

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Burrishade

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Achill COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

- ① From the top of Mirraun Hill at the E. end of Keel Strand a wonderful view of the south side of the island is to be had— Clew Bay with all its islands, the Sheepry Mountains behind Louisburgh, etc.
- ② From the top of Croaghaura Mountain (2192 feet) an unforgettable view is obtained— to the north is Blacksod Bay, the Belmullet peninsula, Iniskeen Is. famous for its inscribed stone slabs of Early Christian date, and St Brendan's Inisglucaine where the legendary Children of Lir are buried. To the south is Clare Is., Inishark, Inishturk and Inishopin. Westward, the open Atlantic, and eastward, the whole of Achill Island with its mountains and lakes and far away the Nephin Mountains. The west side of Croaghaura mountain is a cliff which drops a sheer 1000 feet to the waves below. Sea

Note: Inset here "Wallas & drives on Achill Island" G. J. O'H.

GEOLOGY

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

- ① Shevenmore mountain (2204 feet) on the N. side of the west prong of the Island is a very steep sided cone of quartzite. Its gleaming whiteness is covered almost entirely by layers of scree.
- ② Cathedral cliffs at the east end of Keel Strand— Horizontally bedded dark grey rocks interlaced with great white beds of gleaming quartzite. The sea has eroded these cliffs into extraordinary shapes like cathedral interiors— "Gothic arches", caves etc.
- ③ Amethyst quarry— This is 2½ mls west of Dooagh village and is reached by the mountain track that leads to Keem Bay. The quarry is just east of Keem Bay. Here one may pick up large beautiful quartz crystals which are stained by nature a deep translucent purple. These stones are beautiful objects & well worth searching for.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

None of any interest occur.