

THE GAAELIC ECHO

macalla na n-*ḡaeḡeal*

Daite áta Cliaḡ, meadon *ḡoḡmaḡ*, a 1, 1945

Luac 2p.

Kilkenny or Tipperary?

Age Old Rivals Croke Park Clash

TIPPERARY AND KILKENNY! What a world of memories those two names awaken, and what a pageant of great hurling men comes floating before our eyes as we hark back to the early days of Thurles, Tubberadora, Confederation, Tullaroan, Clonoulty, Moycarkey, Mooncoin, Toomevara, Three Castles and Erin's Own. Scarcely had the G.A.A. been founded than the hurlers of these neighbouring counties were helping to propagate and popularise the National games, and it is a remarkable fact that Tipperary, on the way to their first All-Ireland, met their stiffest opposition from the Tullaroan men, whom they played at Urlingford.

There have been many hectic struggles between the Blue and Gold of Tipp, and the Black and Amber of Kilkenny since that first meeting away back in 1887. There was, for instance, that strange game in Cork for the 1909 title which the Mooncoin selection brought to Kilkenny by defeating the Blues by 4-6 to 0-12, and there was also the Mooncoin team's win over Widger Meagher's Toomevara Greyhounds in 1913.

DAYS OF GLORY. Tipp, too, had its days of glory, not the least of which was the Boherlahan selection's victory over Tullaroan for the 1916 honours, or Mikie Maher's Tubberadora hurlers wins over Tullaroan and Three Castles way back in the early years of the Championship. This battle of the rivers has been going on in friendly fashion for well nigh sixty years with honours fairly level in Championship, League and Tournament contests.

It is eight years since last they met for the title in the strange but beautiful surroundings of Killarney's grand Fitzgerald Stadium, where Jim Lanigan led his Blue and Gold jerseyed men to victory, to put Tipp at the head of the roll of honour.

It was, however, a short-lived lead as two years later Kilkenny defeated Cork to join their neighbours from over the border on the honours list. Then came Cork's record-making run of victories that put the Leeside flag far

in advance of both Tipp and Kilkenny who now battle for second place in the title roll.

ADDED INCENTIVE. Leaving out the rivalry which has existed between the counties for half a century the fact that victory in this year's final will put the victors in second place with thirteen titles is incentive enough to assure a thrilling struggle. Then there is that Killarney defeat to wipe out by Kilkenny who are certainly a better team than that which played in the 1937 final.

Tipperary will naturally be keen on again taking the lead in the All-Ireland roll of honour and with an ideal blend of youth and experience are quietly confident that they can repeat the 1937 win.

Nothing has been neglected in the matter of training and there is no doubt but that two fit sides will face each other for the 1945 title.

A ROCKY ROAD. For both sides it has been a rocky road to Dublin. Tipp, especially, meeting with dour opposition in the South where doughty rivals in Waterford, Cork, and Limerick had to be overcome before qualifying for the semi-final with Antrim who, however, failed to extend the Munster champions.

Things were not so difficult for Kilkenny in the East, Wexford, Offaly and Dublin being conquered readily enough, but when it came to the semi-final with Galway it was touch and go in an hour of thrills.

There will be little between them

TO LEAD TIPP



JOHN MAHER

the Tipperary captain. John won the 1930 and 1937 titles with Tipperary.

in the way of experience, while there is also plenty of youthful dash to give us that type of hurling which gets the crowd by its speed and dare devilry. In Leinster Kilkenny are favourites, but in the South, Tipp are the chief fancies, although we have not a few Limerick and Cork men who think the Noremens will win.

THE CURTAIN RAISER.

Of almost equal interest is the Minor Hurling Final, in which Tipperary oppose Dublin. The Tipp. boys ran riot in the South where they scored ready wins over fancied Cork and Clare sides before registering a twenty-nine points win over Galway in the semi-final.

College players fill many places on the rival sides, Thurles C.B.S. being strongly represented on the Tipp selection, while Marino is as equally prominent on the Dublin team, which is out to bring this title to the Metropolis for the first time.

It is without question the most attractive programme arranged for Croke Park in recent years, with two Munster teams opposing two Leinster sides, and it is almost certain that a record crowd will be present.

The public expect a hard, thrilling struggle, played in the true sporting style of Kilkenny and Tipperary for the senior crown, and whether the title goes to the Nore or to the Suir makes little difference in the end, so long as the players play the game as it should be played, and the spectators are prepared to witness good hurling. May the best teams win the honours, are our last words on what should be the greatest finals for many a day.

THE LINE-OUTS:

SENIOR:

TIPPERARY

- Jim Maher (Boherlahan)
- J. Devitt (Cashel) G. Cornally (Sarsfields) F. Coffey (Boherlahan)
- M. Murphy (Sarsfields) J. Maher, Capt. (Sarsfields) T. Purcell (Moycarkey)
- T. Wall (Carrick) Lt. H. Gouldsboro (Army)
- Mutt Ryan (Moycarkey) T. Doyle (Sarsfields) E. Gleeson (Sarsfields)
- J. Coffey (Boherlahan) A. Brennan (Clonoulty) P. Ryan (Moycarkey)
- Subs.—J. Delahunty, J. Dwyer, J. Ryan, T. Ryan, J. Doyle (Sarsfields);

FOR MINOR LINE-OUT SEE PAGE TWO

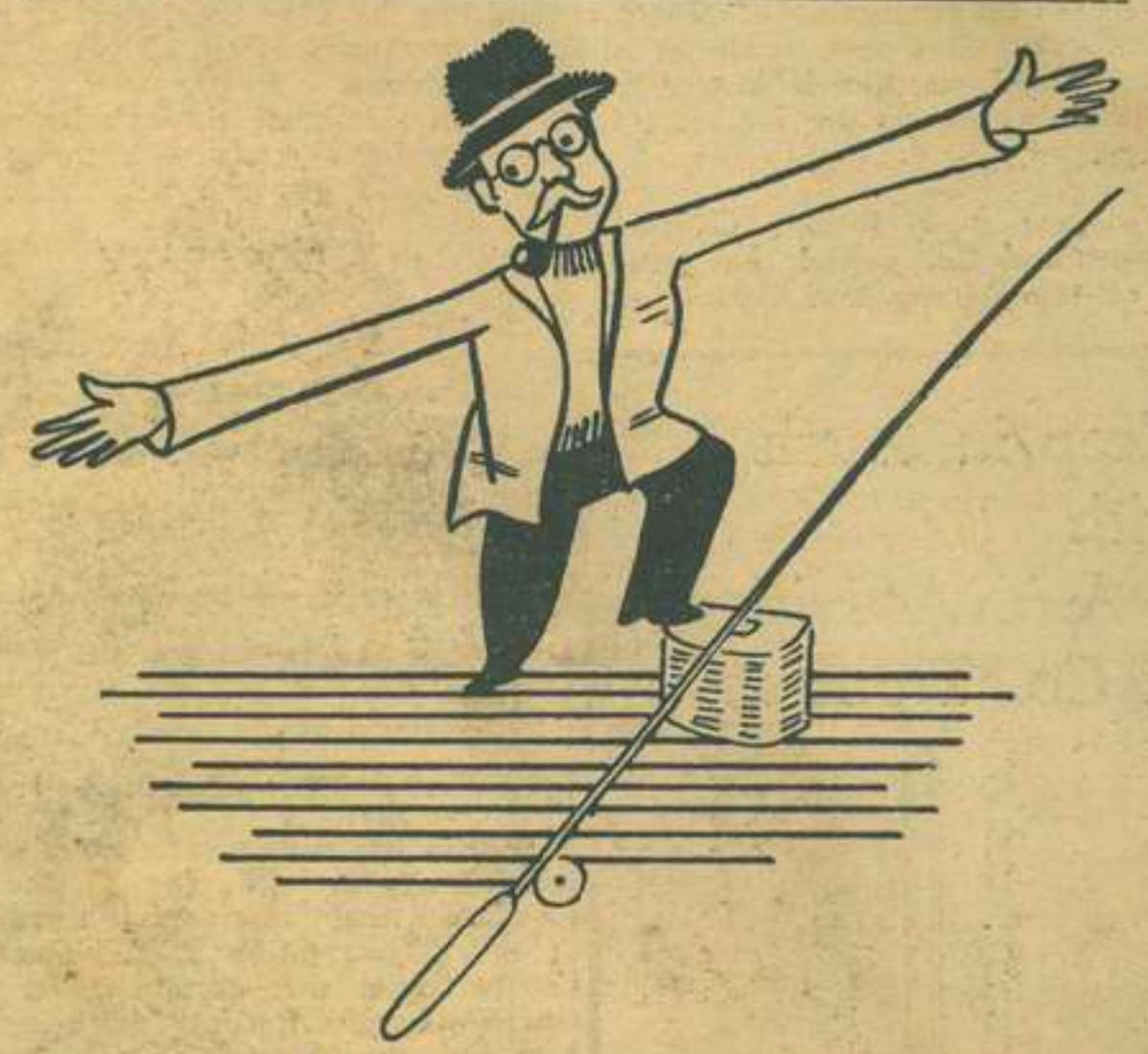
This is the intended Kilkenny line-out, but a meeting of the selectors will be held at Barry's Hotel to-morrow to finally decide on the placings. W. Burke may yet come on as centre-half back. Pte. Maher would then go to left half-back, where he finished against Galway at Birr.

