

# THE GAELIC ECHO

macalla na n-ḂaeḂeal

Ḃaile Ḃta CliaḂ, máirta a 17, 1944

Luac 2p.

## FOUR PROVINCES AT CROKE PARK

### Cup Finals Have Nation-Wide Appeal

**CONNACHT, MUNSTER, ULSTER, LEINSTER!** All four will be at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day in a bid to win Railway Cup honours, which Munster hold in hurling and Ulster in football. The 1944 Cups are historic because of Connacht's first appearance in the hurling final and of Ulster's efforts to win the football trophy for the third year in a row.

Steadily these Railway Cup games have grown in popularity, and with each of the four provinces directly interested, interest is so far flung this year that a record crowd can be expected.

Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day has come to be the recognised rendezvous of the Gael, and with a big Language drive on foot this year, it behoves every supporter of our native games and tongue to give the fullest support possible to the two movements, which for half a century have gone along hand in hand: the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League.

These Railway Cup finals are among the chief attractions of the G.A.A. programme and with memories of last year's two sparkling games still fresh there should be a huge crowd present this year.

Pipe and other bands will discourse music during the day, and with thrilling contests in prospect, the thirty-two counties will be there in force. Sixty of Ireland's greatest exponents of native games will give of their best in contests that have been even a greater appeal than All-Ireland finals.

Ireland's games, Ireland's language and Ireland's music will all have their place during the day at Croke Park and at night there will Ceilidhthe to give a truly Gaelic finish to our National Holiday.

Chief of these pleasant functions will be Fleadh na Feile at the Mansion House, where the trophies will be presented to the winning teams by Seumas Gardiner, Uachtaran C.L.C.G., and an address will be delivered by Padraig Mac Con Midhe, Uachtaran na Comhdhala Naisiunta.

It is to be hoped that every Gael will show his or her support of native ideals by speaking as far as possible the National Language, patronising the National games, and subscribing to the Language and Green Cross collections, and attending functions organised and run in a Gaelic atmosphere.

**Ḃá'Ḃ ḂaeḂeal éú ba cóir duit cabairú le teanḂain na héimeann le cleara lúic na nḂaeḂeal, aḂur le cipe na teanḂan aḂur cipe na Cioipe Naicne.**

**Tá Cumann Lúic-Cleap ḂaeḂeal aḂ oḂair go tḂéan éun cluicé fíor ḂaeḂealaḂ a éur ar raḂáil i Ḃpáirt an CḂócais lá 'le páḂraḂ aḂur tá oḂe-ra a beic ann san teip.**

**FOR HURLING AND FOOTBALL LINE-OUTS, SEE PAGE FIVE.**

#### ULSTER FULL BACK



**JIM McCULLAGH (Armagh), the Ulster full back.**

### "TO MAKE IRELAND MORE IRISH"

(An t-AḂair M. Mac Amaltonn, S.P., a rḂríḂ.)

**LÁ 'LE PADRAIG** is a day of many National functions and activities, not the least of which are the Railway Cup finals at Croke Park, where the flower of Irish manhood will be engaged in manly endeavour for trophies which have come to be almost as highly prized as the All-Ireland cups and medals.

Members of the G.A.A. are justly proud that their organisation fills such an important part in making the National Holiday a truly Gaelic day, and it is an occasion on which every Gael should do his or her part to support the movements which work for the fulfilment of Pearse's dream—Eire Saor Gaedhealach.

It is also an occasion for advertence to our fundamental aims, for a refreshing of enthusiasm and a renewal of determination to do our best, each in our own sphere, in the coming year, to strengthen the cause of Gaeldom, to spread its influence and its fire, and to lessen the potency of those symbols of

foreign domination that still survive amongst us, whether in games, music, dance, language or literature. We live in a very different age to that of Michael Cusack when he founded our Association just sixty years ago. Yet

(Continued on Page 2.)

#### Our Next Issue.

**NEXT ISSUE** of the GAELIC ECHO will be in connection with the Munster Hurling Final in July.

It will include the first of three articles by An tAḂair M. Mac Amaltonn on "The Ban."

Order YOUR copy at once.

#### Where Hurlers All Are Heroes

Here's to each Gael, from the Golden Vale, and their hurling records grand, Their deathless fame at the Tailteann Games shed glory all over the land; Swift passes, too, and an eye that's true, and the clash to do or die, While sliotars ring, the caman swing, sends the green flag soaring high,

How memories come from the years agone, and where fam'd teams used to be, Dungourney's might, and the records bright, of the Rockies by the Lee; Of Moycarkey and Boherlahan lads, yes, Tallow and Erin's Own, And of Tulla's thrills, and Callaghan's Mills, Three Castles and Tullaroan.

May God bless each Gael, from the Golden Vale, all true sons of Garryowen, From the Borders down to the grand old town that treasures the Treaty Stone, Where hurlers all are heroes in Tailteann Games so grand, We hail them, and proclaim them, the glory of the land.

T. D. SHANAHAN.

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 3.30—peil ulairḂ (caoiris) v. LAISEAN.

# Connacht Hurlers Challenge Munster

## Can Western Dash Overcome Southern Craft?

**F**OR the first time in the history of the Railway Cups, we are to have a West v. South Hurling Final. It is a game unique in the fact that the Western side will be made up of Galway men, the majority of whom are making their first appearance ever at Croke Park.

Munster, who are holders, will, on the other hand, be represented by players who have experience in plenty in All-Ireland and Railway Cup Finals.

From Jim Ware, in goal, to John Mackey at full forward, these Southern men are well known to the hurling public. They are drawn from Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Clare, and only four are making their bow to the Croke Park St. Patrick's Day crowd.

### HONOURS IN PLENTY.

Six—Batt Thornhill, Jack Lynch, John Quirke, Bill Murphy, Jim Young, and Christy Ring—helped in Cork's three All-Ireland victories in a row. John Mackey won All-Ireland and League honours in plenty with Limerick, and has also many Railway Cup medals to his credit, while Andy Fleming, Peter Cregan, Cottrill, Dick Stokes, Jacky Power and Sean Condon hold either All-Ireland or Railway Cup trophies.

Four of the fifteen—Jim Ware, Sean Condon, Cottrill and P. J. Quane—are making their first Cup final appearance, but Condon and Cottrill helped Cork in a couple of championship campaigns, so that this team to defend the Cup lacks nothing in the way of experience.

Against it will be pitted a team that cannot lay claim to a long list of honours, but that has youth and enthusiasm behind it.

