



Cavan

OFFICIAL GUIDE

WITH DISTRICT MAP

Issued with the approval of the
Cavan Urban District Council

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**THE OFFICIAL GUIDE
TO
CAVAN**

TRÉORÁN OIFISIÚIL

**DO
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Issued by the authority of the

**CAVAN
TOWN COMMISSIONERS**

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A. H. SMITH, MAIN STREET, CAVAN

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MAIN ST., CAVAN

Cavan Town

POPULATION 3,484

Situation and Topography

CAVAN TOWN is situated in a deep hollow from which it derives its name, (Cabhan, the hollow), and is overlooked by steep hills on three sides. Regionally, it is situated in east Cavan but the position of the town would mark the approximate centre of the county. It is surrounded by the small towns of Ballinagh, Ballyhaise, Butlersbridge, Stradone and Crossdoney, all within a radius of seven miles. An outer ring would be formed by Virginia, Cootehill, Belturbet, Kilmaleck, Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough and Killeshandra, all within a radius of about twenty miles. Pearse Street stretches in a north-south direction and is paralleled by the residential Roger Casement Street with which it is connected by Thomas Ashe Street, Francis Street and Oliver Plunkett Street. Oliver Plunkett Street and Roger Casement Street are connected by the 'L'-shaped Abbey Street, a quiet back-water lying in the centre of the town. These streets lie in the bottom of the hollow and are overlooked by Tulach Mongain (often known as the Gallows Hill) on the east side, and Wolfe Tone Street on the west. At the southern end of Pearse Street is the Dublin Road which climbs to a height overlooking the town and beyond this the Green Lake, where legend has it that the old town of Cavan lies beneath the waters. Looking south-west from any of the heights of Cavan one can see the mountains of Ballyconnell and further away Sliabh Cuilcagh towering over its fellows amongst the Glan mountains. One can distinguish in the Glan mountains the opening of Glan Cap, famous for its Connemara scenery and frequent mists. From the nearby Shanthoman mountain, on a clear day it is possible to see twenty miles away the Mote of Granard, a famous round rath or lios on which a huge statue of St. Patrick stands.

Civic History

It is probable that the town was in existence before the commencement of the Christian era as is evidenced by numerous old forts or raths (fortified dwelling places) in and around the present town. In the tenth century two principalities, East Breifne or Breifne O'Reilly, and West Breifne, or Breifne O'Rourke, comprised the territory known as Breifne. East Breifne would correspond with the present County Cavan and West Breifne with County Leitrim. Very prominent in the history of Cavan are the O'Reillys of Breifne, an old Celtic



Cavan Cathedral.

stock. Their principal stronghold was on Tulach Mongain Hill overlooking the town which now contains the fair green, and where during the last century the Gallows were situated. This fortress may well have been the beginning of the growth of Cavan town. The Monastery of Cavan was built and endowed in the year 1300 by Giolla Iosa Roe O'Reilly at that time Prince of Breifne and was for centuries occupied by the Franciscan Friars.

The present County of Cavan was formed from East Breifne in 1584 and was part of the province of Ulster from its formation. In 1585 two men from Cavan, Philip O'Reilly, Esq., and Edmund O'Reilly, Esq., were elected to the Irish Parliament. In 1687 the old Charter was annulled and a new one granted by King James II. No change was made in the privileges of the corporation, and the new Sovereign was Luke Reilly, Esq. The Corporation of the Borough of Cavan was abolished in 1840. In 1837, just before the Corporation's passing, another municipal body, the Cavan Borough Commissioners, was elected in the town. This body was succeeded by the Cavan Town Commissioners and eventually by the Cavan Urban District Council. In 1899 the Local Government Board for Ireland constituted the town of Cavan. The Urban District Council was put into effect on the 1st April, 1900.

Franciscan Friary

The Franciscan Abbey of St. Mary's was founded in 1300 A.D. by Giolla Iosa Roc O'Reilly, Chief of Breifne. For three centuries the Abbey flourished and played a foremost part in the religious life of the Diocese. In this cemetery was buried a number of the princes, ecclesiastics, statesmen, and soldiers of the period, including Owen Roe O'Neill and Primate Hugh O'Reilly. The extensive lands then surrounding the Abbey were encroached upon as the town gradually increased in size leaving only the present small area. The Abbey was confiscated in 1608, was re-occupied by the Franciscans after the Rebellion of 1641, but was finally sacked and the Franciscans dispossessed in 1650. The Abbey Church was demolished in 1816 leaving only the present tower remaining.

