

THE GAEILIC ECHO

Uimhir na hOllas

b'i áit Cliait, mí na hOllas a 12, 1942

PRICE TWOPENCE

1942 WAS GOOD FOR COUNTIES

Local Games Benefit By Transport Dry Up

1942 BROUGHT MANY DIFFICULTIES TO THE G.A.A., and for the second time the Junior Championships had to be suspended, while the Minor Competitions suffered a like fate, to leave us with only the Senior Championships to be decided.

The curtailment of travel facilities even threatened these, the transport of teams creating a major problem for County, Provincial, and Central Council officials.

Despite those difficulties the Senior campaign was successfully carried through in all four provinces, and the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals drew crowds far in advance of those which patronised the games in the third year of the last World War. Exception was the All-Ireland Hurling semi-final, Galway v. Cork, which was played under atrocious conditions at Limerick and only attracted a handful of people.

It is a tribute to the G.A.A. that the national games still draw the biggest crowds and that all thirty-two counties participated in the championships, which were finished up in September.

The year under review saw a new hurling record set up and a football record equalled. Cork, winning their thirteenth All-Ireland, took a clear lead of Kilkenny and Tipperary in the hurling title race, while Dublin, by the football victory, rejoined Kerry, who had a year before set up a new record of fifteen wins.

OUTSIDERS WON.

The football competition was remarkable for the fact that the teams least fancied won the All-Ireland semi-finals, while Dublin, the ultimate winners, were also the outsiders against Galway, who had dethroned the champions in a brilliant game.

The first semi-final was also a surprise as the Cavan men, on the strength of a dazzling display against Down in the Ulster Final, were strongly fancied to defeat Dublin, who, however, triumphed by a goal to reach the All-Ireland final after an eight years' span. The Liffey men later broke a long chain of defeats when, in the final, they defeated Galway, strong favourites to register their third Croke Park win. This game was marred by unfavourable weather, but the attendance must be noted satisfactory considering all the circumstances.

YOUTH TRIUMPHS.

One of the youngest hurling teams to ever represent the county took the hurling honours to Cork. It was a triumph of youth, particularly in the Munster semi-final and final, where the greater dash and speed of the

Leeside hurlers helped to turn the tide at a vital stage of games which lived up to Munster tradition. Cork then disposed of the Galway challenge to clear the road for another trip to Croke Park where the rivals of a year before—Dublin—were encountered.

This game proved far superior to the 1941 final, the issue hanging in the

A Christmas Blessing

May the right hand of God ever hold you in keeping,
Through the coming and going, through walking and sleeping;
May the love of the Christ-Child your spirit be lighting,
And the smile of His Mother your heart be delighting!
May Blessed St. Joseph be near you in sorrow,
And the high Saints of Erin be guarding your morrow!
May Peace be your treasure and long be your living,
With joy in good measure for taking and giving.
In friendship go leor beyond bound or expressing,
To your door I am sending this Christmas blessing.

—TERESA BRAYTON.

Is This A Record?

MANY men have won many honours on the football field, but according to a reader Dan O'Keeffe, the Kerry goalie, is the record holder in this respect.

Danno has won six All-Ireland Senior football medals, one All-Ireland Junior football medal, 10 Munster senior football medals, one Munster Junior football medal, two Railway Cup medals, one National League medal, two Kerry championship medals, as well as a number of medals and trophies won on American tours and in tournament games.



1942 FINAL.



Snap of the play in the Cork-Dublin All-Ireland Hurling Decider.

balance up to the three-quarter stage.

LOCAL LEAGUES.

The Central Council decided not to run National Leagues during the season, but in Ulster, Connacht and Leinster substitute football competitions were run. These proved an outstanding success in Leinster, where two Leagues were carried through, and Ulster, while the Connacht competition also aroused keen interest. Antrim won out in Ulster, taking possession of the newly-donated Dr. Lagan Cup, while Roscommon won out in the West. The North Leinster League was run as a home-and-home competition, Dublin eventually beating Meath in the final at Croke Park.

Laoighis proved successful in the South Leinster League, which also embraced Offaly, Carlow, Kildare, and Wexford. Suggestions were thrown out that the winners of these competitions, with Kerry and Cavan, should play off for the National League title, but transport problems killed any hope of getting this suggestion accepted.

A Hurling League in which Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary and Kilkenny would participate, was also mooted but did not materialise. Such a competition, we have no doubt, would have proved a success, and with improved transport facilities for teams, it should be possible to revive the idea in the Spring.

A feature of the year was the increased interest displayed in local competitions and as a result counties which a year or two ago showed adverse balance sheets are practically all on the right side.

The curtailment of inter-county activities was probably a blessing in disguise in this respect, while it also allowed counties in arrears to bring their championships up to date.

1942 must have been a record record year as far as those local championships went, and already quite a few counties are contemplating the running of local Leagues in the Spring.

Another feature of the year was the delegating by Congress of practically full Central Council powers to an Emergency Committee. So well did this body perform its functions that it is quite possible that we may see its continuation even in normal times, for it has been proved that a small committee or council can get through the ordinary business in lesser time than that occupied by a full Council.

Let us hope that 1943 will mark another successful period in the life of the Association.



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A CORK-DUBLIN YEAR

FOR the seventh time since the establishment of the Championships, Cork and Dublin met in the All-Ireland Hurling Final. Played on Sept. 6, the game drew a splendid crowd, considering the limited transport facilities, and provided a contest that was far in advance of that which marked the meeting of the counties for the 1941 blue riband.

Three weeks later Dublin again appeared at Croke Park, the footballers facing Galway in the All-Ireland final. It was eight years since Dublin last appeared in two All-Ireland finals of the same year, but in 1924 the county suffered a dual defeat while in 1942 one title was secured.

It was a good feat for the Liffeymen to win two Provincial titles and to divide All-Ireland honours with Cork.

Nearly twenty-eight thousand people were present when Leemen and Liffeymen lined out for the hurling title.

From the start it was a grand game, men standing shoulder to shoulder to pull on falling balls or racing like greyhounds from line to line. Seamus Donegan early brought forth the cheers of the crowd by his marvellous goalkeeping, and by the time the game was over the Kilkenny-born Civil Service hurler had definitely carved his name on the same panel of hurling history where already Dr. Tommy Daly, Paddy Scanlan, Jimmy O'Connell, Sailor Gray of Midleton, or the other great net minders had already left theirs.

Bill Murphy, as usual, was to the fore with his long drives from goal, while Jack Lynch, Den Joe Buckley, Christy Ring, Frank White and Mossy McDonnell were others to delight the public, who were sighing for more when that all too short hour was over and Cork had won its thirteenth title, a new record.

National Stadium to watch Dublin and Galway fight out the closing stages of a football championship that had yielded a full quota of surprises and some close finishes.

Galway, conquerors of Kerry, who had trained at Ballinasloe under the care of John Dunne, were hot favourites to collect the title which they missed in 1940 and 1941. Dublin, having come through a thorough preparation under the guidance of Peter O'Reilly, the Saggart man, were, however, quietly confident, their supporters claiming that if the Liffeymen did not win, they would at least give the West-erners a hard game.

That their confidence was fully justified the game proved, for, after Galway

looked all over winners in the first half, the Dublin men showed a remarkable reserve of football craft and, staying power in the second half. Galway's early centre-field pull was negated, while the Dublin forwards proved themselves master strategists, every move being cleverly engineered by Banks, Birmingham, O'Connor, and Fletcher. Joy kicked a couple of valuable points, and in a finish that was as good as any we have seen in an All-Ireland final, Banks and Fletcher kicked the points that gave Dublin the title it last held in 1923, and also set the Metropolis on a level with Kerry on the fifteen All-Irelands' mark.

Thus it was a Cork-Dublin year, the blue ribands of hurling and football going respectively to the Leeside and Liffey-side cities.

CORK STAR



C. RING, most prolific score getter of 1942.

This was the first time since 1897 for Cork to outdistance Tipperary and Kilkenny in the All-Ireland title race. They drew level with Tipp in 1931 and again caught up with Tipp and Kilkenny in 1941, so that the victory of Cork's youngest side ever was doubly sweet to the big Leeside following which managed to travel to Croke Park.

There were bonfires in Cork and a big turn-out to welcome the champions on their return with the All-Ireland Cup, which now rests beside "Eire-ann's Lovely Lee."

Three weeks later more than thirty-seven thousand people flocked to the

Next Issue.

NEXT issue of "The Gaelic Echo" will be in connection with the Railway Cup finals at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day. Order your copy and also please tell your friends about a paper which is devoted to G.A.A. activities.

AFTER 19 YEARS.



The Dublin team which after 19 years brought the All-Ireland Senior Football Title back to the Metropolis.

MORE RULINGS.

A LIST of rulings made by the Central Council was given in our Munster Hurling Final No. last July and proved so popular that we have pleasure in giving some more. Further lists will be published from time to time.

MAY a member of another Club appear before a Provincial Council to defend another Club's case? Ruling—No.

A Senior Hurling Championship Final was declared null and void at a meeting of the County Board, and both Clubs suspended for six months under Rule 6, Page 33. Could the County Convention, which will be held in January following, accept a Motion to have one or both Clubs re-instated? Ruling—No.

