

all been left back to my father by his aunt, Maria Murphy, in her Will.

In 1936, after my father's death, I became heir to Mount Loftus, and my husband, Thomas Henry (Hal) Grattan-Bellew, great-great-grandson of Henry Grattan, and I came to live here, and that concludes my story.

A ROTARY QUERN STILL IN USE

THE EGANS of Poulacapple are a small part of our history, and for two very different reasons. All of them took part in the War of Independence and one member of the family, Jim, played with the Tipperary football team in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday.

Their second claim on our interest is less well-known.

On the farm at Poulacapple, three miles from Mullinahone, there was a rotary quern which was in constant use for making quern-meal. When Ned Egan moved to his present home, Barrscuab near Dunamaggin, he bought a quern at an auction at Mallardstown, and continued to use it regularly up to the time of his illness.

These small querns are still very plentiful in this area but went out of use a considerable time ago. John O'Loan, in "A History of Early Irish Farming,"¹ says that they "remained in use until quite recent times." We may now add that at least one rotary quern was in constant use until 1967. This quern is still kept in perfect working order and is used occasionally by Ned Egan's son, Paddy. It is exceptionally well-made, and is a very fine example of the type. If not the last it must be one of the last rotary querns still in use in western Europe.

Práipín, or quern-meal porridge, is prepared in this way: wheat is dried on a griddle over a gentle heat. It is then poured into the central hole of the quern and the top stone is rotated, the meal coming out at the side where there is a gap in the rim of the lower stone. The quern-meal is mixed with hot milk and is eaten as porridge.

Ned Egan is very fond of práipín, he says, he eats it with a spoon from a mug. Though now confined to bed, he still takes a keen interest in querns and their use, and in their adjustment to give fine or coarse meal, the drying of the corn before grinding and other details of this ancient skill.

In writing this article I had the enthusiastic cooperation of the Egan family of Barrscuab. I wish to thank them for their generous help.

1—Journal of the Dept. of Agriculture, Vols. LX, LXI, LXII, Passim.