Churches

THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL: The new Catholic Cathedral was built by the late Dr. Lyons, Bishop of Kilmorc and was consecrated in 1946. The old Cathedral now stands in Ballyhaise where it was re-erected as parish church by Fr. Maguire.

Near the Cathedral in Roger Casement Street is the Presbytery. The buildings behind it are part of the old Diocesan Seminary of

St. Augustine, founded in 1839 by Dr. James Browne, Bishop of Kilmore. Two of its most illustrious past pupils were Fr. Finlay, S.J., the well-known theologian and his brother Fr. Thomas A. Finlay, S.J., who was Professor of Political Economy at U.C.D. until 1930, and was co-founder with Sir Horace Plunkett of the I.A.O.S.

KILMORE PROTESTANT CATHEDRAL: This Cathedral, which was built early in the last century, stands four miles from Cavan near the old Cathedral which is now used as a Parochial Hall. St. Phelim's Well is in the grounds of the Cathedral and the remains of the famous patron rest in the old Church Cemetery. The vestry door of the Protestant Cathedral is a very beautiful old Irish-recessed doorway which was removed from the Church of the Premonstratentian Monastery on Trinity Island.

THE COURTHOUSE: This large and classical building, built early in the last century and designed by Bowden, stands in its own grounds in Roger Casement Street and is the successor of the old Courthouse in Pearse Street which is now the Market House and where John Wesley once preached.

CAVAN TOWN HALL: A compact cut-stone structure, three storeys in front. The back is one-storey and houses the ballroom, stage and dressing rooms. The front contains the meeting rooms, Urban District Council Offices, and caretaker's quarters. The architecture is early Victorian and very pleasing to the eye.

Ideal Centre for Rod and Gun

For those who have an interest in rod and gun, Cavan affords an ideal centre.

LOUGH SHEELIN, famed in song and story, teems with all kinds of coarse fishing.

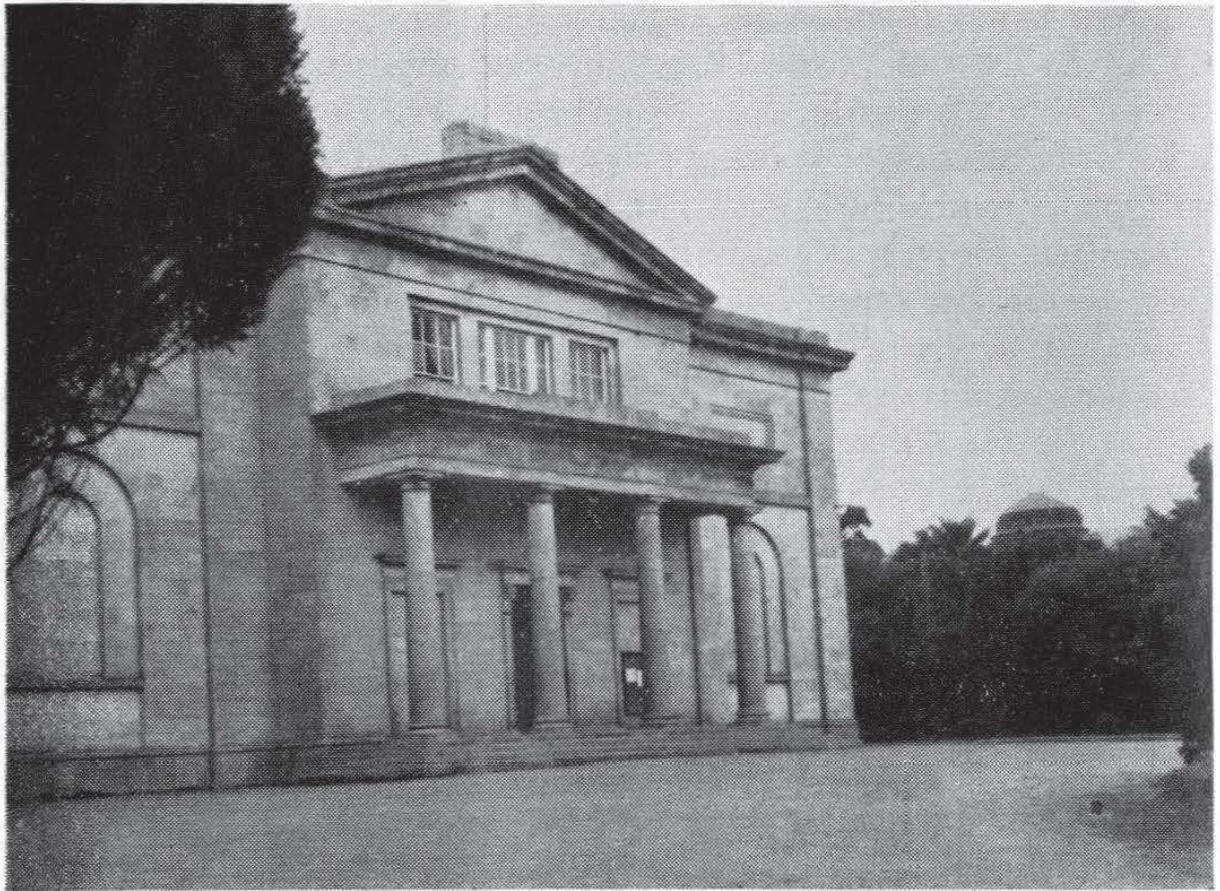
LOUGH RAMOR, at Virginia, 'the Killarney of the North', is well-known for its famous £1,000 pike fishing competition.

