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M. F. KEOGH

General Manager

Price 1d.



# Westport

Clew Bay

Clare Island

Croagh Patrick & Surroundings

Mallaranny and Achill



For fuller information see the Company's New  
Illustrated Guide Book (Price 6d.)

## FOREWORD

Modern travelling facilities have placed the WEST OF IRELAND within easy reach of all parts of the United Kingdom, and there is no longer any reason why this magnificently endowed district of the Homelands should not become one of the most favoured of all our Holiday Resorts.

BRITISH VISITORS coming to Ireland have the choice of many ways ; but for WESTPORT and the West the DIRECT ROUTE is to Holyhead on the London and North Western System, and thence by fast steamer to Dublin.

The Channel-crossing may be made either by the " Irish Mail " or the " Irish Express," and is reduced to a minimum by the great efficiency and rapidity of the large and splendidly-equipped passenger fleets on these specialised services.

A three hours' sea trip brings the visitor to Dublin, a handsome city entered through a beautiful Bay ; and thence the way to the West—a matter of four or five hours—is direct by the Midland Great Western Railway, starting from the Broadstone Station.

This journey is rendered pleasant by the up-to-date comforts and catering provided, and by the varied charms of many of the scenes traversed, which offer, as it were, a foretaste of the richer glories at its end.



## WESTPORT

CROAGH PATRICK—NEWPORT—MALLAR-  
ANNY—THE RAILWAY HOTEL—FISH-  
ING AND GOLFING—A TRIP TO ACHILL

THE long-famous West of Ireland Towns are winning new renown as the years pass by, as fresh legions of friendly prospectors come and go, carrying home with them delightful memories, and spreading far and near the praises of those inspiring scenes. Unlike many other districts which appeal to the tourists' patronage, Connaught is no circumscribed area of pretty picturesqueness. It is an entire Province, throughout which Nature has lavished her varied gifts with a generosity that defies enumeration in detail, and is indeed almost bewildering in its total magnificence.

### MODERN TOURING FACILITIES.

And thereto has lately come the busy mind of man, planning how to place these riches within reach of enjoyment by the world at large ; pushing out his railway extensions into the remoter haunts, raising his fine modern hotels beside the ancient loughs and under the shade of the stern old mountains that look down grimly, but not unkindly, on the fairylands beneath.

### IDEAL HOLIDAY HEADQUARTERS.

Where there exists so extreme a diversity of natural attractions, it is not easy to say that

any one part of these favoured areas is more typical of the Western Highlands than any other. But WESTPORT, with its neighbourhood, has a special claim and is deserving of a special treatment. As a holiday resort it is both an end in itself, and a base from whence one may proceed on more adventurous excursions—to Connemara, for instance, on the one side, or up to Ballina and Sligo, on the other. Such being its credentials, the subject-matter of the present booklet may not be regarded as labour wasted or as suggestions falling upon unheeding ears.

### THE JOURNEY FROM DUBLIN.

Westport is one of the farther outposts of the Midland Great Western Railway, a wide-stretching system which serves the centre of Ireland and the entire Province of Connaught, besides throwing out its branches so far north as Cavan, and running powers so far in the southern direction as to the City of Limerick. Travelling by the Midland from the Broadstone Station, Dublin, you may be sure that the irksomeness of a rather long journey will be reduced to a minimum by the expeditious comforts of an excellent train service. And what is more, when you come to the western limit the same Company will follow you there, and cater for your entertainment by its hotels, its fishing preserves, its golfing courses, and its motor coach services. What more could you desire?

### SYLVAN SCENES.

WESTPORT is a good, thriving business town of nearly 4,000 inhabitants, situated amidst attractive well-wooded surroundings. The Clifden

coaches begin and end their journeys at the Railway Station, calling at the Railway Hotel. One of the visitors' first movements abroad might be a pleasant walk through Lord Sligo's demesne, crossing the outflow of the lake-expanded Carrowbeg River, and thence on to Westport Quay. In returning to the town the pedestrian should vary the route, namely, by taking the path through the swing-gate on the right, on the Quay side of the lake. This path is really picturesque, and beyond the Mansion passes the ruin of the superseded Protestant Church, and then crosses the Carrowbeg at a charmingly sylvan spot. Hence the bank of the stream should be followed, and the outward route will be rejoined in due course.

