

Ballyhurly. 1" 134. 6" Clare 29 S.W. This mine was in Silurian strata on the south coast of Scarriff Bay, Lough Derg, 4 miles east of Tomgraney. It appears on Griffith's Map, on the authority of the author's MS. notes (1861, p. 141), and is mentioned as a trial in Mem. 134, p. 34 (1861).

Clasagh. I have not traced this mine, which Stewart (p. 24) says was in the "barony of Tullo" and "worked many years ago by a company" (say about 1760) for lead ore with silver and antimony.

LEAD MINES OF THE SILVERMINES DISTRICT.

As the name of Silvermines village implies, this district has long been known for its production of argentiferous galena. We have already noted that some copper ore has been raised, and the mines will again be referred to both under Sulphur and Zinc. A line of faulting, probably an Armorican feature, has lowered the Carboniferous strata on the north side of the Old Red Sandstone and Silurian mass of Silvermines Mountains, and the mines extend along it from Silvermines to Shallee Cross Roads, as shown on the 1" geological sheet 134.

Kinahan (p. 100) suggests that the district was worked by the ancient Irish. Gerard Boate, in "Ireland's Naturall History," p. 141 (1652), describes a mine in the County of Tipperary, parish of Kilmore, "not far from the castle of Downallie," as found out not above forty years before (say 1610, as he wrote in 1645), and worked for lead and silver. This seems to have been the only lead mine actively at work in Boate's time in Ireland, and only two others were known to him in the country (see under Coney Island). He records 3 lbs. (48 oz.) of silver to the ton, and "also some Quicksilver, but not any Alome, Vitriol, or Antimony, that I could hear of." Lead was at that time worth £11 a ton at the mine, and £12 in Limerick. The English and Dutch (possibly Saxon) miners had worked it, "because the Irish having no skill at all in any of these things, had never been employed in this Mine otherwise than to digg it, and to doe other labours." Boate, we must remember, wrote four years after the bitter events of 1641, when almost all these strangers were killed, the mine-works ruined, and mining enterprises stopped throughout the west and north. He points out, however, without comment, that the trouble at Silvermines was due to an endeavour by Hugh O'Kennedy to win back lands wrested from his brother by the Crown.

A. B. Wynne ("The Mining District of Silvermines," G.S.D., vol. 8, p. 245, 1860) says that the Dunalley family worked the mines at different times since 1720. J. Rutty ("Nat. Hist. of Dublin," vol. 2, p. 141, 1772) records 80 oz.