

T49.

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BELTURBET

A SOCIAL REPORT ON THE
TOWN OF BELTURBET -
ITS INDUSTRIAL SITUATION
AND HOW I MAY HELP IT

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Joseph McCaul

Third Year Craft Design

April 1978

1. INTRODUCTION

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1. INTRODUCTION

'Home Sweet Home' is a phrase used often by the Irish abroad but with today's unemployment situation it is impossible for many people to obtain work in the vicinity of their homes; hence the reason for a high percentage of involuntary migration.

Visiting home at weekends and on the occasional holiday is indeed a poor substitute for not obtaining employment in the near vicinity of one's home. Not alone does this way of living cause considerable stress and strain on the moving population but it causes a social and economic imbalance. For this reason the Irish Government has become more aware of the problems caused in respect of transport, housing, communications and social amenities etc. and they are now endeavouring to alter this imbalance.

People, living and working away from home, mostly tend to make a similar endeavour to return to their families but the ambition is often hindered by economic, social and parental commitments. Worst of all is the fact that these people tend to become totally dependent on a job in strange unfamiliar surroundings. The resulting loneliness and frustration is something with which today's society is all too familiar.

Being aware of the above situation, all too common in the region from which I come, has influenced and motivated me to look at the possibilities of the setting up of a small craft-based concern, sufficient to provide for me and in time for my family.

I was unsure how to approach this problem until I received some correspondence from a Fr. McDyer who advised me to carry out a fairly intensive report on the locality in which I was interested and to contact the appropriate semi-state financial aid bodies. This became my starting point and since then I have compiled as much information as I think is needed to clarify for myself the method of setting up a craft workshop.

On reading the booklet entitled Glencolumkille written by Fr. McDyer on that particular depressed part of Donegal, it proved to me that if the energy is there and the will, the job will get done.

As an Art and Design student I was always wary of business and of applying myself in 'business like' terms, and it was this fear which made me choose this format. Therefore, I decided that now was the time to interest myself in learning about business methods while I was still at College and also to search for a location for a business.

It is for the above reasons that I have chosen this format for my thesis. I have documented as clearly as I could how semi-state bodies can be of financial and advisory help. This information as shown in the thesis I hope will be of use in pursuing my future ambitions and it could also be viewed as a social report to be of practical use to me later on. This method of surveying a town could be applied to most Irish towns for they are basically under the same influences.

2. HISTORY OF BELTURBET

Origin

The geographic structure of the River Erne at a certain point is one of the main reasons for the existence and development of the town of Belturbet. It is not uncommon in Irish history to find towns situated alongside the river for we know that a river can provide food and a means of transport from point to point.

As far back as the early 17th century the River Erne was navigable from Ballyshannon to a small ford in the North East of County Cavan. It was here at this ford that the town of Belturbet grew. It was those shallow places that people used to cross, for there were no bridges, thus it is understandable that people gathered at these fords to exchange merchandise and wares and in general to use them as trading posts.

Here then in 1610 Sir Stephen Butler was granted 2,000 acres of land and was instructed to set up a base to protect the ford. Around this base the town of Belturbet grew. With its role dictated by its geographic location it became an outpost for the protection of Enniskillen and as a link between Enniskillen and Cavan.

Plantation

Belturbet received its charter from King James I in 1613 as a borough for the purpose of furthering the Plantation of Ulster. After the flight of the Earls, Belturbet was planted with English Protestant settlers, who were tradesmen. Each of these men

Origin

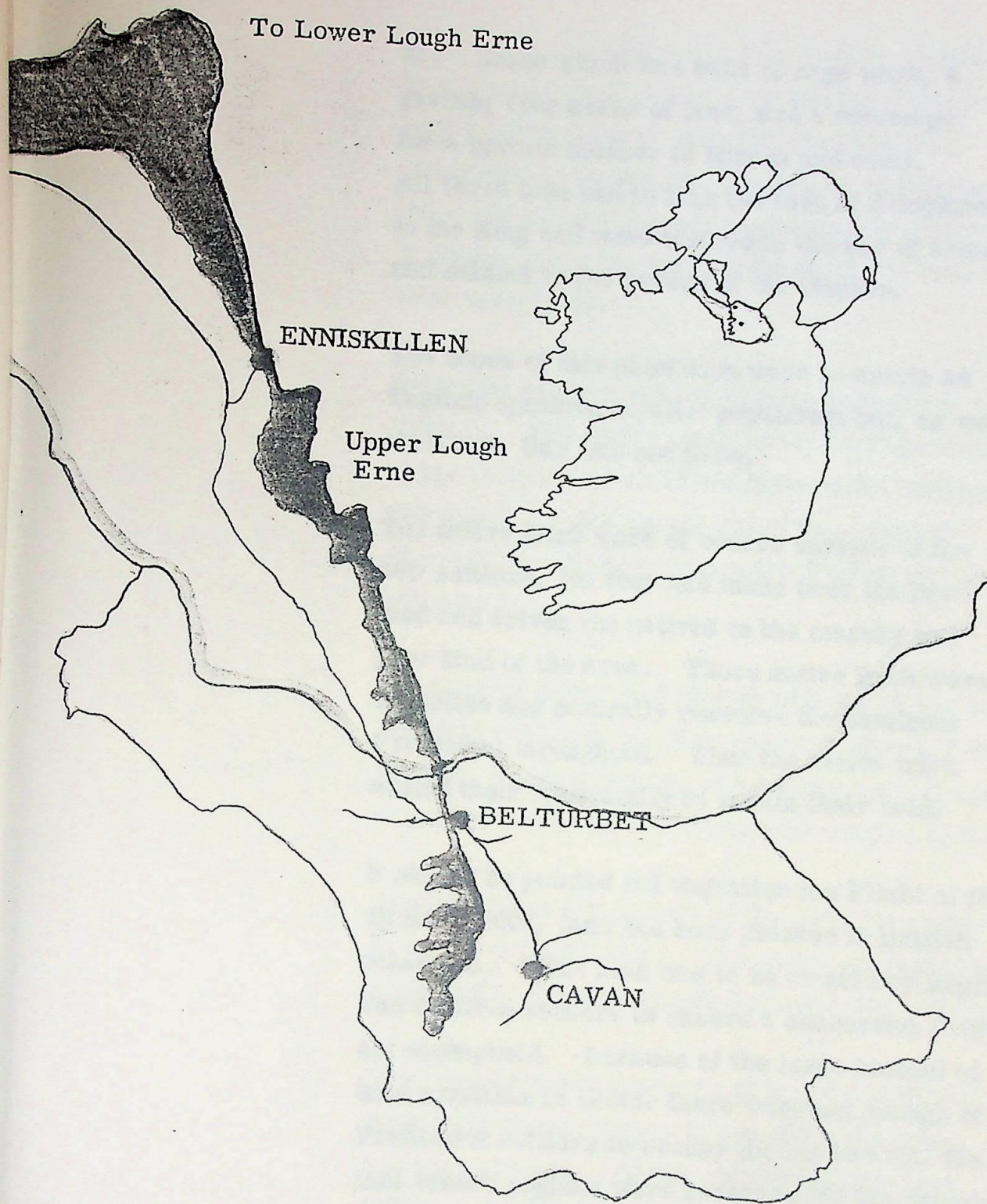
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GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF BELTURBET

Scale 1" = 10 miles

had a house which was built of cage work, a garden, four acres of land, and a commage for a certain number of horses and cows.

All these men had to take the oath of Allegiance to the King and were trained in the use of arms and subject to the orders of Sir Stephen.

The hopes of this plantation were to create an English-speaking loyalist population but, as we shall see, this was not to be.

The native Irish were of course envious of the new settlers, for they had taken over the best land and driven the natives to the marshy and poor land of the area. These native Irish were Catholics and naturally resented the dominant Protestant stronghold. Thus the native Irish waited their opportunity to regain their land.

It should be pointed out that after the Flight of the Earls in 1607, land had been granted to British noblemen. This land was to be planted by English and Scottish settlers to ensure a successful Protestant stronghold. Because of the large amount of land available in Ulster there were not enough of Protestant settlers to occupy the land so that the less fertile regions were reserved for the remaining Catholic population. These Catholic holdings were numerous throughout Ulster and became strongholds for the embittered and degraded Catholics, which left the English settlers more vulnerable to attack. Belturbet grew and prospered but under such conditions peace could not prevail. All that was needed was the right opportunity and this was approaching very quickly.

In 1641, it was planned to take Dublin Castle by surprise which would have left the Catholics with a large store of guns and ammunition.