#### CROAGH PATRICK.

In the vicinity of Westport stands one of the predominant natural features of this part of the country—the famous CROAGH PATRICK. This mountain, almost equally notable as a view-point and as a place of religious pilgrimage, is most easily reached by driving about 6 miles along the Quay road. Before ascending, a visit may be paid to MURRISK ABBEY, which is a short distance to the right, towards Clew Bay. The ruin represents a fourteenth-century house of Austin Friars.

To climb Croagh Patrick (2,510 feet) you cross the eastern spur of the mountain, and then bear up to the right, and the path followed by the devout is unmistakable. "Pattern Day" is St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. Again, on the last Sunday of July, thousands of Catholics, accompanied by prelates and clergy, ascend the mountain

to the summit to take part in the services of the Church, which are here celebrated with great solemnity, in the open air. This annual event is always one of peculiar impressiveness. For the ordinary visitor an ascent of Croagh Patrick, under summer skies, is a vivifying experience. The bold cone commands a noble view. Connemara, Murrisk, Achill, but especially Clew Bay, immediately below, with Clare Island in the western distance, are included in the panorama.

### REMARKABLE FEATURES.

Within a dozen miles of pedestrian or cycling reach from Westport there are two objects worth visiting. About 5 miles S.E. is AGHAGOWER ROUND TOWER. Close by is the ruin of an ancient *Chapel*, with a quite remarkable east window. Aghagower was the seat of a Celtic monastery, which is said to have been founded by St. Patrick. It is something over 2 miles N.E. from Aghagower to Aille Church, near which is the ruin known as *M'Philbin's Castle*, about which history seems silent.

A few hundred yards south from the road is the GULF OF AILLE, a large cavern through which the Aille flows. It is a fine example of a phenomenon common enough in limestone districts. In times of flood, the pit is filled and the fields sometimes flooded, but after an absence of heavy rain the subterranean channel can be explored for some distance.

### EXCELLENT FISHING WATERS.

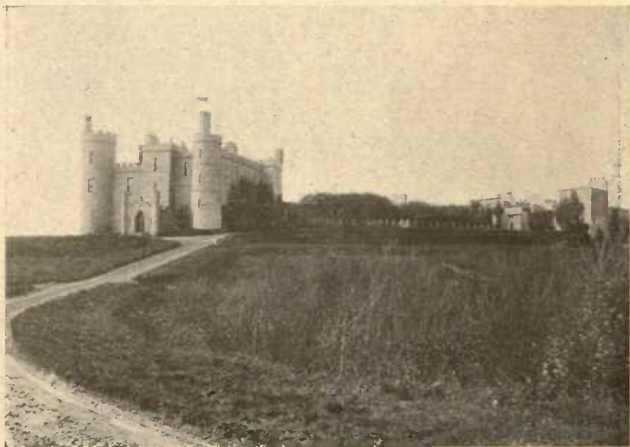
A journey of some twenty minutes by rail from Westport, through a pastoral country, brings us to NEWPORT, a little port on Clew





*Photo by]*

[Lawrence, Dublin.  
BURRISHOOLE ABBEY, CO. MAYO.



*Photo by]*

[Lawrence, Dublin.  
ROSTURK, CO. MAYO.



*Photo by]*

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*  
RAILWAY CO.'S HOTEL, MALLARANNY.



*Photo by]*

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*  
VIEW FROM THE HOTEL, MALLARANNY.

Bay. This village is a capital place—with an unpretending hotel—for the angler who is fortunate enough to obtain permission for a day or two on one or other of the attractive waters in the neighbourhood. Lough Beltra, 6 miles on the Crossmolina road, which skirts it, is from July to September a perfect white trout lake. The Newport River after flood is also good, but it quickly runs down. To the N.W. of the town are the Burrishoole Lakes : namely, Furnace Lough and, above it, Lough Feeagh. Of these Furnace is about 3 miles distant along the Achill road. The latter fills the fine glen between Beggorm and Buckoogh, which rise nearly 2,000 feet on either hand.

For sea-fishing and cruising, a stout boat can usually be obtained without much difficulty. Sometimes a little sport is to be had in the tidal part of the river.

#### INTERESTING MEMORIALS.

About 2 miles from the town, a short distance left of the Achill road, and on the bank of the Furnace estuary, are the ruins of BURRISHOOLE ABBEY, with considerable remains of the monastic church. These are of the fifteenth century. The church was cruciform, and the central tower is still standing. It was a Dominican foundation, and is still interesting in decay. Just north of it, beyond the adjoining creek, is the solitary tower CARRIGAHOOLEY, "the rock of the fleet," which is assigned to Grace O'Malley, the mountain Queen of the West in the reign of Elizabeth.