Quite a few have already tested the steel of Munster hurling both in championship and Cup games, and there are no doubts about their dash and speed. Duggan, the goalkeeper, is one of the finds of recent years in the West, while Tony Brennan (Tipperary-born hurler, who prior to this season played in defence) proved himself a capable full forward in the semi-final against Leinster.

### SKILLED QUINTETTE.

Pierce Thornton, Bobby Forde, Brophy, Hughes and "Inky" Flaherty would find their places on most Munster teams, for nobody can question the skill of this quintette who played a

big part in the overthrow of Leinster at Birr.

There was no doubt about the Westerners' superiority over the Leinster men at Birr, and recalling their unlucky defeat by Munster at Nenagh in the 1943 semi-final, Connacht claims cannot now be denied.

Except for the semi-final game with Munster last year, there is very little in the way of "form" to help in an assessment of the rivals' chances.

Connacht's win over Leinster in this year's semi-final may have been a surprise to the majority, but there was not the slightest element of fluke about it, as from the word "go," the Westerners were on top. The surprise lay in the fact that in the championship Galway had gone down before Antrim who, following a victory over Kilkenny, were swamped by Cork in the All-Ireland Final.

Last year's championship form would not lead one to fancy Connacht against Leinster, but mathematically grounded arguments are often upset where hurling and football are concerned, as youth and enthusiasm are things that cannot be reckoned in terms of X or Y.

That is one of the reasons for the great divergence of opinion on the outcome of this unique Railway Cup hurling final, for there are those who hold that Connacht's youth will more than offset Munster's experience, while there are others who say that the Southern craft will more than outweigh the Western dash.

There is no question about the infusion of youth and the reshuffling of placings having improved this Galway team that will have a big incentive to urge it to victory.

Thornton, who plays with U.C.D., and Forde, will be set a big task in marking Jack Lynch and Sean Condon, and centrefield will probably be an important sector in this battle for the Cup. Thornton has been showing



B. THORNHILL  
The Munster full back.

great form this season, and is not likely to be eclipsed by either of the Cork men, while Forde has plenty of pace.

One of the greatest dangers to the Westerners bid to make history will be the Munster half forward line of Dick Stokes, Christy Ring and Jim Young, for this and the full back line are the sheet anchors of the Southern team.

### THE DECIDING POINT.

The half back line was the strongest link in the Westerners' victory at Birr, but it will be up against forwards of a different calibre at Croke Park. Dick Stokes is one of the best men playing in Dublin at the moment, while Ring and Young are very effective.

Centrefield certainly will have a vital bearing on the result, but the game will probably be decided between the Southern half forwards and the Western half backs.

The more experienced Munster men are favourites, but this does not say that Connacht cannot make fresh history by winning the Cup for the first time.

## MUST BE IN VAN

Rev. Fr. Meagher, P.P. (Chairman), speaking at Tipperary Convention, said:

**The G.A.A. must be in the van, encouraging our youth to play the National games, and to speak our Gaelic tongue.**

We must ever remember that our youth needs a guiding hand and an encouraging voice, if we are to have them as an asset to the Nation to-morrow. The G.A.A. is doing a work of religious and national importance when it raises the standard of our games. Since the days of Leo XIII, the Popes have appealed for a social order, founded on justice, Christian charity and co-operation. We see to-day the ruin and chaos brought about on the world, because man has forgotten these principles. I believe our games can play a great part in teaching these Christian principles. You cannot play a good game and be selfish;

**you cannot play a good game without co-operation, and you cannot play a good game without self-sacrifice and restraint. The very conditions that make a game good are the very conditions that make the lives of men and nations good.**

The atmosphere of the playing fields should create an atmosphere of harmony and goodwill. If we realise this, we shall know that our games are not ends in themselves, but are means to build up a clean, honest, unselfish and restrained manhood.

## Harold's Cross Track Attractions

The many votaries of greyhound racing will have a first-class attraction on St. Patrick's Night at Harold's Cross, where the finals of two Sweepstakes will be the centrepiece of the card.

The finalists in the March Sweepstake are: Black Nap, Bright Orb, Tops at Midnight, Generous Prince, Lally Clourcaske and Well Salted.

Generous Prince registered best time in the semi-finals, and may have most to fear from the fast-breaking Black Nap.

The March Hurdle finalists are: Baytown Willow, Brown Stout, Dark Walker and Celbridge Row.

Dark Walker, on the score of consistency should be supported.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

## "TO MAKE IRELAND MORE IRISH"

the task which confronted him confronts us; the noble work which he initiated must be maintained by us; the ideas which inspired him must be our motives for leaving the easy path of feiture and facing the sometimes rugged road of duty—duty and devotion to our Motherland.

To make Ireland more Irish, her manhood more self-reliant, her people more proud of their national heritage and record, more vigilant against foreign infiltration from any source—these are the motives which bound Michael Cusack and his comrades in a common cause; they are the reasons why the Gaelic Athletic Association has flourished from decade to decade in the past sixty years; they must be made the driving power behind our thoughts and actions of to-day; they must, in a word, be the ambition of Irishmen in every generation until the triumph of Gaeldom has been finally accomplished.

The National movement in our time and for a long time to come must be directed towards the undoing of the consequences of conquest. It is conceivable that, after seven centuries of foreign domination by a power that exercised every art of brute force, tyrannical subjugation and insidious propaganda, we should bear some of the marks of servitude, that many would have come to accept the yoke of slavery, that all would have lost some of the National strength of feeling and of will that characterise the nations who have exercised their rights with unimpeded liberty, and our ideal must be to restore to Ireland not merely political and economic independence, but that spiritual freedom, that inward consciousness of nationality that will make our people look to their own resources in art, literature, music, games and dances for their cultural development and education. It has been given to us to see the outward symbols of freedom restored—we see them in our National Flag, on our coinage, on our stamps; we see them in the green uniforms of our soldiers; but, unless we restore also the inner realities corresponding to symbols, we abandon the power that can maintain them, the shell will not exist without the core, nor the nation's liberty without the nation's will.

### A DEFINITE OBJECTIVE.

There is, therefore, a definite objective, a circumscribed idealism towards which we must aspire. It will not be fully realised in our time; it may never be completely realised, but it must remain as the goal of our endeavour, guiding our impulses, stimulating our will, directing our energies, so that each successive generation shall find us nearer and nearer to the ultimate ideal of untrammelled nationhood. There is a tendency in a country circumstanced by the facts of history, as ours is, to loiter in the enjoyment of partial achievement. Following the stress and strain of the National struggle, it is pleasant to relax in the serenity of peace and to forget that our destiny lies ahead. But our task is not yet done.