The rising in Dublin was spoiled by an informer but it did spread through the rest of the country. In Ulster under Sir Felin O'Neill 10,000 settlers were wiped out.

Belturbet settlers did not escape their share of fighting. The native Irish under the High Sheriff of the County, Myles O'Reilly besieged the town and overthrew the Castle which was situated on top of the hill near where the Protestant Church now stands.

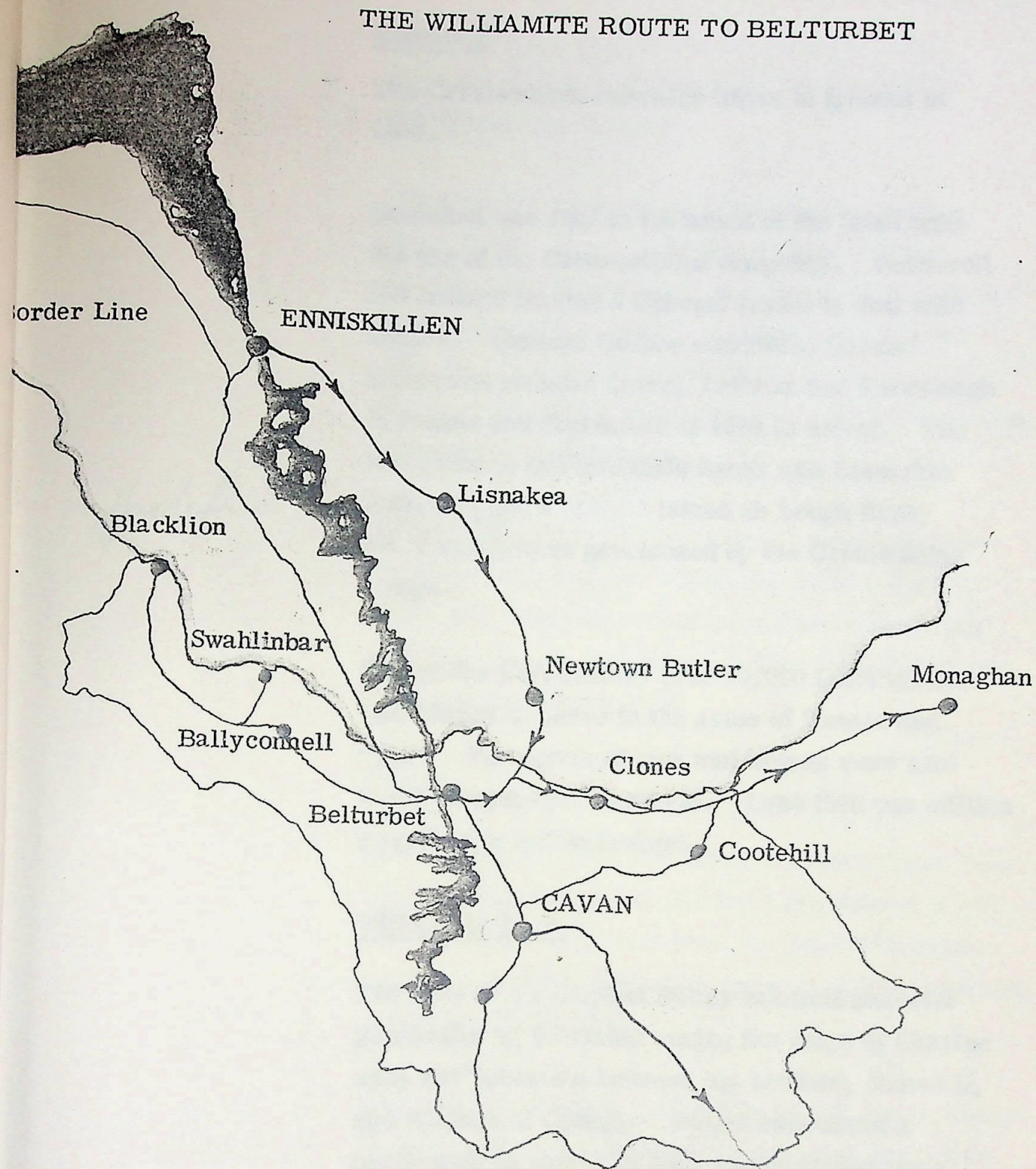
St. Stephen Butler had died in 1639 and his widowed wife had remarried. Her second husband, Edward Philpot, gave an account of how they were despoiled of property worth £2,000 and rent worth £1,000.

Almost all the inhabitants of the town surrendered to Philip O'Reilly and 1,500 inhabitants including Lady Butler and family left Belturbet for Dublin.

There are obscure accounts of how some of the remaining settlers were drowned but the dates are not accurate. At any rate the events that followed did not encourage English settlers to remain. The Castle and some houses were burned and from 1641 to 1651 Belturbet remained in Irish hands.

Owen Roe O'Neill held a provincial council of the Northern Irish and used the town as a base for his army, where they were trained in preparation for battle against the settlers.

THE WILLIAMITE ROUTE TO BELTURBET



Scale 1" = 10mile

Cromwell

The Cromwellian campaign began in Ireland in 1649.

Belturbet was still in the hands of the Irish until the end of the Cromwellian campaign. Cromwell left Ireland leaving a General Ireton to deal with affairs. General Ludlow succeeded General Ireton and reduced Cavan, Leitrim and Fermanagh in August and September of 1652 to defeat. The last place to fall into their hands was Linnaskea Belturbet and a *fortified* island on Lough Erne, all of which were garrisoned by the Cromwellian troops.

During the 17th century over 30,000 Irish soldiers left Ireland to serve in the arms of France and Spain. Thousands of men and women were sent to the West Indies as slaves. Less than one million people were left in Ireland.

Williamite Wars

The sons of Sir Stephen Butler retained peaceful possession of Belturbet during the reign of Charles until war broke out between his brother, James II, and William of Orange. James summoned a parliament in Dublin in 1689 and later that year the wars began in Ulster. Derry and Enniskillen were attacked and won over for James. The Protestants of Cavan were ordered by Colonel Lundy, Governor of Derry, to withdraw towards Derry. The garrison from both Cavan and Belturbet retired to Enniskillen and re-positioned themselves to assist in the defence of that town and the road to Derry.

On the evacuation of Belturbet, the town was besieged by the Jacobites under the leadership of General Lord Galway.

Galway's first action was to attempt to capture Crom Castle, the only fortified place between Belturbet and Enniskillen, now the second strongest Williamite post in Ulster. While the siege was still on, a party of Enniskilleners led by Hamilton, came up the lake in boats and drove off the Jacobites who retired to Belturbet.

When Galway reached Belturbet, he executed two captive officers of the Williamite Army: Captain Dixie and Lieutenant Carlton and had their heads spiked on the Market House. This failure at Crom took place in March 1689.

Battle of Belturbet

In June 1689, Galway withdrew his army from Belturbet to Monaghan, leaving a garrison of a few hundred. This was time for the Williamites to strike back for Belturbet was one of their greatest threats from the South.

Lieutenant Lloyd left Enniskillen with a strong force and marched via Lisnaskea and Newtownbutler for Belturbet, which was then under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Scott. Scott set up an ambush down the Newtownbutler road, whereby a sharp engagement took place, but Scott had to retreat to the town and take up position at the town's strongest point which was the Church and the Churchyard on

the hill. His men held out against the cavalry of the men of Enniskillen, but when the infantry came they siezed the houses overlooking the Churchyard which enabled them to fire on the Jacobites. Lieutenant Lloyd was in a position to take the town by storm but, before doing so he offered terms to the then defenceless Jacobites. The terms were the surrender of weapons, following which lives would then be spared. Scott, having reassessed his position accepted the terms, thus ending what is know as the Battle of Belturbet.

The Williamites found 700 new muskets for new regiments of Jacobites to be enrolled at Belturbet, some small store of gunpowder and large quantities of provisions, all of which were transported to Enniskillen. Battles of this nature raged throughout Ulster with the Williamites plodding their way towards Dublin. Belturbet played no part in the Battle of Newtownbutler, where the Jacobites cavalry ran off and left its infantry to be massacred near the bogs of Wattlebridge.

In December 1689, Belturbet was garrisoned again and placed in a state of defence by the Williamites under General Walsley. The Jacobites made one more attempt to capture Belturbet under the Duke of Berwick, a general in the army of James. The Duke massed troops in Cavan in preparation for attack, but Walsley decided to strike at the Cavan forces of Jacobites. In February 1690, Walsley left Belturbet with 1,000 men and on reaching Cavan the Jacobites retired to the fortified castle, then on Tallymongon Hill while their cavalry retreated down the Dublin road. Walsley set fire to the town and

WALSLEY

TALLYMONGER

retreated back to Belturbet.