Two players are members of a Club with single affiliation for S.F. and J.H. They have played S.F. with this Club. As both are Senior Hurlers they played Senior Hurling with another Club. This second Club has no F.C. Have they acted legally? Ruling—Yes.

In a hurling game a player refused to leave the field when ordered to do so by the Referee. The Referee allowed the game to continue, the offending player still taking part:

- Does team to which offending player belongs, lose game, or
- must game be replayed?

Ruling—Team loses match.

From what time does the automatic suspension take effect in case of official under Rule 18, Page 41 and Rule 13, Page 71, as amended: Is it from date of match and must offence be proved on an objection or investigation, or are they suspended whether it is officially known or not. Ruling—Rule 13, Page 71, is perfectly plain—it says after date of match. Rule 18, Page 41, dates similarly from date of match. They are officially suspended, but on an objection where the suspension has not previously been recorded, the offence must quite evidently be proved; otherwise, how is a Board or Committee to know that it has taken place?

A POSER.

Dinny Barry Murphy, the Cork hurler, who has won more honours than any other man to play the game, has a unique record to his credit. He holds a senior and a junior medal secured in a local hurling tournament for the draw (senior and junior), which was made on the same night. Dinny Barry played in both finals and is custodian of the Junior Cup as well as holder of senior and junior medals. How did this happen?

HANDBALL AFFAIRS.

RESTRICTIONS in travelling facilities and the shortage of rubber, due to the international situation, were reflected in the activities of the Irish Amateur Handball Association during the past year.

At the Annual Convention on the 16th March, it was decided that an Emergency Committee, consisting of the President, the two Trustees and the Hon. Secretary, should discharge the functions of the Handball Council during the year, and the Committee at its first meeting decided to abandon the Minor competition and all soft ball singles competitions. Nevertheless the Association's progress during the year was highly satisfactory.

Outstanding performance was that of J. J. Gilmartin of Kilkenny, who, by winning the hard ball singles title for the seventh time, surpassed the record of Tom Soye.

Gilmartin was not available for the hard ball doubles championship as he had unfortunately emigrated, and Dublin, after a number of years, annexed a title, the Clarke Brothers winning this competition. The Collins Brothers of Tipperary won the senior soft ball doubles title for the first time. The junior soft ball doubles title went to Roscommon, represented by S. Gaughran and P. Kennedy. P. Murray of Offaly took dual honours, winning the junior hard ball singles, and, in partnership with C. McHugh, the junior hard ball doubles.

In Dublin a very welcome flip was given to the game as a result of the series of challenge matches played in the Depot Court.

The leading soft ball players in the country—P. Perry, ex-champion; the Collins Brothers, of Tipperary; Joe Bergin, Sligo; L. Roe, A. Clarke and J. O'Rourke, Dublin, and S. Gaughran, Roscommon, figured in these matches and gave splendid performances. Perry, by giving a sparkling display in the only match of the series in which he participated, showed that he has lost none of the courtcraft which delighted the fans for several years. These matches were very well attended, and the promoters can be well satisfied with their efforts.

The prospect regarding the soft ball game next year is gloomy, but there is no cause for worry regarding hard ball, as there is no reason to anticipate any shortage of materials for the balls or any decline in the art of making them.

Many supporters derive consolation from the fact that the shortage of soft balls will inevitably entice more of the younger players to take up the traditional hard ball game.

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CORK and LIMERICK in THRILLER

GREAT HURLING IN THE SOUTH

AS has been the case for many years, the hurling championship provided the thrills in Munster, where five counties competed in both codes. Kerry did not play in senior hurling while Limerick was graded junior in football.

Feature of the hurling competition was the come-back bid of Limerick, the Shannonside hurlers going within a goal of conquering Cork in the provincial semi-final at Limerick.

First hurling game in the South was disappointing affair, Clare putting up a very poor show against Tipperary, who, as a result of their runaway victory, were strongly fancied to retain their provincial title and dethrone the All-Ireland champions.

RESURGENT LIMERICK.

Second game was at Cork where a resurgent Limerick defeated Waterford, the Shannonmen's win helping to make the Southern problem even more difficult. This was a sparkling game in which John Keane starred on a Waterford team that carried a few passengers. Those responsible for moving John Keane away from Mick Mackey helped in giving victory to Limerick, whose stock rose, and on the Ennis Road grounds the eyes of Gaelic were focussed, for many keen judges held that the winners of the Cork-Limerick tie would be All-Ireland champions of 1942. This game lived true to the great tradition of those famed Southern rivals.

Limerick, calling all its craft and skill into play, challenged the youthful Cork men for every ball, and for more than fifty minutes a battle royal roused a huge crowd. Tim Ryan, for almost a decade the peer of any at centre field, hurled as in his palmy days, while Jack Power kept a shaky defence together in spite of many Cork forays.

FATAL MUFF.

Porter, making his first appearance in a senior game, saved the Leaside net time after time as Limerick called the tune, and to the ex-junior and to Batt Thornhill the champions owe much. Jack Lynch rallied his men time after time in a bid for the deciding score, but it looked as if the Limerick men's star was on the ascendant when a muff at centre-field let Cork away for the point which put them in front and virtually decided the game as time had almost ebbed, as a second point followed to give Cork the laurels of a glorious game.

Tipp and Cork for the final, and memories were raked up to tell of wonderful struggles between those oldest of Munster hurling rivals.

To Cork flocked enthusiasts from every part of Ireland to see the final, and it is a remarkable tribute to the Leaside City that the crowd was almost as big as in the days of special rains, buses and motor cars.

Cork had trained earnestly, but from the Premier County came news of players who did not put their heart to the preparation for a game which must have been unique as facing each other were Cork, All-Ireland champions, and Tipperary, Munster champions of the same year.

TENSE EXCITEMENT.

The Athletic Grounds seethed with excitement as the red-jerseyed men from the Lee and the blue-and-gold-clad Tipp men trooped on to the pitch to be marshalled behind the Cork Volunteers' Pipe Band and set in motion by Mick Hennessy, Clare hurler, secretary and referee.

Fast and furious waged the struggle, with the veterans of Thurles, Bherlahan and Moycarkey setting the pace for their youthful rivals from Blackpool, Blackrock, Buttevant, and the Lough.

"'Twill be a draw," someone beside me remarked, but almost as his words floated away on the breeze Tipp went all to pieces, and in a last quarter scoring riot Jack Lynch and his men recovered the Southern title.



J. LOOBY (Bherlahan), who played centre-forward for Tipperary in the Munster final.

There was a new hurling resurgence in Kerry, but an eagerly awaited junior tie with Tipperary had to be abandoned. Kerry retained the senior football title after travelling to Ennis, where Clare went down, and to Tipperary, where the Premier County men lost by more than double scores.

The final at Tralee was one of the best for some years, Cork putting up a grand display, and with a little more attention to the finer points of the game Leaside football should be heard of in the South.

Perhaps the day is not far distant when Clonakilty, St. Nicholas, Fermoy and Macroom will emulate the deeds of Nils, Fermoy, Lees, and Clondrohid.

HURLING CHAMPS.



THE CORK 1942 ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS.

JIM BARRY Tells Of CHAMPIONS HE HAS TRAINED

JIM BARRY, famous Cork trainer, who is probably the best known figure on our playing fields to-day, has written specially for the "Gaelic Echo" Christmas Number his impressions of champions he has trained.

No man to-day is better fitted to write on famous teams and famous players, so let him tell in his own words his experiences and impressions:—

Looking back over the years since I first took to the training of teams, many memories rise up before me. Players and matches which have made history for the G.A.A. are fresh in my mind since I turned out my first Cork team in 1926, and from that date to 1931 we were sweeping all before us. We appeared in five All-Ireland finals and won four, being beaten by a great Dublin team in the 1927 decider. We avenged that defeat the following year by beating Dublin 5 goals 3 points to 2 points.

Names that have since become famous figured on the Cork teams during these years. Sean Og Murphy, greatest full-back Cork has produced; "Marie" Connell, cool, clever and a great tactician; Jim Regan, acknowledged the greatest centre-half back of all time; Denny Barry Murphy, the stylist, and who has won more honours than any man in G.A.A. history; Jim Hurley, the king of centre-field men, and his partner, Micko Connell; "Eudie" Coughlan, the great captain of the 1931 final; the famous Aherne brothers, "Gah" and "Balty," and so many others that it would take too much space to write about.

Matches between Cork and Tipp and Cork and Kilkenny were the highlights during those years, and what glorious battles they were! The three games with Kilkenny for the All-Ireland final in 1931 will for ever be talked about. "Eudie" Coughlan's famous point in the second drawn game is worth retelling. "Eudie," who was playing centre wing, received the puck-out from his brother John in goal. As he caught the ball and side-stepped his Kilkenny opponent he fell flat on the ground just near where I was sitting. "The devil fire you, 'Eudie,'" said I, "what a time you fell!" "Eudie" raised himself to his knees and with a left-hand stroke sent the ball all the way for a point, a distance of 80 yards. "Eudie" always had a terrific crack at a ball. The training of this famous team from 1926 to 1931 was carried on as now in the evenings, the players being brought together at the Cork Athletic Grounds. What fun we had at times when Paddy Delea, Morgan Madden, "Micko" Connell and Jim Regan would start their tricks.