Political freedom only provides the site; the structure of a free Ireland still remains to be built; and our nation-builders must follow the plans and specifications of National architects such as Tone, Davis, MacSwiney, and the immortal Padraig Pearse, whose teaching and example gave perfect expression to all that nationhood connotes.

If we follow them we cannot err; if we deviate from their plans we cease to build a free Ireland in accordance with the traditional conception of it. We may try to cajole ourselves with phrases and formulae—as a Minister of State tried to do recently when he told us that Soccer was an Irish game, and offered insult to our intelligence by saying that Gaelic football was not of Irish origin—but our very instincts revolt against them just as those same instincts tell us that we get a proper conception of nation-planning in the writings of Davis or Pearse. Not on the shifting sands of political expediency but on the solid rock of Gaelic tradition must the structure of the future Ireland be raised; there can be no toleration of elements repugnant to nationality or subversive of it, and National policy must be so directed that the foreign factors which have remained as from the days of thralldom will gradually disappear, the graduation being extended to avoid a too excessive encroachment on the liberty of the individual.

### PATH MUST BE RETRACED.

"All this theory of the demolition of foreign institutions on the one hand and National reconstruction on the other, is neither original nor new-fangled. It is a commonplace fact in the history of those countries that lived through resurgence, and the Sinn Fein policy in Ireland was modelled on the resurrection of Hungary.

The path of the invader must be retraced; we must knock down that which he had built and restore that which he had destroyed.

The Gaelic Athletic Association endeavours to bring its aims and activities into line with this conception of a National programme. It sponsors the National pastimes, it gives expression in that particular department of activity to the National will that things Irish must replace things foreign of the same kind, and, in pursuance of that policy, it must necessarily and from the very reasons of its existence, put a ban on foreign games. If we are to exclude a foreign flag or a foreign anthem, we must consistently exclude foreign pastimes; they are unnecessary in our physical or recreational programme; they are symbols or rather relics of foreign domination.

Their retention in preference to our own by any individual is to part with something Irish, to admit that we are to that extent, at least, still foreign-minded, and such an outlook must be either condemned as betrayal or condoned as degeneration.

Our obligations, however, do not end with our games, and the members of the Gaelic Athletic Association must save themselves from the possible charge of hypocrisy by active sympathy with, and active participation in, every similar movement of the National campaign.

We must work for the restoration of the language, and not merely give lip-service to its revival; we must advocate Irish songs and dances and frustrate the slavish servility to what is foreign; we must run a crusade against the prevalent system of offering to a reading public those modern English novels, so many of which are but perversions of the higher purpose of literature and drug the mind into insensibility to the nobler things of life.

### MUST ACCEPT FULL CREED.

In a word, we must accept the full creed of an Irish-Ireland and be living exponents of it. The perfect Christian is he who exercises in all things the fundamental virtues of faith, hope and charity. In a lower plane, but not lesser manner, the perfect Irishman is he who is animated by faith in Gaeldom, adopts adequate measures for its attainment, and, in his relations with his fellow-man, is a living example of those qualities of discipline, truth, honour and chivalry which give to good citizenship and to sound patriotism their truest meaning and their noblest expression.

In this spirit and with these ideals let us face the year before us, fostering the National spirit in our respective parishes, not allowing pettiness or parochialism to cut in upon true principles, teaching our young men to be self-restrained as well as self-reliant, honourable, and high-minded in their activities, and at the same time inculcating the objective at which we aim—to be Gaelic in speech, Gaelic in thought, and Gaelic in action.

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# Ulster And Leinster In "Repeat Final"

## Football Cup Will Take Some Winning

SECOND meeting in succession, and fourth in all, of Ulster and Leinster in a Railway Cup Football Final is generally anticipated to provide yet another feast of thrills at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day.

Twelve months ago, the Provinces figured in a neck-and-neck struggle that held a huge crowd spell-bound, so close was the tackling and so level the scoring, it being only by a point that Ulster eventually succeeded in winning the Cup for the second year in succession.

The Ulster selectors have again called on players from six counties, while the Leinster mentors have this year travelled further afield, Louth, Dublin, Meath, Wicklow, Kildare, Laoighis and Carlow having representation on a team that will show many changes on that which lost last year.

Ulster, too, will show five changes on the 1943 selection, newcomers to the side being Vernon, Finnegan, McAlinden, McAteer and McDonald. There are three or four changes on the Ulster team which defeated Munster, and two on the Leinster side which disposed of Connacht.

Both sides have met with general approval, the policy of drawing from as wide an area as possible being in keeping with the purpose for which the Railway Cup competitions were originally inaugurated.

Ulster's win over Munster was easily the more impressive, hence the fact that the Northmen are favourites for a third year's term as custodians of the Cup.

Leinster, however, did nothing wrong in defeating Connacht, and certainly they will give the holders a better game than would Munster or Connacht.

### ULSTER STYLE.

The Ulster style of football will not find so many loopholes in the Leinster defence as it did against the Munster backs, and it is this more than anything else that will help to make the game a close and spectacular affair.

The Ulster half line of attack—Murray, Armstrong and Maguire—is the fastest and most elusive seen for years, but against close marking defenders it is inclined to burn itself out, as it depends more on solo efforts than on making the ball do most of the work.

Last year, the Leinster defence, even with one or two weak links, negated many of those hand-to-toe flashes of Murray and Armstrong, and Eastern supporters claim that the inclusion of Micky Geraghy and Quigley has strengthened the half back line, while in moving Eddie Boyle to fill the full back berth, the selectors have played what they consider a trump card.

The Louth man is without question one of the best fulls in the game today, and if Archibald and Crone come up to expectations, it is going to be a battle royal for scores that the Ulster forwards may find harder to get than against Munster.

### SPLENDID BALANCE.

There is, however, a splendid balance about this Ulster side, as the defence is sound, the centrefield good, and the attack clever. Jim McCullagh, who was generally at centrehalf, is now in the full back position, being flanked by his county men, Eddie McLoughlin and Finnegan of Cavan. A trio of good footballers—Gerry Smith, E. McDonald (an ex-college player), and Capt. J. J. O'Reilly—fill the centre back berth. At centrefield Lieut. Deignan (Cavan) will be partnered by Leo McAlinden, who last year played for Connacht.

Centrefield usually plays a major part in those big games, as a pull hereabouts is a decided asset. The Leinster pair may not have the pace of the Ulster men, but they will probably make up for lack of speed in fielding and long kicking.

McAlinden is a toe-to-hand specialist, who covers a lot of ground, and with Murray always ready for his passes, the Ulster man will take some holding, particularly in the early stages.

