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I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Erris

TOWN ~~Belmullet~~ Belmullet PARISH Belmullet COUNTY Mayo (North).

TOPOGRAPHY

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

Forty miles west of Ballina, a short canal joins the Bays Broadhaven and Blacksod and, but for the rickety old bridge which is now closed to canal traffic, the Mullet Peninsula has been separated from the mainland to which it was joined by the narrow neck of land jutting out between the two Bays.

At the ^{extremity} of this strip of land and therefore most uniquely placed, with Blacksod to the south and Broadhaven to the north, is the comparatively modern town of Belmullet, a thriving, prosperous market town and a rising watering place.

Entering the parish from the Bangor Erris side, the bleak, uninteresting moorland is very unexpectedly relieved when the road dips into the charmingly pretty valley of Glencastle. This lonely ravine was known in early days as the "Gateway to Erris" and the remains of an ancient fortress

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc. Cont'd. page 2

None

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

TOPOGRAPHY cont'd.

named Dun Domhnall may be seen on the right, on the summit of a peculiarly conical-shaped, scrub-clad hill.

Nearing Belmullet, the rising road overlooks both Blacksod Bay to the south and Broadhaven to the north, the wild, rugged cliffs at Kilgalligan, on the eastern shore of Broadhaven, being but a short distance across the waters of Broadhaven.

This view of the wide expanse of Broadhaven is the most strikingly impressive obtainable here and strangely enough, the Seven Stags of Broadhaven which now appear quite close to the cliff shore, seem far more interesting from this viewpoint than when seen from the north coast. The Stags, a cluster of rocky, pointed crags, stand about three miles out to sea from the shore at Portacloy and about half that distance from the extremity of the headland; ~~the Stags are about three hundred feet in height.~~

A considerable stretch of the Mullet Peninsula is visible from this vantage point, to the left or south, along the shore of Blacksod and to the right, the hilly northern portion which overlooks Broadhaven.

Passing the long iron pier at Pickle Point, a view of Belmullet is obtained but at low tide, this view is marred by the ugly mud of the back-water of Broadhaven which stretches right to the quay wall of the town.

For a much better picture of the town, it is necessary to pass through the town and from about half a mile out, on the Binghamstown road, a splendid view is obtainable.

Extensive strands and sandbanks are the attractive features of the Shraigh district, five to six miles south east of Belmullet.

Co'Brien
20/8/23