I must leave this great team now and turn to another team which became equally as famous—the Limerick team of 1934. My first acquaintance with Limerick was when I went to help in their training for the re-play of the All-Ireland final against Dublin in 1934. Many of the players of this team are still active on our playing fields. They started their string of victories with this All-Ireland which they won. Since then they have not looked back and are still a force to be reckoned with.

My first shock during the training of that team was to learn that Paddy Scanlon, through illness, was unable to

turn out for the final. Tom Shinnny was brought on at the last moment, and covered himself with glory.

In this team also we had players whose names became household words. Paddy Scanlon, one of the greatest goalkeepers ever to stand between the posts; Mick Kennedy, Tom McCarthy, the brothers Clohessy (Paddy and Dave), Timmy Ryan, the famous Mackey brothers (Mick and John); Ned Cregan, etc.

LIMERICK HOSPITALITY.

I am always proud of my association with this great Limerick team and the wonderful hospitality shown me since then by Limerick people at home and abroad.



MR. JIM BARRY
The noted Cork trainer, who has prepared Cork and Munster teams for many victories.

Camoguidheacht now claimed my attention as a team was rising up in Cork, and I gave them my services for three years and won the All-Ireland three years in succession (1935-36-37). On this team we had players nearly as good as on most senior teams.

Kitty McCarthy at full-back was almost the equal of Sean Og Murphy; Lily Kirby at centre-field was another Jim Hurley. In May McCarthy we had a "Gah" Aherne, while Josie McGrath was the "Eudie" Coughlan of Camoguidheacht. Since then they have added a few more All-Irelands to their credit, and this year were only beaten by Dublin after a replay.

PRESENT CORK TEAM.

I now come to the present Cork team, which has been in the making since 1939. In that year we reached the final against Kilkenny and were beaten by a point after one of the most memorable displays in the history of the game as the second half was play-

THE FOOL

Since the wise men have not spoken, I speak that I am only a fool;
A fool that has loved his folly,
Yea, more than the wise men their counting-houses, or their quiet homes,
Or their fame in men's mouths;
A fool that in all his days had done never a prudent thing,
Never hath counted the cost nor recked if another reaped
The seed of his mighty sowing, and that soon at the end of all
Shall laugh in his lonely heart as the ripe ears fall to the reaping-hooks
And the poor were filled that were empty
Tho' he go hungry.

—P. H. Pearse.

ed in a deluge of rain with thunder and lightning roaring and flashing.

One newspaper rightly said of it, "It was the greatest test of endurance and stamina ever seen in Croke Park or elsewhere and reflected the greatest credit on the trainers of both teams."

I will say that this year's Cork team was the youngest ever to win an All-Ireland. Mick Kenefick was a minor; Con Murphy had only just left school; C. Ring, A. Lotty, J. Condon and D. Beckett are still under twenty. Some of the players I have mentioned are sons of famous hurlers of the past. Mick Kenefick's father played in the final against Kilkenny in 1912, and Derry Beckett is the son of Jerry Beckett, of hurling, football and athletic fame.

This Cork team, captained by Jack Lynch, has won the admiration of everyone for their beautiful style. In training they were a grand bunch of lads, full of humour—one happy family willing and eager to carry out my every wish.

FOUR GREAT FORWARDS.

I have also had the Irish teams to play America in the last Talteann Games of 1932 under my care. On the hurling team we had the four greatest forwards the game has seen—Martin Kennedy of Tipp, "Gah" Aherne of Cork, Matty Power of Kilkenny, and last but not least, the incomparable Mick King of Galway. What hope had the American backs of keeping out those four forwards?

As Manager of the Munster hurling and football Railway Cup teams since 1927, many famous players have passed through my hands, and games never to be forgotten were staged in the finals between Munster and Leinster.

Much has been said at Congress and elsewhere about collective training. That is bringing your team away from work into a camp for two or three weeks. I have never adopted this method of training and do not believe in it for hurlers or footballers. I get my team together each evening after work and train them, and they are always fit enough to satisfy me. No one can say they were ever beaten for want of fitness, so that it is quite possible to train champions without collecting the players into camps.

Only three times in history has any county won both All-Ireland Championships in the same year. Cork did it in 1890; Tipperary did it in 1895 and again in 1900.

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THE fame of St. Mels as a nursery of footballers, and particularly College footballers, has spread all over Ireland, and to-day the Longford College holds an honoured place in the G.A.A.

It has won more Leinster titles than any other Eastern College, and on teams to represent Leinster in the All-Ireland Colleges series Mels boys invariably fill many places. The College in fact forms the backbone of Leinster Colleges' teams and when St. Mels has a vintage year the Eastern Province makes a bold show in the All-Ireland.

It is difficult to say when exactly Gaelic games were introduced into the College. They appear to have been played in some fashion from the beginning of the century. But it was the national spirit inspired by the 1916 Rising that really infused life into the games, and from that time forward the College began to produce fine players. About that time annual matches with their neighbours, St. Finians, were a feature of the year's programme.

In 1920 the College team made its first appearance in public competition and won the Longford Junior championship with ease. Shortly after Father Kearney, now Vice-President of the College, took charge of the games, and laid the foundations which brought success when the College entered the Leinster Colleges Championships. In these years he got valuable assistance from Father Rigney, now Adm. of Ballymahon.

In later years Father Kearney passed over the reins to Father Manning, the present Chairman of the Leinster Colleges' Council. During all these years, the interest and enthusiasm of the priests of the diocese in general have spurred on the teams in their efforts for victory.

St. Mels first entered the Leinster College Championships in 1928 and signalled their entrance by winning the Senior championship. On their way to success they defeated St. Finian's (holders of the previous three years), Multyfarnham, and in the final defeated Belcamp by 2-1 to nil. Past students still recall the wonderful enthusiasm which this win aroused in the College and county. In 1929 they fell

before Colaiste Caoimhghin in the Senior semi-final, and since that have appeared in every senior final, being victorious on nine further occasions.

The full list of senior finals won is:—

1933—St. Mels, 1-3; Colaiste Caoimhghin, 0-3.

1934—St. Mels, 2-2; Knockbeg, 1-2.

1935—St. Mels, 3-5; St. Finian's, 0-4.

1936—St. Mels, 2-4; Westland Row, 2-1.

1937—St. Mels, 4-1; Knockbeg, 1-3 (replay).

1938—St. Mels, 3-7; St. Vincents, 1-6 (replay).

1940—St. Mels, 3-4; St. Finian's, 1-1.

1941—St. Mels, 1-8; O'Connells, 1-1.

1942—St. Mels, 1-3; O'Connells, 1-1.

Leinster Junior Championship (Millar Shield) was started in 1933. St. Mels appearing in the final, losing to Knockbeg, but have won the Junior title in 1934, 1935, 1942.

BACKBONE OF LEINSTER.

St. Mels have always figured largely in the Leinster team in the search for All-Ireland honours. In all, since 1929, 36 boys have won All-Ireland medals with Leinster. For example, there were 7 St. Mels boys on the dazzling Leinster side of 1941; eight on

the winning team in 1938; six in 1936, five in 1934, four in 1930, and five in 1929.

The list of well-known players is not as extended as one would expect as a large number enter ecclesiastical colleges and are now working as priests in the diocese and all over the world while the counties from which they are mainly drawn are not much in the limelight.

However, from the years preceding the entry of the College into Leinster competition we pick the name of Pat Masterson (now Fr. Pat Masterson of California), who learned his football in St. Mel's, and for many years filled the full-back position for Cavan, and won many Ulster championships with Cavan. Two years after leaving St. Mel's he figured in the full-back line of the Irish team in the first Tailteann Games in 1924. At that time many others of the same calibre were famed in Longford and Leitrim.

WELL-KNOWN STARS.

The brothers Jimmy and Vincent White, who won All-Ireland honours with Cavan, were figuring on the St. Mel's team round 1932-33.

Tommy Banks (Dublin) first began his place-kicking with St. Mel's, winning two senior and one junior Leinster Colleges medals. Was, of course, the recognised place-kicker with the team.



DR. JIMMY WHITE (Gowna, Cavan), who learned his football at St. Mels.

Con McGovern (Galway), a contemporary of Banks, won four Sigerson medals with U.C.G. Won Connacht championship and National League with Galway. A dashing mid-field player now, recently figures with Army Metro.

Con Lehane, a nippy forward with Offaly and Sean MacDermotts, Dublin.

Mick Kilkenny captained Leitrim when they won the All-Ireland Junior Championship (Home) in 1938. Now gives good service to Clann na Gaedhéal (Dublin).

Frank Carter, reckoned to be the best full-back who ever played for the Leinster Colleges, played with Leitrim same year. Is now full-back on the promising Sligo team.

James Bohan, full-back for Leitrim, won Connacht Junior championship, 1941, has won a couple of Sigerson medals. On the same Leitrim team of 1941 figured C. Kelleher, L. Foran, P. Reynolds.

Frank Mitchell, this year's captain, has won three Senior and one Junior Leinster Colleges, 1941 All-Ireland Colleges, and gave a very promising display against Galway in this year's senior championship.