The Leinster attack showed splendid

### NORTHERN STAR



KEVIN ARMSTRONG (Antrim). Footballer and hurler, who played a big part in the defeat of Munster.

initiative in the game with Connacht, but many people would prefer to see M. Gilsean retain his place, as his style is somewhat similar to that of the Northmen. Des O'Neill, brother of Martin, is a stylish footballer, who, however, will be marked by a sound defender in John Joe O'Reilly, captain of the Ulster side.

The Leinster half line of attack—Halpin, O'Neill and McDermott—may be the key to Leinster's hopes of victory.

The Ulster men are inclined to throw away scores by an over indulgence in hand-passing, and if Murray, Maguire and Armstrong make the ball travel, they should lay the foundation for another Ulster triumph, as McAteer, McCorney and Hughie Gallagher make a grand full forward line.

It is only natural that Ulster are fancied to retain the Cup, because of their display against Munster, but Leinster have a chance, and a good one at that, of regaining the trophy.

## GAMES DISTINCTIVE OF RACE

Mr. Seumas Gardiner, B.Sc., President of the G.A.A., addressing the Tipperary Convention at Thurles said:

You play your games not so much for the sake of healthy exercise or manly vigour or drawing big gates, but because they are the games of your own country. They are distinctive of the Irish race. They were played by your forefathers back to the earliest ages. In times of their greatest sorrow and woe the people came together every Sunday and had their games with two bushes growing on the ditch, their goal-posts.

On that day they forgot their sorrows for the time being, and hence it was that looking forward to these games from Sunday to Sunday they were able to survive their sorrow and their trouble. When playing your own games you realise that you are carrying on old Irish games which your forefathers came from the mud cabins to play. They have infused into you an exalted love and feeling which the players of other games foreign to this country will never realise. As I said, the Irish games can be traced back to earliest times.

### THE BREHON LAWS.

Brehon laws had provision made for compensation in case of accident at hurling. These laws required that the sons of kings and of chiefs in fosterage should have their camans ornamented or ringed with bronze or brass. A king, towards the end of the sixth century, had all his valuables, cups, etc., collected in one place and amongst those were his camain creduma, that is to say, his hurleys of bronze or ornamented with

bronze. Gaelic football is being played, amongst other places, in the mountainous districts where the Gaelic-speaking peasants survive.

You have only to go into the homes of the rick and poor in West Cork, all county Kerry, West Limerick, West and North Clare, Mayo and Donegal, and hear the stories of Gaelic football matches of old that have come down to the present generation by word of mouth, to realise the great love for that game that lies there.

The reason I mention these places is because it has been said that Gaelic football has been imported. As these lands were poor and mountainous the foreigner never pushed in there. The people always clung to the old traditions, language, games and customs. I would specially appeal to you to help in that great, glorious and national work, the restoration of our native language.

No nation is a nation unless it has its distinctive tongue.

Your forefathers stuck to it through thick and thin, through rough and smooth. Those of you who are not in a position to learn it, can at least encourage those who are, to learn it. To the young I would say, do everything you can to acquire a spoken knowledge of it. Everybody can at least use the salutations in Irish by bidding each other good-day in Irish.

In conclusion, I would ask you to be Gaelic in spirit as well as in acting, and by doing so you are doing your part to make this country both Gaelic and free.

## pleadó na féile

Is cumhinn le Saeóstaib Baile Átha Cliath a feadh ar a bhí pleadó na féile, 1943, agus is dóig linn go rábócaib pleadó na bliana seo é riúo péimís.

Tá clár an Céitíde leagás amach ar an ríse is fearr cun caiteamh nó tabairt uóis agus uóirta. Craolfaid cun de ó Radio Éireann agus len a linn rin, cloifear plus-aimpáinúeasct ó cóir na Craoibhe i dceannca teip an gCeol-fúinn. Dronnfaid ann teip na buaireanna a buadóir i bháire an Érócais an lá gan. Labairfid Séamus Fáinéis, Uachtarán an Cumaimh Lúe-Cleap Saeóeal agus Pádraig Mac Con Míde, Uachtarán Comhóil Náisiúnta na Saeóitge.

A feature of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations last year was the success of Fleadh na Féile, the annual Ceilidhe organised by Craobh an Cheitinnigh de Chonnradh de Gaedhilge. The Round Room of the Mansion House should see another great gathering this year, and Gaels from the country especially should take the opportunity of being present at this well-organised and truly National function.

The G.A.A. will be well represented by the captains of the Provincial teams, while Seamus Gairneir, President of the G.A.A., will present the inter-provincial trophies to the winning captains. Pádraig Mac Con Míde, President of Comhóil Náisiúnta na Gaedhilge, will deliver a short oration.

The proceedings will be broadcast from Radio Éireann. A special programme of dance music and community singing has also been arranged for the broadcast.

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Is mór a bhíonn beathú éanlaithe clóis agus muc ag brath ar phrátaí do bheith ar fáil dóibh.

Ní bheidh ár ndóthain againn mara gcuirtear i bhfad níos mó ná mar do cuireadh i 1943. Gheobhaimid an bhreis is gá má chuireann gach feirmeoir leath-acra no acra ar a laghad níos mó ná mar chuir sé anuraidh.

N.B.—Ar eagla go loicfeadh an barr b'fherr prátaí iomlána d'úsáid mar shíol chó fada agus is féidir é, ach má chaithir iad do ghearradh ná gearr na sciolláin go dtí go mbeid le cur. Mara bhféadair síol deimhnithe ar fad do chur ba cheart duit oiread de d'fhás (ar leithligh) agus a bhéarfadh riar na bliana seo chugainn duit.

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## HAROLD'S CROSS, St. Patrick's Night.

TWO

### "Great Sweepstake Finals"

FEATURING THE COMING GREYHOUND CHAMPIONS.

FIRST RACE — 7.45 P.M.

# Busy Time Ahead For Colleges

**H**OT on the heels of the Railway Cup finals come the All-Ireland College games.

These open at Croke Park and Tuam on Sunday, Ulster (holders) and Munster being engaged in football at headquarters, while Connacht and Leinster will also clash in football at Tuam. The hurling final, Munster (holders) v. Leinster, will be played at Kilkenny on Sunday week.

These college games invariably produce first-class exhibitions and for those who love football or hurling at their best are certainly good value for money.

This year's football pairings again bring Ulster and Munster into opposition and as last year at Croke Park it should be an exciting game. Ulster won by a point last year, and they beat Leinster in the final at Breffni Park.