With the Jacobites defeat at Aughrim in Galway in 1690, the cause of King William was safe.

The period of the Penal Laws began and Belturbet resumed the position market out for it by the original planners, i.e. a Protestant stronghold in every way and defence post of Enniskillen.

The Butler family returned as lords of the soil, the senior member becoming the Earl of Lanesborough in 1756. The town as a borough sent two members to the Irish Parliament during the 18th century but these were really the nominees of the Earl of Lanesborough and they represented no-one but their master.

Towards the end of the 18th century Lanesborough sold his rights to the seats to the Earl of Belmore who lived near Enniskillen. Lanesborough received £15,000 compensation for the loss of his seats, thus Belturbet ceased to be a Parliamentary borough.

Protestant Town

During the 18th century, Belturbet was intensely Protestant. Catholics were excluded from the precincts of the town and any Catholic who worked in the town during the day had to leave at night. This was common practice in Irish towns at the time. In Belturbet, by a Corporation Bye Law passed in Penal Times, a suspected papist was to be fined nine shillings until he should leave the corporated district. Belturbet, in common with other Irish towns, suffered the effects of the Penal Laws which created misery and hardship for the Catholic population.

The Corporation affairs were regulated in what was called the Town Court, which corresponds to the Town Commissioners of today. The Chairman of the Corporation presided over his own Law Courts, which were called a Court of Record. This would correspond to the Petty Sessions, which replaced it about 1820. The courts of the time were held in the upper portion of the old Market House or Town Hall, the ground floor being the market place and the basement the Corporation Jail, which fulfilled the function of 'lock up' and jailhouse for minor offences until 1824.

The town of Belturbet during the time of the famine was of some importance, it had gained some stability due to the crossing at the river. The river crossing meant that people had to travel to Belturbet to gain access to County Fermanagh and as they travelled on foot or on horse and cart, it meant that they carried out their business when passing through the town.

In 1836, the Board of Works consented to a grant of £1,700 towards the building of a new bridge, which could bear the load of any vehicle. In Lewis's Topographical Dictionary there is a report of there being in Belturbet at this time, a cavalry barracks for 7 officers, 156 non-commissioned officers and men and 100 houses. This would indeed have had a great effect on the economy of the town. Soldiers often had to stay in digs in the town and there are complaints published in the Anglo Celt of 1840 about the poor conditions of these houses.

A very extensive distillery belonging to Messrs.

Dickson Dunlop and Co. was erected in 1825 at an expense of £21,000 and enlarged and improved in 1830 at an additional cost of £6,000. The quantity of whiskey produced annually was from 10,000 to 100,000 gallons, and giving employment to up to 100 persons.

The distillery closed after the sale of liquor decreased because of the company of Fr. Mathew in 1873. A licence was imposed on those who sold liquor in 1872 and a painted sign had to be mounted above the entrance of such premises stating the owner's name and the fact that he had a licence. The introduction of licensing gave rise also to the illegal sheebien, which in turn had a disastrous effect on the distillery. However, all was not lost for Belturbet for in 1887 a large railway station was built, thus the town became a very important route centre.

The improvement of the transport systems on the other hand hampered the local market because people now had access to other market places.

The famine of 1840 had left its mark on the town but everything was showing signs of improvement by the end of the 19th century. Belturbet prospered until the early part of the 20th century, when road travel became popular.

A creamery was built outside the town 1904. Therefore it was not necessary for local farmers to come into the town. In 1921 the barracks closed bringing with it a disastrous blow for the local blacksmith.

AMPAIGN

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3. PROFILE OF BELTURBET

The founding of the Northern Ireland border was the biggest single factor in causing the decline of the town of Belturbet: most of the town's trade came from County Fermanagh and with the closing of the road into the county, Belturbet fell into decline.

In 1959, the railway station closed and ten years later in 1969, the last fair was held. Belturbet had suffered its losses and to this day, it is fighting to compete with its neighbouring towns and counties.

	1	Was Chairman
Mrs. McEvoy	2	
Jim Fitzpatrick	3	
Sean Lee	4	Chairman
Frank Maguire	5	

When the town was under the Urban Council, they could make decisions and act on them directly but as it now stands the Town Commissioners, having made a decision must then submit it for approval to the Cavan County Council. This is of course a much slower process.

The function of the Commissioners is to deal with matters concerning Commissioners or Council before, roads, drainage, lighting, water, refuse etc. There is only one paid employee of the Commissioners, and sanctioned by the County Council, and that is the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's duties are to look after the affairs of the Commissioners and general administrative work. There is also a paid caretaker for the Town Hall, whose salary conforms with the National Pay Agreement.

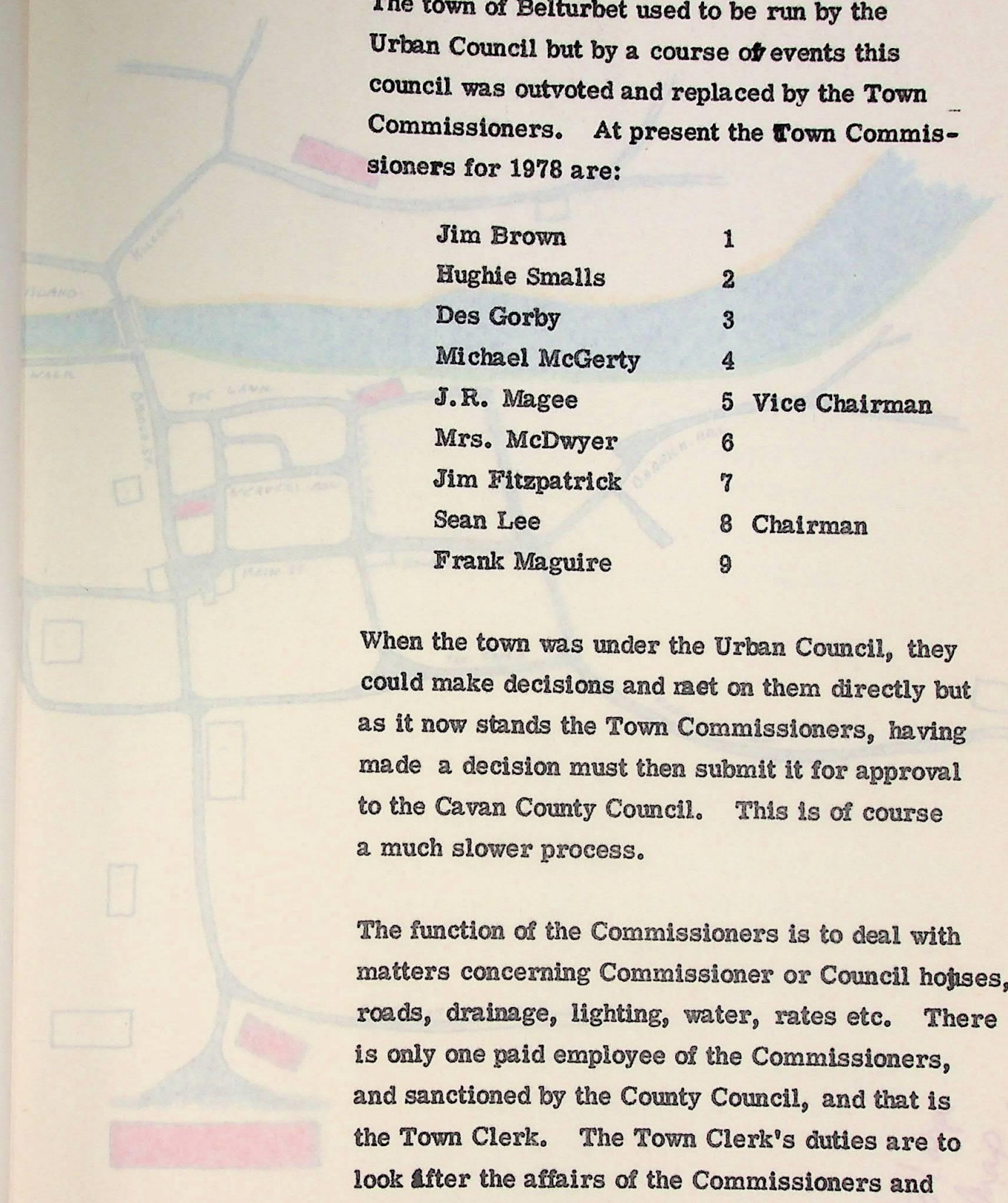
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3. PROFILE OF BELTURBET