KILLYKEEN, situated in the fairyland of Lough Uachtar, with its ever-changing vistas, will leave any visitor a sense of satisfaction that will remain with him long after his departure.

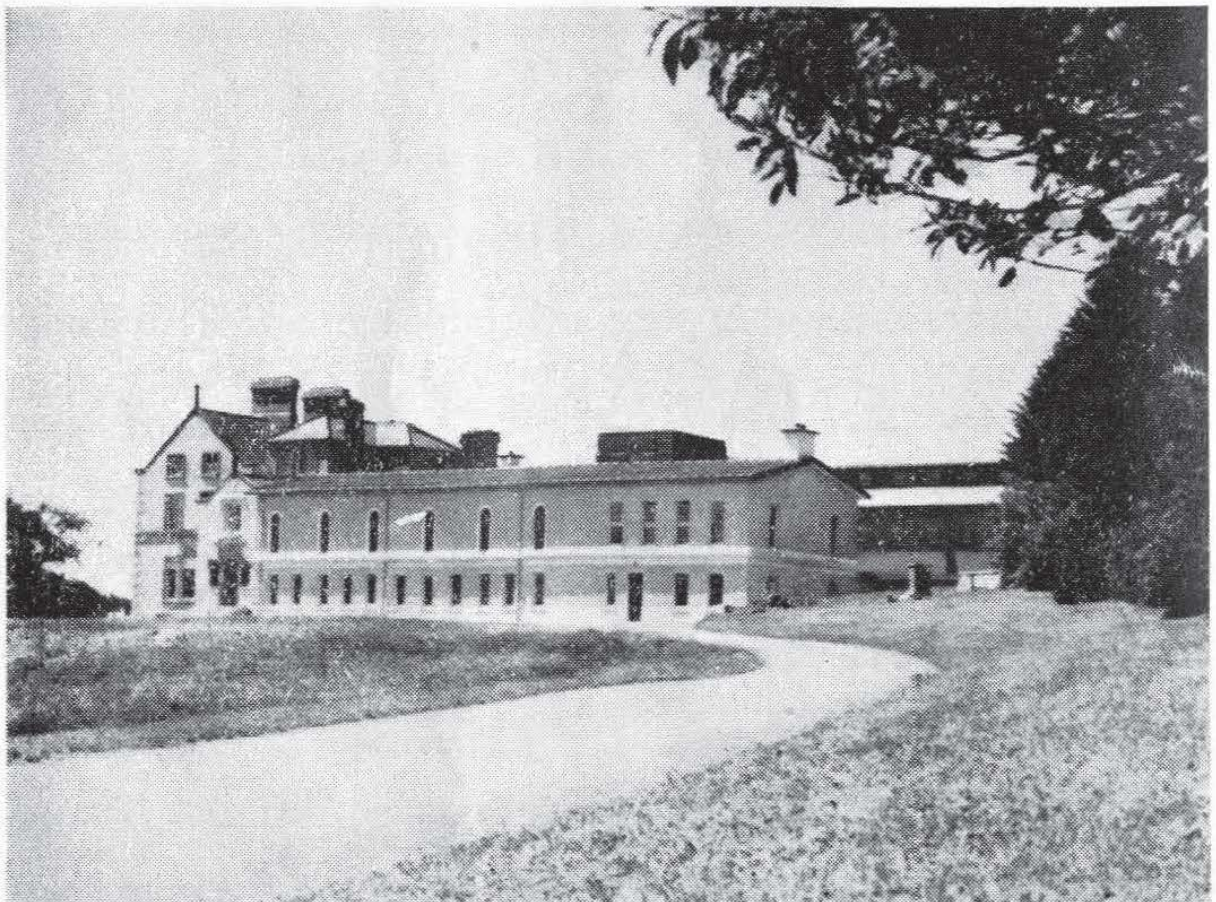
Apart from the lakes, dozens of small streams abound with brown trout and will afford the very finest of sport to the true angler.