St. Patricks, Armagh, have displaced St. Patricks, Cavan, as Ulster title-holders, while Tralee C.B.S. has taken the Munster honours from St. Brendans, and it is likely that these schools will contribute largely to the rival sides.

It is hoped that the Dublin Board will leave the day an open one in the Metropolis to enable

every possible follower to be present at the game.

The Midland schools, St. Mels and St. Finians, are strongly represented on the Leinster selection, which travels across the Shannon to take on Connacht, drawn from many Western nurseries of the game. St. Jarlath's, the present Connacht champions, and Roscommon C.B.S. fill many places on the side, which is confidently expected to regain the title.

With Connacht not competing this year, owing to transport difficulties, the hurling final once again lies between Munster and Leinster.

Change of hurling champions is in the offing in the South, as North Monastery have been dethroned, and it looks as if the Munster selection will be more far-flung than usual.

Leinster have already selected their team, which is largely drawn from the



T. DOYLE (Tipperary)  
A sub. on the Munster team.

provincial champions, St. Kierans, Kilkenny, and runners-up, St. Josephs, Marino.

This Noreside game is certain of strong support and should be a close affair.

## Be Gaels In Every Sense

Mr. C. M. Byrne, T.D., addressing Wicklow Convention, said:—

The G.A.A. was probably the greatest amateur athletic organisation in the world, and certainly the most democratic institution, and the greatest association of the Irish race, that had survived political organisations, revolutions and wars. Proud of the founders, he also paid tribute to the band of Irish-Irelanders who put the association so firmly on its feet at the beginning of the present century and revived its enthusiasm, built it on Gaelic foundations and handed them on a noble tradition. He asked them to keep that tradition unimpaired.

By its democratic constitution every player and every club had an equal voice in drafting the rules and in its administration through convention and congress.

They had no border, and the men in Ulster, and in partitioned Ireland were as strong, if not stronger, than they were, and as successful. Having democratically passed the rules, they were bound to carry them out. If they allowed the rules, whether of ban or otherwise, to be flagrantly flouted, and if they were allowed back again without going through the proper channels, it would only mean discrediting the organisation. Be Gaels in every sense of the word. Unfortunately there was that feeling of inferiority complex in the country, and (without reference to religious viewpoint), he pointed out that no non-Catholic school in Ireland played the native games, and it was a regrettable fact that a number of so-called swanky colleges would not play the Irish games, because they were not considered "tony."

### College Fixtures.

March 19—Football Semi-final at Croke Park, Ulster v. Munster. At Tuam, Leinster v. Connacht.

March 26—Hurling Final at Kilkenny, Munster v. Leinster.

April 2—Football Final — If Ulster v. Connacht or Leinster v. Munster or Connacht v. Munster at Croke Park. If Ulster v. Leinster at Breffni Park, Cavan.

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# A NEW SPIRIT IS ABROAD IN MONAGHAN

**I**N the stirring story of the rise of the G.A.A. in Ulster, the part played by Monaghan has been no mean one. In the pioneer days of the Association the ideals of Archbishop Croke and Michael Cusack found no more stalwart supporters than the men who, in the "county of the little hills," rallied behind the banner of our national games and pastimes.

In later years, when the G.A.A. had become more firmly established in the province, when the glamour of our native games with their manly national outlook had gripped the hearts and imagination of Ulster's youth, Monaghan was ever to the fore in all competitions, and particularly in Gaelic football Monaghan men distinguished themselves and brought credit to the game by their clean and masterly exposition of the code. Who that has seen them can ever forget those old-time clashes with Cavan in Ulster championship ties? On many occasions Monaghan teams succeeded in winning the Ulster senior football title, even getting as far as the All-Ireland final.

There were, of course, the inevitable ups and downs, but to realise that football is once more on the up-grade in the county, one need only recall that in the Ulster Championship final in Breffni Park last year, a young Monaghan fifteen held Cavan, All-Ireland finalists, in a closely-contested game, full of thrills. Yes, Monaghan football is once more a force to be reckoned with in Ulster competitions. And the fact that Monaghan had two representatives on the Ulster Railway Cup hurling team also augurs well for the future of hurling in the county.

In the county capital, Monaghan town, Gaelic games had for some years lost ground badly. In the old days, the town club, Monaghan Harps, had made G.A.A. history in the county, but the steady and carefully fostered rivalry of important games and lack of suitable playing pitch, combined with general apathy on the part of the public, had their effect, and for some years the town and neighbouring

port and awakened much enthusiasm among the young girls of the town, and has distinguished itself in last year's county competitions. It may also be stated that Sean MacDermotts G.A.A. Club co-operated with the Monaghan Branch of Comhaltas Uladh in helping to make last year's Aeridheacht Mhor the success that it was. Such co-operation between the G.A.A. and the language movement is greatly to be desired if the G.A.A. is to be true to its ideals.

Each G.A.A. club should be a propaganda centre for the cause of an Irish-speaking Ireland; each club should encourage the fostering of a strong National spirit among its members.

And the survival of Irish nationalism and the founding of a strong native culture depend upon the survival and spread of the language. The future of the G.A.A. itself is bound up inextricably with the future of the language. If the language movement were to collapse the G.A.A. itself would become an anomaly.

New clubs are also springing up in the adjoining parishes. A new spirit is abroad. And this resurgence is all the more remarkable when one remembers that it took place in the face of strong and well-organised opposition. Much remains to be done. A long road has yet to be travelled before it can be said that Monaghan has been completely won over for our national games. But one feels certain that the spirit which accomplished so much in the months gone by will not rest still until complete victory has been achieved.

Ar aghaidh libh a Mhuinntear Mhuimneachain.



C. FISHER  
One of Monaghan's best footballers.

district could not boast of a single G.A.A. Club.

With the exception of St. Macarten's Seminary, which has always been a force in Ulster college football, the G.A.A. in Monaghan town has ceased to exist.

Early last year, as the result of a motion passed by the newly-founded local branch of the Gaelic League, a meeting of interested townspeople was held, and a committee appointed to undertake the task of organising the national games in the town and rural area. A pitch was rented just outside the town, a new G.A.A. Club, Monaghan Sean MacDermotts, was established, and teams participated in all the county senior and junior competitions, the junior team reaching the final of the Dr. Ward Cup against Blackhill. A local league was started, a cup and medals being presented by the Revd. Superior, C.B.S. Five teams from the town and district participated and keen, exciting games resulted.

### HURLING ON THE UPTAKE.

A hurling team was also organised and matches were played with Castleblayney and Carrickmacross teams.

It is encouraging to note that hurling is beginning to take a lead in the district, particularly among the youth, and it is hoped that before many years every club in the county will be able to field not only football teams, but a hurling team as well.

