hill,
Come, let us clear the way, boys.

Bold Hancock from Lurgan town,
He surely on us all did frown;
But Tommy says we'll give him a down,
For he has to much to say, boys.
So we chased him round by the Bluestone,
To Lurgan town he dare not go home,
He crossed Lough Neagh and to Tyrone,
I think he's o'er the sea, boys.

And if he happens to return,
Tommy vows he will him burn;
Or otherwise he'll make him mourn
Unto his dying day, boys.
Then home we came by Drumlin Hill,
Both old and young did laugh their fill;
Here is Tommy's men from the Shane Hill,
And they have cleared the way, boys.

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Coaching Days in Seagoe.—The following interesting extract from an old newspaper describes the running of the Stage Coach from Armagh through Portadown and Seagoe to Belfast:—

Armagh had no public conveyance to Belfast until 1812, when Mr. James Johnston, of Lurgan, established a lightly-constructed and well got-up coach to run on that line of road. John Byers, one of the most accomplished of whips, and, as a rule, blandest of coachmen, was appointed "lord of the ribbons." His team had no equal, and so well did he manage that equine troop that he never required to use the whip. For a long period after the Armagh coach began to run the thirty-one Irish miles was performed with two sets of horses. The first set ran from Armagh to Lurgan—fourteen miles—without stopping, and the next set ran to Belfast—seventeen miles—with an interval of ten minutes at the Hertford Arms, Lisburn. The coach ran three times each way every week, starting from Armagh at six in the morning, stopping at Lurgan for breakfast, and arriving at Magee's Hotel in High Street at two o'clock. As years rolled on the traffic increased very much, and in 1824 the coach commenced to run down and up daily, John Byers driving the entire sixty-two miles, thus accomplishing an amount of work unequalled in the annals of Jehuism, and this continuous labour he performed for a great many years, never being a single day off the road.

At length the time came when coaches, caravans, and cars ceased to find occupation on that line of road. The steam-driven locomotive, with its long train of carriages, started by the Ulster Company, commenced working August, 1839, and ran first to Lisburn. Two years afterwards the way was opened to Portadown, and gradually the old system of passenger traffic on common roads became obsolete in that section of country. The old four-horse coach, with its handsome turn-out, and red-faced driver, has consequently become a thing of the past, and, except in pictures, illustrative of former times, the rising generation of this age are not likely to see in its full glory either a post-chaise or a passenger-coach.