Town Structure

The town of Belturbet used to be run by the Urban Council but by a course of events this council was outvoted and replaced by the Town Commissioners. At present the Town Commissioners for 1978 are:

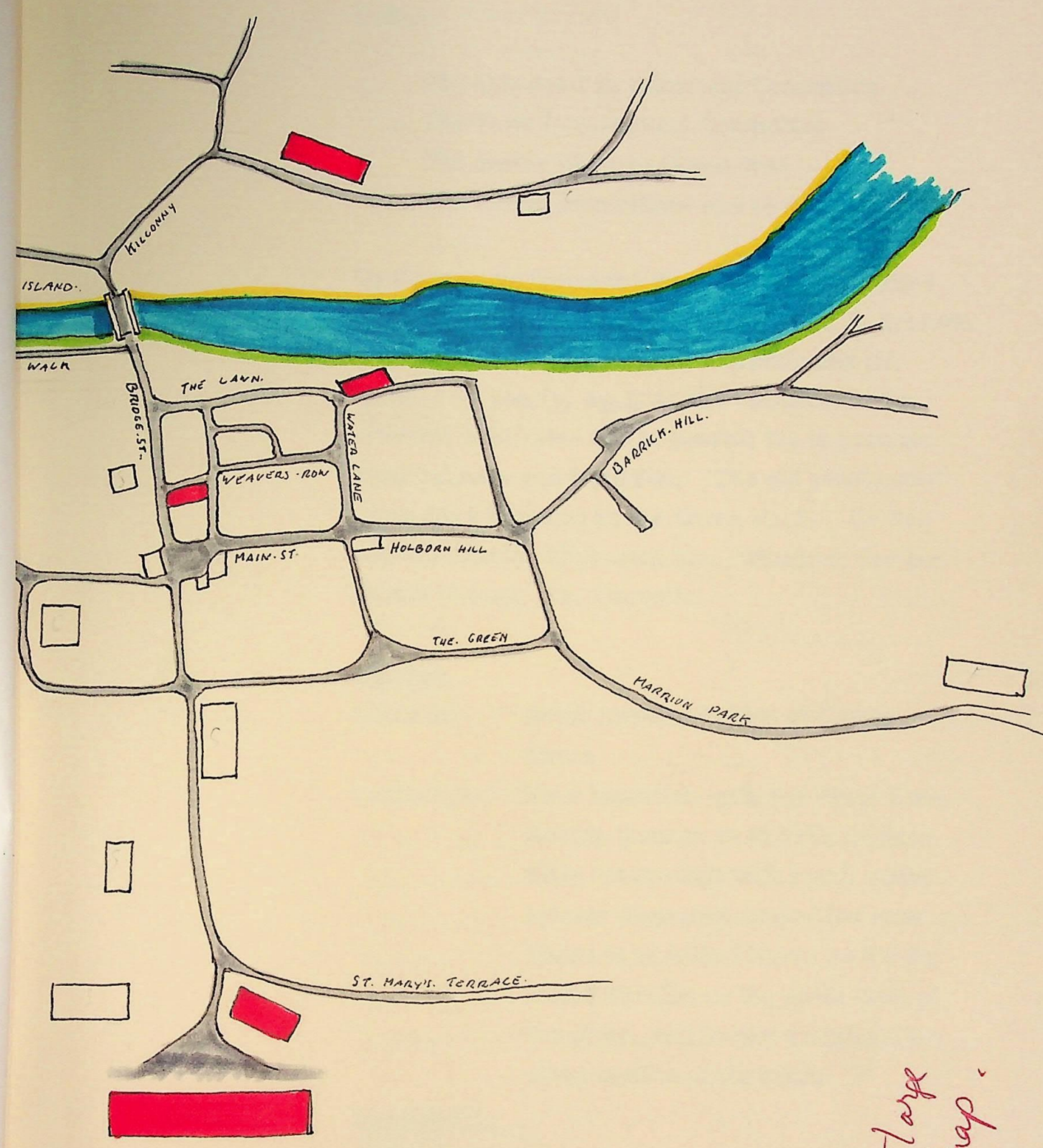


Jim Brown	1
Hughie Smalls	2
Des Gorby	3
Michael McGerty	4
J.R. Magee	5 Vice Chairman
Mrs. McDwyer	6
Jim Fitzpatrick	7
Sean Lee	8 Chairman
Frank Maguire	9

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DIAGRAMATIC MAP OF BELTARBET.



SCALE 5" = 1 MILE

Refer to large map.

Town Structure

The town of Beltarbet used to be run by the Urban Council but by a course of events this council was abolished and replaced by the Town Commissioners. At present the Town Commissioners for 1978 are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Jim Brown |
| 2 | Hughie Smith |
| 3 | Des Gorry |
| 4 | Michael McGarty |
| 5 | J.R. Magee |
| 6 | Mrs. McDwyer |
| 7 | Jim Fitzpatrick |
| 8 | Sean Lee |
| 9 | Frank McGuire |

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A Town Engineer is employed by the Cavan County Council to look after the roads in the area. There are numerous local voluntary bodies:

The Industrial Development Committee

The Town Development Committee

The Senior Citizens Committee

The Sports Committee- and so on.

On the present Industrial Development Committee are Brendan McCann, Liam MacEnri and J. Bennett. These people meet at regular intervals and put forward proposals, apply to and complain to the different ministries and in general try to promote local industry and facilities. The old pensioners' Committee is known as the Cavan No.2. On this sits the Rector, at present Mr. Wheelock and the Parish Priest, Fr. Carroll.

Situation

Location: North Eastern Region of County
Cavan

Landscape: Very beautiful, with the River Erne flowing through on to Ballyshannon. Hilly countryside with small scale forests dispersed around the area. There is an island known as the By Island situated on the north bank of the river, and is only an island for three months of the year.

Distribution of Employment

(From the 1971 Census of Population)

From town and hinterland:

	<u>Number</u>
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	875
Manufacturing Industry	330
Building & Others	139
Services	<u>462</u>
Total	<u>1806</u>

At School:

Male	257
Female	<u>205</u>
	<u>462</u>

Professional Services

Ulster Bank	1
Bank of Ireland	1
Architect/Engineer	1
Solicitor	1
Chemist	33
Doctor	1
Veterinary Surgeon	1

Public Services

Town Hall
Dispensary
Courthouse
Barracks
R. C. Chapel
Protestant Church

Retail Services

Antique Dealer	1
Barber	2
Butcher	2
Cobblers	2
Drapers	7

	<u>Number</u>
Electrical Works	1
Garages	3
Hairdressers	2
Hotels	2
Public Bars	19
Restaurant	1
Shoe Shops	2
General Stores	12
Watch Maker	1

Telecommunications

S.T.D. and Telex facilities available.