Under the auspices of the local branch of Comhaltas Uladh of the Gaelic League a camogie club was founded. This club in its short existence received great sup-

"Partisan spectators that occasionally are found to barrack a referee (unknowingly perhaps they do it), should refrain from the practice, so that the game can be enjoyed as it should by the big majority of patrons, whose desire it is to see a good exhibition, well played and well refereed. It's the game and how it is played that counts, and vanquished as well as victors share in honours in the eyes of patrons."—M. O'Neill, Secretary, Leinster Council.



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EIGHT RAILWAY CUP FINALS



John Mackey (Limerick) is playing in his eighth Railway Cup final. He helped Munster to win five of the seven finals in which he has already participated. The record for the greatest number of finals is held by Martin Kennedy (Tipperary), who was on the Munster hurling teams without a break from 1927 to 1935, winning five medals.

A NATIONAL PLATFORM.

The platform of the G.A.A. is large and broad enough to accommodate all sections of Irishmen who love their country and who are desirous of working towards a truly National Gaelic Ireland. It believes its mission is to enrol the young manhood of the country in the Gaelic playing fields as the Gaelic League is desirous of enrolling the youth in the class rooms and Ceilidhe halls. Both these organisations work in perfect harmony, one the complement of the other.

No member is questioned as to his political or sect affiliations. Our movement provides a common ground for effort and achievement in real national work—the preservation and development of racial character.

Though we are strong in numbers and resources we are stronger still in being conscious that we are the true interpreters of the Gaelic spirit and racial pride which our movement inculcates in the mind of the youth of Ireland.

—P. O. Caoimh.

# How They Will Line Out

## HURLING

### Munster

	J. Ware (Waterford)	
W. Murphy (Cork)	B. Thornhill (Cork)	P. Cregan (Limerick)
A. Fleming (Waterford)	J. Power (Limerick)	C. Cottrill (Cork)
J. Lynch (Cork)	S. Condon (Cork) capt.	
R. Stokes (Limerick)	C. Ring (Cork)	J. Young (Cork)
J. Quirke (Cork)	J. Mackey (Limerick)	P. J. Quaine (Clare)

Subs.—J. Ryan, T. Doyle (Tipperary), Con Murphy, D. J. Buckley (Cork), E. Daly (Waterford), P. Lyons (Clare).

### Connacht

(All Galway)

	J. Duggan	
P. Forde	M. Forde	M. Brogan
M. Lynch	J. Brophy	D. Flynn
P. Thornton	R. Forde	
T. Ryan	M. J. Flaherty	J. Gallagher
M. Nestor	A. Brennan	M. Fennessy

Subs.—J. Killeen, R. Quinn, T. McMorrogh, T. Brady, R. Murphy, W. Fahy.

## FOOTBALL

### Ulster

	H. Vernon (Antrim)	
E. McLaughlin (Armagh)	J. McCullagh (Armagh)	E. Finnegan (Cavan)
G. Smith (Cavan)	E. McDonald (Monaghan)	Capt. J. J. O'Reilly (Cavan) capt.
L. McAlinden (Armagh)	Lieut. S. Deignan (Cavan)	
K. Armstrong (Antrim)	A. Murray (Armagh)	P. Maguire (Derry)
P. McCarney (Monaghan)	B. McAteer (Antrim)	H. Gallagher (Donegal)

Subs.—J. D. Benson (Cavan), P. Boylan (do.), F. Hamill (Antrim), J. Gallaher (Donegal), — McGuickian (Derry).

### Leinster

	P. Larkin (Louth)	
J. Archabald (Carlow)	E. Boyle (Louth)	C. Crone (Dublin)
P. O'Reilly (Dublin)	J. Quigley (Louth)	M. Geraghty (Kildare)
W. Delaney (Laoighis)	J. Thornton (Louth) capt.	
D. O'Neill (Wicklow)	O. Halpin (Louth)	J. McDermott (Meath)
P. Bermingham (Dublin)	C. Delaney (Laoighis)	J. Rea (Carlow)

Subs.—T. McEvoy (Offaly), L. Kelly (Carlow), T. Clarke (Louth), J. Clarke, M. Gilenan (Meath), P. O'Connor (Dublin), T. Brennan (Kildare).

# HURLING VALUES! ARE THEY SOUND?

WHEREVER old hurlers foregather there you will hear lively discussions, emphatic arguments and pompous pronouncements on the merits of hurling men of the speakers' days and generally on the demerits of the players of the current times.

I wonder if this is just a phase through which men pass as the years creep on them, or if there is in fact a marked depreciation in the men of to-day and consequently of the standards of the game? Ask any man past middle life who has followed the game to name the four best goalkeepers, the four best full-backs, the four best centre-halfbacks, the four best centre-field men, the four best right and left full forwards, and the four best full forwards that he has ever seen. Invariably it would be found that few of the players of the present day would be included in his estimate of merit. His mind would be influenced by the colourful imagination of youth; the majority of his hurling heroes would be those sufficiently removed in space of time from the present.

County proclivities play an important part also in the matter of assessing hurling values of individuals. Observe always how passive most followers are, while the merits of rival counties are being expounded by some confident authority.

Immediately the assessment of merit swings round to his own countymen, there will spring up in the listener's mind a vivacity which is followed by an interest and an eloquence hitherto unsus-

pected. These, of course, are natural feelings betokening, usually, a pride in the home county, a love of the native heath and respect for home and kin. Sometimes these feelings can be carried to excess and we find then the blind, narrow, exclusive parochialist who soon be-



Lory Meagher (Kilkenny)



M. Mackey (Limerick)

comes a bore and suffers the fate of the bore.

### THE THREE BEST.

Adverting to the positional merit outlined in my third paragraph, it would be interesting to test what degree of unanimity would be reached by a representative group in placing in order of merit

the three best centre-field men who have performed in first class hurling within the past quarter of a century.

As between the claims to inclusion of Mick Gill, Bob Mockler, Jim Hurley, Lowry Meagher, Tim Ryan, where do the present-day men come in: Condon, Grey, Jack Lynch and Racard?

Somehow it may be the mind of an old timer, but the earlier quartette seem to me to have been more formidable than the present one has yet proved.

Take goalkeepers. Of the immediate past: Dr. Daly, Scanlan, O'Connell, Forde. And the present quartette: Donegan, Mulcahy, Ware, Maher. I leave my readers to judge. Of course, Forde fits in to the present also, but his activities are now mostly club ones.

