

# Gaelic Echo

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## G.A.A. President Bids "Gaelic Echo" God Speed

### Jimmy Coyle: A Giant Of Louth Football



IN a personal message to Mr. M. G. Farrell, the Managing Director of the GAELIC ECHO (1954) Ltd., Mr. Seamus McFerran, President of the G.A.A. wished this present issue—the first to be published under the auspices of the new Company—the best of good luck. Mr. McFerran also added that at all times he is wholeheartedly behind any movement or venture which would help to promote and propagate G.A.A. games and culture.

We are deeply grateful to the President for his heartening message, and on our part we can promise him our fullest co-operation in upholding the ideals of our National Games. Elsewhere in this issue you will read that at the first meeting of the Company, Mr. Nick Rackard, one of our Directors, proposed a resolution pledging loyalty to the G.A.A., which was unanimously passed by the Board of Directors.

This resolution we have

taken as the policy of the GAELIC ECHO. In this issue, and in all future issues, we will endeavour to focus attention on G.A.A. affairs in every corner of Ireland and abroad, in the hope that through our efforts we can bring our readers to a greater realisation of the ideals of our National Games and establish in them a greater loyalty to the G.A.A.

If we achieve this, we will have achieved much.

### In Memoriam

THE name of Rackard has become a household word in Irish sport to-day. Between them, the Rackard brothers of Wexford have written a glorious page into the history of the G.A.A. To them, we of the editorial staff of the GAELIC ECHO, and on behalf of our thousands of readers throughout Ireland, extend to them our deepest and heartfelt sympathy on the recent death of their father. May he rest in peace.

### THE PRESIDENT IS A BELFAST MAN



WHEN Congress elected Seamus McFerran President of the G.A.A. last Easter Sunday they demonstrated once again, if demonstration is necessary, that in the national games there is no partition, and that the spirit of sport transcends all borders.

Seamus McFerran is a Belfastman. He is only the second Ulsterman ever to have been so honoured by the G.A.A., but it is accepted by anyone associated, either intimately or remotely with the game, that he is well fitted to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor from the North, Paddy McGee.

He is one of the youngest Presidents ever of the Association, but his age belies his achievements in the Gaelic world. Had he never been President of the G.A.A., his part in building the magnificent Casement Park in Belfast will establish him forever in the esteem of Irish sportsmen through the length and breadth of the land.

As Chairman of the Antrim County Board and Chairman of the Ulster Council, this cheery, efficient administrator gave early indication that he was destined to play a big part in the future of the G.A.A.

In the sometimes difficult situations that confronted the administrators in the North, Seamus McFerran showed by his tact, diplomacy and efficiency that he was well suited for any task.

He comes as President to the G.A.A. at a period of real prosperity. Seldom in the history of our national games has there been such enthusiasm, an enthusiasm to which youth is the greatest contributor. Seamus McFerran is youthful enough to harness this vast potential and make his term of office a memorable one in the history of the Association.

It is not necessary to bring any "new approach" to his post, as the popular saying goes. In the tasks with which he will be confronted he has inherited a legacy of achievement from former Presidents of the G.A.A. to which he will, undoubtedly, make a lasting contribution.

## Loyalty To The G.A.A. Nick Rackard

THE first meeting of the directors of the GAELIC ECHO (1954) Ltd. took place at the Moira Hotel on the 2nd May, 1955, and we trust that in the years to come this meeting may be looked back on as being a very historic occasion. Now we would like you to meet our directors.

First of all there is JIM MAHER of Thurles, who has a lifetime in the G.A.A. behind him, and who was a personal friend of the late Michael Cusack, the founder of the G.A.A. Jim has seen all the greatest G.A.A. games in the last half century, and has met all the giants of the game. In our future issues, we hope to print his reminiscences of the G.A.A., which we believe would make a wonderful series of articles.

What can we say about NICK RACKARD that has not already been said in every newspaper in Ireland. He is a member of the Central Council of the G.A.A., but he is known to everyone in Ireland for his glorious and magnificent displays on the hurling field.