Around the lakes and rivers, wild fowl are plentiful and on high ground grouse affords good sport in the season.

LOUGH GOWNA: The little village of Gowna is a favourite holiday venue for a large number of cross-Channel visitors, with a special



Courthouse, Cavan.



Loreto College, Cavan.

interest in coarse fishing. An ever-expanding clientele is proof of this sport and scenic beauty of this lakeland so famed in song and story.

Cootehill District

Cootehill is a market town on the Cavan-Monaghan border. The White Horse Hotel, in Cootehill, is an excellent centre for a day's visit to Cootehill. Cootehill takes its name from Thomas Coote who received the barony of Tullygarvey till then reserved to the Irish, under the Act of Settlement (1650) and who married a Miss Hill. Thomas Coote settled in the lake and forest area of Munnilly townland where his successor, another Thomas Coote, built the present mansion about A.D. 1700. This mansion is an excellent example of red-brick palladian architecture with finely decorated ceilings to the principal rooms.

Within reasonable motoring distance of Cootehill are two important antiquities.

(a) A double court cairn at Cohaw School (three miles). This is the southernmost cairn of its type, which seems to have entered Ireland in the Sligo region and extended from there over most of Ulster and crossed into southern Scotland. Its approximate dating is 2000 B.C. The prototypes for this type of structure can be found in Sardinia and Malta.

(b) 'The Black Pig's Dyke.' This is the remains of a running boundary ditch of imposing proportions, said to be a portion of a continuous boundary ditch traversing the island from near Bundoran to the Newry region. Whether or not this is correct, the remains of this dyke, a deep double ditch, can be clearly seen in Drumurcher townland, close to the main Cootehill-Belturbet road. Although little is known of its date or purpose, the Dyke is of considerable interest. It has not been excavated.

(c) Tullyvin, said to be named after Maon, son of Conall Cernach, and 'builder' of the Black Pig's Dyke, is the site of a castle of the O'Rcilly chieftains of Breiffni.

The forest land north of Cootehill is said to be a survival of the original natural forest that formerly covered much of Ireland. It has been extensively replanted as State Forest.

Schools

St. Patrick's College. The Kilmore Diocesan College is about a mile on the Clones side of Cavan. This beautiful building with its lovely sylvan setting and spacious playing fields, which were extensively