### A FEW OUTSTANDING.

One could speculate at length, if space permitted, on the contrasts of past and present hurlers. There are, however, a few outstanding men on whose merits there will be general agreement. Centre-forward Mick Mackey will be acclaimed as one of the greatest players of all times, with a personality and style all his own. And who will deny that in Matty Power there came the classiest half-forward of the past quarter century?

To my mind the position in which a man rarely shines nowadays, is the full-forward one. Is this I wonder because Martin Kennedy came and sparkled so brilliantly that his light has caused the lesser stars to appear dull and wan.



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# Well Known Trainer On "The Big Moment"

## JIM BARRY TELLS HOW IT AFFECTS TEAMS

THE day of an All-Ireland Final or a Provincial Final is one of nerves for most people. The big crowd and the general buzz of excitement tend to make the day far different to all others. A team taking part in an All-Ireland or Provincial Final for the first time is apt to suffer from stage fright if not carefully watched and handled by those in charge.

Of all the people to be avoided and kept away on this day is that "general nuisance" who rushes up with the latest news from your opponents' camp. He is the one who is so excited himself that he cannot see the effect he is having on others. His information is generally of little consequence and very often he only gets on the nerves of any player with whom he comes in contact.

I remember one of this type rushing up to the hotel before an All-Ireland Final in which Cork was engaged. He was terribly excited and secretive as he cast his eyes around to see that no one but those it was intended for should hear his information. I really thought by his demeanour that something terrible had happened. He finally told us in a voice choking with excitement that our opponents were changing so-and-so over on so-and-so of our team who happened to be listening at the time. I promptly told him to get out and stay out and that if he came back again he would be kicked out. This type of individual must not be tolerated and must be sternly dealt with. There are different ways of keeping a team occupied the day of a big match.

We had fifteen men that day who had never before appeared in an All-Ireland Final, while seven of the Kilkenny men had played in two or three All-Irelands, and were in positions on the field where their presence was most needed at the commencement of the big game. The Kilkenny goalkeeper and six backs had already tasted the thrills of an All-Ireland Final and to them it was just another game, whereas our fifteen had never before faced the huge Croke Park crowd and battery of cameras, and were feeling the effects of the big occasion.

**Kilkenny ran away from us at the start of that game and turned over with a lead of seven points at half-time. Cork, finding their feet by that time, had got over the effects of the "big moment" and, although playing against the wind and blinding rain for the second half, brought down the lead to draw level with the hour gone, and it was only on the final whistle that Kilkenny scored the point that made them worthy All-Ireland Champions for 1939.**

Much has been said and written about the sensational Antrim team of 1943, which appeared against Cork in the All-Ireland Final. They came to Croke Park with a great flourish of trumpets and the most impressive record of any team in 1943 by virtue of their wins over Galway and Kilkenny. For this match we trained harder than we did for any team during the year, as we had heard various reports about Antrim. The Corrigan Park pitch was given fairly freely as the cause of the defeats of Kilkenny and Galway. I knew Corrigan Park as Cork had played Dublin there in an exhibition game in 1930, and our Minors had also played Antrim there in the Minor semi-final, and I knew that the field could not be taken as the reason for the defeats of Galway and Kilkenny.

### ANXIOUS MOMENTS.

I spent a few anxious moments in the dressing room before we went on to the playing pitch. When we did get there Antrim were being photographed and as they turned towards us when finished I never saw a team more affected by the "Big Moment" than were Antrim. I drew the Cork team's attention to the fact and advised them to go off at a terrific pace and throw them completely out of gear. This they did, with the result you all know. Anyone looking at the Antrim team as they marched behind the band could not fail to see they had been bitten by the "big occasion" bug. They had the sympathy of every one, not alone from other counties, but from many Corkmen. They were a sad disappointment to their followers who had travelled in such large numbers and with so much confidence to cheer them to victory. I felt after the game that Antrim had not given of their best. Coupled with that they were up against a Cork team who were in rare form. The game proved conclusively the difference between Corrigan Park and Croke Park, with its huge crowds, huge stands, bands playing and the general buzz of excitement ever present on All-Ireland Final day. Some weeks later we played Antrim in Corrigan Park and they showed us then the form they failed to produce in Croke Park. They scored 4 goals against us that day in the first half, and if you will look up the records you will see no team in Ireland succeeded in doing that against Cork since, I think, 1936.

It was only after ten minutes of the second half that our superior fieldcraft and combination upset the Antrim backs and we then ran out easy winners. But Antrim showed us that day that they could burl, and when their half-backs learn to tackle forwards and gain more confidence in themselves they will be a force to be reckoned with. Another game in which the "Big Moment" feeling was apparent was the

# Memories Olden and Memories Golden

MUCH water has flown down the Liffey to Dublin Bay since the memorable year of 1898 when we celebrated the Centenary of the 1798 Rising in the "City of the Pale."

The G.A.A. in Dublin, and indeed throughout the country, was in that memorable period in a bad state, but the Centenary Celebrations infused new blood and vigour into the Association, with the result that hundreds of young men flocked to its standard. This helped to arrest the decay that had set in following the Parnell Split some years earlier. I wonder how many readers of these notes will credit the statement that at this period there were only eight senior football clubs and eight junior football clubs affiliated to the G.A.A. in Dublin, while the number of hurling clubs could be counted on the fingers of one's hand.

I recall to mind the spirit and enthusiasm that animated the young men that flocked into the Organisation at the close of the last century and the opening of the present one. I think of the time when we had only one hurling pitch in the Nine Acres and one football pitch in the Fifteen Acres. I recollect how Sunday after Sunday dozens of earnest young men brought out the goal-posts to the Park, and brought them back again in the evening, or when they used their coats as punt posts. The enthusiasm thus created helped to kindle the dying embers of the Organisation, with the result that a couple of years later junior hurling and football clubs sprang up all over the city and county.

### SEARCH FOR GROUNDS.

This brings to mind the efforts that we made in 1899 to inaugurate Hurling and Football Leagues to cater for the increasing army of Gaels, and the trouble we had to undergo to secure playing grounds in the Park and elsewhere. We had lengthy correspondence with the British Board of Works, and eventually secured three additional playing pitches at the back of the Magazine Fort. The meetings of the Co. Dublin Board were then held in Marlboro St., and were subsequently transferred to 27 Upper Ormond Quay, in the house of the late Mr. Pat Cullen, a genial son of Tipp, who was elected Hon. Treasurer, and often financed the Board when it had no funds to meet expenses.

This also brings to mind that we had objections in those days the same as to-day, and the rivals had to rest along the river wall until their case was called. I can vividly recall the many stormy Co. Conventions that were held in the old Foresters Hall, 9 Merchant's Quay.

