

ATTYMASS & KILGARVIN

Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers 1847

Saturday 30 October. Memorial of the inhabitants, signed by Charles Arkinson, chairman, and Bernard Egan PP, secretary

'These two parishes are situated at the foot of the Ox Mountains and consist principally of reclaimable bog and mountain with small portions of arable land. The two successive failures of the potato crop have reduced a large number of the inhabitants to an awful state of destitution for want of seed to supply the deficiency of food thereby created by the cultivation of other crops to support themselves and families. The small crop of potatoes planted in the present year in this district ... has unfortunately been attacked with the disease which destroyed former crops and are not now available for food. It has been and is now admitted by several government officers and others employed under the Board of Works that this district is with scarcely an exception the most impoverished and destitute in the entire county of Mayo. They are most desirous to obtain employment to enable them to purchase food but unfortunately there is no employment in either public or private to be had in the district in which there is but one landed proprietor. There are in the district a number of unfinished public works, and some of them in a dangerous condition, which if put into operation would afford considerable employment and at the same time confer much benefit on this district and the public at large. Under such circumstances they humbly solicit your Excellency's consideration to their unhappy condition, and pray you will be pleased to direct that relief be afforded them either on the public works already mentioned, or in such other manner as your Excellency may deem proper.'