KILKENNY

- (Black and Amber)
- J. Walsh (Eire Og)
- P. Grace (D'boro) M. Kelly (Mooncoin) P. Blanchfield (Captain) (Eire Og)
- J. Heffernan (M'n'vat) Pte. Maher (Eire Og) W. Walsh (C'shock)
- D. Kennedy (St. B'ans) T. Murphy (Eire Og)
- L. Reidy (Eire Og)
- J. Gargan (Eire Og) J. Langton (Eire Og) or T. Maher (Castle Rovers)
- T. Walton (Tullaroan) S. O'Brien (Dicksboro) J. Mulcahy (Eire Og)
- Subs.—J. McGrath (St. Stephens); W. Burke, R. Teehan (Tullaroan); J. Kelly (Carrickshock); J. Clohessy (Tullaroan); T. Walsh (Carrickshock).

CLAR AN LAE

- 1.39—M.H. Final—Dublin v. Tipperary (J. PARRY, Cork)
- 2.45—Thomas Davis Centenary Pageant
- 3.30—S.H. Final—Kilkenny v. Tipperary (Capt. U. Bastion)



U m m m . . . !
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Who'll Win The 13th Title?

IT MIGHT END IN A DRAW

WHO'LL win to-morrow between Kilkenny and Tipperary? A difficult question to answer, as those who saw the two teams in action will admit. The age-old rivalry between the counties is helping to whet interest in a final that looks like drawing a record crowd, so eager are hurling enthusiasts all over the country to see this clash of neighbours for Gaeldom's most coveted prize.

It is twenty-two years since the counties last met at Croke Park in an All-Ireland Final. This game, played on September 9, 1923, was for the 1922 title, which Tipperary won by 2 points. Next and last meeting of the counties for the title was at Killarney in 1937, Tipperary again proving the superior, but by a larger score on this occasion. Remarkable feature about this year's championship is the fact that to-morrow's finalists defeated the Provincial title holders on their way to Croke Park, which, by the way, is Kilkenny's favourite ground.

Kilkenny started off by avenging their 1944 defeat at the hands of Wexford, while Tipp, in detroning Cork, also avenged a 1944 defeat. The Munster men got a hard game from Limerick in the Munster Final, but lasted the better to regain the Southern title after an eight-years' span.

Kilkenny's biggest test was at Birr, where a point gave them victory over Galway, and it is on this game that the Noremen are building their confidence in the ability of Blanchfield's men to bring back the title to the Marble City.

Tipp supporters hold, on the other hand, that Limerick was every bit as good as Galway, and that a three-point victory over the Shannonside is form good enough to register another All-Ireland victory over their Kilkenny neighbours.

To-morrow's final will be a clash of styles, as most Tipp-Kilkenny games for half a century have been. The Munster men will be the more forceful in their methods, while Kilkenny, as usual, will exploit the wide open spaces of Croke Park where the Black and Amber colours have been successful four times out of six appearances since 1932.

CLEVER BALL PLAYERS.

Undoubtedly, the Noremen are clever ball players who make most use of their chances, but against this, the Tipp men never dally with the ball, their policy being to pull first time and hard.

The Tipp defence, even with Johnny Ryan on the side-line, will be sound, but it comes up against a different sort of attack to that met with in the Munster Final, as the Kilkenny forwards will be always on the alert for openings.

We saw how Reidy, Gargan, O'Brien and Co. pulled the game out of the fire against Galway at

Birr, and it looks as if this final will be lost and won between the Tipp defence and the Black and Amber forwards.

A BIG PROBLEM.

Tipp's big problem has been attack, which never appeared to make full use of its chances. Yet it always managed to get there.

Ten players at least have been tried out during the four games in which Tipp were engaged up to now, and while all gave a fairly sound display, a little weakness was always evident. The Kilkenny defence, however, is not on a par with those of former great Nore-side teams—a fact which but helps to make the issue more clouded.

I rate Kilkenny the faster, but Tipp are the more solid, and are likely to last any pace set by their Nore-side rivals. It certainly should be a good final—the best I would say since the 1939 Cork-Kilkenny game—and I do not expect there will be much in it at the end.

Shrewd Kilkenny supporters hold that their attack will carry the day, while judges every bit as keen from Tipperary say their defence will hold Langton and his men at bay.

Personally, I am inclined to slightly favour Kilkenny on their Birr form, but Tipp in a final can always be relied on to pull out a little bit extra, so that a draw will not surprise me.

Dublin and Tipp in Minor Hurling Final

The presence for the first time in the All-Ireland final of a Dublin Minor hurling team is certain to add considerably to the attendance figures at Croke Park to-morrow.

Their rivals will be the most talked of Tipp minor team for many years and on their scintillating displays in the South the Tipp boys are firm favourites to give the Blue and Gold supporters a cheerful start.

Both sides are products of schools and colleges competitions. Many of the Tipp boys having made their names in the local Primary Schools Leagues which inaugurated a few years ago, have done much to bring hurling to a high level among the youths of the county.

Dublin, too, will be represented by a team which includes many college stars, and like the Tipp boys, most of the players graduated from Primary Schools competitions.

Each side came through its provincial and semi-final tests with flying colours as the following table will show.

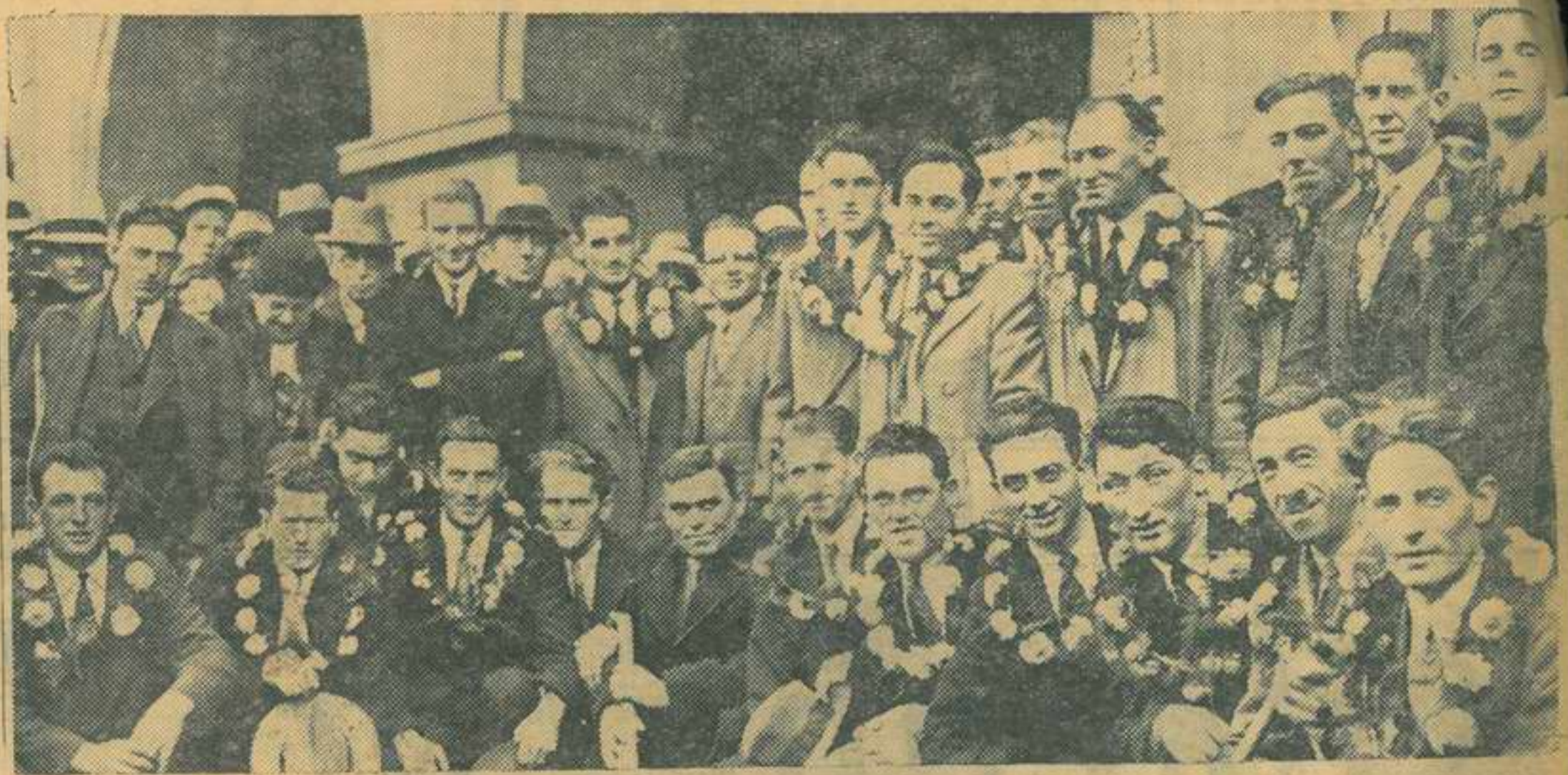
TIPPERARY

- Beat WATERFORD 6—8 to 2—3
- Beat CORK 6—11 to 4—2
- Beat CLARE 8—10 to 0—2
- Beat GALWAY 5—16 to 0—2.