I recall the stirring debates that took place in the room overlooking the river, and it is with a pang of regret that I call to mind that many of the participants in those debates have passed to their reward. Many of them are still hale and hearty, and if it should happen that they read those notes they, like myself, will recall the memories of the golden years that are gone.

Time and again I call to mind the many efforts that we made to secure playing pitches in the city and county. In those years we had only one ground, Jones' Road, then owned by the late Maurice Butterly, which was known as the "City and Suburban Grounds." Then we had a ground at Mt. Drummond, Harold's Cross, Monkstown Ave., The Thatch, Donnycarney and several others, all of which had to be surrendered to make way for bricks and mortar.

### A SECOND CROKE PARK

Then the trouble that the Co. Board had with the Terenure Ground, owned by the late Mr. Maurice Flood. Having spent a big sum in preparing the ground, a bombshell fell when a few Sab-

drawn 1943 All-Ireland Football Final between Roscommon and Cavan. It was plain to be seen that the Roscommon players were affected by the momentous occasion. They did not produce their real form in that drawn game, and the magnificent display they gave in the replay proved conclusively that they had been affected in the previous game with Cavan. They won their All-Ireland when they had shaken off the effects of the "Big Moment." It is no reflection on a team or an individual to suffer from this, as inexperience is the chief cause. But some players cannot help being nervous before a big match. This is not a sign of funk or anything like it. Some players, over conscientious, are afraid they will not be able to give of their best. They think of the huge crowd watching them and are afraid they might miss a score or be responsible for a score being scored against their team. It is given to none of us to have perfect nerve control. The nervous system is so constructed that every time a line of action

batharians in the district, to whom Gaelic games on Sunday were taboo, took legal action against the Board, who were compelled to relinquish the ground, which could have been made a second Croke Park. A thousand pities, surely! In those years the admission to grounds outside Jones' Road was three-pence, and "hard put" we were to get it until the spectators on the roadside saw the game in progress. When I think of the many times I had to refund the three-pences to disappointed spectators and the one occasion on which I was threatened to be thrown into the Poddle, near the

## "O" LOOKS BACK OVER THE YEARS THAT ARE GONE

Barn, by a couple of hefty Donnybrook players, I often smile when I meet many of these same men, and have a chat with them on the days that are gone. What a change has come about in the space of forty odd years.

I well remember the first all-Ireland Congress I attended in Tipperary's Cathedral town, Thurles. We were a happy crowd that left Kingsbridge that Sunday morning, Sept. 22nd, 1901, mustering only a dozen or so, including the late Michael Cusack. The Congress which was attended by some 40 delegates was held in a loft at the rear of Hayes' Hotel and was approached by a rickety old stairs which gave signs of collapse when Citizen Cusack got to the top and started to recite 'Shane's Head' a favourite recitation of his.

The late Frank Dineen was then Sec. of the G.A.A., having held the position for several years, and we had heard a few days previously that he was retiring. He was also G.A.A. correspondent for the *Freeman* and *Sport*, having succeeded the late P. P. Sutton, who had died earlier in that year.

We had a rather stormy gathering and "tell it not in Gath," I had to report the proceedings for the *Freeman* to the extent of a column, as I did for several years subsequently, in addition to the many Provincial games. The late Ald. Nowlan was elected President in succession to the late M. Deeney, and Tom Hoey Redmond was elected as one of the Trustees.

### A REAL FLARE UP.

The real flare up came when the election of Secretary was reached. We proposed the late Mr. L. J. O'Toole as Sec., while Mr. Cusack's name was proposed by a Southern delegate. The late R. T. Blake's name, who was a former Sec., was also put forward, but ruled out on

is followed, that line is more easily followed on the next occasion. The nerve impulse passes more readily along a used route than along one that is strange. This is the key to habits and the performance of actions almost unconsciously. Therefore, it is most desirable that the player get the habit of will-control. When the exceptional occasion arises he shall not be at the mercy of "nerves," but shall have the dominant will to carry him through the ordeal unperturbed. A good way of steadying one's nerves before the occasion is to inhale and exhale slowly and silently three slow breaths through the nostrils. This will steady the nerves a bit and give the player control of mind over matter. The trainer should watch out for any member of his team becoming affected, and during the game, when a chance comes of speaking to him, he should tell him how well he is playing, as this will restore any lost confidence and will help the player to give of his best.

the grounds that he was not a member of a club. On a vote, Mr. O'Toole was elected Sec. by 19 votes to 17 for Mr. Cusack. Financial matters took up a long time as claims were presented for over £800 by creditors and referred to a Sub-Committee, of which Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan was Chairman.

I should state that included in this amount was a sum of £450 due to the late Mr. M. Davitt, who advanced this amount to defray the expenses of the American "Invasion" teams of 1888, and £250 due to Moore's, Jewellers, Dublin, for medals.

All these matters were referred to the adjourned Congress held in Thurles on Dec. 15th and all the debts due were discharged the following year except that of Mr. Davitt's, who had generously decided to waive his claim.

The G.A.A. were fortunate in those years in having as a member of the Council an able man, a Journalist, in the person of Mr. Thos. F. O'Sullivan, of Kerry, who, it will be remembered, wrote the "Story of the G.A.A." in the old *Sunday Freeman* in 1915.

Coming back to the G.A.A. in Dublin, in 1901 the late Mr. A. McKeogh was Chairman, and was re-elected at the Co. Convention in March of that year, while Mr. Joe Kenny of Ballybrack was elected Sec. in room of Mr. M. T. O'Malley, who retired, and who had filled the position for ten years previously. I should mention that the Isles of the Sea won the All-Ireland Football Final of that year which, by the way, did not take place until July 5th, 1903, when they defeated the Cork Nils at Tipperary by 1-2 to 4 points, subsequently defeating the London Hibernians at Jones' Road in the Final proper by 14 points to 2.

It was somewhere in 1901 that Provincial Councils were established, and it is needless to refer here to the good work done by these bodies since their formation. When one recalls that in the year 1905 the total receipts of the Central, Provincial and Athletic Councils did not exceed £3,000, and remembers that the receipts of the All-Ireland Football Final—Cavan v. Roscommon—on Sept. 26th, were over £5,000, with an attendance of close on 70,000, it must be admitted that the G.A.A. has made progress, and that those who helped to build up the Association in the closing years of the last century were not the "Dreamers of Visions" that they were dubbed by the so-called friends of the movement in those days.

As I have exhausted my space I may perhaps in future issues of "The Echo" recall some other memories of the golden years that are gone.

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