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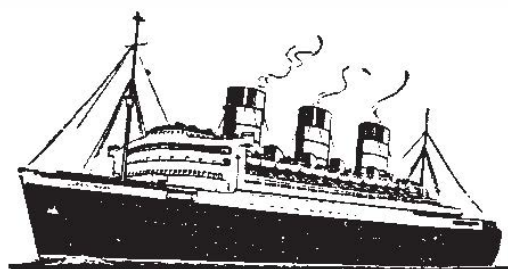
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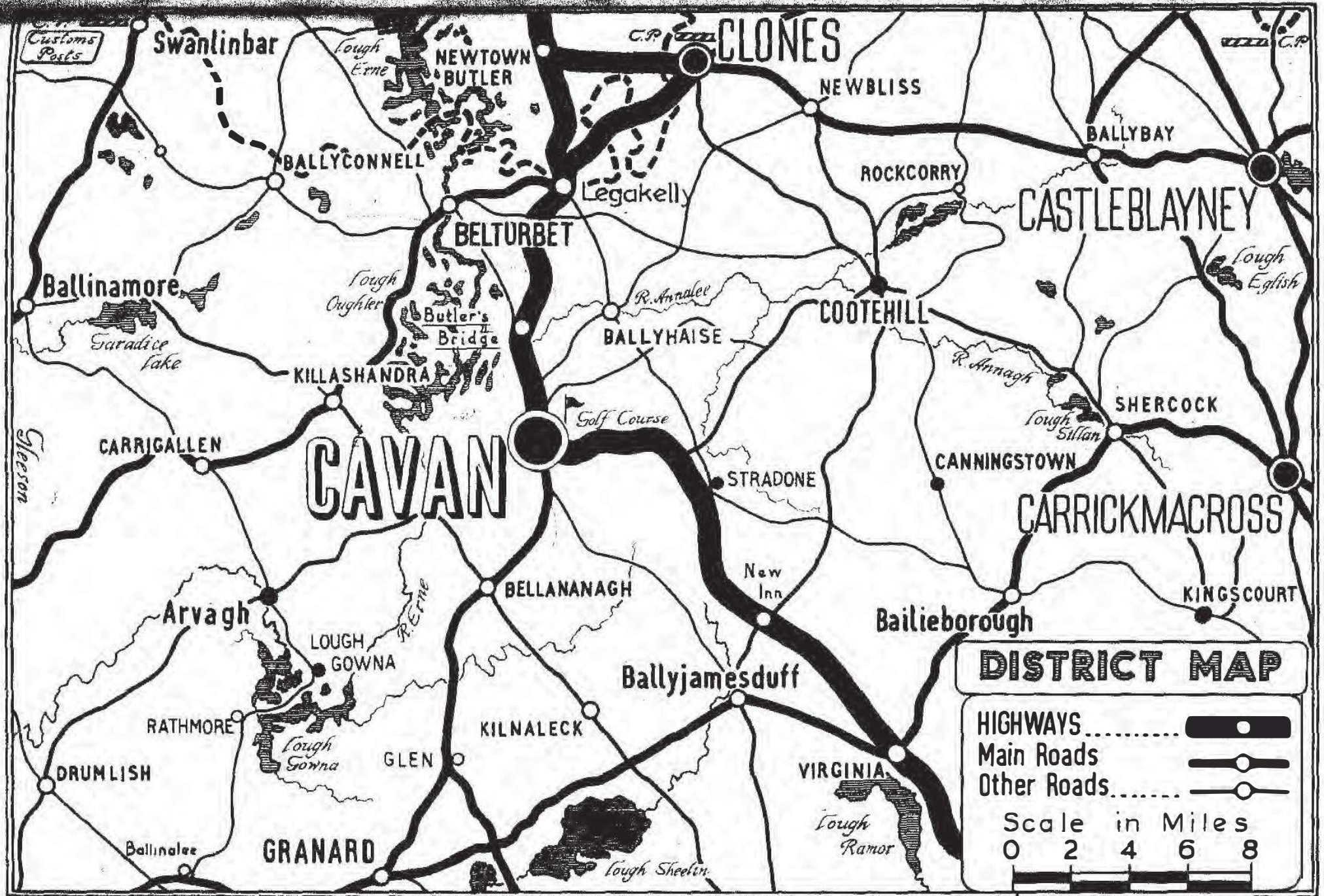


CUNARD R.M.S. "QUEEN MARY"

'PHONE 40

●

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added to in 1955, was built by Bishop Nicholas Conaty in the year 1871-4. Bishop Conaty is buried in the centre aisle of the College Chapel before the High Altar. It is to the design of William Hague, a Cavanman, who was one of the best known Irish architects to whom the diocese also owes some of its finest churches—Butlersbridge, Killygarry, Milltown, etc. The new wing on the west side was added by the late Bishop Lyons in 1939-41.

The Royal School. Founded by Charter dated October 5, 1611, Dr. Thomas Sheridan, the famous classical scholar, was headmaster of the Royal School during the 1730's. The present Royal School premises was erected in 1819.

Loreto College. Loreto College, situated in its own extensive grounds amid some of the finest scenery in the county, was founded in 1930 by Mother M. Antonia Byrne (R.I.P.), at the invitation of Most Rev. Dr. Finnegan, Bishop of Kilmore, and has the distinction of being the first Catholic Secondary School for girls in the Diocese.