#### MOUNTAIN PEAKS.

Bearing away to the north-east the peak of Nephin (2,646 feet) cuts the sky-line, and to the

right, as we cross a stretch of peat-bog, are the bold summits of the Nephin-Beg range. Soon the interest of the view shifts to the left hand. First comes a peep of Clew Bay, and then another which, looking back, shows us the archipelago at its head. But CROAGH PATRICK, with his great shoulders, now dominates the scene—a noble cone, rising abruptly from the water's edge to a height exceeding 2,500 feet. Looking westward, the bold profile of Clare Island (1,520 feet), thrown into deep shadow by the westering sun, continues the mountain outline, whilst close below us lies a lovely bay, as we approach MALLARANNY, charmingly placed on a picturesque isthmus half-a-mile in width, with Clew Bay to the south, and Bellacragher Bay to the north.

### MALLARANNY HOTEL.

#### A SPLENDID SITUATION WITH UNIQUE SPORTING ATTRACTIVEIONS.

Adjacent to the Railway Station are the extensive grounds, of the Railway Hotel which belongs to the Midland Great Western Company. It is a first-class modern hotel, standing on the southern slope of the isthmus, about 100 feet above the sea, and commanding a lovely prospect over Clew Bay. From the first it has been recognised as a much-needed acquisition, providing visitors with the most comfortable quarters, with capital fishing, golfing, and other means of holiday enjoyment.

#### OUTINGS FROM MALLARANNY.

From the Hotel as headquarters some very interesting excursions may be made—especially to



Achill, Rosturk Castle, and Rock House. For particulars as to these most enjoyable outings, the reader should consult the Midland Railway Company's large GUIDE TO THE WEST OF IRELAND (price 6d.).

### ANGLING AND GOLFING.

The River Owengarve, a sporting stream, particularly when the sea-trout are running up towards the end of summer, is reserved for Midland Railway Hotel guests. It is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east along the Newport road.

The Links, which were laid down by the Midland Great Western Railway Company, are delightfully situated on the shore and command a magnificent view of Clew Bay, within easy distance of the Railway Hotel. The turf is short, springy, and velvety, and such as golfers love.

The course, nine holes long, is laid out over real golfing ground, with numerous natural hazards and sand bunkers, and, as is pre-eminently desirable in a nine-hole course, the holes are interesting, sporting and varied.

### TO ACHILL SOUND.

The railway journey from Mallaranny to Achill Sound is interesting and beautiful almost throughout. Onward for miles the sea-scapes are delightful as we look across the intricate inland sea—the northern expansion of Achill Sound—and over the flat of Erris to the Nephin-Beg peaks. Then as we trend westward, the unmistakable cone of Slievemore becomes conspicuous, and will be scarcely lost sight of till we reach its foot at Dugort. The terminus of the railway, *Achill Sound*, is close to the Sound, or waterway, between

Achill and the mainland. It is, in population, scarcely a village, and the few houses on the island side have an air of newness, but given a bright day, the situation is airy and pleasant. Since 1888, thanks to the generous initiative of Mr. J. G. Porter, of Belle Isle, Co. Fermanagh, the channel has been bridged. Before that auspicious year the passage was often perilous.

### DOOEGA HEAD AND KEEL STRAND.

The one excursion from Achill Sound, also conveniently made from Dugort, is to DOOEGA HEAD, a magnificent headland of about 800 feet. For this we take the left-hand road, about three-quarters of a mile on the Achill side of the Sound. It is 5 miles to CAMPORT, and another half-mile on to DOOEGA—both characteristic Achill settlements—whence a sharp little ascent of a mile lands us on the verge of the Head. The pedestrian bound for Dugort, cannot do better than keep to the grand cliff-top, and in less than 3 miles he will descend to the east end of Keel Strand, whence he should by all means retrace his steps, if the tide serves, to view the really striking CATHEDRAL ROCKS. Returning to the Strand, he will shortly strike northwards and follow the road (4 miles) across the island to Dugort.

