

(Mayo East)

ITA/3/16(1)

16.

FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Gallen

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bannicoulton PARISH Kilgarvan COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish embraces an area which has as its boundary to the north, north-east, east and south-east the boundary line which divides counties Mayo and Sligo. It runs to about 1 1/2 miles west of Bannicoulton and to about 2 miles south of this village. North to south its greatest length is about 5 1/2 miles and east to west approx. 6 miles.

Most of the parish does not possess a great or variable scenic attraction. West and south-west and north the area is a succession of low long hilled country with little to relieve the landscape. (contd)

GEOLOGY

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

Bannicoulton and the area S. and S.W., N. and N.W., and W of this village is of carboniferous limestone, driftcovered and in an uneven distribution of low hills, sometimes long-backed and sometimes of a dumble character. East and north east there is much of the great formation which in the S.E. covers about a metamorphic formation, mica schist, phyllite, gneiss etc. which continues in a narrowing belt through Co. Sligo N.E. to Lough Eskey. Shiel gneiss of the Ox mountain range sends a portion of its igneous granitic formation also into the S.E. corner of the parish. This igneous belt is continued on S.W. through Arnyman area where there is a break and then, widening it swings more directly south and ends at Blacknash Mountain, a few miles N.E. of Foxford.

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. Page 2.

In the north-east there is a wide stretch of bogland which continues well into Co. Sligo.

An attractive glen, however is that of the upper end of Glenc River, in reality a rocky-bedded stream which in flood times tumbles turbulently down from the Orc mountains over ledges and miniature cascades and, flowing north-west for some distance, turns south-west into the Binnua a few miles from Banninahan. The road through Glenc follows the stream and joining the main Banninahan/Yubbercussy road not far from Lough Yell in Co. Sligo. About two miles from this junction the glen narrows; the slopes rising up steeply from the stream's edge. In the glen is the Scalp, an eminence which, rising a few hundred feet over the ~~river~~ ^{river} below, affords a good view of the "Windy Gap" as it stretches away to the east between the mountain ranges. Here also is Poll na Treasa, a spot where the stream broadens out to a pleasant pool below a little cataract and which is said to be a favourite haunt of eels. Often too the people around bathe in the pool.

In the south-east of the parish the slopes of Sheehy Gamp add much to the view. Rising to heights of over 1300 ft. the mountains here form the beginning of the chain which stretches all along the southern side of the 'gap' road from Banninahan to Yubbercussy. Just at Banninahan the road begins to rise and the gradient continues for almost four miles when it sweeps downward for a mile to Lough Yell which, backed by its steep mountain peaks is a pleasantly attractive contrast to the rugged hills of the gap. Kilgarvan parish ends at the county boundary; about four miles of the gap road being in it and ^{it is} only a mile ~~from~~ ^{from} Lough Yell but from Banninahan to some miles beyond the lake the scenery, wild, rugged, mountainous with to each side of the road the rising purple and brown slopes striated by narrow ravines carrying tiny streamlets from the top-most peaks, is one continuous panorama to be wholly enjoyed.

Topography (Contd) Page 3.

On the summit of that part of Slieve Gairbh which is in Kilgerran, is Lough Fossa, a small lake which rests just inside the Mayo boundary. Beside it is Lough Blower, small too, and in Co. Sligo. A mile away on the mountain plateau behind is Lough Oul - further away is another lakelet. To anyone who negotiates the not difficult climb of something over 1300 ft. the view from here is magnificent. Standing on the high peak just north of Fossa lake and in the parish, one looks out, from an altitude of 1321 feet, on a vista scenically rich and diversified. Directly north and only across the narrow 'gaps' are the rugged hills of the same range as that on which the view is taken. Purple and brown of craggy slopes, enlivened by flecking violets, white dots of thousands of mountain sheep; lowers down on the green-gladed valley slopes the homesteads of many farmers - a thousand feet below the winding ribbon of road through the 'gaps'. Slipping the gaze slightly north-west, one glimpses, over miles of green lowland and brown bog, the waters of Mullala Bay. West and slightly south-west the long expanse of Lough Corrib with its sister lakes, Cullin, comes into view. Beyond them the thin moor and the line of the Pontoon hills; ~~what~~ if given a sunset clear day the conical top of Lough Patrick, far away to the south-west, peeps over the skyline.... Directly behind one's vantage point and sweeping away south to the horizon, is a broad area of mountain plateau, heathery and peat-gladed, broken in the distance by Lough Oul and other lakelets. Just nearby are Loughs Blower and Fossa whose waters are attractively and remarkably blue.... moving over to the next peak (E) a few hundred yards away and in Co. Sligo, one views from a height of 1363 feet - the panorama described but also Lough Gart and the gap to the east.