In Longford's All-Ireland Junior team of 1937 we find the names of P. Farrell and D. Hughes. In addition to these C. Dodd and B. O'Reilly helped Longford win the National League (Division II) the same year.

Tim Lynch of this year's team won two All-Ireland's last year—Colleges and Minor (with Roscommon).

Others of this year's team who will be heard of are O'Brien (Longford), Boylan and Wilson (Cavan), Lyons (Offaly).

The boys are mainly drawn from Longford and Leitrim, with small contingents from Offaly, Cavan, Roscommon and Westmeath.

It is a record to be justly proud of, and Leinster Colleges football owes much to St. Mel's for the high standard reached. Beating St. Mel's is the incentive which urges every Eastern College side for St. Mel's football has been brought almost to perfection.

BEAT THE CHAMPIONS.



Louth Team which beat Dublin, All-Ireland Champions, in a Challenge Game at Dundalk.

LEINSTER TITLES RETAINED.

Liffeymen's Dual Triumph.

LEINSTER Gaels were early astir in 1942 and many Junior and Minor ties were played off before the Central Council Emergency Committee decided to abandon those championships. Eleven counties fielded teams in Senior football and six in Senior hurling.

There was an early shock in the senior football competition, Longford, after beating Westmeath by a point, holding Dublin, provincial title holders, to a draw at Mullingar. The replay at Croke Park saw the Liffeymen definitely assert their superiority, but against Meath they had another close shave at Drogheda.

Offaly beat Kildare by a couple of points, and then ended the O'Moore County chances before drawing with Carlow in an exciting game at Athy.

The replay at Portlaoighe ended abruptly and it was rather unsatisfactory to find an unfinished game decided in the Council rooms particularly when the referee admitted that he made a mistake in blowing his whistle for full-time with still some minutes to go. Offaly were six points behind when the game ended and looked a beaten team, but this does not get away from the fact that the rule states that sixty minutes must be played.

Carlow were awarded the tie and went on to meet Dublin in the final at Athy. The Liffeymen won by two points, and then survived an objection and appeal to the Central Council, whose Acting Chairman (Mr. S. Gardiner, Tipperary) ruled that only members of Vigilance Committees can give evidence in Foreign Games objections.

WANTS CLEARING UP.

We would suggest that this is a matter for Congress as such a ruling deprives any member of the Association who may have evidence of Foreign Games offences of the right of reporting or giving evidence unless that person should also be a member of a Vigilance Committee.

Such a ruling would even deprive Mr Gardiner himself of the right of reporting any person he might happen to see enter or leave a place where a Foreign Game was being played unless he could also prove that he was a member of a Vigilance Committee, on which the rule at present reads:

The Chairmen of County Committees in their respective counties will appoint Vigilance Committees, whose duty will be to visit centres where foreign games are held and report to such Chairman on the attendance of members of the G.A.A. as players or spectators at such functions.

It is certainly a matter that requires some clearing up, and it is to be hoped

that some county or other will raise it at the Annual Congress. We would also welcome the views of our readers on this matter.

PREVENTION THE CURE.

There was a good deal of discussion at some Leinster Council meetings on encroachment of playing pitches, but probably most of this was in the form of the storm in a teacup.

If there was any cause for complaint let us hope that it will be eradicated by proper stewarding in which local Gaels should play their part. There was also some talk about assaults and court proceedings, but an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

If officials appointed to carry out responsible tasks such as refereeing a provincial final or an All-Ireland final make a serious mistake it is hard to expect the ordinary man on the side-line to prove himself an angel, particularly if there is nothing to prevent that man stepping straight on to the playing pitch and engaging in an argument with some rival supporter.

The Eastern hurling championship from the outset seemed foredoomed to finish in a Dublin-Kilkenny meeting, and so it happened.

By an arrangement come to two or three years back Dublin and Kilkenny are committed to home-and-home venues in their Leinster hurling final meetings, and as a result Kilkenny housed the final this year.

The Noremens were far from the Noremens we used to know, with the result that Dublin won rather easily, to qualify for the All-Ireland final.

Wicklow, Westmeath and Louth had won out in Junior football, while Kildare and Louth had reached the closing stages of the Minor football when they were suspended.

Dublin and Kilkenny were due to meet in the Minor hurling final, and Kilkenny, Meath and Westmeath had qualified for the Junior hurling semi-finals when all these competitions were suspended.

The gates and attendances were particularly good, and the province can look forward with confidence to 1943.

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WEST and NORTH "AS YOU WERE"

GALWAY and CAVAN STILL SUPREME

GALWAY AND CAVAN, respectively, retained their Connacht and Ulster Senior Football Titles after encountering stiff opposition. Ulster was the only province to complete a Junior championship, Antrim taking the football title in this grade, defeating Fermanagh in the final after beating Down and Derry.

Seven counties competed in senior football in the North, Cavan (holders) getting a hard run from Monaghan before defeating Donegal to qualify for the final with Down, who created a first-class surprise by beating Armagh in a second meeting at Newcastle.

The final, played at Dundalk, was a disappointing affair, the "Slashers" experience and field craft proving too much for their challengers, who never rose to the big occasion.

Writing of Down, that county suffered a big loss through the death of Mr. Sean King, solr., whose work for the G.A.A. was untiring.

I met him after the last All-Ireland football final at a Dublin hotel, and was grieved to read in a short while that he had joined the Great Majority. Sean was well-known all over Ireland, which he travelled frequently in pre-war days.

Brighter news from Down is that a new field has been secured at Newry and that, with a return to normal times, it is hoped to hold a big tournament and official opening here.

GALWAY'S NARROW SHAVE.

West of the Shannon, Galway had another narrow shave from their new rivals, Roscommon, who were unlucky not to have drawn the final at Ballinasloe, where there was a huge crowd.

Mayo, still in the doldrums, went out before Roscommon, the old League specialists being short some of their selected players.

There has been a new awakening in the county and we may soon again be thrilled by another Galway-Mayo football final in the West.

All five counties participated in the Western Championship, Galway putt-

ing out Leitrim before meeting Roscommon, while Roscommon disposed of Sligo.

Financially it was a satisfactory year in both provinces, big crowds patronising all fixtures.

A CHALLENGE TO GALWAY HURLING SUPREMACY!

No hurling championship games were played in either province.

There is, however, a hope that Roscommon will before long challenge Galway for Western hurling supremacy as the game in that county is definitely on the upgrade.

CAMOGUIOCHT.

DRAWING a crowd of 6,000 people the All-Ireland Camoguiocht final replay at Croke Park clearly demonstrated that this phase of our national life has a bright future.

The game was as good as one could possibly desire, that first-time pulling and doubling on the ball delighting seasoned hurling veterans, who were present in large numbers.

The sides had played a draw at Cork three Sundays before, and with heightened interest as a result the replay scenes were reminiscent of an All Ireland football or hurling final day at the National Stadium.

Heroine of the game was Peggy Griffin, the Dublin captain, who hurled with grand fire, her breaking up of gathering Cork raids being a treat to watch. She showed wonderful anticipation and it was mainly due to her brilliant field-craft that Dublin gained the title.

Dublin defeated Antrim in the semi-final while Cork disposed of Galway.

The game is in an exceptionally flourishing condition in Dublin, where the organisation is at a high level. Cork, too, is well to the fore in this respect, but there are still counties without clubs or competitions.

An effort should be made to organise every centre of population and thus make Camoguiocht the equal to hurling or football in its nation-wide appeal.



The Dublin team which won the 1942 All-Ireland Camoguiocht title.

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Four Counties Share League Honours.

THE suspension of the National League left a big blank in the Gaelic Calendar, the programme for which was generally a busy one during the months of October, November, February, March and April.

To fill in the "dead" season local Leagues were inaugurated in Leinster, Ulster and Connacht. In Leinster eight counties participated, the competition being divided into a Northern Group and a Southern Group. Meath, Dublin and Louth made up the Northern Group, home-and-home games being played, Dublin and Meath eventually qualifying for the final, which attracted a big crowd to Croke Park, where Dublin collected yet another set of laurels.

Five counties provided many close games in South Leinster, where Offaly, short some of their best players, spoiled the chances of a play-off by holding Carlow to a draw, a result which gave Laoighis the League honours by a point over Carlow.

Four counties competed in the North where the newly donated Dr. Lagan Cup was won by Antrim after a series of very close and exciting struggles.

All five Western counties took part in the Connacht League, which also provided some grand games and brought Galway and Roscommon into opposition in the final, which Roscommon won.

In Leinster and Ulster the Leagues showed a profit for all counties participating, but in the West some counties appear to have lost.

It would be better, in the event of those local Leagues being restarted in the Spring, that counties should rely on home players, as the competitions are mainly organised to help in discovering fresh talent, and young players should be encouraged by being selected and tried. The cost of bringing declared players long distances is too heavy to be encouraged at the moment.

ULSTER WINNERS.



THE CAVAN TEAM WHICH RETAINED THE ULSTER FOOTBALL TITLE.

ULSTER MADE HISTORY

HISTORY just now is being made every day and unmade the next, so that in writing of the G.A.A. Year we may be excused if we use the hackneyed phrase "Ulster Made History," when referring to the triumph of the Northern footballers in the Railway Cup.