The trip by water from Achill Sound (Station) to Keel Strand, is a thing to be remembered. A boat must be bargained for, and settled weather is a *sine qua non*. These available, we descend the Sound, pass the remains of KILDAVNET CASTLE—one of Grace O'Malley's—near its mouth, and hug the stern coast-line. DOOEGA HEAD from the water is superb.



*Photo by]*

THE BRIDGE, ACHILL SOUND.

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*



*Photo by]*

GOING TO MARKET, ACHILL.

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*



*Photo by]*

MENAWN CLIFFS, ACHILL.

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*



*Photo by]*

DOOAGH VILLAGE, ACHILL.

*[Lawrence, Dublin.*



## THE ISLAND OF ACHILL.

### ITS PHYSICAL FEATURES AND PRIMITIVE MODES OF LIFE.

ACHILL ISLAND is the largest island on the Irish coast. As the map shows, it is in shape an irregular right-angled triangle. The total area is about 55 square miles, and from Bull's Mouth, on the east, to the extremity of Achill Head, on the west, the distance in a straight line is 14 miles. From north to south, facing the mainland, it is 11 miles. The population in 1911 was 5,377.

While there is still plenty to remind one of the Achill of former days, improvements are manifest. The island is now well supplied with roads and slate-roofed dwellings are beginning to be fairly common, though rarely adopted thus far by the true sons of the soil. Off the Irish coast there are yet to be found remote islands with an exceedingly primitive civilisation. Achill owes much of its interest to the fact that it exhibits a similar state of things in process of transition.

### DUGORT.

Of Achill's little town, DUGORT (8½ miles by road from the Sound), the late Mr. Alfred Austin wrote:—"A more perfect place of holiday resort it would not be possible to imagine. There are fine yellow sands, where children may make their mimic dykes and fortresses; mountains of moderate height . . . for the young and vigorous to ascend; easy hill foot-tracks for the weaker brethren; fishing, either in smooth or rolling water, for those who love the indolent rocking, or the rough rise and fall of the sea; precipitous and fretted cliffs, carved with the likeness of

some time-eaten Gothic fane by the architectonic ocean ; rides, drives and walks, amid the finest scenery of the kingdom. 'I think she prefers Brighton,' said a stranger to me of his companion ; and if one prefers Brighton, one knows where to go. But if Nature, now majestically serene, now fierce and passionate, be more to you than bicyclettes and German bands, you can nowhere be better than at Achill."

#### A FINE BRACING ATMOSPHERE.

"The climate of Achill," says Dr. Edgar Flinn, "offers particular advantages to the invalid community. It has a fine bracing and exhilarating atmosphere, and the bathing facilities are remarkably good." While the average temperature of Achill differs little from that of places as far south as Cork, it has considerable advantages in its relative freedom from excessive moisture. The physical geography of the island explains this. In spite of its Atlantic seaboard and mountain summits, exceeding 2,000 feet in elevation, it has no great mountain groups to arrest and empty the water-laden clouds. When it rains at Dugort, it is apt to do so beyond mistake, but for weeks together it is no uncommon experience to have almost unbroken weather.

#### SCENES TO BE VISITED—CATHEDRAL ROCKS.

All the best that Achill has to show may be fairly seen within a week. First in interest is the delightful excursion to the Cathedral Rocks, to Keel, Dooagh, and Keem Bay. This comprehensive trip is about 20 miles out and home from Dugort, but of this distance all can be driven over, except the bit of shore between

Keel Strand and the Cathedral Rocks. On reaching Doonkinelly, on KEEL STRAND, a two-mile stretch of sand, such as would make the fortune of a watering-place in England, we quit the car and walk along the shore to the CATHEDRAL ROCKS, one of the finest combinations of cavern and fretted natural masonry to be found on the coast of the British Isles.

### KEEL.

Along Keel Strand we make our way westward to KEEL, a straggling village, with Pier, Post Office, Constabulary Barrack, and Coastguard Station, the last-named outside the village on the Dooagh Road. Native Keel will initiate us into the mysteries of Achill habitations—rough beach-stone built cabins, with thatched roofs tied on by stone-weighted whisps, and a minimum of chimneys.

### AN ACHILL CABIN.

DOOAGH is a group of funny little cabins that, huddled together below the road, constitute the hamlet. The interior of a typical Achill cabin *must* be seen. Some of them are scrupulously tidy as they are quaint, and we have drunk as good tea and eaten as good butter and "soda-cake" (bread) in them as the most fastidious guest could desire. The sleeping arrangements are often extraordinary, and it speaks volumes for the air of Dooagh that it imparts enough vigour by day to render the people proof against asphyxiation by night.