The Technical School. The Technical School is housed in a modern fireproof three-storied building and caters for all branches of Technical Education. Both day and night classes are very well attended.

Supplement

List of Societies and Secretaries

<i>Society:</i>	<i>Secretary:</i>
ANGLERS	Mr. McConnville, Main Street, Cavan; Phone 19.
BADMINTON	M. J. Smith, Drumalee, Cavan.
BOY SCOUTS	Mr. John Donoghue, c/o Brady's, Main Street; Phone 93.
BOXING CLUB	James Brady, Fortview, Crossdoney Road, Cavan.
BRIDGE CLUB	P. Mansfield, Co. Engineer, Drumelis, Cavan.
CAMOGIE CLUB	Anna Smith, Courthouse, Cavan.
CATHOLIC GIRLS CLUB	Miss Sarah Cullen, The Library, Cavan.
C.Y.M.S.	Anselm Lovett, Cathedral Road, Cavan.
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	Connie Smith, Farnham Street, Cavan.
CHESS CLUB	Jim Scanlon, Francis Street, Cavan.
COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI EIREANN	Bridie Galligan, c/o Town Hall, Cavan; Phone 84.
COUNTY CAVAN L.T.C.	Arthur McGloughlin, Cathedral Road, Cavan.
CUMANN GAELACH	Seamus de Faoite, McDermott St., Cavan.
CUMANN SEANCHAIS BREIFNE	Rev. F. McKiernan, St. Patrick's College; Phone 68.

DRAMA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	..	Nellie McEntyre, Francis Street, Cavan.
F.C.A.	.. ..	Jim Scanlon, Francis Street, Cavan.
G.A.A.	.. ..	Paddy Reilly, Athbara, Cavan; Phone 6. Hughie Smith, Courthouse, Cavan.
GOLF CLUB	.. ..	Dermot Morgan, Casement St., Cavan.
GRAMOPHONE SOCIETY	..	Miss Mary McCarthy, Casement St., Cavan.
HANDBALL	.. ..	Dr. B. J. Galligan, Doire Mhor, Cavan.
I.C.A.	.. ..	Mrs. Patricia O'Reilly, Bridge St., Cavan; Phone 18.
PATRICIAN SOCIETY	.. ..	Sarah Cullen, Main Street, Cavan.
PIONEER T.A.A.	.. ..	Rev. Father McManus, Presbytery, Cavan. (Director).
RED CROSS	.. ..	W. Brown, M.A., Cathedral Road, Cavan.
RUGBY CLUB	.. ..	C. A. Anderson, Royal School, Cavan.
SOCCER CLUB	.. ..	Eugene Cullivan, N.T., Cathedral Road, Cavan.

General Information

EARLY CLOSING DAY (except for Banks): Thursday.

MARKET DAY: Tuesday.

FAIR DAY: Second Tuesday of each month.

BANKS: The Ulster Bank; Munster & Leinster Bank; Bank of Ireland; Hibernian Bank and Provincial Bank.

BUSES: *Cavan to* Dublin via Virginia, Kells, Navan, daily at 9.00 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 6.50 p.m. *Cavan to* Dundalk via Bailieborough, Shercock, Kilnaleck, daily at 3.30 p.m., and Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9.15 a.m. *Cavan to* Portadown via Monaghan in connection for Belfast at Portadown and in connection for Dundalk at Clones, daily at 8.40 a.m., 11.55 a.m. and 4.05 p.m. *Cavan to* Monaghan, daily at 6.40 p.m. *Cavan to* Enniskillen via Belturbet, Ballyconnell, Bawnboy, Swanlinbar, daily at 2.10 p.m. Late bus on Saturday at 6.40 p.m. *Cavan to* Oldcastle, Tuesdays, at 9.00 a.m. and 4.10 p.m. *Cavan to* Ballyjamesduff via Kilnaleck on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, at 6.20 p.m. *Cavan to* Sligo, daily at 8.40 a.m. *Cavan to* Mullingar, daily at 8.20 a.m.

LIBRARY: Open to the public from 2-5 p.m. on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2-5 p.m. and 6-8.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Juvenile Library open on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

HOTELS: The Farnham Arms; Ulster Arms; County; Imperial; Railway, and Bridge.

CINEMAS: The Magnet Cinema; The Town Hall.

PUBLIC DANCE HALLS: Town Hall; Pavilion; Protestant Hall.

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CAVAN

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