

The Feis held at Ballyvourney on Sunday was a distinct success. The herculean work done by Dr Lynch, the genial President of the local Branch, is, when considered calmly, amazing in its vastness. The people of Ballyvourney owe much to Dr Lynch, but the people of Ireland in general owe more, for he has accomplished work for the Irish revival movement which has left the impress of the Dictor's Nationality on the mind of the people.

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I have been informed that a movement is on foot in the Inchigeela and Ballingearry districts for the inauguration of a Feis at an early date. Last week I had occasion to comment upon the absence of these admirable entertainments in Inchigeela, and I am pleased, indeed, to hear that the hope I expressed for their revival had already been anticipated. A Feis in Ballingearry and Inchigeela, where the Gaelic language has been fostered through years of neglect in other quarters, and where it is now the tongue of the people, should be a success. I hope that nothing will intervene to mar the intentions of the promoters.

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The Sports come off on the 17th—tomorrow week—and everything points to a most successful fixture. It may be well to mention that many of the local teams are planning excursions to the Sports, Bandon, Bantry, Dunmanway, and Millstreet making preparations for a visit to the town of "the Old Bell"; and the Clonakilty Cycle Club are arranging for a run to Macroom on that date.

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Sanction has at last been received to the changing of the dates of the fairs. The usual monthly sheep and cattle fairs will now be held on the second Tuesday of each month, and the pig market on the preceding Monday. This latter is at present rather an indefinite market, as the system of ranging and midnight buying in vogue has spread it over considerably. It is to be hoped that the Urban Council will see their way to take some action in this matter, when the change comes into practice.

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The tourist traffic to Gougane and Glengarriffe, via Macroom, is daily growing in dimensions. Enormous crowds of "trippers" are availing of the special facilities afforded by the Cork and Macroom Railway Company, and the coaches are daily crowded with tourists of varying ages, appearance, sex, and nationality.

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Apropos of this subject, what the Macroom wonder mongers evidently regarded as a *rara avis*—a dumb lady—passed through the town on a few mornings ago. How it was discovered that the lady had not the use of her tongue I will not pretend to know—probably the fact that she was not heard talking was in itself sufficient to proclaim the wonderful intelligence—but anyhow a crowd of wondering boys gathered round and round the coach, and gazed at that poor lady, as if she were some prehistoric monster, or some new and strange species of animal—newly arrived from some new strange land.

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A lingering shadow of doubt seemed to rest on every face. After discussing her from all points of view, they drew apart and gazed wonderingly after the coach as it moved away. "She's dumb" was the verdict, but it was pronounced with such a dubious and unbelieving air that it was obvious that doubts of her bona fides still lingered among the crowd.

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That poor afflicted lady has often been discussed since, and her infirmity has been argued pro and con for hours together. It is beyond doubt that the general belief up to this was that a dead woman only could claim the distinction of being dumb for two consecutive minutes. There was a pathetic regret in the farewell words (*sotto voce*) of a man in the crowd as the coach, with its wonderful occupant, drove away—"When shall we meet thy like again?" Ah! when indeed?

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We hear nothing about the factory now. Has it been relegated to the reign of things forgotten? Perhaps the enthusiasm of the moment has evaporated in anticipations. Some weeks ago I advised a wait until the Exhibition results have become evidenced, but the promoters of the movement might be giving some earnest of their good intentions in the meantime. The provision of capital, and the ways and means of that provision might occupy their attention while waiting. It is absolutely necessary to ensure a capital behind the enterprise before taking any steps, and how the money is to be raised is at present beautifully indefinite. The promoters seem to believe that they have only to ask and they shall receive, but I fear these roseate dreams will be rudely dispelled later on. If the co-operation and support of the general public is desired, some more definite action must be taken than indulging in lucubrations about the evils of poverty and lack of employment and the perfidies of house lords. We have got quite enough of this lip sympathy, and what we now want, if there is to be any confidence reposed in the project is some attention to the fundamental principle, viz—the provision of capital.

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A correspondent writes this week suggesting that the Urban Council would, before taking up the factory question again, purchase some sort of patent clap-trap extinguisher for use in the Council room. It would prevent the airing of a great deal of familiar eloquence on a familiar question.