### CAPTAIN BOYCOTT.

Our onward route is steadily upward. Presently a lane diverges on the right to a lodge, formerly

belonging to Captain Boycott, whose ostracism during the troubled times of the Irish Land agitation has added his name to the vocabulary of every European language. The views on the right are increasingly beautiful as we proceed.

At Dugort we have probably seen specimens of Achill amethysts. At Dooagh every urchin has small ones at our service. They are real amethysts enough, that is mauve-coloured quartz crystals, and often of real beauty, but very different from the precious stone, the Oriental amethyst, which is a purple variety of sapphire. So far as we know, these Achill stones are only found in the island at Keem.

### A FAMOUS SALMON FISHERY.

KEEM BAY is quite a gem. To look down upon it is to behold it most picturesquely; but it is from the little bit of sand at its head that we best realise the sequestered character of the spot. Above the tiny bay rises, in great, steep, brown-green slopes, the southern flank of Croaghaun, 2,192 feet, and its spurs descend abruptly, and shut in the bay on the east. Immediately above it, on the west, is the bold and lofty ridge, that on its seaward face constitutes the magnificent range of cliffs, extending from Moyteoge Head—the west horn of Keem Bay—to Achill Head. Keem Bay is famous as a salmon fishery, and in Spring some of the fishermen occupy the cabins here, but only so long as the fishing lasts.

### CLIMBING CROAGHAUN.

Croaghaun should be climbed by Slievemore village and the Martello Tower, and the descent



made to Dooagh direct. If, however, the tourist has already visited that part of the island, he cannot do better than make his way back by the ridge dominating the N. coast, and then from a little E. of the Martello Tower strike boldly over Slievemore, 2,204 feet, whence the drop down to Dugort is quite simple. From Dugort we ascend the road and soon find ourselves at SLIEVEMORE VILLAGE. From the far end of the village we take an obvious route up the ridge to the east of the Martello Tower, and then plod westward. A bit of boggy ground, that is bad travelling, cannot be avoided, but the going improves presently. The ascent is fairly continuous, and not severely steep. But for the glorious views it might, perhaps, be called dull.

#### A SUPERB SPECTACLE.

When, however, we gain the crest of the coast ridge—the N.E. shoulder of CROAGHAUN—fatigue is forgotten as we make for the great boss that forms the actual summit—2,192 feet. Except Slieve League, there is no rival cliff in Western Europe to vie with that on which we now stand. The whole of Achill, except what Slievemore hides, is seen at our feet. Blacksod Bay and the Mullet, West Mayo, including Nephin, and, sweeping round to the southward, the monarchs of Connemara, are all in sight. To the north-west is the Lighthouse on Black Rock; but, finest of all, close at hand, the grand stretch of cliffs, extending northward to Saddle Head. If our return to civilisation is to be by Dooagh direct, then the descent will be conveniently begun in earnest from the eastern shoulder, avoiding the combe at the head of Lough Acorrymore. The

preferable route for the untired traveller will undoubtedly be to descend along the coast ridge, north, until Bunnafreva Lough is passed, and thence eastward along the ridge.

#### SLIEVEMORE.

The best approach to this monarch of Achill mountains (2,204 feet), is by a lane on the left just beyond the Slievemore Hotel, and on the near side of the Coastguard Station. Once clear of the enclosed land, the mountain side becomes dry under foot, and you mount as directly as you please. When some 700 feet have been accomplished, you are clear of the hill opposite Dugort, and Blacksod Bay is fully revealed. The N.E. face of Slievemore is fairly rugged, and a view of this will not take you out of your way. As the upper part of the mountain is approached, heather gives place to rock strewn steeps, but there is no difficulty except the trial to wind and muscles. From Dugort to the summit will not take more than two hours of leisurely climbing.

#### THE SEAL CAVES.

These caves are at the N. foot of Slievemore, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 miles from the Strand. They are exceedingly fine, and seals are by no means scarce, though sometimes the traveller may not have the luck to happen upon them in their elusive haunts.

A very enjoyable outing is to drive or ride to Mweelin, and thence ascend the Dooega flank of the Menawn range. Follow that northward till you can descend to Dookinelly on Keel Strand, whence, before returning to Dugort, one may revisit the famed Cathedral Rocks.

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