DUBLIN

- Beat MEATH 8—8 to 1—1.
- Beat KILKENNY 5—4 to 3—1
- Beat ANTRIM 9—4 to 3—1

Six of the Dublin team are also on the selection who will play in the minor football final to-morrow three weeks (Sept. 23) at Croke Park. There is no doubt about this curtain raiser to to-morrow's senior hurling final being one of the most attractive of its kind, and while Tipperary must be fancied on their great displays against Clare and Galway, Dublin can be relied on to put up a good fight and with a bit of luck might win.



THE TIPPERARY HURLERS PHOTOGRAPHED DURING THEIR TOUR OF THE U.S.A. IN 1931.

Tipp Hopes Are As High As In 1937

AS I cycled through Two Mile Borris I sensed the fever which has gripped Tipperary. There were half a dozen boys hurling and I'm sure their thoughts were with the men who would defend Tipperary's honour at Croke Park. Up through Liberty Square I pedalled recalling all I had heard of Tom Semple and his Blues, of Jack Mooney and "Hawk" O'Brien, of Andy Carey and Bob Mockler, of Hughie Shelley, Tim Gleeson, Joe McLoughrey, Paddy Brohan and the Fitzgeralds.

"YOU WAIT AND SEE" A THURLES GORSOON TOLD ME

By "pánuíde na ngleann"

"How are the hurlers doing?" I asked a wee gorsoon perched on the kerb. "Oh, they're all out at the sports field, training for the final," he replied nonchalantly, but I brought him up to life when I remarked: "Kilkenny will beat you."

"Ah, they haven't us bet yet mister. You wait and see what Mutt Ryan and Tommy Doyle will do with them fellas," he snapped out at me as I moved away out through the Square that saw the birth of the Association and was later packed to capacity by the thousands who came to see the Munster hurling finals or semi-finals.

As I crossed the bridge to the sports field I could not but feel proud of these wonderful grounds that can hold 50,000 people.

So intent were the bunch of people who were watching the training that my arrival passed unnoticed.

AIR OF ACTIVITY

I was immediately struck by the air of activity and by the fact that instead of aimless ball play the Tipp men were engaged in a practice game.

Plenty of life in it too, and even those Thurles men who have seen more good hurling than half of Ireland put together were quite enthusiastic. There was John Maher, veteran of the side moving with the dash of a Minor, and there was Ger Connolly, Flor Coffey, Jim Devitt and Tommy Purcell all out to hold Mutt Ryan, John Coffey, Tony Brennan and Eddie Gleeson.

"Who is that man with the book and pencil?" I asked a man beside me.

"You're a stranger I suppose that you don't know Johnny Leahy the busiest man in Tipperary to-day," replied my neighbour at the railing a half smile of contempt at my ignorance covering his face. "So that's Johnny Leahy, the smartest

sideline adviser in Ireland, I had always pictured the Tipperary Sec. as a dapper individual who raced up and down the sideline giving instructions to his team," I remarked half in wonder.

"Indeed he doesn't run up and down the line. He just sits and watches the game, getting somebody else to do the running for him," came the answer. I moved away to have a chat with Johnny.

"Twill be tough," he replied to my query on Tipp's chances. "Them Kilkenny fellas are like wasps and I'm always afraid of them in a final," he went on. "But I imagine our backs will be too strong for their forwards."

NOT AN INCH

Next I had a word with Tommy Butler, who had a big say in the training operations. Tommy was in goal when Tipp won in 1937 at Killarney. Tommy had no false ideas about the Kilkenny men whose prowess on the hurling field he readily admitted.

"They are a good Croke Park team at their worst, and our lads must adopt the policy of 'Not an Inch' if they are to win, which I expect they will," he concluded.

Phil Purcell, who comes from Littleton and played for Moycarkey; John Joe Callan, Captain of the 1930 Senior team; Jim Lammigan, and all the other old-timers were confident Tipp would win, but it was a confidence in which a healthy respect for Kilkenny was placed.

On my way back from the field I dropped into Jim Maher's where the Sarsfield's treasurer was in his customary genial mood.

Over a cup of tea we discussed the final, which Jim expects to be one of the best ever between the counties, and as he shook my hand at the door, he said: "Whatever you think, we'll win. It may not be by much, but the main thing is that our team is very even, and an even team means a lot in an All-Ireland Final."

TIPP TRAINER



T. BUTLER who kept goal in the 1937 Final, helped to train this year's team.

MINOR:

TIPPERARY (Blue and Gold)			DUBLIN (Blue)		
N. Egan			S. Copeland		
D. Ryan	J. Bannon	T. Tynan	P. Whelan	S. McLoughlin	J. Jennings
M. Cormack	P. Stakelum	M. Shaughnessy	J. Prendergast	T. McLysaght	B. Clancy
J. O'Grady W. Carroll			S. McEntaggart D. Healy (Capt.)		
J. Harris	M. Maher	P. Kenny	P. Donnelly	L. Donnelly	N. Maher
W. Molloy	J. Burns	M. Ryan	P. Tormey	P. McCarth	P. Lynch
Subs.—P. Brown, G. O'Donnell, J. Dwyer, M. Ryan, W. O'Brien, D. Mooney.			Subs.—P. McEvoy, N.ingleton, C. McHale, L. Byrne, J. McDonald, J. Finnian, S. O'Neill.		

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ΘΕΛΑΜΙΝΙΟ ΚΛΟ-ΘΥΛΑΘ ΔΕ ΣΑΚ ΡΑΪΣΑΥ Ι ΜΘΕΑΡΤΑ ΑΣΥΡ Ι ΝΪΑΕΘΥΤΑ THE GUARDIAN, 13 Summerhill, NENAGH

Davis Centenary Pageant

THERE will be a spectacular pageant and drill display prior to the big game, commencing at 2.45 p.m. and lasting for half an hour, by 500 Artane Boys. It is in honour of the Thomas Davis Centenary and will portray historical figures from Davis's time to the present day. The whole display will be to music supplied by the Artane Band and there will be a small male voice chorus to sing the martial songs of the period—particularly those of Davis himself.

Following is a list of the songs:—

- Men of the West.
- West's Asleep.
- A Nation Once Again.
- Green Flag.
- Boatman of Kinsale.
- Who Fears to Speak of '98?
- O'Donnell Abu.
- Siubhal a ghrádh.
- Boys of Tipperary.
- Boys of Wexford.
- Let Erin Remember.
- Step Together.
- Harp That Once.
- Kelly of Killane.

Previous Meetings

KILKENNY and Tipperary have already met in seven All-Ireland finals. Here is how they fared:—

1895—At Jones' Road, March 15, 1896: Tipperary (Tubberadora), 6-8; Kilkenny (Tullaroan), 1-0.

1898—At Jones' Road, March 25, 1900: Tipperary (Tubberadora), 7-13; Kilkenny (Three Castles), 3-10.

1909—At Cork, Dec. 12, 1909: Kilkenny (Mooncoin), 4-6; Tipperary (Thurles), 0-12.

1913—At Croke Park, Nov. 2, 1913: Kilkenny (Mooncoin), 2-4; Tipperary (Toomevara), 1-2.

1916—At Croke Park, January 21, 1917: Tipperary (Boherlahan), 5-4; Kilkenny (Tullaroan), 3-2.

1922—At Croke Park, Sept. 9, 1923: Kilkenny, 4-2; Tipperary, 2-6.

1937—At Killarney, Sept. 5, 1937: Tipperary, 3-11; Kilkenny, 0-3.

The counties also met in a substitute All-Ireland Final on July 28, 1912, Kilkenny winning 3-3 to 2-1.

Unchanged

Though hurling, like its sister-code, Gaelic football, has been subjected to the playing-rules adopted at successive All-Ireland Congresses down the years, the game is fundamentally the same.