JOHN JOE LAVIN is a member of the Sligo County Board of the G.A.A. and, of course, is better known for his prowess on the football pitch. In addition to football, John Joe also achieved fame on the athletic field, and won the Irish hop, step and jump championship on several occasions.

PEADAR BARRY, of Newry, the Secretary of County Down Board of the G.A.A., is also a member of the Central Council of the G.A.A. Peadar, like Jim Maher and Paddy Duffy, can boast



NAMES OF DIRECTORS. Left to right (standing): Peadar Barry, Nick Rackard, John J. Lavin, M. G. Farrell. (Seated): Jim Maher, Mrs. Mary B. Farrell, Paddy Duffy (Chairman).

of nearly a lifetime in the service of the G.A.A.

PADDY DUFFY is probably the oldest G.A.A. official in Ireland to-day, having been a member of the Louth County Board since 1904. In 1910 he was elected Secretary and remained until 1918, when he resigned. He came back again in 1920, and has been Secretary ever since. This is a record which we think will take a little beating. Mr. Duffy is chairman of the company.

MR. M. G. FARRELL, who will look after the business end of the company in his capacity of Managing Director, was an excep-

tionally fine athlete in his young days, but, as he says himself, "not of championship class." His greatest moment in athletics was when he ran against the former record holder in the 800 metres and 880 yards, Dr. Otto Peltzer, of Germany, but to quote him again: "I would prefer not to mention where I finished."

MRS. MARY FARRELL is the Founder of the Gaelic Echo.

Several resolutions were passed at this inaugural meeting, mostly of a business nature, but we would like to draw your attention to that proposed by Mr. Nick Rackard. This was a resolution of loyalty to

the G.A.A. and to everything National. Need we say that this was passed unanimously.

Well, you have met our directors. Now for a word about you—THE READERS of the Gaelic Echo. We want the paper to be yours. We want you to write and let us know what you think about the Gaelic Echo. Tell us what articles you like, and more important still, tell us about the ones you do not like. Possibly you may feel you could do the editorial a little better. If you do, why not try it? Send us your articles and news. If we like them, we will print them.



# IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE GIANTS OF THE G.A.A. HARDER TO WIN THIS SUMMER

## No. 1 Bob Mockler

By LEO BOWES

A RECENT meeting of the General Council of the N.A.C.A. decided to limit the entry for the All Ireland Championships this year. The following only will be allowed to compete:

### NEW ATHLETIC CLUBS

The N.A.C.A. continues to gain strength throughout the country and new Clubs have been formed in Newtown, Co. Laois, and Ardee, Co. Louth. The former will be known as the St. Abban's A.C. The formation of this Club was due in no small way to the efforts of local Athletic enthusiasts Myles Reilly and J. J. O'Neill. The Club got away to flying start when it won its first promotion, a 14-mile relay event.

The Ardee Club will be known as the Ferdia A.C. and was formed at a meeting held in the town recently, which was presided over by Supt. T. Mac Donough, G.S., who is Chairman of the Louth County Board, N.A.C.A.

### MEET THE DOLANS

By "FIFTY."

In a Minor football game played at Ballinamore recently, Vinnie Dolan, a nephew of the famous Father Joe Dolan, who played with Leitrim in 1927, scored three goals and one point of the team's total. Runner-up to him in scoring prowess was another Dolan—this time Eamonn, son of Mr. Ned Dolan, also of the 1927 team—who scored three goals for Ballinamore in the first round of this year's Minor Championship.

It is expected that T. Dolan, also of Ballinamore, will be on this year's Minor string.

- (a) Title Holders (in their own events).
- (b) The first three in the Provincial Championship Event.
- (c) County Champions (in their own event).
- (d) Those whose handicaps were within the following at the closing date for entering:—

- 100 Yards: 3 yards or less.
- 220 Yards: 8 yards or less.
- 440 Yards: 15 yards or less.
- Mile: 40 yards or less.
- High Jump: 4 ins. or less.
- Long Jump: 1 ft. or less.
- Shot: 4 ft. or less.
- Javelin: 20 ft. or less.
- Discus: 15 ft. or less.
- Hop, Step and Jump: 2 ft. 6 ins. or less.