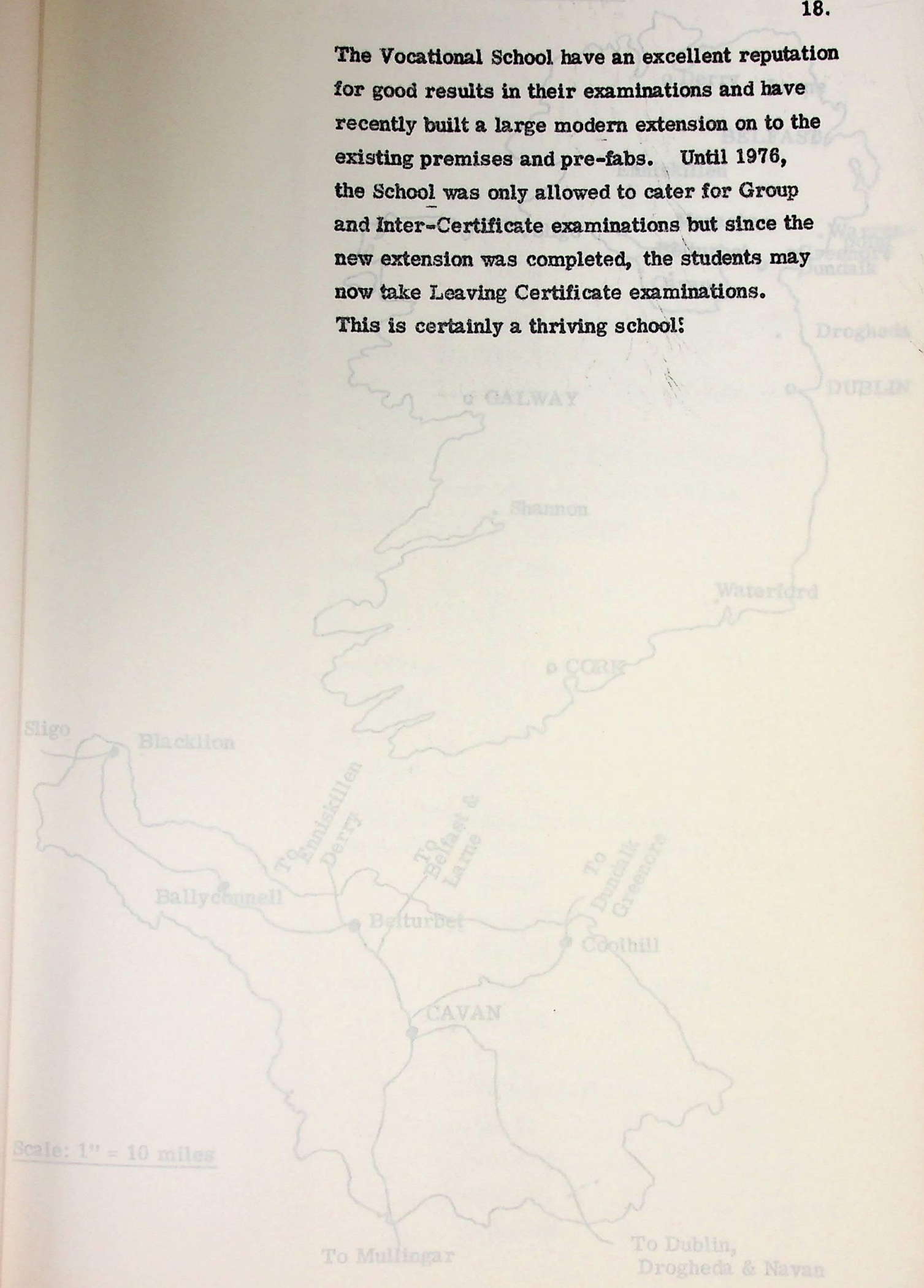
Schools

Convent School	- Boys & Girls	- Catholic
Boys' National School	- "	"
Protestant National School	- Boys & Girls	- Protestant
Vocational School	- Boys & Girls	- Protestant and Catholic

The Convent School caters for Catholic boys and girls from the ages of 4 years upwards. The boys leave the school at 9 or 10 years of age to attend the Boys National School, while the girls remain on until they are eligible for second level education. Both schools have a good attendance rate and a good pass rate into higher education.

The Protestant National School caters for boys and girls from the ages of 4 - 14. It is a small school employing two teachers: small numbers attending the school due to the small Protestant / Catholic ratio.

The Vocational School have an excellent reputation for good results in their examinations and have recently built a large modern extension on to the existing premises and pre-fabs. Until 1976, the School was only allowed to cater for Group and Inter-Certificate examinations but since the new extension was completed, the students may now take Leaving Certificate examinations. This is certainly a thriving school!



1	Electrical Works
2	Carpenter
3	Blacksmith
4	Hotel
5	Public House
6	Restaurant
7	Shoe Shop
8	General Stores
9	Watch Maker

Telecommunications

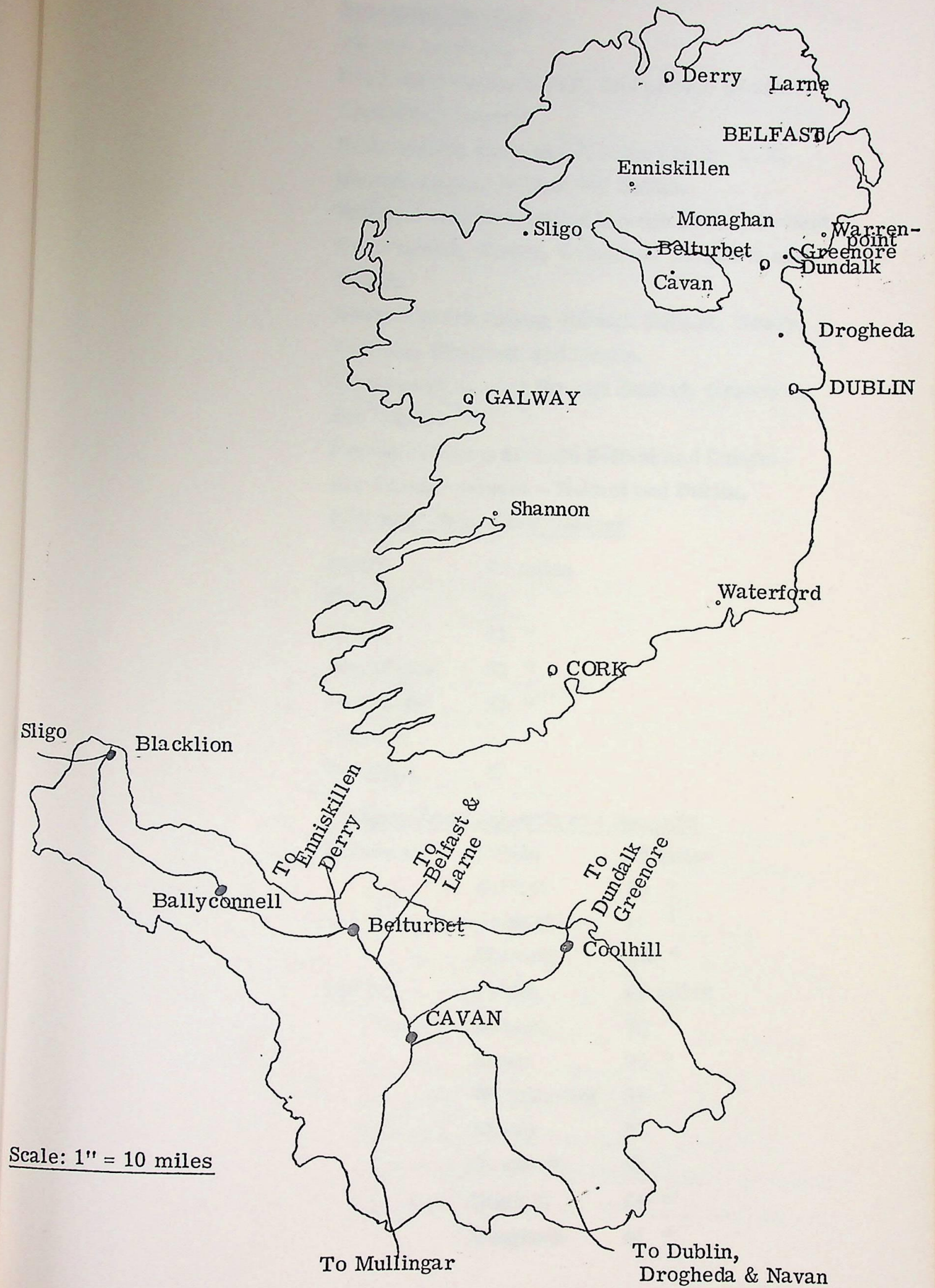
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- Vocational School - Boys & Girls - 1st

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Transport Services

No rail services.

Road Services for C.I.E. and private hauliers.

Export and Import:

Daily roll-on and roll-off sailing to the U.K.
through Larne, Belfast and Dublin.

Schedule unit load sailing through Larne, Belfast
Warrenpoint, Newry, Greenore, Drogheda and
Dublin.

General cargo sailing through Belfast, Newry,
Dundalk, Drogheda and Dublin.

Continental service through Belfast, Greenore,
and Dublin.

Foreign sailings through Belfast and Dublin.

Air Freight service - Belfast and Dublin.

Distances from Main Centres

Dublin	82 miles
Belfast	80 "
Cavan	11 "
Enniskillen	22 "
Monaghan	25 "
Dundalk	54 "
Drogheda	67 "

Distance from Airports and Seaports

Airports:	Dublin	76 miles
	Belfast	80 "
	Enniskillen	22 "
	Shannon	152 "
Ports:	Dublin	82 miles
	Belfast	80 "
	Larne	94 "
	Warrenpoint	59 "
	Newry	53 "
	Greenore	69 "
	Dundalk	54 "
	Drogheda	67 "

Recreation in Belturbet

Outdoor activities: Golf, Football
Tennis, Fishing, Shooting
Boating, Canoeing and
Water Sking

Indoor Activities: Dancing - Dance Hall
Club House
Badminton Hall
Drama Group

Housing in Belturbet

Housing units completed in the period 1971/76:

Local Authority	2
Non-Local Authority	12

Housing Programme since 1976:

Local Authority	19
-----------------	----

Land available for building:

Local Authority	13 acres
-----------------	----------

Land available for Industry:

Local Authority	8 acres for relocation of existing industry.
I.D.A.	12 acres.