Gaelic football as played by the leading counties, shows revolutionary changes in tactics since the turn of this century.

Hurling, however, has remained largely static. The narrower scoring space has made for greater accuracy; the reduced number of players has tended towards greater speed, but the basic principles of Ireland's National game have remained unaltered.

This is, of course, somewhat of a difference in the styles favoured by our hurling counties, but quick draw and lengthy accurate puck remain the bed-rock of the code everywhere.

WATCH OUT for
KILKENNY'S
ALL-IRELAND
Eire Og v.
Carrickshock
County Hurling Final.

Date will be announced in Daily and Local Papers.

1939



JIMMY WALSH (Carrickshock) who led the 1939 Kilkenny team to victory. Jimmy also played in 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1940.

THAT 1939 POINT



JIMMY KELLY (Carrickshock) who scored the winning point against Cork in the 1939 Final.

TRAINED CHAMPIONS



DAN O'CONNELL who trained many of the Kilkenny teams which won All-Ireland honours.

THE 1931 EPICS



Kilkenny hurlers, led by Lory Meagher, take the field against Cork in the famous 1931 Final in which the counties met three times.

Kilkenny Followers Are Confident

"THE TITLE WILL COME BACK TO THE NORE"

By "FÁNUIDE NA NÓSTÉANN"

"RUN along to Kilkenny and get the low-down on the Noremén," the Editor told me one evening last week, so I pulled out my 1929 model bike, queued up for a 'bus, parked my bike on top, and set off for the City of the Confederation.

On my way I recalled the many stories I had read of Kilkenny hurling triumphs and remembered that the three DoYLES of Mooncoin had won more medals than you could hang on the longest watch-chain and that the Graces of Tullaroan were great men at the game when I was only a boy.

I still cherish pleasant memories of a couple of nights spent in Tullaroan and regretted that it would not be possible for me to call out to see Ned Holland at the Cross, or Danny Brennan, the teacher who is cheery and gay whether Kilkenny wins or loses.

"Where are the hurlers in training?" I asked a schoolboy who kindly volunteered to pilot me out the Dublin Road and down the bohereen as he called the lane which led to the stand entrance of Nowlan Park.

Nobody recognised me which admirably suited my purpose as I hate those handshakes and welcomes which usually greet my better-known confreres when they visit those training camps.

Leaning on the railings I watched the Noremén, as they love to be called, go through their paces with dozens of old All-Ireland stars keeping close, ready with advice and criticism.

I was not so much worried about how they trained as how they felt about the big game, and carelessly I strolled around to hear what the hurler on the fence had to say.

"I think it's in the bag for us this time," was the first answer to my query "What do you think of the final?"

There is an enthusiastic glint in the speaker's eye and I'm sure he'll be at Croke Park to lend his vocal support to the efforts of the Noremén to put that title in the bag for the thirteenth time.

The next man to whom I put the question was not quite so definite, as he thought Tipp. were a tough lot who would give nothing away softly. He, too, was hopeful that the Noremén would emerge victorious.

Next I met Tom Walsh or ex-Senator Tom Walsh if you like and asked his opinion on the game.

"I think," said this genial farmer from the Thomastown Country "that the title will come back to the Nore."

"We have tried out all the available material in the County and in my opinion this is as good a team as we have

had for years," went on Tom, who certainly has given a good deal of attention to the hurlers since he became Chairman of the County Board.

"We'll be fit and fast; two important things in an All-Ireland, and it will take a better team to beat us," he concluded.

I then buttonholed the hard-working Secretary, Liam Cody, who cycles in each evening from Barnagh to see that everything is in order. Confidence is the keynote of Liam's conversation with me and then I chatted with "Lorv of the Hundred Battles," Jimmy Walsh, and Jimmy O'Connell, all of whom were convinced that Kilkenny would win.

Confidence is indeed a great thing before a final and if confidence counts for anything the title is certain to go back to the Nore.

Picking up my old bike I set off for Thurles to see the Tipp. men prepare for another All-Ireland final with the famous black and amber.

"BLANCH"



PETER BLANCHFIELD Played in the 1935, 1936, 1937, 1939 and 1940 Finals, and will lead Kilkenny in the 1945 Final.

Please Note:

All-Ireland Handball Championships

On SEPTEMBER 2nd,

At Depot

ALL-IRELAND DOUBLES FINAL:

Cork (Champions) v. Kilkenny

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THEY SET TIPP ON THE ROAD

RESERVE GOALIE



G. DOYLE

who was reserve goalie on the 1937 team, is again among the subs.

Tit Bits About The Premier Co. Hurlers

THE matchless men of Tipp are once more in an All-Ireland Final, and when the hurlers from Kickham's County reach this stage of the Championship, it is hard to stop them. Not since 1922 did the Tipp men and their Kilkenny rivals clash in a final at Croke Park, Tipp winning that game.

The present Tipp side includes seasoned players like John Maher, Ger Cornally and Tommy Doyle to blend with the youthful recruits from the many strongholds of the game in the "Premier County." Trained to last the hardest hour, here they come:—

Jimmy Maher (Boherlahan) who will guard the Premier County net, comes of an old hurling family (who has not heard of the Mahers of Tubberadora?). Compares favourably with the great Tipp goalmen of the past. Was in rare form against Cork and Limerick in this year's Munster tests. Played for Munster in 1943.

John Maher (Sarsfields) who is likely to fill the right full back berth, will captain the team. Like Jimmy Maher, he comes of an old Tipperary hurling stock, and has been in the forefront of hurling in the county for fifteen years. Helped the 1930 and 1937 teams to victory, and is hopeful of collecting his third medal to-morrow. Played for Munster on several occasions.

G. Cornally (Sarsfields) who will operate at full back, was on the 1937 team which beat Kilkenny at Killarney. Ger has been serving up good stuff this year, and if he reproduces his Munster Championship form, the Kilkenny forwards will get nothing soft to-morrow.

F. Coffey (Boherlahan) who will be on the left of Cornally, is a stout defender who proved his worth against Cork and Limerick. Flor played well in the 1944 Munster semi-final and is considered a much improved hurler this season.

Jim Devitt (Cashel) is a dashing young hurler, who was much in evidence against Waterford, Cork and Limerick in the South. Fills the right half back position, and fills it so well that he is going to be a thorn on the side of the Kilkenny attack.

T. Purcell (Moycarkey) is expected to move from left half to centre half back where his speed should be a big asset. Cousin of the well-known Phil of the 1930 team, Tommy has improved with every game.

T. Doyle (Sarsfields) has been in the forefront of Tipperary hurling since 1937. A versatile player who can fill a berth in attack or defence. Played left half forward all through the Munster campaign, he may be moved to

left half back where he will have the job of marking Jack Gargan.

T. Wall (Carrick) who will fill his now familiar berth, is a solid hurler who keeps going through the hardest hour. His brother Willie was one of Tipp's brightest stars until injured in the 1937 final.

M. Murphy (Sarsfields) who is named as partner for Wall at centre-field, came on as sub in the All-Ireland semi-final against Antrim. Has plenty of pace and should prove an ideal partner for the tireless Carrick man.

Mutt Ryan (Moycarkey) is the third brother to figure in an All-Ireland Final for Tipp, Johnny and "Sweeper" having helped in the 1937 victory. Mutt proved himself a prolific scorer in the Munster games. He is a fast mover on the right wing where he will again appear to-morrow.

Lt. H. Gouldsboro (Army), a native of Thurles, learned his hurling with the local C.B.S. Played for Munster Colleges and was prominent in Army and Cork competitions before throwing in his lot with his native Tipp, for whom he operated at centrefield against Waterford, Cork, Limerick and Antrim. Will probably be moved to centre half forward.

P. E. Gleeson (Sarsfields) made his first championship appearance as left corner forward against Limerick in the Munster Final. A nippy hurler, who may be better suited to a wing position where he is likely to operate in his first All-Ireland Final.

RECALLED



P. ("Sweeper") RYAN who played in 1937 against Kilkenny, has been recalled to training by the Tipp selectors.



The Tipperary Team, which opened the Championship campaign by defeating Waterford.

A. Brennan (Clonoulty), an Army player, was prominent last year for Galway and An Cath Gaedhealach. Played full forward for Galway, and is now the probable candidate for this position on the Tipp side. A robust, bustling hurler, Tony should make a good spearhead.

J. Coffey (Boherlahan) another forward, is a brother to Flor, the left back. Played against Waterford and was off against Cork, but returned to the team for the Munster Final.

Martin Loughnane (Roscrea) has already appeared as a sub. for the county in this year's championship tests, and is likely to find a place on the team which will line out against Kilkenny.