There will not be any restriction on entry into the 4 Miles, 16 lb. Hammer, 56 lb. Without Follow and Over the Bar and the Hurdles events. Qualifications for the 60 Yards automatically qualifies for the 100 and 220, and vice versa. Likewise with the 220 and 440.

The Standing Committee has power to allow the entry of any athlete into any event.

### N.A.C.A. Championship Dates

- July 10th.—All Ireland Junior Championships at Dublin.
- July 30th-31st.—All Ireland Senior Championships at Dublin.
- August 7th.—Inter-Provincial Championships at Athlone.
- August 28th.—All Round Championships at Dublin.

### Add A Touch Of Colour To All-Ireland Day

Here is a sound suggestion from "Suainsean," who writes this month's "Gossip from the North" elsewhere in this issue.

"Why not a blazer for county hurling and football teams?" he asks.

Surely some Irish textile firm would only be too glad to do business in these blazers? Old county players could wear them on All-Ireland days, and what rich colours we would see. Kerry, green with gold piping; Cavan, royal blue; Kilkenny, black with amber edging, etc., etc.

What do readers of THE GAELIC ECHO think? Write and let us know. Personally, we think it would add some colour to All-Ireland days.

\* \* \*

### Clare Cycling Revival

By R. McKEON

Ever since it was announced last year that the Ras Tailteann Eight-Day Race would pass through Clare, interest in the Sport in the County has been growing, and a huge crowd gathered in Ennis to cheer the riders at the end of the Tralee to Ennis stage of the race.

As a new Cycling Club, the Fergus Wheelers, will shortly affiliate to the National Cycling Association, Clare sportsmen may have a chance of cheering a Clareman to victory this year, as members of the Club

are training hard in the hope of being invited to compete in what has been dubbed "The Greatest Cycle Race Ever."

Although the course for the 1955 event has not yet been announced, it is very likely that it will pass through the County again this year. The Clare stage was organised last year by David Browne, Hon. Secretary of Clare N.A.C.A., who was complimented on the wonderful job he made of it, and the organisers promised him that if it is at all possible the race will come through his area again.

Later Bob captained the Faugh's team which triumphed over a Middleton side representing Cork in the 1920 championship. And for ten more years he helped the Liffey-siders to win further glory. As a player, Bob Mockler had few equals. Falling balls were "as meat" to him, while his powerful pucks over formidable distances defied competition. A contemporary summed him up: "Bob was an expert at 70's and frees at all distances. At Croke Park (156 yards) I have seen Mockler score from far behind the half-way. For curiosity I measured a ball of his one day after a match in which he pointed a free. It was 98½ yards clear. May Bob live to be present at many more All-Ireland Finals.

His career as a hurler and handballer began in 1910 with the famous Horse and Jockey Club of Tipperary, and when he came to Dublin as a young man he helped the renowned Faugh-a-Ballagh Club to capture many important championships. In 1917 the Tipperary athlete won his first All-Ireland medal when Dublin defeated his native county.

By a strange twist of fate, Mockler played for the winners.

By "PRESSBOX."

### KERRY FORCE IS FAR FROM SPENT

Don't you for one moment think that Kerry is bowing its way out from the list of top-class football teams in the country at the present time. Some folk, including many in the historic Kingdom, feel that this present crop of county material shot its bolt in winning the 1953 All-Ireland.

Oh, yes, we all know that the boys who lost to Meath last September were disappointing in their performance, but that does not say that there is not in the county material good enough to whack the pick of any other county. If it was put to a real test you'd see.