This triumph was remarkable because of the Northerners' draw and defeat by Munster in the 1941 Cup decider, as it was a memorable feat for an Ulster selection that was judiciously blended to turn the tables on what was an almost identical Munster side a year later.

The 1942 Railway Cup ties followed the usual routine. We had a Connacht-Leinster Hurling semi-final that Leinster won to again draw attention to Connacht's pluck in this competition.

Munster footballers travelled to Wexford, which, for the first time, housed a Railway Cup tie. Munster won this game so easily that the holders became strong favourites for another title.

CENTRE FIELD PULL.

The Ulster-Connacht game was fixed for Roscommon, but the grounds here was unplayable and the venue was changed to Longford, where Ulster won. Feature of this game was the Northerners' supremacy at centre field, a sector which the Westerners usually dominated.

The finals on St. Patrick's Day attracted a big crowd to Croke Park. The football game, as in 1941, was a clinker with Ulster showing improved form.

The football was as good as ever seen at the National Stadium, the clash of styles giving plenty of sparkle to the game, in which fortunes ebbed and flowed.

The tall Munster defenders, fielding high and kicking with great length, kept the nimble Ulster forwards at bay for most of the hour, but with the Donegal newcomer, McDyer, and John Joe O'Reilly taking control at centre-field, the Cup inclined towards the North.

The wizardry of Kevin Armstrong and the solo runs of Alf Murray helped to further tilt the game in Ulster's favour, and although the Southmen battled gallantly, the closing stages were all in favour of the footballers of Cavan, Armagh, Monaghan, Antrim, Tyrone and Donegal.

The balance might have been even greater in Ulster's favour had the forwards used their feet to shoot for goals instead of palming the ball over the bar with only Dan O'Keefe between them and the net.

A strong Northern following natur-

ally demonstrated enthusiastically, the Ulster players being shouldered off the field.

WAS A TAME AFFAIR.

Coming after such a dazzling display of football, the hurling final palled a little. The fading light and the smaller ball did not make for enthusiasm, and it would be well if in future the hurling final opened the day's programme. Munster, made up of players from Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford (pity we hadn't even one Clareman), beat a Leinster side, drawn from Dublin and Kilkenny.

It was not one of the best hurling finals we have seen on St. Patrick's Day, but it had its bright patches.

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na 'Tururanna' (Tourr) go h-Ameice—b'fuil veire Leo?

Alt sumeamail le véanaige i sgeann v'ar bpáipéiri laeéamla i 'staob floss nua éun an Saéilís 'o'foalum sa Uroncs i Nua Eabrac, a éur a' smaoneam mé ar éirsai na n'Saeóeal éar lear. Dorraó nua i n'gluaiseacé na Saéilise ann; breis daome ós a' foalum na ceansan v'úccaise, méadó spéise ms na coláistí agus ms na h-oll-sgoileanna féin i léigean agus líríocht v'úccais na tíre seo. ollamam a' ceacé anall go h-Éirinn éun scuróeal a véanam ar ár mbéatoróeas. Sin curó ve'n eolais a fuireas le véanaige agus is breáís liom an beoúacé agus an g'nfomaéc san a veiré fé lán tseoil i lár an éogairó fuilcís seo.

"M. O. R." do scríob.

Ó'n maétnam san ar éirsai na ceansan ní féadóaim san éumneam ar stáiró ár gcluící féimís i Nua Eabrac agus fiafruisim v'iom féin conus táiró a v'ul éun cinn pé lácáir, go mór mór ó tá Ameice sa éoméascar anois agus maláiré spéise as a fearaib ósa ná i gcluící. Conus a veiró sgeal so ár gcluící nuair a veiró an éogairó éaré agus an scoosal iméite éun suáimnis acé-uair? 'Mbeiró veire le'n ár "Second Front" i.e., turusanna na éfuireann peite agus iomán-v'úeacéta ó Éirinn go h-Ameice éun spéis na n'Saeóeal éall v'ó éoméadó beo 'nar gcluící v'úccais agus iad a' g'riósadó? Tá trí bliáona anois ann ó éi an turus veireannacé ann, nuair

éuairó fóirne peite na Saillíne agus Ciarraróe go v'ci Nua Eabrac i 1939. An bliádam sin éi fuireann peite na caérac san i.e., tosaó na éfuireann n-éagsamail ann agus éi fuireann v'úccasac, píir ósa gur rusaó éar lear iad agus a élaóiró leis na cluící Saédealaca. 'O'mír an v'á fuirinn sin i sgeoinn na Saillíne agus Ciarraróe, pé seac ac éi an buaó as fóirne na tíre seo. Ó éuireadó cosg leis an mírce ó Éirinn v'ó'n tír éall tá as teip ar na cluící agus ar a gcaisíveán, ann. Ní fanann an ríe as an eacé i sgeoinn-v'úe, a veiréar agus ves na saír-peileatóirí a éus a n-égaró síar ar na Stáiré ó 1924 anuas, ní raib as mírce i sgeoinn fuireann na h-Éireann an bóda veireannacé, ac Johnny McGoldrick. Caífeair g'eilleadó v'ó's na bliádamta agus tá ré na v'peileatóirí san éaré maróir leo féin veiré as mírce. Ar mácaib na n'Saeóeal acá seacám nó tuitim na gcluící éall. Tá curó acá fonnmar na cluící v'úccais v'ímírce agus sa bliádam acá i sgeist égam, 1939, v'ímír fuireann v'íob "Na h-Ameiceánais" i sgeoinn Ciarraróe san Innisfail Park, Nua Eabrac. Teasbéannann an scóir, Ciarraróe 3 éun 7 g'eúilíní le 3 éun 2 éúilín as na h-Ameiceánais, go éfuil píntas agus cairde mór ionnta. V'íobar tapairó acéillíre láiróir acé ní raéadóar ró-óilte ar an líacróiró v'ó bualadó leis na cosa agus nuair a bualadó ní bíóiró éon ró-fairó sa cíe. Ói nós acá, an líacróiró a bualadó leis an n'vóorn agus is sía a éuiríóis an líacróiró máir sin ná leis an gceis. Ní h-ionann a móó imearéta agus an

Railway Cup Dates

NEXT big games will be the Railway Cup semi-finals and finals. Dates, pairings, venues and referees for these are:

- HURLING.**
Feb. 14 — At Nenagh — Munster (holders) v. Connacht (Referee, R. Nealon).
- FOOTBALL.**
Feb. 21—At Croke Park—Ulster (holders) v. Connacht (Referee, G. Hughes, junr.).
Feb. 28—At Tralee—Munster v. Leinster (Referee, P. McKenna).

Referees for Finals on St. Patrick's Day at Croke Park—
Hurling—Dr. Stuart.
Football—If Ulster v. Munster, M. O'Neill; if Connacht v. Munster, P. Dunne; if Leinster v. Ulster or Connacht, S. Moriarty.

EASTER CONGRESS.
All nominations and motions for the Easter Congress must be in by St. Patrick's Day.

móó v'úccais agus is eagal liom go éfuil rian na gcluící h-Ameiceánac, basket-ball, agus n'., le feiscint 'na n-ímírce v'ar gcluící féin. Tá adóbar maí ionnta, áh, agus ósánais éruadó fuinneamla iad ac nár mór treóiró foáanta a éabairé v'óib agus a móó agus a stíl imearéta v'ó múnlaó ar an nós v'úccais. Is míne mé as smaom-eam ar conus tá as éiríse leis na h-ósanais v'ó agus cao tá véanta 'na v'caob as an g'cumann éall. Tá Saéilí v'íse i Nua Eabrac agus ní v'óis liom go léigiró i n'v'ear-maó na cluící Saédealaca ná na píir ósa san. Véanfaró a v'óicéall éun g'reim, éom fáda agus is acéfunn leo, a éoméadó ar an n'v'úccais agus tá síil égam go léir go g'cloisfímíro uaca arís nuair a g'lanfaró na spéaréta arís.

National Games and Pastimes & National Action

LIKE most other features of our way of life physical culture, games and pastimes, in this country, have become nationally very confused. Foreign games and pastimes constitute a serious source of national disunion, particularly among young people. If we are sincere about our national recovery, national pastimes must be effectively utilised as part of our National Plan.

National games and pastimes are those which have been developed in association with national characteristics and traditions. Cricket and Rugby football, for example, have pronouncedly British associations; Baseball is American, and Hurling, Handball and Gaelic Football are definitely Irish. Jazz is a Negro production, while Irish dancing is traditionally Gaelic.

Whether Hurling and Gaelic Football originated in this country or not is beside the point. Both games have been fostered and developed in Ireland for generations; they are, therefore, truly national, and have not been advanced as national games in any other country.

In their own place, games and pastimes are necessary for national well-being. Nations which are strong and vigorous recognise and utilise national games and pastimes for national advance. In England, for example, national games are recognised as being of supreme importance. It is, in fact, difficult to visualise a country which maintains a high standard of cultural and economic development where games do not play an important part. A people, on the other hand, who are degenerating or weakening in national fibre, tend to discard their own characteristics, and to laud and imitate those of the foreigner.

To assert, as the promoters of foreign games and pastimes in Ireland often do, that one form of athletics or dancing is as good for a people as another, or that an oval ball is as good as a round one, is tantamount to saying that one flag has the same significance as another because they are made from the same kind of cloth. In either case it is not the things themselves that are of national importance but the traditions and associations for which they ordinarily stand.

