

There has been an encouraging and generous response to the appeal of the organisation committee in charge of the subscription fund towards the erection of the Loughnane Memorial Hall in Labane, Ardahan. The fund has reached £2,000 and the greater portion of this amount has been subscribed locally. It is proposed to erect a hall in the village to commemorate the names of the brothers Loughnane, natives of the district, who were murdered by the "Tans" in the War for Independence, and the stones from the ruins of the Martin Hall in the village, destroyed during the same period, may be used in the new hall. There is, however, a secondary reason for the erection of the hall, to provide a club for social gatherings, amusements, dances, ceilidhthe, etc., for the youth of a district where the majority of its young manhood are members of the local Pioneer Association and to encourage Catholic Action, even in a minor way, among the people of a populous district. When the project, which was for some years the ambition of the parishioners, was first mooted to provide this hall it received the hearty encouragement of the pastor and the ready response and co-operation of the people, and the subscription list is not alone confined to the Catholics of the parish, it has also the names of those of other religious denominations amongst its generous subscribers, as well as people from other parts of the county. Soon the contract will be placed and the work put in hands as speedily as possible. The village itself, on the main road from Galway to Limerick, is one of the neatest and most picturesque the traveller will meet on the route, and its new church and school have that fresh appearance which at once arrests the eye and denotes the characteristic progressive-ness of its inhabitants. The only "snag" in the landscape is the ruins of the Martin Hall, which skirt the roadway, but even this pile of cut limestone, even in ruins, points to the time when this hall was the centre of attraction for the youth of the parish and will, it is believed, disappear when the new memorial hall is erected.

PROCESSION TO GRAVE OF LOUGHNANE BROTHERS

Notwithstanding the lack of transit facilities the Loughnane brothers' commemoration, held recently, was attended by about 900 people from different parts of Galway and Clare. Headed by the Tulla pipers' band, they marched in procession from Shanaglish to the cemetery where the Rosary was recited in Gaelic and an oration was delivered by Seosamh Mac Math Ghamhna.

Old Comrades Commandant Peter Howley thanked the people for their attendance on behalf of the Old Comrades I.R.A. of the Gort Battalion Area. He thanked Seosamh Mac Math Ghamhna and the members of the Tulla band which contributed so much to the success of the ceremony. The Old Comrades, he said, did not and never pretended that they and they alone were the custodians of national thought and feeling, that they and they alone were patriots, but as the comrades of the Loughnane brothers who worked and strove with them a duty devolved on them to venerate their memory and prevent them from being slighted. They wanted to make their graves the mecca of all true Irishmen.