That old enthusiasm is still there, and when the time comes you'll find Kerry a very strong force in the Munster Championship. They know quite well that neighbouring Cork are doing everything possible to recover that much-coveted title and will be a stiff obstacle this season, but they are already planning for the All-Ireland semi-final.

Big loss to Kerry in the provincial competition will be Jim Brosnan a son of the famous Con Brosnan, who by the time these few words appear will have gone to the United States for a couple of months. Object of the trip is to raise funds for his parish church at Movvane.

And don't think that it will be only the Kerry seniors who will be the danger. The minors are on the rampage and dead-set on making up for the last-minute defeat of the 1954 boys by Dublin. This year's team includes a number of the defeated side. "Big man," of course, is full-back Tim Barrett, a son of the late Joe Barrett, whose name is mentioned whenever the topic of conversation turns to Gaelic Football. Tim, incidentally, was honoured at the Tralee C.B. School when presented with a special Cup for outstanding service in representing the school on thirty occasions in the past three years.

### Gossip From The North "Suainsean"

I saw Mullahoran win the Cavan Senior League title (1954) against Bailieborough in Breefni Park last Easter Sunday. This team—then known as the Loughduff Volunteers—won the Cavan Junior Championship back in 1917, but never having seen one of the medals, I was beginning to doubt the accuracy of the records.

But an amusing incident, which happened in New York in 1917—an incident which nearly wrecked marital bliss for one evening—proved the accuracy of the records. Here is what happened.

I was down in the Bronx one evening that year with one J. Dunne, who was on that winning team, and who told me that somewhere at home he had one of the medals awarded for that championship. His wife and himself were delighted that I showed such tremendous interest in the particular medal—so much so that he immediately

offered to run around the block to his home to fetch it. He did, and in less than five minutes appeared around the door of the restaurant. It was a crest-fallen face. No medal. He had searched high and low for it, but could find no trace of it.

Home went Mrs. Dunne. Five minutes later her face appeared at the door. Her's was an angry face. Oh, yes, she had found the medal, but she had also found the house tossed about from cellar to attic—drawers pulled out, clothes strewn all over the place. For a few minutes she made J. Dunne extremely sorry that he had ever left Cavan.

But her anger passed, and the evening finished on a happy note. As far as her husband felt, he was extremely happy to have his medal again, and personally I was delighted to see one of these elusive medals at long last.

Incidentally, I had the pleasure of congratulating

Mick Higgins on his recent promotion as Sergeant of the Garda, and I saw Paddy Reilly in his usual thorough fashion start his second period of 50 years as an official of the Cavan G.A.A. Paddy is Treasurer.

I was extremely sorry to be abroad when Garda Tom Sinnot (Kilkenny) died. He was a great Colleges player in his young days, and a staunch Wexford supporter. Among his possessions was a photograph of which he was deeply proud. It showed him, with Pdraigh Pearse and some St. Enda's players.

G.A.A. men are very active in the organisation of the Ballyshannon Drama Festival (the same is true of Cavan). Hugh Daly, Secretary of the Donegal G.A.A., is also Secretary of the Ballyshannon Drama Festival Committee.

I have been told that in St. Patrick's Training College, Armagh, copies (typed) of Dick Fitzgerald's famous book

on Gaelic football are made available to the playing students. Now that is one book that I would really like to have. Can anyone in Ireland sell me, or lend me, or at least tell me where I could find one? Please let me know.

Brother Gibbons of Derry C.B.S. has trained a junior school team to win the McMahon Cup. Bro. Gibbons should be well-known to past pupils of O'Connell Schools, for he spent quite a time there.

I have seldom seen a better game of football than that between Summerhill College, Sligo, and St. Jarlath's of Tuam, in Sligo. What struck me most forcibly was the splendid physiques of both teams, which treated an unusually small crowd to a spirited classic of glorious football. Connaught have now won six Inter-provincial College titles. Leinster eleven, Ulster nine, and Munster three. Connaught will do better in the years to come.