Outhouses suitable for industry if renovated:

- (1) The old railway station, St. Mary's Terrace.
This building has fallen into ruin since the closing of the railway in 1959. The station and surrounds were bought over by a private concern and used as housing for cattle. Most of the larger buildings in the station were vandalised and generally left to deteriorate. The stone buildings are in need of roof repairs

and total interior reconstruction but could be quite suitable for any small manufacturing industry. The location is good with adequate yard and storage space.

(2) The Old School, St. Mary's Terrace.

This building is adjacent to the station and has good sound walls with a good roof.

This building was abandoned for many years until it was renovated and used as classrooms by the Cavan V.E.C. because of shortage of space. This problem was resolved with the new building so that the old school is again vacant. The property will begin to deteriorate if it is not put to use. It has a water and an electricity supply.

(3) Dance Hall basement: Holborn Hill.

This basement has been newly renovated for light engineering purposes. It is fitted with a three-phase power supply and has a good water supply. This building is privately owned and may be costly to rent.

(4) Stewarts Mill, The Lawn

This is a large fully equipped sawmill with adjoining outhouses. Since the shortage of timber in the area, it has fallen into disuse. The mill itself is in poor repair but the adjoining outhouses are in good condition.

(5) The Old Market House, Bridge Street.

This building has been the most popular for use by small industry since it has been used by a number of concerns: Market House,

**Erne Furniture Ltd., Belturbet Mineral
Waters and Belturbet Tool & Die Co.**

This building has recently suffered some
fire damage but its location is excellent,
it has a good entry and loading bay. It has
sheds and a yard. Privately owned.

Belturbet Station also acted as a link between the
Narrow Gauge Line and the Great Northern. The
Narrow Gauge came from Arigna to Belturbet
where it met the Great Northern line, which travelled
the rest of the North of Ireland.

Fair

As a result of the loss of the railway, the monthly
fair of the town suffered and there was a decline
in passing trade. The fair had always been of
great importance to the local traders for it attracted
a large crowd who came to spend. The last fair
was held in 1960.

After this an unsuccessful attempt was made to
acquire a Livestock Mart in the town. Carrigallen
was chosen but with Martin in Cavan and Clones
the venture failed.

Closure of Firms in Belturbet

In the last decade the following firms have
ceased production in the town:

/see next page

Decline of Population and Industry in the past Fifty Years

Railway

The closing of the railway station in Belturbet in 1959 marked the beginning of the town's decline. The station was of great importance to the traders of the town and to the adjoining towns, being used for the import and export of cattle to and from the local fair.

Belturbet Station also acted as a link between the Narrow Gauge Line and the Great Northern. The Narrow Gauge came from Arigna to Belturbet where it met the Great Northern line, which travelled the rest of the South of Ireland.

Fair

As a result of the loss of the railway, the monthly fairs of the town suffered and there was a decline in passing trade. The fair had always been of great importance to the local traders for it attracted a large crowd who came to spend. The last fair was held in 1969.

After this an unsuccessful attempt was made to acquire a Livestock Mart in the town. Carrigallen was chosen but with Marts in Cavan and Clones the venture closed.

Closure of Firms in Belturbet

In the last decade the following firms have ceased production in the town:

/see next page

No. Unemployed as Result:

	Male	Female
(a) Barnhams Saw Mills	28	2
(b) Stewarts Mill	5	0
(c) Mortons Mineral Waters	10	3
(d) Parkers Pre-Fabricated Co.	12	2
(e) Bostic (Ireland) Ltd.	30	2
(f) Erne Furniture Ltd.	15	2
Total	100	11

(g) The redundancy rate for Belturbet Manufacturing Company has increased:

In 1970 it employed 172 people

In 1976 it employed 67 - a fall of 105.

In addition, there are small but real losses such as the Manual Telephone Exchange, the C.I.E. Bus Depot and there has been a marked decline in the number of shop assistants employed due to shop closures and decline in business.

Proximity to Northern Ireland

Belturbet is situated only two miles south of the Fermanagh border. Consequently, it is suffering the effect of the present troubles in Northern Ireland, which contribute to the high emigration rate. Due to the Northern Ireland situation the town has had one bomb attack and the loss of the bridge at Aughlone. A Cavan County Council Survey shows that 1,000 cars passed daily over the bridge in summer and 900 cars daily in winter. Another factor in the loss of trade to Belturbet.

The town, being beautifully situated with the River Erne passing through was a great attraction to the English tourist, particularly the angler, and the local Angling and Tourist Association report a marked decline in visitors to the area.

From the above facts the pattern of decline is obvious and from Census figures produced for Belturbet and the adjoining electoral division, we see a further confirmation of the depressing facts:

Population (taken from Census figures)

In 1951	5,132 persons
In 1971	4,089 "

This represents a 20% decline .

4. PLANNING AND BUILDING

Planning and Building in Cavan

When one is purchasing ground with a view to building in County Cavan, there are a number of steps and precautions to take:

- (1) That the ground is purchased subject to planning permission being given
- (2) If permission to build is not granted then the contract can be terminated on these grounds
- (3) If planning permission is not granted and the purchaser feels that there is no just reason for the refusal, he may appeal to the Planning Board within TWO days of the refusal, together with brief evidence stating why permission should be granted.
- (4) When permission is granted, a notice of the giving particulars of the proposed plan must be posted on the site or in the local paper, for no less than 28 days. Any complaints or objections made after the 28 days are not taken into account.
- (5) Public objections could be based on such points as the blocking of a view, pollution, noise or the dimensions of the proposed building are unsuited to the specific area.
- (6) The same procedure must be followed when making renovations to an old house for commercial purposes, even though the outside dimensions of the property remain unchanged.

Sites

Having determined what acreage of land would be required for immediate factory requirements, with provision made for expansion for a reasonable period ahead, the promoter should make enquiries regarding the market price of land in the area he has in mind.

Site costs vary considerably from one place to another, depending on whether the site is in an urban or rural area, the demand for land in the district at the time and the proximity of services.

The Industrial Development Authority (I.D.A.) can provide information on the availability of sites and vacant premises in many areas.

Development

Provisions should be made for the cost of any of the following may be needed:

- (1) Land levelling
- (2) Surface water drainage
- (3) Sewerage from the site to the nearest public system. If the latter is not near the site,
- (4) enquiries should be made to the local authority whether they would bring the public system to nearest road point to the site and, at what cost.
- (4) Capital cost of pollution control equipment.
If there is to be a factory effluent discharge through the public system will it be permitted by the authorities. If so, agreement in writing should be obtained. If the public disposal system cannot be used, alternative means should be considered and the estimated cost established.

1. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICES

The Building

The areas of necessary workshop should be calculated, including:

- (1) Working space
- (2) Offices
- (3) Toilet and canteen
- (4) Storeroom
- (5) Storage Area
- (6) Boiler House
- (7) Showrooms
- (8) Any other amenity that might be necessary for haulage, loading etc. plus access roads and parking.

Water and Electricity Supply

It is necessary to check what type of electricity supply is needed and electric appliances such as heaters, fans, extractors etc. The availability of an adequate electricity supply should be investigated with the Electricity Supply Board.

Water supply should also be investigated in the same manner.

A number of these problems can be solved by taking over an old basement or workshop but here the safety element is very important for insurance reasons. Wiring and water mains should be checked.

5. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICES

Cavan County Development Team

The aims of the Development team are:

- (a) To foster the development of the County in every sphere of economic activity - agriculture, industry, tourism, fishing, forestry etc.
- (b) To co-ordinate the work of the public services, and to get officials and voluntary organisations and the people of the County working together for the good of the community.

The members of the team are:

1. The County Manager, who is Chairman
2. The Chairman of the Council
3. The Chief Agricultural Officer
4. The Chief Executive Officer of the V.E.C.
5. The County Engineer
6. The Regional Manager of the Industrial Development Authority.

The team has a full time Development Officer and an assistant. The present Development Officer, Mr. Brian O'Grady, granted me an interview, where I was able to ascertain his attitude towards local development in Belturbet and whether I would personally be able to obtain help from this group in the future. Mr. O'Grady spoke on a personal level, advising that there was little point in the aiming of setting up small industry in any particular town for any other reason than the help it could be to the industry in question.

