

Dick Sullivan author *Navvyman* wrote:

“ In May, 1846, letters were sent to contractors at Kinghorn on the coastal railway between Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy on the Firth of Forth's north shore: Sir — You must warn all your Irish men to be of the grownd on Monday the 11 of this month at 12 ocloak or els we must put them by forse for we are determined to dow it.

Next week, hand-written placards were nailed about the town:

Notice is given that all the Irish men on the line of railway in Fife share must be off the grownd and owt of the countey on Monday the 11th of this month or els we must by the strenth of our arems and a good pick shaft put them off Your humbel servants Schots men.

On Sunday a host of Schots men hobnailed down the narrow street called Nethergate from the viaduct they were building to the beach, a fang-shaped bit of sand which doubles up as the harbour.

Inchkeith Island, twin-humped and lighthoused, was hazy in the morning light. But however wild and threatening they were that mild May morning the evident readiness of the police to truncheon them down, calmed them down. Nothing more happened.”

N.B. The above extract is part of the Victorian Web online programme used by schools in England.