P. Ryan (Moycarkey), or "Sweeper" as he is more generally known, played left corner forward on the team which defeated Kilkenny in 1937. Called into training after the Antrim game, "Sweeper" may again appear in his county colours.

Other subs. include: **J. Delahunty** and **J. Dwyer** (Sarsfields) who played against Cork and Waterford; **T. Ryan** (Sarsfields) who has been shaping well in training; **John Ryan** and **Gerry Doyle**.

ON THE ROAD TO CROKE PARK

- TIPPERARY**
 Beat Waterford, 3-6 to 0-3.
 Beat Cork, 2-13 to 3-2.
 Beat Limerick, 4-3 to 2-6.
 Beat Antrim, 5-9 to 1-6.
- KILKENNY**
 Beat Wexford, 2-11 to 2-4.
 Beat Offaly, 4-15 to 2-1.
 Beat Dublin, 5-12 to 3-4.
 Beat Galway, 5-3 to 2-11.

So up Toomevara! they're the pride of Ireland's hurling men
 And I wish to God Ned Carson could get a look at you.
 He'd throw away his foreign guns—go home and stick to catin' buns
 When he'd hear Tipperary's war-cry Toomevara Abú.
 (We would be glad if any reader would let us have the words of this song).

HOW THEY WON TITLES

KILKENNY (12).

- 1904—Beat Cork, 1-9 to 1-8.
 - 1905—Beat Cork, 7-7 to 2-9.
 - 1907—Beat Cork, 3-12 to 4-8.
 - 1909—Beat Tipperary, 4-6 to 0-12.
 - 1911—Walk-over from Limerick.
 - 1912—Beat Cork, 2-1 to 1-3.
 - 1913—Beat Tipperary, 2-4 to 1-2.
 - 1922—Beat Tipperary, 4-2 to 2-6.
 - 1932—Beat Clare, 3-3 to 2-3.
 - 1933—Beat Limerick, 1-7 to 0-6.
 - 1935—Beat Limerick, 2-5 to 2-4.
 - 1939—Beat Cork, 2-7 to 3-3.
- Kilkenny lost to Cork in 1893 (0-2 to 6-8); to Tipperary in 1895 (1-0 to 6-8); to Limerick in 1897 (2-4 to 3-4); to Tipperary in 1898 (3-10 to 7-13); to Cork in 1903 (0-8 to 8-9); to Tipperary in 1916 (3-2 to 5-4); to Cork in 1926 (2-0 to 4-6); to Cork in 1931 (3-4 to 5-8, after two draws); to Limerick in 1936 (1-5 to 5-6); to Tipperary in 1937 (0-3 to 3-11) and to Limerick in 1940 (1-7 to 3-7).

TIPPERARY (12).

- 1887—Beat Galway, 1-1 to 0-0.
 - 1895—Beat Kilkenny, 6-8 to 1-0.
 - 1896—Beat Dublin, 8-14 to 0-4.
 - 1898—Beat Kilkenny, 7-13 to 3-10.
 - 1899—Beat Wexford, 3-12 to 1-4.
 - 1900—Beat London, 2-5 to 0-6 (Home Final beat Galway, 5-7 to 0-1).
 - 1906—Beat Dublin, 3-16 to 3-8.
 - 1908—Beat Dublin, 3-15 to 1-5.
 - 1916—Beat Kilkenny, 5-4 to 3-2.
 - 1925—Beat Galway, 5-6 to 1-5.
 - 1930—Beat Dublin, 2-7 to 1-3.
 - 1937—Beat Kilkenny, 3-11 to 0-3.
- Tipperary lost to Kilkenny in 1909 (0-12 to 4-6); to Kilkenny in 1913 (1-2 to 2-4); to Dublin in 1917 (4-2 to 5-4) and to Kilkenny in 1922 (2-6 to 4-2).

UMPIRES

The umpires for the senior final are: **J. Dunne** (Galway), **M. J. Flaherty** (Galway), **S. Robbins** (Offaly), and **J. O'Connell** (Limerick). The linesmen will be **F. Bray** and **M. Nestor** (Galway).

cumann lúic éileas saeóeal

All-Ireland Football Championship Finals

ᐃÁIRC AN ÉRÓCAIᐅ 23Aᐅ m. ᐃÓᐅᐅÁIR 1945

SENIOR GAME:

CABÁN v. CORCAIᐅ

AP 3.15 A ÉLOS

MINOR GAME:

ÁT CLIAᐅ v. LIÁTORUIM

AP 1.45 A ÉLOS

History will be made when these great teams meet in their First Final.

ADMISSION: 1/- and 2/-. SIDE-LINE: 2/6 extra.

THE HOGAN STAND IS COMPLETELY BOOKED OUT. CUSACK STAND Tickets, price 5/- each, may be had from: **Clerys Ltd.**, O'Connell St., Dublin; **Elverys Ltd.**, O'Connell St., Dublin; **Purcells Ltd.**, 68 Upr. O'Connell St., Dublin; **J. Coburn**, 39 Cullingtree Road, Belfast; or from: **Booking Department, C.L.C.G.**, 31 Sr. Fheardorcha Thuaidh, Ath Cliath. (Remittances by post should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope.)

The Stalwarts From The Nore

THEY WON BACK A TITLE

"LORY"

Close Ups Of The Leinster Champions

BACK again in Croke Park after a five years' break, Kilkenny will be represented by a team in which youth and experience are blended in what is generally considered to be the proper proportions. Seasoned championship battlers like Blanchfield, Grace, Burke, Langton, O'Brien, Mulcahy and Gargan will act as a steadying influence on the less experienced Kelly, Kennedy, Walsh, Maher, Walton and Murphy.

It is a team which carries the confidence of Kilkenny, where it is felt that the defeat of Galway was a good enough performance for anything.

Led by Peter Blanchfield, here come the hurlers from the Nore, proud wearers of the Black and Amber colours carried to victory by many great Kilkenny teams of the past:—

J. Walsh (Eire Og) is one of the youngest net minders to ever do duty for Kilkenny. Gave a cool and capable exhibition at Birr against Galway. A graduate from minor ranks, Jimmy is a worthy successor to O'Connell, Dermody and the other great Noreside goalmen of the past. Is only 20 years of age, and has all the craft of a veteran.

P. Grace (Dicksboro) appears in his third final. Helped to win the title in 1939 and was on the side which lost to Limerick in 1940. A sterling defender who proved his worth against Dublin and Galway.

M. Kelly (Mooncoin) is the only representative of an area which sent dozens of high class hurlers to the Black and Amber colours. Garnered his hurling craft by the Suir and played a big part as full back in the defeat of Galway.

P. Blanchfield (Eire Og) is the only link with the 1935 and 1936 teams. Makes his sixth All-Ireland final appearance, filling his now familiar position of left full back. Peter is one of the best defenders playing to-day. Will captain the team, and no more popular figure could receive the Cup if Kilkenny wins.

J. Heffernan (Mullinavat) who fills the right half back berth, is a product of minor competitions. Was on the 1944 senior team, and also played in the recent Four County Hurling League. Comes from a district which has invariably produced good hurlers. Helped his county to overcome Waterford, Offaly, Dublin and Galway in this year's championship. Comes of a well-known hurling family, four other brothers being prominent in the game.

Pte. J. Maher (Eire Og) is a young hurler who has been prominent in Army and other competitions. Another product of minor hurling, Pte. Maher showed himself a sterling defender against Galway at Birr. Played minor in 1937 and 1938, and helped his county through this year's championship campaign.

W. Burke (Tullaroan) who came on as sub. in the second half against Galway at Birr, played against Tipperary in the 1937 Final and also against Cork and Limerick in the 1939 and 1940 finals. A steady and resourceful centre half, Billy, although not on the original selection for to-morrow's final, will probably make his appearance during the game.

W. Walsh (Carrickshock) was prom-



The Kilkenny Team which defeated Dublin to win back the Leinster Title.

inent some five or six years ago in Schools League hurling. Played in the Leinster semi-final and final. Comes from the Carrickshock country. Plays at left half-back.

D. Kennedy (St. Brendan's) is another product of minor hurling. Plays for St. Brendan's, a club which rendered a good account of itself in the 1944 Kilkenny championship. Scarcely out of his teens, Dan is a clever ball player, while his striking carries good length. Plays at centrefield. No relation by the way of Dan who played for Kilkenny in the Golden Era of Noreside hurling.

T. Murphy (Eire Og) who will partner Dan Kennedy at centrefield, was on the 1937 All-Ireland minor side. Came on against Offaly in the Leinster semi-final, and retained his place against Dublin and Galway. Tommy has plenty of pace and is an accurate striker.

J. Langton (Eire Og) who played minor in 1935 and 1936, was on the team which beat Cork in the famous 1939 final. Fills the centre half forward berth, and is an opportunist of the first water. Scored the winning point against Galway at Birr.