# A Lifetime in The G.A.A.

**James Harrington Of Cork**  
By SEAN DEE

"I AM particularly proud of the fact that I was the first person to get Paddy O'Keefe to go forward as Secretary of the G.A.A."

This was told to me recently by a sprightly octogenarian—Cork-born Mr. Jas. Harrington, writes our Special Correspondent.

Mr. Harrington, whose memories of G.A.A. happenings go back over sixty years, was Treasurer of the Cork County Board at the turn of the century and also Chairman of the Munster Council, and a member of the Central Council of the G.A.A. for a considerable time. He told me that he once attended a convention over sixty years ago where he met Michael Cusack. Mr. Harrington's most abiding memory of that illustrious Gael was his rather disconcerting habit of addressing everybody—a la French Revolution—as "citizen."

"In those early days," said Mr. Harrington, "we officials paid our own expenses when we attended meetings and I'm afraid few of us kept diaries. We little realised then the great organisation we have today would grow out of our efforts."

## Three Outstanding Qualities

I asked Mr. Harrington his reasons for persuading Mr. O'Keefe to become General Secretary of the G.A.A.

He replied: "I realised that he had the three great qualities necessary for making a success of the position—and they are tact, foresight and organising ability."

We talked about hurling and how the giants of the past compared with the men of today. Unlike many of the "old-timers," Mr. Harrington paid due deference to the men of to-day, but he declared that as physical specimens to-day's players suffer in comparison with the men who held sway a half-century ago.

We talked about football, and here (like so many others), Mr. Harrington chose the famed 'Kerry-Kildare' period of twenty-five years ago as the 'Golden Years.'

We got on to those much-maligned characters—the referees. Mr. Harrington was somewhat sympathetic towards them and blamed irregular interpretation of the rules for giving rise to unnecessary controversy.

"Referees should be members of a committee which would clarify the proper interpreting of the Rules so that each one would prove consistent."

## Recipe For Longevity

James Harrington was a business man in Cork, but

now lives in retirement in Dublin. I asked him for his recipe for longevity and youthful buoyancy.

"Three reasons," he told me. "Three meals a day, three walks a day and three smokes a day." He smokes a pipe, but though not a tee-totaller drinks very little.

## Curfew By R.I.C.

He attended the famed North Monastery School in Cork and even to-day remembers with some amusement attending a hurling game while still a schoolboy in Passage between Blackrock Nationals and Redmonds. The R.I.C. proclaimed the closing of all public houses for a consider-

able distance around and at the time had the Mounted Police out to enforce the ban. However there were no incidents and it was an "unexpectedly quiet game." "This must have been about 65 years ago," said Mr. Harrington.

## Still A G.A.A. Fan

Mr. Harrington was a guest at the recent presentation to the Secretary of the G.A.A. and met many old friends at the function. He still attends matches at Croke Park, especially when Cork are playing, and as our Correspondent saw, is a very keen and successful gardener.

## FOOTBALLER AND BOXER

By L. MAGUIRE

LARRY O'BRIEN, of Meath, who replaced Brian Smith in the League final, was a former juvenile boxing champion (9 st. 7 lb. class). He is related to Joe Foley who helped the Irish team to beat the American Golden Gloves team in the Stadium on May 6th.

Larry was a member of the Meath Junior All-Ireland team of 1952. Since then he has been prominent on the senior side until a knee injury, early this year, put him out of the game.

Another player with knee trouble is Tom Moriarty. During training in preparation for the League semi-final against Armagh, the Killeen man injured his right knee, and as a result he failed to raise a flag in that game. He was still handicapped with it in the final and had a most unhappy hour. But then, he was not the only one to be unhappy.

## THE CASE FOR THIRTEEN-A-SIDE

By P. MCGINN

MANY will cry "Soccer-fan" when I say that the number of players in a Gaelic football team should be reduced, nevertheless the thirteen-a-side game has many advantages over the present system. To appreciate this we need only look at an Ulster Colleges game. I know many who have come away greatly impressed after seeing their first game under the thirteen-a-side code.

