

thousand years. In fact its form is so simple and yet highly functional that it leaves little room for change. The primæval requirements of a craft which could be built without the use of a forge or sawmill and where timber is scarce, still remain in the West of Ireland to-day. Materials have changed certainly; tarred canvas has replaced greased hides within the last hundred years, iron fastenings appear in certain places instead of thongs, but despite such change of detail, the essentials of certain proportions for safe and effortless rowing, of a high bow for launching off a beach into the surf, and of lightness to allow of snatching her clear of the water and quickly to safety on men's shoulders have not altered. To anyone who enjoys small boat handling, the curragh is a particular joy and the very thinness of its skin gives one a feeling of being in touch with the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep to a degree never quite equalled in a planked boat.

In building one we had the advantages of selecting something at once unique to Ireland, as seaworthy as any wooden boat, ideal for beach landings and camping under, and cheap to build. Above all we could pay a compliment to the design of the present day working curragh by copying and enlarging it, and yet still be 'in period'.

There was one unforeseen complication, the race-course of the same name ! This became a family joke after someone overhearing us saying we were off to the Curragh, wished us luck in picking the winners !

To settle lines and dimensions, Richard McCullagh