

(Mayo N) 13

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF.....Tirawley.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE.....Ballina..... PARISH.....Kilmoremy..... COUNTY.....Mayo.....

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

The Parish of Kilmoremy, which embraces the important Town and suburbs of Ballina, is situated on both banks of the River Moy, which river enters the tidal waters of Killala Bay at the Salmon Weir in Ballina. This district, which is part of the fertile "Valley of the Moy", offers many and charming vistas, ~~the~~ ^{the} Valley of the Moy being ringed in by the Ox and Nephin Mountains, with Killala Bay on the North. It is impossible to ignore the majestic splendour of Nephin Mountain (2,646 ft); and from whatever angle one may view the surrounding country, Nephin, which is about 8 or 10 miles Southwest of Ballina, at all times affords a magnificent background to the picturesque scenery on all sides. From Cuig na Sidhe on the Sligo Road, about a mile North-east of Ballina, and from other plentiful eminences, a wonderful view of the mountains is obtainable, with, on a clear fine day, Croagh Patrick in the far Southwest. On the banks of the Moy, from the Salmon Weir in the heart of the Town, right out to the mouth of the river,

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

The Geological Survey Map shows the district to be almost entirely of lower limestone formation. Several fossil localities are shown to exist hereabouts.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?

cupo. Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Belleek Manor, about a mile from Ballina, on the Northern side has been the home of the Gores, the Knox-Gores, and latterly the Saunders Knox-Gores, since the erection of the Manor (then called the Abbey), by one of the original name about the year 1830. The Manor, together with a splendid demesne of over 6,000 acres, has recently been sold to Mr. J. Frank Beckett, Ballina. The entire contents, including furniture (amongst which are some splendid antiques), will be auctioned next September. The Manor itself, while not boasting of any exceptional architectural features, is a splendid and imposing building of limestone. About ten years ago a modern ventilation system was installed. The Manor has always been used as a private residence, and has no important historic or external associations. The demesne extends for a considerable distance along the River Moy, where there is an abundance of free trout fishing; and some miles to the Southwest, near Foxford, Mr. Saunders Knox-Gore owned and has retained an excellent stretch of preserved salmon fishing on the River Moy. The demesne proper, i.e. immediately surrounding the Manor, comprises 415 acres whereof 240 acres are thickly wooded, holding an abundance of woodcock and pheasant; 40 acres are devoted to lawn; and another 40 acres to mixed tillage. On the Sligo side there is a grouse moor of 2,000 acres, and near the Demesne, on the Killala Road, a well-filled duck lake. Convenient to the Manor are 3 acres of garden, the walls of which are lined with brick to retain the heat; and 12 acres are planted with apple and pear trees, the remainder with flowers, vegetables, and other fruits.

the pleasant wooded and pasture scenery has a charm and appeal unequalled in the district. The Bunree River flows into the Moy on the outskirts of the Town; and hereabouts one will delight in the scenic beauty of both rivers. St. Muredachs' Cathedral, the foundation of which was laid in 1829 as a result of the endeavours of the great "John of Tuam", Archbishop John MacHale, at that time Coadjutor-Bishop of Killala, is an imposing and beautiful structure on the Ardnaree or Eastern bank of the river. Nearby are the residence of the Bishop of Killala and St. Muredachs' Diocesan College. ~~That part of the Parish on the Eastern bank is in the Barony of Tireragh.~~

MANSIONS, ETC.

Four large glasshouses, steam-heated, were used as vinery, peach house, conservatory and fernery; but recently, have been reserved solely for tomatoes. Visitors will be admitted to the Manor and grounds on application to the new proprietor, Mr. J. Frank Beckett, Mill Street, Ballina, or to the Steward, Mr. Patrick Doherty, Killala Road. There is no charge for admission.

cop 1/8/42.