Thirteen-a-side teams have only two full-backs and two full-forwards. Opponents of the system claim that to eliminate the centre-full-back and centre-full-forward positions would take half of the "glamour" out of football. Would Joe Keoghane, Sean Boyle, Paddy Prendergast and "Big" Paddy O'Brien be household words all over the country if this position were done away with?

Thirteen-a-side football has many points in its favour however. In the first place many clubs, particularly those in the poorer districts, are continuously hit by emigration. No sooner is a team built up and trained together than three or four players emigrate to Scotland or England. Thirteen-a-side competitions give the weaker parishes a chance against their stronger neighbours. In North Leitrim, where emigration hits hardest, thirteen-a-side competitions are the rule.

In inter-county football how often do we see the 'middling' counties like Carlow, Longford, Sligo, Armagh or Donegal come near to success only to lose in the semi-final to one of the 'big guns.' Generally it is a case of twelve or thirteen good players on the team 'carrying' three or four 'passengers.' This may succeed for a while, but when the acid test comes, then the small county invariably goes under. Inter-county football on a thirteen-a-side basis would do much to even out Gaelic football and make the honours go round. The All-Ireland football final has been won by only fourteen of the thirty-two counties. A greater distribution of the honours would be for the good of the game generally.

Finally, thirteen-a-side football is more open and constructive. The smaller number of players on the field means that tackling is not so close. As a result, the intelligent and swift player has a chance to field the ball cleanly and to part it to a well-placed colleague or take it with him on a solo-run. In this way fitness and skill are encouraged and the unfit and dangerous player is seen to disadvantage. Recently in one northern county, three of the county's seven senior teams were given six-months suspensions for rough play. All over the country decent-minded followers are deploring the many incidents and scenes that are occurring at games. Many of these incidents are caused by crowded pitches, and particularly crowded squares. A reduction in the number of players per team would help to remedy this state of affairs.

## ★ ACTION ★



## Roseberry-Sarsfields

### Tradition of Football Ability and Sportsmanship

ONE of Kildare's famous football clubs was Roseberry, a name given to that part of the Lord Lucan estate bordering the Liffey, and about 440 yards west of Droichead Nua. For many years it supplied players to the Kildare team, and many often wonder what became of it. The truth is that it still exists, but under a different name, and embracing much more territory than of old. And no less famous is the newly-named club, Droichead Nua Sarsfields, which got its name from the connection with the Lord Lucan district, and whose magnificent club-room and head-quarters is still in Roseberry, at the rear of the imposing Dominican College.

Whenever one speaks of Kildare football, he must necessarily speak too of Sarsfields, because it must have been a long time ago that a Kildare senior team did not include a Sarsfield player, or a Roseberry stalwart. And to this day, the tradition has been maintained in supplying players to the Lily Whites. But the Droichead Nua Club takes even greater pride in its spirit of sportsmanship, and gentlemanly behaviour both on and off the field, than in its unbroken tradition of re-

## By "Fear Siuil"

presentation on Kildare teams, or in its imposing record in county championships.

## Three Great Years

It is with pardonable pride that Sarsfields look back on '50, '51 and '52, when they won the senior championship each year, with victories over such strong teams as Clane, Ardclough, Army, Carbury, Athy and Suncroft. But Sarsfields boasted an unbeatable side in those years. "Boiler" White, Con and Tommy Hanlon, Bill Gerathy, "Bunny" Kavanagh, Sean Brennan, Jack Fitzgerald, Connie Maher and Jim Gaffey—all Kildare stalwarts. Liam Hastings, who won two All-Irelands with his native Mayo in '50 and '51. Veterans like the evergreen Jim Cash or John Keogh, or up-and-coming stars Miko Doyle, Frank Timmons, John O'Neill, Billy Donoghue Ray Swan and Billy Dempsey.

