

Ballyhickey (*Ballyhickey*). 1" 133. 6" Clare 34 S.E. This was by far the most important of the Clare mines. J. Taylor, in a note to P. M. Taylor's paper (*op. cit.*, p. 386), describes the galena as occurring in huge veins of calcite. The ore gave 77 per cent. of lead, but only 15 oz. of silver to the ton. The main vein or bunch was 16 to 20 feet wide and almost pure galena. Blende and copper pyrites were associated. Ballyhickey is called a lead and silver mine on the engraved 6" map of the Ordnance Survey.

Attention was first called to the "bunch" by the occupier, who noticed blocks of galena when making drains. J. Taylor took up work here for the Adventurers in 1836, and the early promise of the mine was remarkable for the district (Reports by J. Taylor for 1836, etc.) 1,300 tons of ore were raised by 1838. Weaver (1838, p. 66) notes that the deepest working in 1837 was 13 fathoms, and that a steam-engine was being furnished. 2,500 tons of ore were shipped to the Dee from the neighbouring port of Clare (Clarecastle), then newly constructed on the Fergus, in three years or so of working. Taylor's report for 1839, however, opens with the following words: "The rich discoveries of lead in the County of Clare have been of short duration; they were very unusual and remarkable in their character, and, unfortunately, their decline has been nearly as rapid as their rise." In 1840 the return was about 40 tons of ore per month; but the ore-ground was regarded as nearly worn out. Hunt (1848) gives an output of 119 tons of ore (only 32 tons of lead) for 1845, and 83 tons (22 tons of lead) in 1846. The ore had evidently fallen off in quality, and only the name of the mine occurs in the records for 1847-9 and again in 1853. It is revived in the Lists of Mines from 1860 to 1865.

Kilbreckan (*Monanoe*; *Kilbricken*). 1" 133. 6" Clare 34 S.W. This mine was in Kilbreckan townland, between Ennis and Quin, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Kilbreckanbeg House. It is marked as "Silver Mine (Disused)" on the 1" Ordnance Survey map of 1907. The ore was discovered by some men in cutting a drain through a bog. J. Taylor (Report to the Clare Mines Adventurers, 1836) says that the ore-body was much like a pipe, unusually rich, but not extending more than 2 fathoms in length. This was the first mine opened up by Taylor in the district; Weaver (1838, p. 66) says that this was in September, 1834. P. M. Taylor (*op. cit.* under Milltown, p. 386) tells us that the first ore shipped assayed for lead 70 per cent. and for silver 120 oz. to the ton. Water was a trouble here from the first. A steam pumping-engine was erected in 1837, and the quantity of silver in the ore made the enterprise very attractive. The first bunch was worked out by 1838, and another was met with in a 50-fathom level from the bottom of the 10-fathom shaft. Prospects of fresh ore were, however, not favourable in 1840.