J. Gargan (Eire Og) is an ex-Colleges player. Helped his county in the 1937 Minor Championship, and was on the team which defeated Cork in the 1939 senior final; also played against Limerick in the 1940 final. Was in rare form against Dublin in the Leinster Final, and also played a big part in the defeat of Galway at Birr.

L. Reidy (Eire Og) played minor in 1942. Hails from Bennetsbridge, a district that won the Kilkenny title as far back as 1890. Liam, whose father (a teacher) is a native of Limerick, got a great goal at an important stage of the Birr game. Has been on the injured list since that game, and may be replaced by—

T. Maher (Castle Rover) an ex-Colleges player from the Gowran country. Tom was on the Leinster team which won the All-Ireland Colleges title in 1940, and in a recent local championship game gave a brilliant display.

T. Walton (Tullaroan) comes from an age-old hurling stronghold, and is a worthy representative of far-famed Tullaroan. First made his mark in Schools hurling, and played against

HANDBALL

For those who have an hour to spare on Sunday morning there will be a first-class attraction in the All-Ireland Hard Ball Doubles Final in the Depot Court, Phoenix Park. These games are well worth a visit.

THE REFEREES

The senior hurling final will be refereed by An Captaen Uinsionn Bastion An Cath Gaedhealach, Gaillibh, the well-known Galway and Waterford hurler. The minor hurling final will be refereed by Jim Barry, the well-known Cork trainer who has already handled many important games.

I'll sing of a place and a generous race
Beyond Kilkenny town;
Who live to-day as they did alway',
In honour and renown;
Where the cheer and the smile, the
time beguile,
And sorrow is unknown,
'Tis our proudest boast—so here's a
toast
To famous Tullaroan.

Waterford in the 1944 Leinster Final; was through the recent Four County Hurling League.

Sean O'Brien (Dicksboro) played for his county in the 1935, 1936 and 1937 minor competitions. Came to senior ranks in 1939, helping in the defeat of Cork. Is a clever full forward who can roam from wing to wing and readily find an opening. Formerly assisted Eire Og.

J. Mulcahy (Eire Og) is a contemporary of Langton and O'Brien with whom he played minor in 1935 and 1936. Fills the left corner forward berth, and is a danger to any defence.

The subs. are:—**J. McGrath** (St. Stephen's) who is new to senior ranks; **R. Teehan** (Tullaroan) who has hurling blood in his veins; **J. Kelly** (Carrickshock) who scored the winning point against Cork in 1939; **J. Clohessy** (Tullaroan) whose father played for Kilkenny in the 1916 final; **M. Holden** (Mullinavat) who replaced L. Reidy at Birr; and **T. Walsh** (Carrickshock).

We've heard of famous hurlers
From Cork to Dublin town,
Who played the game and carved their
name
In honour and renown.
But of our modern heroes,
Is Kilkenny's leading star,
Who stood the test with Ireland's best
That's gallant Lory Meagher.

Caiteamh Ainmíche

With the field practically to itself the Siamsa Mor at the Mansion House on to-morrow (Sunday) night will be the big attraction for Gaels of the city and country.

A remarkable feature about this Siamsa is that the 250,000th ticket will be sold during the night, a mark of the progress of the function since its establishment some years ago. The purchaser of this two hundred and fifty thousandth ticket will receive a special prize to commemorate the occasion. This Siamsa is also an official reception to the teams. Prominent Gaels will deliver addresses during the night, while the All-Ireland trophies will be presented to the victors.



cumann lúic éileas saeéal

ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

ráirc an érócaig 2dó m. fošmair, 1945

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP — ar 3.30 a élos

Cill Coinniš v. Tíobrad Árann

cúinneááin tomáis daibis — Pageant by Pupils and Band of Artane Schools, ar 2.45 a élos

MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP: Át Cliač v. Tíobrad Árann

ar 1.30 a élos

ADMISSION: POPULAR ENCLOSURE AND HILL '16, 1/-. Entrance from Canal Gates, Jones Road, and from James Ave. and Joseph's Ave., off Clonliffe Road. **RESERVED ENCLOSURE, 2/-;** Entrance at Main Entrance, Jones Road. **SIDE-LINE, 2/6 extra from 2/- (Reserved) Enclosure.** (Patrons, please note that there is no entrance to Side-Line from 1/- (Popular) Enclosure.) **HOGAN STAND Ticket Holders**—Entrance at Main Gates, Jones Road. (This Stand is completely booked out.) **CUSACK STAND Ticket Holders**—Entrance at Joseph's Ave., off Clonliffe Road. (Any unsold Cusack Stand Tickets will be on sale at Stand Entrance). **OFFICIAL PROGRAMMES WILL BE ON SALE IN GROUNDS ONLY.**

GROUND OPEN AT 12 NOON. — COME EARLY and OBEY THE STEWARDS.

féile mór an oireáctais

Cruinniú Saebéal na h-Éireann

Tá seall le leacéad bliain ann ó dunngead an Oireáctair...

Mór-dáil cruinnige Saebéal (pá comúce Comúce na Saebéile) iad féile Dúan...

Leaspar o'féile na bliana go 1 mBaite Áca Cluic o'n 20ao go 28ao Deire Fómhair...

Comórtairí ucearó ann — comórtairí oo nua-órámaí Saebéile, o'áppéat, oo peacta gearra, o'airí éagránta, o'fíthéacta nua-éarpa...

iméactaí na féile.

Cuirpéar tóir le himéactaí an Oireáctair o'óice Dia Saebáin, 20ao Deire Fómhair...

món-áisbeántas píobaireácta.

Táms ve bárr áisbeántas an Oireáctair d'áiréad nua i scúppaí píobaireácta...

ann agus píobaireáctóirí na h-Éireann...

cluicé an oireáctais.

Dia Domnais, 21ao Deire Fómhair acá cupra i n-áiréce ag Ára-Comáirte Cumann Lúic-Cluic Saebéal...

ráiltiú oiriseamail.

Sí ráiltiú Oiriseamail an Oireáctair a bhíonn ar fud na tíre...

cruinniú cuideáctanais.

"Lá na Saebéil" iad an máire. Ó mairbh go nam té bhíonn na comórtairí ar fud na tíre...

sinn féin

Cuirpé bliana cupra i'réac agann agus fínn ag eadair pé bliain eite.

Cúir ácair o'óinn go bhíonn go beo bhíonn ar fud na tíre...

maénuis air!

An té go bhíonn ar fud na tíre go bhíonn ar fud na tíre...

Má' eol-áiréactaí ionann é reasáin ten ári óeáingán agus ten ári nóránná náirúnta féin...

Laete na nós.

Deir na tionsól oo Scotáirí na m'áin-Scot agus oo Scotáirí na m'áin-Scot agus oo Scotáirí na m'áin-Scot...

SYMPOSIUM AR TOMÁIS DÁIBÍS.

Deir symposium ar Tomáis Dáibís agus na hÉireannais Oga...

ceol-dráma.

Anuipé o'óiréactaí leabap nua i'ráip na g'áiréacta nua...

Le linn na reáctáine deir comórtairí píeéite, Tarbáctair eadán, Cúir píeéacta agus tionsól eadán...

Deir na píeéite ag an Oireáctair agus bí cupra na meara, a éapa. Tá oo eadair uainn.

"JIMMY"

ON THE ROAD TO CROKE PARK



P. ("Sweeper") RYAN played in 1937 against Kilkenny, then recalled to training by the Tipp selectors.



JIMMY O'CONNELL who kept goal for the Noremens in the 1935, 1936, 1937, 1939 and 1940 Finals.

The Medals FOR THE ALL-IRELAND FINALS. Manufactured by JOHN MILLER GOLDSMITH and JEWELLER, 17 DUKE ST., DUBLIN.

The Story of "MIGHTY MARINO" A Liffeside Gaelic Nursery

IF there is one thing more than another which constitutes the hallmark of a nation, it is its national pastimes...

In striving to attain Pearse's objective of an Ireland "Gaelic and free," the schools of Marino are well in the vanguard...

In Junior Hurling the record must be unique for Marino were champions for the decade 1934-44, while the Junior Football Trophy was brought home to Marino nine times in the past dozen years...

The physical struggle against the invasion of Irish rights has never ceased. That was and yet remains, the paramount issue between Ireland and England...

- TIPPERARY: Beat Waterford, 3-6 to 0-3. Beat Cork, 2-13 to 3-2. Beat Limerick, 4-3 to 2-6. Beat Antrim, 5-9 to 1-6. KILKENNY: Beat Wexford, 2-11 to 2-4. Beat Offaly, 4-15 to 2-1. Beat Dublin, 5-12 to 3-4. Beat Galway, 5-3 to 2-11.