## Emigration Strikes Sarsfields

But although retirement and emigration have deprived them of half of that team, and although defeat has been their lot in '53 and '54, Sarsfields believe that even in defeat they can still make a valuable contribution to Kildare football. Shrewd mentors like jovial Chairman Bill O'Neill, or energetic Secretaries Eddie O'Connor and Joe Dunne, or quiet-spoken Phil Garrett, have introduced young blood into the team, and have given youngsters like Tommy Buckley, Pat Timmons, Owen Lawlor and Sean O'Reilly the chance to emulate the former, unforgettable stalwarts who wore the green and white, men like Rafferty, Buckley, the Conlans, the Fitzgeralds and Mick Geraghty, who blazed the trail and preserved the enviable tradition of sportsmanship and loyalty to the higher ideals of the game that is the trade-mark and the proud heritage of Droichead Nua Sarsfields, famous off-spring of illustrious Roseberry.



# THE TRUE FACTS OF THE ATHLETIC SPLIT

## WHY THE N.A.C.A. WAS SUSPENDED FROM INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION

**T**HE NACAI founded in June, 1922, is the only National Organisation that has ever represented Ireland in International Athletics and Cycling in spite of its suspension from the International Arena in 1934, the association has gone from strength to strength as the following figures illustrate.

1924 Year of first affiliation to the IAAF ... 52 clubs  
 1937 Year of final suspension from the IAAF ... 153 clubs  
 1954 18 years without International competition, estimated ... 400 clubs

In 1924 the Council of the IAAF unanimously recommended IRELAND (as represented by the NACAI) to membership of the federation. At the International Congress held in Paris that year the delegates present, including five from England, unanimously and unconditionally, elected IRELAND to full membership. In the Olympic Games held that year in Paris, the NACAI team competed as IRELAND. This was the first time ever that Irishmen were able to compete in the Games as Ireland.

Everything went smoothly until in 1925 the Secretary of the NACAI found it necessary to draw the attention of some Ulster Clubs to the Rules of the NACAI and the IAAF regarding betting and gambling, and the running of animal races in connection with Sports Meetings.

At the NACAI Congress held in May, 1925, the Antrim Co. Board tabled a motion to give permission to the Board to allow athletic events to be held at the Celtic Football Club's meeting, which featured whippet and pony racing. In support of this motion it was stated that it was impossible to run athletic meetings except in conjunction with whippet racing. It was also stated that the Celtic Club would not make any attempt to suppress betting and gambling at their meetings. As this motion would, if passed, result in the automatic suspension of the NACAI from the IAAF all the delegates present, except the Ulster contingent, voted against it and it was defeated. The Ulster delegation left the meeting. Eventually a new organisation was formed in Ulster, although the majority of the clubs still remained NACAI.

Thus by following the directives of the IAAF and

1. Prohibiting Betting at Sports Meetings.
  - ...2. Prohibiting Animal Racing at Sports Meetings.
  3. Refusing to affiliate a professional Football Club.
- the NACAI laid the foundation for its own suspension nine years later.

In February, 1926, the Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association of England (the AAA) wrote to the NACAI saying that he had received a communication from the new "North of Ireland" body. He asked for particulars as to its scope and character and the position was explained to him.

In May, 1926, the AAA again contacted the NACAI and this time suggested a round table conference between the AAA, the NACAI and the North of Ireland body. The NACAI replied that while it realised that the suggestion was made in all good faith the dispute was a domestic one, and the NACAI was competent to deal with it. The origin of the new association was fully explained.

At the International Congress held at the Hague in August, 1926, the minutes of the 1924 Congress were read. The delegates, including three from England, made no objection to the unconditional admission of the NACAI to membership of the IAAF. During the previous two years the NACAI had been in complete control of Athletics and Cycling in the 32 Counties.

The next Congress was held in

This magnificent article, which we believe to be the most illuminating story ever written on the athletic dispute in Ireland, originally appeared in the March issue of "Cuchullian," and we are grateful to the Editor of this Journal for his permission to re-print the article in "The Gaelic Echo."