Mr. O'Grady also maintained that most people in rural areas are interested in industry when it is on paper, but when it comes to the stage of providing money, attitudes change quickly. He stressed the importance of silence in respect of ideas and to make as little fuss about it as possible! In general he expressed suspicion in respect to the enthusiasm of the townspeople.

The idea of setting up a craft-based industry interested Mr. O'Grady and he decided to arrange an interview for me with Mr. Peter Murphy, Managing Director of Cavan Crystal. As Cavan Crystal and the Royal Tara Company have close associations, Mr. Murphy expressed his interest in ceramic items.

When a particular item was mentioned Mr. Murphy said he did not like the idea of technical complications no matter how fine the design. To illustrate his point he told me that the best quality item from the most famous manufacturers only costs 60p. to produce and retails in the shops at £1. If the item could not be produced within this margin then the product is not feasible. From Mr. Murphy's experience with Cavan Crystal, he maintained that customers were inclined to prefer the traditional type of item, sometimes venturing to purchase the newer and modern designs, but always returning to the traditional. Further in respect to a research and development plan, it was felt that no company would be interested in someone doing such a programme if their eventual plan was to leave the company, who had employed them to carry it out.

6. THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY




The Industrial Development Authority is the organisation responsible for promoting industrial development in Ireland. It was established in 1949 as a part of the Department of Industry and Commerce but is now an autonomous state body.

Their policy is listed in the Regional Industrial Plans Brochure for 1973-77 and is reviewed and changed periodically. The national and political objectives for the 1980's is to cease involuntary emigration and to encourage a rising standard of living and a broad-based regional expansion.

In 1972, the Government stressed the importance of industrial development in all regions to increase economic and social opportunities, thus minimising population dislocation through internal migration. The I.D.A., being a semi-state body, adapts this attitude and works towards these goals. The I.D.A. maintains that it is necessary to keep a balance between what is socially good and economically possible.

The argument arises from time to time that all of the advantage grants, tax concessions etc. are aimed to suit the foreign industrialists but the I.D.A. deny this saying that whilst encouraging foreign industry, they also favour home industry if the proposed business can be proved viable. There are tax concessions for all businesses that export their products (whether Irish or Foreign) and this scheme will operate until 1990.

The following grant limits apply
for new industrial ventures —

-  up to 35% for Dublin
-  up to 45% for other non-designated areas
-  up to 60% for designated areas



Gross manufacturing job targets for the period 1973- 1977 in the North-Eastern region was as follows:

<u>Groups of Towns</u>	<u>Job Target</u>
1. Ardee, Drogheda & Dunleer	1, 400
2. Carrickmacross, Castleblayney & Dundalk	1, 850
3. Ballybeg, Clones & Monaghan	950
4. Baileborough, Belturbet, Cavan & Coothill	1, 100

X These figures would present an average of 176 jobs approximately per town, which is a fairly modest ambition.

The I.D.A. have numerous plans, each differing according to the specific area of interest and to the geographic location of the area. The incentives listed in the Brochure of 1977 are available to all areas but the percentage of non-return grants varies from the designated areas to the non-designated areas.

It is hoped that with the setting up of larger industries in these areas that they will require the services of smaller but more specialised industries, either a high quality engineering or craft based concern. For this reason in 1969, the I.D.A. set their "Small Industry Section", which assisted in the setting up of any concern employing up to fifty employees.

From their "Small Industry" Brochure the Industrial Development Authority claim to have assisted over 1, 500 Irish people in the setting up of small concerns.

The I.D.A. policy for small industry is that to succeed in today's competitive trading conditions small concerns should not try to compete with mass production but should concentrate on those activities where they would have the advantage. For example, there is scope in the making of products to individual specification in the light engineering or craft fields. The most common sources of small industries has been in the fields of metal engineering, specialised furniture and building components - this, as opposed to the traditional products in concrete, joinery and clothing.

Under the "Small Industry" Act the following requirements are specified:

- (1) To select a product suited to the operation of a small manufacturing firm.
- (2) To identify the product market and to be able to obtain a share of that market.
- (3) To raise the capital or have means of raising capital in addition to the finance available under the "Small Industry" Programme, and to be capable of managing a business.

The I.D.A. recognise as craft - engineering, mechanical or otherwise, woodworking etc. but in the area of Handcraft there is an element of uncertainty. Handcraft could be taken as ceramics, leather, small scale holloware and small scale wood items. They visualise one or two persons making a quality product:

- (a) for the pleasure of doing so, and

- (b) to sustain themselves and their families but not to create large scale employment.

Amongst the I.D.A. officials there is a suspicion of the artist-craftsman for they maintain that he is not of any great value to the economy of the country and his output does little to reduce unemployment. If, on the other hand, the artist-craftsman had ambitions to produce on a fairly large scale, rather than unique "one off" items, then the I.D.A. would offer their help. Also in certain cases assistance can be obtained other than that outlined in the Brochure.

During a lecture in the National College of Art and Design by an official of the I.D.A. the lecturer agreed that there was no provision made for the artist-craftsman because up to now he or she was not considered a viable proposition. He maintained also that in the setting of a craft-based industry it was important that the business side of the enterprise was as sound as the practical and visual qualities available. The lecturer stressed the importance of a good "track record" for a period of no less than a year.

On 12 January 1978, the Irish Times published an article on the new I.D.A. plan for those with an idea but without funds. This report specified that the person must be experienced in industry or management or be a graduate of a business college. The difference here is that you don't necessarily have to have proved yourself to obtain assistance, that eventually no project which has the individual competence and commitment behind it, assuming that it was commercially sound, would fail to receive assistance as had been the case in the past.

Mr. Dowling, "Small Industries" Manager assured us that this was still a tightly knit situation and that the Industrial Development Authority would make sure of full commitment before parting with any grants. He stated that the Authority would not encourage a client to undertake anything unless the commitment and effort was total on the client's part.

The most relevant product to me at that time was the design and making of a cavity cup.

Coras Trachtála is a Government sponsored body set up to promote and improve the Irish export market, and to improve the standard of products and of industrial design.

C.T.T. offer services to large or small industries, depending on the requirements of that industry. These services range from marketing research; finding promoters for large or small industries; and to working in collaboration with the I.D.A. in promoting Irish industry and in marketing their products at home and abroad.

Like most business concerns, C.T.T. can only offer limited help to those wishing to start a new business from scratch, but at this initial stage they may be able to give advice on the type and quality of product one wished to produce.

When entering a product into the market, C.T.T. would need to know:

- (1) The rate of production
- (2) Capital invested by initiator or sponsor
- (3) Type of labour needed

7. CORAS TRACHTALA / THE IRISH EXPORT BOARD

The information collected was obtained from an interview between myself and a representative from the Irish Export Board (C.T.T.).

General questions about their function and purpose as a semi state body, tended to be too broad, so for convenience sake, we talked in relation to a product. The most relevant product to me at that time was the design and making of a cavity cup.

Coras Trachtala is a Government sponsored body set up to promote and improve the Irish export market, and to improve the standard of products and of industrial design.

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Like most business concerns, C.T.T. can only offer limited help to those wishing to start a new business from scratch, but at this initial stage they may be able to give advice on the type and quality of product one wished to produce.

When entering a product into the market, C.T.T. would need to know:

- (1) The rate of production
- (2) Capital invested by initiator or sponsor
- (3) Type of labour needed

- (4) High or low technology item
- (5) Time lapse before first payment.

At this point in time it is useful to talk in terms of a specific item: the cavity cup.

First, try to establish the type of market that this product is suited to. The method for following this up is as shown below:

- (1) At the design stage, C.T.T. should be consulted on the type and quality of the item, they may be able to advise design modifications for different markets.
- (2) Then, a precise prototype of the product should be made. Once again consult C.T.T. who will have the item photographed and published. The publication is distributed in the area of market interest, by means of a C.T.T. representative who takes note of the public reaction to the product and who returns this information to head office, which in turn has the information distributed to the manufacturers.
- (3) At this stage further modifications may be required.

It is very important to note that during this market probe, it is necessary to know if the item could go into production immediately and at what rate and cost. This is in case of quick market response orders. If production could only be at a specific rate this should also be stated. It would be a grave mistake to accept orders following a market probe and not be able to honour them due to the production machinery not being installed. From this point one would look for help from the I.D.A. Small Industries Programme.