So up Toomevara! they're the pride of Ireland's hurling men. And I wish to God Ned Carson could get a look at you. He'd throw away his foreign guns—home and stick to eatin' buns. When he'd hear Tipperary's war-cry Toomevara Abú.

Under the esteemed patronage of Very Rev. Canon Macardle, P.P., and Very Rev. W. McDonald, P.P., the youth get every encouragement. But these would be the first to admit that such a movement would not be possible without the dynamic energy of Rev. W. Fitzpatrick, D.D., the guide, philosopher, and friend of all.

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With such great work being done another very important factor must not be overlooked. That is the great goodwill, and willing co-operation of the people of Marino, Donnycarney, and Fairview...

Begun under such happy auspices the work done by Marino, and many other schools and colleges throughout the city augurs well for a Gaelic resurgence which will inscribe the name of Dublin first in the annals of the Gaelic Athletic Association...

Arise, ye Gaels, by Liffey's side, And ye by Stuir and Bann, Wake and uphold the game of old That suits an Irishman.

The peal of Erin's victory shout, When chimes her freedom's dawn, Will mingle with each joyous note, To the clash of the camán.

The Association launched in Thurles fifty years ago proposed to resume on a broad basis so far as the distinctive pastimes and all that they meant in the life of the people were concerned...

An Túm Three Outstanding Biographies EMMET roibeard emmet

O'CONNELL beacta doimnail uí conaill

PARNELL pannell Leon Ó Bhoín oo reirib

Obtainable through any Bookseller, or direct from. A full, well-documented account of Parnell's life filled in against a background which embraces the whole history of the period.

Siamsa Mor (OFFICIAL ALL-IRELAND RECEPTION CEILIDHE) MANSION HOUSE Dia Domhnaigh, 2/9/45 RINNCE 7.30 — 11.30. Cead Isteach 2/-. Ceol Fhuireann Colmcille

Where The Gaelic League Stands

GAELIC LEAGUERS have often been abused for their vehement support of Irish games and dancing. Those who abuse us conceal the fact that our national games have been practically forced out of existence when the G.A.A. was founded 60 years ago; that the same was true in regard to Irish dancing when the Gaelic League was founded some years later; and finally that they have not yet achieved their rightful place in the nation's life. The national games, while not formally banned, in practice continue to be excluded from very many places. The "Little England" mentality which did more than legislation to kill these phases of our national life still

exists to-day, and is being fortified a thousand times over by still more foreign and very often pagan syndicated ideas, the most potent of which emanate from big business centres of commercialised entertainment to flood the national mind by means of the screen, press, and radio. If this flooding is not soon diverted it will surely swamp forever that distinctive national outlook to whose preservation so many Irishmen in the past have devoted their lives.

It is unnecessary to defend hurling, football, and handball. But even had they not proved themselves as good—at the very least—as any other games of their type, they still should not be abandoned by Irishmen in favour of any code originating anywhere else: more especially those universally recognised as the national games of another country. Let those who speak of such games as "international" tell how much representation Ireland is given in their "international" control.

Narrow-minded? How often the charge is made! Do you know of any unconquered nation which dropped its own games in order to play those of another? Yet in Ireland hot-gospellers for a pseudo-internationalism cry "narrow-minded." Their conception of internationalism is but crass provincialism, because, whether they admit it or not, their measuring stick in most things is England and the English way. They tell you there is no ban on games in England. Yet by their own measuring-stick they are answered. What games hold pride of place in England's life? Soccer, cricket, rugby, and hockey. And rightly so. Whose national games are they? England's. In how many of her public schools and universities are hurling, Irish football, and handball played? Or for that matter, baseball, American football, la pelota, Australian football, etc.? None. No ban? None explicitly formulated, but there is one that is implicitly acted upon. That ban is the English tradition. English nationalism, in other words. One never hears of English public men boosting the games of another nation in the interests of internationalism. They boost England's games. For them games and the flag are inseparable. England's games have followed her conquests. That Ireland has experienced. Fortuitous circumstances helped their spread in free countries that had no ball game of their own. Our internationalists are wiser than they know. There is much to be learned from England and the English way. But it is contrary to what they preach. The Gaelic League stands with all whose aim is the restoration of Irish culture and the destruction in Ireland of the hegemony of English culture.

—This is an extract from "This Irish Racket," published by the Gaelic League, 14, Cearnog Parnall, Baile Atha Cliath.

The hills with beacons all ablaze,
Re'echo o'er and o'er their praise,
And 'mind us of the glorious days
When Cuchulainn was young.
When Eire's native language was sweet
In echoing chorus oft did greet
That hero hurler's matchless feat,
When his caman he swung.



Kilkenny and Tipperary parade previous to their All-Ireland meeting at Killarney in 1937, before the biggest "gate" ever taken at a hurling game.

PADDY



Famous for over 150 years



HURLING :

Its Glamour and Greatness

as a Game

ALTHOUGH Hurling cannot claim the widest suffrage of active adherents in Ireland—as we know, its ablest exponents are practically confined to half-a-score of counties south of the ancient boundary line running from Dublin to Galway—its historical and spectacular appeal is so universal that all Ireland responds to it when the final of the national championship comes around. This we have seen each year. And tidings of the destination of premier hurling honours are eagerly awaited by Irishmen in all parts of the world. Like many another racial inheritance, it is all the more prized the further it has receded from personal enjoyment.

This is not strange to a man of Irish blood or to one of a few past generations in Ireland or the exiled descendants of either; for the game of hurling is as distinctive as the National Emblem itself. It has come down to us from ages when Ireland was strong and free, and we want its history written so that it may still be a link with those proud ages. Its thrill remains in Irish blood and sinews even though familiarity has long been lost with the grip of its weapon and shield, the lithe, hard-enduring ash "camán." The arena of a first-class hurling game draws like a magnet. Sight of one thrills like pipe-music.

The intrinsic merits of the game as an athletic pursuit and test are beyond compare. There is no other, depending on physical endowments alone, to equal it for speed. That, even critical strangers have admitted. It demands mastery of every physical faculty and the co-ordination of all. Strength and fitness are essentials for it; but skill and quickness are over-riding qualifications. And there is something more we can ill define, and can only call a natural gift for the game. Any capable athlete may use a hurley with acquired art. It is only one with the transmitted gift can wield it with artless ease. This is at once the hallmark and the handicap of the game. It enhances it in native eyes, but hinders the ready spread of the pastime.

If we search the available records of Hurling we will find it had once a wide vogue amongst other Celtic peoples, and was not confined to the Gaelic branch alone. It is still the characteristic pastime of the Scottish Gaels, not alone in their native Highlands but in Lowland and Colonial settlements. It was at one time the popular game of the Celts of Cornwall and must still be remembered, if not practised, amongst them. We have read of a silver trophy for which Cornish teams competed in the past century. The painstaking historian of Hurling would tell us of its fortunes there, and if it ever held sway in Wales or Brittany, or what tradi-

tions of a distinctive pastime remain in those Celtic territories. Traces of it might even be found in each other resting-place of Celtic migration.

We are more than inclined to believe that some such game as our national pastime was known in those parts of Britain now far removed from the territory of the "Celtic fringe." We well remember an incident in the Phoenix Park years ago which suggested such a possibility to the imagination. It occurred at a match at the Polo Ground (not then forbidden to Gaels). Two typical North Country men, from East Yorkshire, had been watching the game with unconcealed interest. They inquired what it was called and, on being told, said that, though they had never seen it before, they knew of such

By "CELT."

a pastime in a vague way. It was played in Yorkshire ages ago, they averred; but not now. What legend was in their minds? What subconscious feeling was aroused?

We know from London chronicles that the Irish game of hurling was played in parts of the English Metropolis by Irish exiles in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; a touch of joyous home life preserved amongst those segregated toilers in an alien and hostile environment, long before Gaelic games were organised there under the aegis of the Gaelic Athletic Association. We know also that Irish soldiers of fortune carried the cult of the "camán" far over the earth. The Irish Brigade in the service of France played hurling in many a Continental encampment, and Irish regiments—the "Munsters" for one—clung to it in foreign stations far abroad. Hurling matches at the Antipodes a century ago are historic.

Hurling is actively pursued in Irish settlements from New York to San Francisco, from Chicago to St. Louis, further South from Buenos Aires to Brisbane and in the midst of the South African veldt. An earnest historian of the game might, in tracing its "Wild Geese" wanderings, build up an inspiring tribute to the heart-faithy of the Irish race to native ideals and practices whenever a group of its scattered remnants had even half a chance of manifesting it.

Yet withal, one cannot foresee our

national pastime becoming "internationally" organised; nor regret the fact. There are two cogent reasons for this: It must remain essentially national, and the adept hurler, like the ideal poet, is born, not made. The true art of wielding the "camán" flourishes only where it has been traditional.