Where foreign games remain shrouded in foreign associations, as they do substantially here, they will certainly help to bring about national disunion and reverse. The playing of foreign games brings with it the reading of particular foreign papers—corroding sources of national and social weakness.

The secret of any small nation's success in the world to-day can be gauged by her dogged attachment to her own civilisation. The greatest secret of our national failure has been our dogged tendency to do the opposite. It is one of the few things about which a section of our people has shown determination. Such persons take every opportunity to prove that there is nothing in a particular national characteristic which they want to discard, that it is not an important part of Irish Nationality, or they question the fact that it is Irish at all. This attitude is considered as proof of broadmindedness and sportsmanship. Many "broad-minded" people decry Irish music because its range for them is too restricted, yet the very same people accept jazz as all-satisfying.

Gaelic Football and Hurling have been played in England for half a century, by Irish settlers there, yet no English Club or College has ever adopted either game. This is, without any question, solely on the grounds that they are not English. The merits of the games are not in dispute, but rather the tradition and spirit that are attached to them. They recognise this, and so their boycott of hurling and Gaelic football is complete. Moreover, they are not accused by the sporting, cosmopolitan Irish of being narrow-minded or unsportsmanlike because they do so.

In a country which is fighting a life or death struggle against foreign characteristics and associations that have eaten into every fibre, "men," said MacSwiney, "must be more insistent to watch every little defect and weak tendency."

Development of the mind without corresponding disciplined development of the body is not educationally sound. The playing and encouragement of games, therefore, should be laid down as part of the official programme of schools and colleges. It should also be established, without question, that these games and pastimes are national.

Steps should be taken to see that this section of the programme is being carried out, as a practical, and very important section of National Recovery. If examination requirements cramp, crush or restrict the normal practice of games from the curriculum at any period of the year, then such requirements are excessive and are not in the best interests of well-balanced education.

Dancing is a universal, and, of course, a legitimate form of amusement. Forms of so-called dancing, not in conformity with either Christian or Irish standards, have come into this country from abroad in recent years. These negroid imitations, and their many undesirable associations, like an epidemic out of hand, have ramified through every corner of the country. Foreign fashion and snobbery have adopted them. It will take National Fashion, backed by National Spirit, to drive them out.

Irish dances are modest, graceful, stylish, and distinct. It is a fundamental characteristic of Irish dancing that the nearest approach to contiguity is the joining of partly out-stretched hands. They should secure universal clerical and parental support.

A practical objection often advanced by staid people against Irish dances is that, for them, the majority of Irish dances are strenuous. There appear to be reasonable grounds for this objection, and we should set ourselves the task of establishing some dances that will adequately meet this requirement. We must develop Irish dancing, on traditional lines, as we go along.

In most rural districts there is no social meeting place for young people, except the idle cross roads by day and the jazz hall by night. The demoralising influences of this condition do not appear to be fully recognised by parents and other responsible people.

It must be a duty of Parish Councils to provide sports fields, handball alleys, swimming pools and parish halls, not only for each parish but for each large district of a parish that requires them. Suitable meeting places of this kind for young people are absolutely essential, where informal, as well as organised pastimes, can be practised.

Parish halls should be the property of the parish. They must be controlled by responsible parish committees and utilised for cultural as well as recreative purposes.

Every nation, in a state of war or emergency, if it has any cohesion, strives to unite. We are in as serious a state of national peril now as a country which is actually at war. Our people and our substance are being wasted from within by other, and equally devouring, causes, which threaten our very existence. National unity must be as complete and unrelenting as the forces of the national mischief it is called upon to destroy. If we are in earnest we shall succeed. If we are not in earnest we need not try. Aliens, and those who are opposed to what is becoming once again "The Hidden Ireland," are coming gradually into full and open control. Will the Irish people allow this to proceed? Will they go back again to bondage of another, and more nationally destructive, kind, or will they assert themselves, and justify their own past and their own future?

This is an extract from "National Action," a shilling booklet published by the Gaelic Athletic Association, Croke House, Dublin. It is written by Joseph Anelius as a Plan for the National Recovery of Ireland.

Stationery Office, Dublin.

IRISH LANGUAGE.

TECHNICAL TERMS AND THEIR IRISH EQUIVALENTS

- Tearmai Gramadaighe is Litríochta
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- „ Ceoil
- „ Staire
- „ Trachtala
- „ Cluichidheachta
- „ Dochtuireachta

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IRISH BOOKS OF 1942

1942 will hardly be remembered in Ireland as a vintage year in literature. War conditions, involving a shortage of paper, have had their effect on publishing as they have had on nearly every other trade. Yet quite a number of good books, and a few of really outstanding merit, have appeared.

In fiction, two new novels by Kilkenny men are likely to run a close race for popular favour. Francis MacManus's *Watergate* is the work of a practised hand, a tense gripping story, rich in psychological analysis, that portrays the life of the Irish countryside with authentic detail. Patrick Purcell's *Hanrahan's Daughter* is one of the most promising first novels that have appeared for a long time. This newcomer realises that the first business of a storyteller is to tell a story, and

he has done it with an infectious enthusiasm. Incidentally, he has given his story a setting that will almost compel every lover of Gaelic sports to spend seven-and-six on it. In addition, there is Annie M. P. Smithson's *By Shadowed Ways*, which will please her many admirers, and M. Bodkin's *Borrowed Days*.

On the historical side there is real achievement. Professor M. D. O'Sullivan's *Old Galway* is a scholarly and readable work which must find a place in every Irish library, and the same applies to Dr. Philip O'Connell's *Schools and Scholars of Breifne*. These are not books of the hour, but works based on wide knowledge and the research of years. Not yet published, but due to appear at any moment, is Sean O'Faolain's *The Great O'Neill*, a biography of the famous Irish chieftain. That it will be colourful, vivid in its portraiture, and provocative in its interpretation, may be taken for granted. Another biography with a strongly-painted historical background is Dr. T. G. Urbron's *Victorian Doctor*, which is a Life of Sir Wm. Wilde, physician, antiquarian, and "character." It is an excellent piece of work. In *Never No More*, one of the most charming books of the year, Maura Laverty has told the story of her girlhood with candour and honest sentiment. Her book is "Irish of the Irish."

Lovers of Kichham will be grateful to Mr. James Maher who, in *The Valley near Slievenamon*, has brought together, as the result of immense labour, the uncollected writings of the author of *Knocknagow*. It was a task that needed doing, and he has done it well. Finally, for Irish playgoers, there are two books with a wide appeal. MacMillan's have published Sean O'Casey's new play, *Red Roses for Me*, a work which is already the subject of keen controversy, and from Hodges, Figgis' has come Lady Longford's *The United Brothers*, a '98 play dealing with John and Henry Sheares.

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A Hat From Hollywood

By PATRICK PURCELL.

THERE were four of us dangling our legs over the edge of one of those stone piers that reach out into the sea from nowhere in particular—those pitiful little stone piers that the old Congested Districts Board used to build anywhere at all on the slightest provocation. The exact location of this one is better left anonymous, even though there are dozens of those piers in that particular corner in south-west Kerry. The night before had been stormy, but as we dozed there in the drowsy warmth of the noon-tide sunning, only the sullen surge of the Atlantic rollers, the crash of those endless lines of breakers along all those miles of strand, the seeth of hungry surf, testified to the wrath gone by.

Behind us was the wild beauty, the thin blue turf smoke of Iveragh; out beyond there the peninsula of Dingle, and, faintly visible far out to sea, the hazy cones of the Skelligs. A native sat just beyond us on the pier, a great tanned man in his middle thirties. He wore neither coat nor vest, only the rough woollen jersey, the nondescript trousers, the heavy boots that garb fisherfolk the world over.

His hat alone struck a discordant note, perched on the mop of sandy hair that crowned his lean face. A worn hat and greasy, but with a gay firk still in the brim. A jaunty air, an air of worldly wisdom, seemed to exude from it, sitting as it did atop of a primitive man in a primitive costume.

As a journalist that hat worried me. I couldn't for the life of me fit it into the scheme of things. But there it was, as incongruous as a neon sign on Noah's Ark.

Silent this native was as all his breed. He just sat there staring out West of the Skelligs, and spitting with monotonous precision into the unoffending Atlantic.

My three companions were Civil Servants in quest of Irish. They sat and talked sleepily of Dublin town, as if that kindly city were the end and the beginning of everything that made up existence. Two were female, the other a male, and they conversed in the

brogue of Munster uplands, their discourse comprising every banality that was ever discussed inside the office-doors of Merrion Street or Stephen's Green.

I paid them no more heed than did the fisherman. Their Dublin of hops and offices, of picnics and tennis parties and four o'clock tea, was, thank God, not mine. Nor could that poor ignorant Gaeltacht man, who sat there staring out at the Skelligs, know anything of the great city, save a fleeting glance maybe when Kerry came embattled up to an All-Ireland Final. So he kept his peace, spitting over the quay wall with quiet, persistent accuracy.

The conversation swung to films, as such conversations always do. They spoke of this star and that. They even asked my opinion. I gave it, and it was ignored.