When contemplating the setting up and development of a business, it is also important to take into consideration the locality where one would like to live and then make a compromise or adjustment on the business plans to suit the location, or on the location to suit the business, or better still on both to create a harmonious whole. This compromise is what I have tried to reach with the information compiled in the thesis.

In business terms a location viewed comes under the heading of material resources, local market, passing trade, import and export problems and the available and type of labour force required. I also think it is necessary for each individual to make his own assessment on the atmosphere surrounding the town and its people, the local landscape, amenities available to male and female, religious denominations and any aspect which might be considered in a choice of location.

With this in mind I have examined the possibilities of the town of Belturbet as a suitable location for a business venture, and as a place to live. I have compiled the information by section so that the document might of general use as a guide to its present social and economic position and I feel that my personal experience could also be valuable. From my point of view the historical information contained in it is important for cultural reasons and I believe it can be of use because the individual should take an interest in the social and political aspects of the community he or she chooses.

Viewing the town clinically and not having any personal attachment to the town apart from looking for business profit, could lead to a poorer quality of life, which cannot be compensated by high society living and superficial surroundings. On the other hand, an over sentimental view of the town might prove equally impractical. Therefore, it is hoped that this account of Belturbet's present social and economic structure would clarify any ambiguity that may prevail in the reader's mind.

I look on the information compiled as I would at the mechanism of a clock and by examining its workings from the inside, I feel it can be of great help in the setting up of a craft-based industry. Being a native of Belturbet I must remember that I am under greater influences than an outside prospector, with my memories, experiences and dreams fostered in my home town.

Home offers each one of us security and an atmosphere of familiarity and content. This can be reflected in our work and in our everyday lives. The one disadvantage that I can see is that this security might lull us into losing that sense of urgency necessary in establishing any small industry.

It was once stated to me by a Mr. Don Curry, a representative from the Small Industry Department of the AnCO organisation, that when pursuing a goal the most important thing is that you are going to do it, no matter what is or is not available. He agrees that the initial stages of any enterprise are the hardest but when one has proven oneself

able to make a profit, it is then that Government or private aid may be made available.

Most of the information contained in Section 7 (Coras Trachtala) would not favour the location of Belturbet for any industry, but this would appear to be a negative view. It is not good enough to cry on the shoulders of failing industry, but it is imperative to take a more optimistic approach.

Firstly, craft by its very nature is often regarded as a romantic type of occupation. It tends to be looked upon with awe and astonishment. Of course, the craftsman knows this is not correct but it is the sort of stigma that society has placed on this type of work. In my opinion this could be used to advantage particularly if it helps to sell or promote the product. If the locality can enhance the product image that one is identified with it (for example, Donegal tweed, Cavan Crystal, Glencolumkille products) the better the overall situation will be.

Belturbet to my mind is ideal in this respect. The name of Belturbet is easy to recognise and a small integrated town of this nature, would lend itself to a craft based industry. That the local people might be suspicious of a new venture would be a common attitude in most small towns. As Fr. McDwyer, the Parish Priest, said to me, "To prove oneself to the people of a specific locality and to gain their confidence, it is important to move in slowly and carefully, without any great promises, and to use local help to carry out some project, however small, to a financial end. Things done are more important than theories".

When care has been taken to gain the confidence of the public, it is now time to approach local businessmen for finance to expand one's concern. All notation and assessment of previous successful business transactions could be of help in gaining their respect and confidence. One might present the argument that a craft-based industry would give a prestige to the town. This would be a crucial stage, the point where one is looking for outside finance.

I have been assured by local Belturbet business people that if I had a viable proposition to make for the good of the town, that they would not hesitate to give me financial aid. The only point to consider against this idea would be that once you have borrowed from local resources, you would be totally committed to them, certainly until all debts were cleared. It would be desirable to have a joint risk venture where all concerned were equally involved. Co-operatives work well for traditional known ventures such as farming and something of type is suggested but it would be conducted on rigid business lines.

The local branch of the Ulster Bank has shown interest but of course they would need a full report on the type of venture planned, with a set of fairly accurate figures which would cover a certain period of time. The Bank are more willing to offer a loan if they can see that you have something to lose in capital terms, i.e. £1/2,000 of your own.

To find enough capital for the initial and first years of the concern is most important for it is during these early stages that one would need new equip-

ment and machinery. After this initial period as can be seen in Sections 3 and 4, it is possible to obtain non-returnable grants from the Industrial Development Authority, especially in a designated area. In the opinion of Mr. Don Curry the greatest problem is not in finding finance for the viable proposition but in finding a suitable product.

The product and the market is of the utmost importance. This is the stage that I have reached: looking for a suitable product that can be easily and cheaply produced for either home, tourist or export markets. I might spend some time in search of a craft-based product, thus it is important for me to make alternative provisions until such time as I am ready.

I have not ruled out the system of using other companies' expertise and technology. If I designed a product that could be produced elsewhere at a cheaper rate than I could manage, arrange for a quality control system and market for the same produce, then my business and design skills could be kept intact. This would provide capital and valuable market experience. It would also lessen the initial risk involved in a new venture.

Making the right business contacts and using them to the full is one way of ensuring that I can spend more time at the actual designing and production. A secretary employed on a part time basis or full time basis later might release me from the bookkeeping and correspondence end of the business, leaving me more time in the workshop.

The prospects of obtaining local labour in Belturbet

is good. From a recent survey, it is estimated that approximately 84 young people are available for employment each year, of which number the males would have experience of technical drawing and many of the females experience of bookkeeping and business methods.

Belturbet, being a considerable distance from main industrial areas, makes it difficult to seek out advice and expertise needed on machinery and supplies. My solution to this problem would be to base myself for a period of time in a location suitable to meet my demands. Dublin would probably fulfill this requirement and from there I would price machinery and necessary supplies and equipment and regulate my finances to suit the suppliers. This would mean that all the necessary equipment purchased could remain in the respective storehouses until such time as I could arrange transport for the complete shipment to my workshop. Essentially the workshop would have to be adequately wired to suit the type of machinery before delivery to avoid extra time and expense.

A most important contribution to my thinking has been made by the Bank Manager. He stressed the importance of making financial arrangements for myself and for my employees during the time of first production to the time of first payment. It is not uncommon for large stores to withhold their payment for up to six months or more. He also stated that it would be wise to keep in mind the fact that raw materials may not always be delivered on time and that they are subject to cost rises, thus one should never commit oneself to

a fixed price for over too long a period,
unless one can be sure of maintaining cost
stability, which is virtually impossible nowadays.

From all the data I have obtained, without the
actual experience of setting up my own craft
workshop it would be difficult to proceed further
with my investigation. The proof of the value
of the document would be in my testing it for a
"real-life" situation. Naturally, some of the
data may prove to be irrelevant but as a study
I found the subject most interesting as it differed
so greatly from the creative work in which I have
been involved over the last few years.

County Development Council

Brochure "Caveau for Peapack"

Interview with C.D.C. & Peapack

Interview with Mr. Murphy, Green Crystal

Industrial Development Authority

Brochures from I.D.A.

Report on Bellinville from the I.D.A.

Interviews with I.D.A. Representatives, Mr. Donlin

Cornwall Trade Fair / Irish Export Board

Interview & Brochure

Conclusion:

Interviews with:

Mr. Don Carr, A&CO

Businessman, Mr. Noel O'Donoghue, Bellinville

Mr. L.J.M. McDuff, Bellinville

Commercial Services Co. Bank Manager, Mr. Grealish

Letter from Mr. McDuff, Clonsilla

History:

Unpublished documents in Cavan Library
Lewis's Topographical Dictionary
Newspaper reports in Cavan Library.

Profile on Belturbet:

From Town Development Documents
Interview with Local Town Councillor
Private research.

Planning and Building:

Interview with Town Commissioner
Brochure from I.D.A. "Small Industries"

County Development Offices:

Brochure - "Cavan for Progress"
Interview with C.D.O. & Brochure
Interview with Mr. Murphy, Cavan Crystal

Industrial Development Authority:

Brochures from I.D.A.
Report on Belturbet from the I.D.A.
Interviews with I.D.A. Representative, Mr. Dowling

Coras Trachtala /Irish Export Board:

Interview & Brochure

Conclusion:**Interviews with:**

Mr. Don Curry, AnCO
Businessman, Mr. Noel O'Donohue, Belturbet
Mr. Liam, McEnri, Belturbet
Commercial Banking Co. Bank Manager, Mr. Grealish.
Letter from Fr. McDwyer, Glencolumcille