It is a remarkable and gratifying fact and a source of confidence in the future not only of our national game, but also of other distinctive possessions, that the popularity of Hurling and the desire to acquire proficiency in it, spreading with the wider knowledge of our racial history. This is the soundest foundation of all for the preservation of the game. That spontaneous trend is shown by the ever-increasing hosts of young hurlers to be seen in towns and villages where the game had become little more than a memory to their fathers. There is a lesson in this. It is, that the game must be linked up with every phase of the work of restoring the Gaelic State in all its cultural aspects, and this emphasises the duty of keeping the game itself upon the highest plane. It would be hard to maintain it as an inheritance worthy of esteem if its practice became associated with undesirable scenes or elements.

It would be the greatest presumption to pretend to foresee the course which Hurling, and native games generally, may take before the centenary of the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association is reached. We can only hope that the path will be a straight and upward one, and that the growth of race-consciousness and pride will advance concurrently. Fifty years ago, no one could have foreseen the present position of this country politically or culturally. The men of that time would probably differ in their appraisal of the situation to-day, and we may be sure that it will be very differently valued half-a-century hence. This, one may suppose, is the secret of human progress.

But our duties lie in the present. We can be instructed by the past and inspired for the future; but, were we Janus-faced, we must not withdraw one eye from the work under our hands. So far as Hurling goes, that work is to make it a better and a brighter game than we found it; to make it better understood in its national status and thereby make it more widely esteemed. We, ourselves, must not esteem it selfishly; but pass its merits and benefits on to the young, with all the ennobling traditions connected with it. In this way, Hurling will take and play its part in the resurrection of Ireland.

This article is taken from "Our Native Games" written by the late P. J. Devlin ("Celt") and published by M. H. Gill & Sons, Dublin.

1 mbéal

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Αφτον

More Victory Songs Of The Gael

Tipperary's hopes are high of another All-Ireland victory this year and the following lines sent us by Sean O Carra, Thurles, should urge them in their bid to repeat their 1937 win.

ONWARD TIPPERARY

Now men of Tipp, you're on your mettle surely,
With rivals who are worthy of esteem,
Be nothing daunted by their blazoned glory,
Remember you're Tipperary's chosen team.

Yes, pride of Tipp, it's yours to do it honour,
Conquer again with Tipp's traditional dash,
With first-time striking, pull and never dally,
The Black and Amber hopes you're bound to smash.

To write your names on Tipp's long roll of honour,
Among the stalwarts' names in memory's keep,
Crash through Kilkenny's back lines like a whirlwind,
With clashing ash and headlong dashing sweep.

We'll light you home with bonfires blazing gladly,
Your victory we'll extoll with voice and pen,
Your fame we'll blazon bright that all may read it
Among the names of Tipp's great hurling men.

★

Leo Holohan, of Thomastown, who has written quite a few Kilkenny songs, sends us a rallying song for the Black and Amber.

KILKENNY ABU!

Rally on! Rally on! comes the loud battle cry
And again sally forth to the fray;
Eire Og takes the lead as you march to defy
Every foe that will stand in your way.

Then steadfastly strive and let courage regain
The prize of all-Ireland for you;
Charge ahead to your goal lads, and never disdain,
For the password's "Kilkenny Abu."

Gallant Ossory men from Mooncoin to Galmoy,
Wield your hurleys in manly array,
Black and amber the flag we are hoisting on high,
As our banner of victory today.

Never yield on the field where you've conquered so oft,
With the honour that none can subdue,
Let our cheers ring aloud while our banners float aloft,
And our cry is "Kilkenny Abu."

★

Tipp, men have every reason to look back with pride on 1930, the year in which the Premier County hurlers swept all before them in Senior, Junior and Minor ranks.
Sean O'Carra sends us yet another

poem — this time in honour of the Tipp Senior team which paved the way for the wonderful feat of three All-Irelands in that one year.

HURRAH FOR GALLANT TIPP!

We hail their very name,
The fifteen whose splendid game
Has loaded Tipp, with fame
For aye.

With good Tipperary ash,
And the old traditional dash
Like coursers from the leash
They bound

They played a stalwart game,
They upheld the County's name,
Broadcasting more its fame
Far and wide.

My heart with joy doth bound
As I hear the cheers resound
From the blazing hills around
Galteemore.

Come boys give one more cheer
Which all Tippmen far and near
With voices loud and clear
Will prolong.

Without mistake or slip
It will pass from lip to lip
The "Hurrah for Gallant Tipp,
Every time."

★

A Kilkenny exile from Langton, Liverpool wrote the following poem which appeared in the *Kilkenny People*. Sung to the air of *The Felons of Our Land* it is entitled:

KILKENNYMEN EVERMORE

Fill up your glasses and drink a toast
and sing with all your might,
While the moon shines down in its glory
o'er our glens and hills to-night.
Light your fires on the mountain tops
and cheer till your throats are sore,
For our hurling men; the cream of men,
Kilkennymen evermore.

REFRAIN:

Sing of the greatest of hurling teams
Of conquering, battling men,
Sing of the heroes of all my dreams,
Kilkenny's brave hurling men,
Sing of the laurels they've won through
the years,
And the vict'ries for them in store,
Sing and give them three hearty cheers
Kilkennymen evermore.

There is not a team in this land of
Eire that can make our idols yield.
When out to win, win they will, 'gainst
the greatest on the field.
Shame on the knaves who were heard to
say our boys' great race was o'er,
Give them the ke and shout from on
high,
Kilkennymen evermore.

What matter whether it's Dublin,
Limerick, Clare or Cork,
It's all the same to our stars of the
game, the better they like the work.
At Birr to-day the Tribesmen elect, from
Galway's Western shore,
Were well vanquished by our stalwarts,
Kilkennymen evermore.

MARKING the start of our fifth year we present another sheaf of Victory Songs. With Kilkenny and Tipperary fighting out the final stage of this season's Hurling Championship it is only right that we should give pride of place to songs of those two strongholds of Gaelic games.

In expressing our appreciation of the assistance given us by Leo Holohan (Kilkenny), Sean O Carra (Tipperary), and Sean O Foghludha (Kilkenny) for their valuable assistance, may we appeal once again for similar co-operation from our readers in the provision of suitable songs for the Football Final and Christmas Numbers of the Echo.

Tipp can shout and boast they'll rout,
but let them have their say.
The boys in black-and-amber will make
them rue the day
Like the "Greyhounds" of Toomevara,
in the far-off days of yore,
They'll meet another Waterloo from
Kilkennymen evermore.

Tho' far over the sea in exile I'll be
home for that great day.
I'll wear my black-and-amber and cheer
you through the fray.
From "Hill Sixteen" to the Hogan Stand,
you'll hear me shout and roar:
"Come on the black-and-amber—
Kilkennymen evermore!"

★

This song was in honour of the Tipp teams who won Senior, Minor and Junior honours in 1930.

THE TREBLE CROWN

Ye Gaels, ye Tippmen far and near,
In one loud chorus one loud cheer
Proclaim the glory of the year,
And gallant Tipp's renown.
Our Seniors bravely led the van,
Our Juniors fought as Tippmen can,
Each Minor proved himself a man,
In bringing home the crown.

CHORUS:

We hail the men whose grit and dash
And skill to wield the seasoned ash,
Made Tipp this year of fair renown,
Proud holders of the treble crown.

In famed Croke Park was seen the clash
When thirty stalwarts crossed the ash
'Twas there they proved again their dash
The men in Blue and Gold.
In Waterford was also seen
Another combatant fifteen
Whose hurling was so swift and keen
As ne'er was seen of old.
As ne'er was seen of old.

With men like these in Innisfail,
The grand tradition of the Gael
Will stand in spite of wind and hail,
Its splendour will not vary;
Our Nation's spirit will not die,
Not foreign influence defy,
Then here's once more our slogan cry,
'Tis gallant Tipperary.

Cló buaire as muintir "An
Cianraice" Teo., Tríúil, agus
Foilsiúir as Luic "Mac Ealla
na nGaeleal." 14 Ceapnós Dap-
nant, Baile Átha Cliath.

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THE

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Contributions and items of interest suitable for insertion in The Annual will be gladly welcomed from County Secretaries and others, by The Editor, c/o 13, Sraid an Fheardorcha Thuaidh, Baile Atha Cliath.

THE ONLY TIME

Only once was extra time played in an All-Ireland Final. This was at Clontarf Park on February 28, 1892, when Kerry (Ballyduff) beat Wexford (Crossabeg) by 2-3 to 1-5 for the 1891 hurling title.

Rejoice, rejoice, Kilkenny Gaels
triumphant now you stand,
Surrounded by your glories and
champions of the land;
We'll raise the Black and Amber, and
our hurlers' crown once more,
They won the fame and made the name
of Kilkenny by the Nore.

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