Once or twice the tanned man of Kerry seemed about to speak, cleared his throat, took a side-glance at the film-fans, changed his mind, and resumed his inevitable stare sea-ward and his inelegant spitting.

The three turned from film stars to the discussion of screen effects. "Rain," said the knowing male, "is produced by turning a hose on a aeroplane propellor."

The fisherman turned slowly round. "It is not." His deep voice startled us all. The sing-song of Kerry had a queer twang from his lips. "It is not. It was, but it isn't now."

I stared at him. The others laughed. His voice was patient. "It is not then, mister. They use a special rain machine."

The Civil Servant decided to humour the fool. Besides it would never do if this aborigine made him look small in the eyes of the females.

"Oh, and I suppose you know all about it! One sees so many pictures here, of course!"

There followed a duet of delighted giggles.

"No then, mister. Haven't seen a movie in years. But I'm telling you, boy, I know more about effects and camera work than any man in this country." The speaker paused. "I was a camera-man in Hollywood for ten years."

It is hard to down a Civil Servant. "And were you now? I suppose you know Mae West?"

My ear caught more giggles, sly this time.

"Aye—I do, slightly. I was number one camera-man on the first hit she ever made. Have a silver dollar up in the house above that she gave me for luck. Knew Garbo better, decentest woman in all Hollywood."

I felt interested, but still inclined to be doubtful.

"What made you give up?" I asked. "Made my money. Came home."

The male Civil Servant grimaced at his female counterparts, who nodded knowingly. All three prepared to depart dinnerward.

"Well, beannacht Dé libh."

"Go n-eirigh adh libh," I replied courteously.

After all we must not forget that we came to the Gaeltacht to learn Irish.

But my dinner could wait. What was dinner to a journalist check by jowl with a human interest story.

The man from film-land had become once more silent. Again his gaze was fixed on the horizon. Without emphasis he spat out what I reckoned was the end of his wad of chewing-tobacco.

I returned to the attack.

COATS OFF TO THE FUTURE!

"HATS OFF TO THE PAST, COATS OFF TO THE FUTURE," is an old and well-known saying. Many of us, unfortunately, are inclined to concentrate too much on the first part of the phrase and to overlook the second part.

Wherever Gaels foregather there is a tendency to grow reminiscent, to discuss the halcyon days that are gone, and to sing the praises of the giants of the past. This tendency is no doubt praiseworthy. But we must not forget that the phrase contains a very sensible advice, "Coats off to the future."

We must realize that a vital and supremely important task faces the G.A.A.—the task of organizing our youth and implanting into the minds and hearts of Eire Og an intense love of all things truly Gaelic.

It can scarcely be questioned that our youth are sadly in need of leadership and guidance. Their national idealism is slowly but surely being undermined. Imported decadent literature, books and magazines are not conducive to inculcate in our youth the true concept of Gaelic idealism. Hollywood neo-paganism is not in accordance with traditional Irish nationalism.

Commercialized dance halls in town and country are inspired more from a desire to enrich the promoters than a desire to cater for the best interests of Irish youth. These terrible menaces are in our midst, sapping the vitality of Irish nationalism and destroying and ruining our youth.

We must wake up to the danger. We must face the formidable task of combating and overthrowing it. We must create a national youth organization as a bulwark against the invading ocean of foreign ideas and idealism.

YOUTH SUPREME FACTOR. Youth is the supreme factor in the life of the G.A.A. This truth is so obvious that no reasonable man will deny it. The future of the Association depends on the youth of to-day. Unless we take active steps to organize our youth, the future of the G.A.A. is in jeopardy. And we must set about the task at once. A youth organisation is not a mushroom growth. It takes years to develop and grow. Un-

less we begin now, it may be too late. Foreign nations have realized only too well the importance of youth.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the success of Communism, Fascism, Nazism is due to the care and attention which these ideologies give to their youth organisations.

Can the youth of Ireland become as truly Gaelic as the Russians are Communist; the Italians, Fascist; the Germans, Nazi? The answer is in the affirmative, provided that WE set as much value on OUR youth as they do on theirs, and provided that WE act with the same deep conviction and enthusiastic thoroughness in effecting the national organisation of our youth.

The purpose of this article is not to draft out a detailed plan of how our youth could be organized. Its main object is rather to focuss attention on this vital and all-important problem, the problem of youth. If every G.A.A. club in the land, if every district or county committee, if every school council, whether primary, secondary or university, if every provincial council, and even the Central Council were to give this problem its serious and earnest consideration, a big step forward would have been achieved. Local organization could be attempted first.

Then as time goes on an attempt could be made to organize Youth on a nation-wide basis with a uniformity of aim and direction. But let us remember. We must concentrate on our Youth. Everything depends on that. "Coats off to the Future."

P. F. MacG.

TEN YEARS IN THE WOOD TEN YEARS WELL SPENT



BOTTLED IN FIVE SIZES

VICTORY SONGS OF THE COUNTIES

Dublin's All-Ireland football victory created wonderful enthusiasm in the Metropolis and brought forth at least one song in praise of the men who helped Dublin to rejoin Kerry at the top of the title list.

This song, to which we give pride of place, was written by Miss Nora Cotter, 34 Munster St., Phibsboro, to whom we are grateful for having sent it along for inclusion in the Christmas Number.

We have cut out a verse or two which had little reference to the game.

Charlie Kelly in goal we were quick to extol,

And Caleb—the "Cunning" we'll brand him,
And brave Bobbie Beggs made such use of his legs

That no one could hope to withstand him.

Bold Brendan Quinn didn't give a look-in

To anyone battling against him.

While Beefy's sweet name echoed all through the game,

For the cheering to victory incensed him.

Pat Henry was great and I don't over-rate

When I say that O'Reilly was ripping.

Mick Falvey and Joe (the Captain you know)

Were trumps even tho' they were dripping.

Paddy Bermingham, too, was a real true blue,

And Gerry Fitzgerald was a wonder.

While dear Jimmie Joy—that blocky wee boy—

Nearly pulled Tom O'Sullivan asunder.

Tom Banks was a star—there was none on a par

With this daring and dashing Left Corner.

And Right Corner Matt—he sure had it pat,

And O'Connor of sloth was the scorners.

Each in his way did his best in the play

To bring to old Dublin the honour.

Of winning the cup and the game being up

They conferred the great Trophy upon her.

Before I complete I would like to repeat

That Galway tho' losers showed spirit

And each did his best to bring luck to the West

And the highest of praise do they merit.

Caniffe and Connaire—they each did their share,

And McGauran, MacDonagh and Casey;

Kavanagh played true and O'Sullivan too,

While the Captain was ready and racy.

Clifford played like a brick till he got a bad kick,

And Flavin was also hurt badly,

While Canavan's grit and Mick Fallon's strong hit

Did their bit for the West and right gladly.

The Thorntons did show how to make the game go,

Nor did Duggan take breath for a minute.

They were all very tough and they all did their stuff,

Hoping all through that they'd win it.

Another year gone and another match won,

And Dublin the '42 victor;

But Galway's not vexed—she'll wait for the next—

Ill humour nor spite don't afflict her.

TWELVE MONTHS AGO we inaugurated "Victory Songs of The Counties." The series proved extremely popular with our readers, and we now present our sixth instalment.

We are still anxious to secure songs for inclusion and once again we appeal for contributions to this page. County songs, club songs, in fact any song with a G.A.A. interest, should be sent along. Many old songs, like many an old tale, have been lost because of neglect, so every reader should help in resurrecting Victory or Defeat Verses.

THE SONG OF THE "LILY WHITES."

Kildare football still holds a spell for thousands for the Short Grass men rank among the greatest stylists of the game.

The following lines, written by a Donegal Army Officer serving at the Curragh, tell of the grip the "Lily Whites" have for football fans from other counties:—

Who worships deed of nimble feet,
Where men of grit and valour meet,
Must feel a thrill of sheer delight,
If one Fifteen be Lily White.

The feats that blazoned Granuaile,
The sporting instincts of the Gael,
Are vested in the lustre bright
Reflected by the Lily White.

Designed to gain the victor's place,
In manner worthy of the race,
Should skill and courage prove in vain,
Decreed to smile and rise again.

Roll on! Roll on! the Lily Whites,
Your skill with peerless style unites,
To weave a halo gleaming fair
Around the name of old Kildare.

Let us think of the sons of the Suirside,
So now in this toast let us join,
In paying a tribute to true men—
I refer to the men of Mooncoin.

Chorus:

Then here's to the hurlers of Ireland—
From Bandon's green banks to the Boyne;

Here's a toast to the men of our sire-land,
And here's to the men of Mooncoin.

II

We've read of their deeds and their glory,
We've heard of their prowess and fame;

They're the subject of many a story,
In the history of Erin's old game;
From Carrick to Cork and to Galway,
From Derry to Dingle and Cloyne,
With the spirit of sportsmen we all say:

Here's success to the men of Moon-coin.

(Chorus.)

III

We've heard of the Doyles and the Dunphys,
The Foxes, the Fieldings, and Feore,
The Carrolls, the Cantwells, and Kellys

The games and the tongue and the hopes of our land,
Yet strengthens the faith in the sad mood or merry
When local pride calls we can trust
to our land.

