

Kildare Observer

Saturday, 14th March 1933

GREATEST SNOWSTORM

CURRAGH AREA REPORT.

In the Curragh area, the Camp itself, together with the residents the of the vicinity of the "Great Plain," were almost completely cut off from communication with the world outside. The Curragh roads, being unprotected by hedges ditches, were speedily rendered impassable for any kind traffic, and this State affairs obtained from Friday morning last until midday Monday. The consequent shortage of bread was the first pinch felt, but on Saturday the military authorities supplied the Camp shopkeepers from the Army bakeries, and many householders from the area outside the Camp battled their adventurous way through the deep and treacherous snow drifts of the Curragh Greenland's in order to obtain the necessary supplies.

The weekend found the big population of the Curragh Camp suffering from a shortage milk, as the usual purveyors of that necessary commodity were encountering almost insurmountable difficulties in reaching their customers with supplies. Some vendors fought their way in, carrying small cans in their hands, whilst others had recourse to a led-horse with the cans slung over their back, pannier-wise. One ingenious famer from the Maddenstown area struck on bright and novel idea which enabled him to make his usual full delivery Saturday. He utilised an ordinary sheet of galvanised iron as a "sleigh," harnessing a horse to this novel vehicle by means of lengthy pair of traces and swing bar. The weight of himself and his helper standing on the sheet of iron with the tankards at their feet, kept the contraption steady and the ingenious outfit skimmed across the Curragh roads gallant and successful style.

At the Curragh Camp on Saturday, numerous bodies of troops, armed with shovels in place of the usual more deadly weapons, were hard at work endeavouring to making passable the more important thoroughfares. The men were as light-hearted as schoolboys and work and snowball battles were about equally divided. Then the authorities brought a big snow-plough into action (a most uncommon sight in this country). This big wooden contraption weighted by a load of cheering and laughing soldiers and drawn by a team of eight handsome

horses, aroused a considerable amount of interest and proved most effective in its work of clearing the principal roads.

In the outlying districts there were many examples of too adventurous motorists running into snow drifts and having to abandon their cars. In the Ballysax area, on Saturday such was the fate of a motor van belonging to a Dublin firm of bakers, and it took several men the better part of Sunday to extricate the vehicle and get it back to a comparatively passable road.



A horse drawn wooden Snowplough in operation.



Recent Snow Drifts on the Curragh