When Dick Fitz leads his men to the scene of the battle,
All anxious as he for dear Kerry's fair name,

And his shout like a war-cry from fields where guns rattle,
There can be but one echo—more victory and fame.

He has fought hard and long for his team and his county,
And humbled his rivals full often I ween,

For the sake of the games and without fee or bounty
He'll revel again 'neath the old Gold and Green.

We Want Songs.

OLD songs, new songs, club songs, county songs, in fact any song with a G.A.A. ring in it, will be welcomed for publication in our "Victory Songs of The Counties."

Send in your's to-day and help to keep this popular feature going.

Address: "Gaelic Echo," 14, Parnell Square, Dublin.

Since the G.A.A. was founded the chair was occupied by 14 Presidents, including the present Chairman, Padraig Mac Conmhidhe. Padraig O'Keefe is the 15th General Secretary.

WITH THE COLLEGES

1942 College Competitions were affected by the general conditions, but happily the bulk of these were finished before the reduction in public and private transport.

Outside of the Dublin area, there are few schools at the moment helping to popularise non-native games. Christian Brothers in the Metropolis are, however, doing much to counteract the influence and work of the Colleges which are either boycotting native games or playing them in a half-hearted manner, and if parents with a National record and outlook would only help in the fight by sending their children to the C.B.S. schools and colleges which foster our games instead of to those whose outlook is definitely anti-national as far as games are concerned, matters would improve.

It is sad to see men who climbed to power on the wave of nationality now patronising institutions which cater solely for non-national games while educational facilities at least as good and often better are provided by schools and teachers whose national outlook and record are beyond reproach.

If the foreign games playing schools were left to foreign games supporting patrons, there would very soon be a change of tune. Unfortunately every day we find men who played our games and fought our battles sending their sons to schools where the things their fathers believed in are not popular.

"Necessity makes strange bedfellows" is an old adage that in this country could be changed to "Prosperity makes strange School Mates."

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS.
The All-Ireland semi-finals brought Connacht and Leinster into opposition at Longford and Ulster and Munster at Croke Park.

Connacht dethroned Leinster, while Munster defeated Ulster, to qualify for the final at Tralee, where the Western boys triumphed. Munster, led by North Monastery, won back the hurling crown by beating Leinster and Connacht (holders).

St. Mels continued its winning way in the Leinster senior football competition, while a new name, Ballyfin Patrician Brothers' School, was added to the Senior Hurling honours list.

Two Dublin schools, Marino C.B.S. and O'Connells, took the junior hurling and football honours respectively.

The special junior hurling and football competitions were suspended.

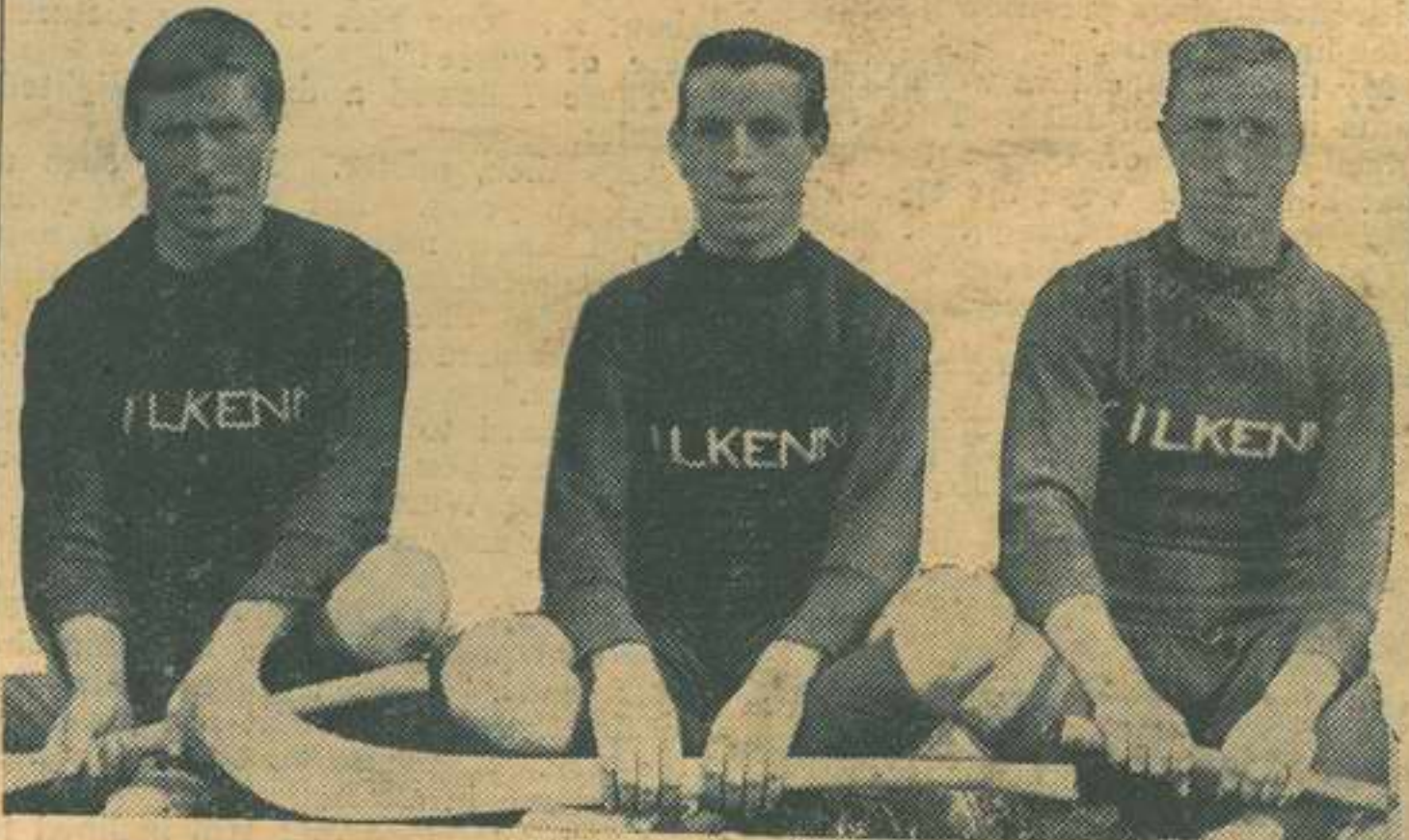
In Munster North Monastery, Cork, added yet another senior hurling title to its growing list, while Tralee C.B.S. retained the senior football title.

In Connacht, Roscommon C.B.S. took their third senior hurling title in a row while St. Jarlath's showed that this Tuam College is still a big force by winning the junior football.

St. Mary's, Galway, retained the senior hurling title.

St. Mary's, Dundalk, dual Ulster winners of 1941, lost their senior football title to St. Macarten's, Monaghan, but retained the junior football honours.

A NOTABLE TRIO



The Brothers Doyle, three of the "Men of Mooncoin," who between them hold twenty three All-Ireland medals.

"THE MEN OF MOONCOIN."

Mooncoin is one of the oldest strongholds of hurling, and in 1926 Phil O'Neill (R.I.P.) penned the following lines to the famous Suirside parish. It is known as "The Men of Mooncoin" and is set to the air of "The Men of the West."

"The Doyles" were the famous Doyle brothers, Eddie, Dick and Mick, who hold 18 All-Ireland medals between them. "The Dunphys"—five brothers, Watty, Tom, Dick, Eddie and Joe, who played with Mooncoin. "The Foxes"—Will Fox who was one of the hurling team that "invaded" America in 1888. "The Fieldings"—Pat, John and Ned, who played with the old Mooncoin team, and brothers of Rev. J. K. Fielding of Chicago.

I

Whilst we honour the hurlers of Erin
Who fought with renown on the field
In a spirit of courage and daring
To capture the All-Ireland Shield;

From Carrigeen up to Clonmore;
The Walshes from brave "Jack na Coille,"

And "Drug" in this toast I must join,
Who hurled the game for All-Ireland,
And led on the men of Mooncoin.

(Chorus.)

IV.

Though Erin's old ranks have been broken,
That once were the pride of the past,

And bitter the words that were spoken
We know they no longer can last;
For the spirit of old cannot perish,
So in unity now let us join,
To honour the hurlers of Erin,
And amongst them the men of Mooncoin.

(Chorus.)

THE DR. CROKE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT FINAL.

The Kerry-Louth Dr. Croke Memorial tournament final drawn game and replay drew forth more songs than any match we can recall. Local papers were filled with poetic effusions while we remember how eagerly broadsheets were bought at fair and market and the verses sung at the cross-roads.

Here are a couple of verses of a song which appeared in "The Kertyman" of those days:—

You ask shall they win when they meet the Boyne Rovers,
Or if they shall fail against the brave sons of Louth;
Though 'tis Gael against Gael near my musings there hovers
A belief that the honours shall come to the South.

Although Louth stands for all that we stand for in Kerry,

CUMANN LÚGHLÉAS SAEBHÉAL

1943 Inter-Provincial Hurling and Football Semi-Finals.

IOMÁNUIDÉAC

CONNACHT V MUNSTER

AS ANONAC URNUIMHIAN FEABHRA Δ 14

peil

CONNACHT V ULSTER

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