Amsterdam in 1928. The five English delegates made no objection although the NACAI team had competed in that year's Olympics as Ireland and when Dr. O'Callaghan had won the Hammer Title, the Tricolour was flown, and the National Anthem, Amhran La Laoch, was played.

In November, 1928, the AAA (England) informed the NACAI that the North of Ireland Association previously referred to had applied for affiliation to the AAA and that the AAA was considering the matter.

In April, 1930, the AAA finally decided to recognise the North of Ireland body and took upon itself to limit the jurisdiction of the NACAI to 26 Counties.

In May, 1930, an International Congress was held in Berlin. Three English delegates attended but did not raise the question of the right of the NACAI to control the 32 counties of Ireland.

In spite of this attempted piracy by England the Ulster Council NACAI carried on as usual with its programme of Sports Meetings, etc. The new Northern Association passed a suspension on all NACAI athletes who competed at these meetings. Among those suspended was Dr. O'Callaghan, the Olympic Hammer Champion. Then came one of the most important decisions ever made in the history of International athletics.

The AAA recognised these suspensions and struck off the names of the suspended who

had entered for the AAA Open Championships in London.

Thus we had the two Associations, the NACA of Ireland and the AAA of England who were both members of the International Amateur Athletics Federation and pledged to recognise one another. A third body, the North of Ireland Athletic Association, which was composed of men who had been suspended for breaking the International Federation's Rules, suspends members of the NACAI. Then the AAA, although pledged to recognise the NACAI, makes the amazing decision to recognise the suspensions.

The AAA had openly contravened the Rules of the IAAF by—

1. Interfering in the domestic affairs of another member association of the IAAF.
2. Recognised suspensions passed by a body which was not a member of the IAAF.

It would seem obvious that the stage was now set for the suspension of the AAA from the IAAF.

At the International Council Meeting held in London in 1931, the AAA raised the question of 26 County status for the NACAI. The NACAI submitted that it was the duty of the Council to safeguard its member from interference by other members and to administer the affairs of the Federation and its Rules, including Rule 7 which stated "Associations shall recognise each other as the

only legislative authorities for Athletics in their respective countries." After a full discussion, the matter was referred to the 1932 International Congress.

The 1932 Congress was held in Los Angeles. When the "Irish Question" came up, the NACAI delegate raised a point of order that the decision of a previous Congress should not be the subject of discussion unless circumstances had changed since such a decision was given. The President ruled this out of order, and said that the Congress could, if it wished, alter any previous decision it had made at a previous Congress, and that the item would be dealt with. The Polish delegate proposed that the matter be dropped and the Italian delegate seconded. The proposal was carried by 12 votes to 6. Thus the 1932 Congress re-affirmed the decision of the 1924 Congress and the NACAI was still recognised as a 32-County Body.

As the delegates left the meeting one of the Englishmen remarked to one of the NACAI delegates, "You have the dagoes and the majority, but we will get you in the committee."

At the Olympic Games held that year Dr. O'Callaghan retained his hammer title and R. M. N. Tisdall won the 440 yards Hurdle. Each was followed by the hoisting of the Tricolour to the winners' mast and the playing of the National Anthem. To all concerned it would seem obvious that the matter was settled and the NACAI had won its case.

However, this was not to be so, and behind the scenes the English and West British Associations continued to scheme to deprive the NACAI of what two International Congresses had deemed to be its rights. In 1933 the President of the IAAF informed the NACAI that the Amateur Athletic Associations of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland had merged to

form a new association to represent the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Council had admitted this body to membership. This was a direct contradiction of the rulings made by the International Congress (the supreme body) in 1924 and 1932 and the NACAI protested accordingly. The President replied with a threat of suspension, so the NACAI decided to appeal to the next International Congress of the IAAF.

This Congress was held in Stockholm in August, 1934. After much discussion on the question of limiting the NACAI's jurisdiction, the voting was as follows:

For 26 Counties	... 9 votes
For 32 Counties	... 1 vote
Abstained	... 10 votes

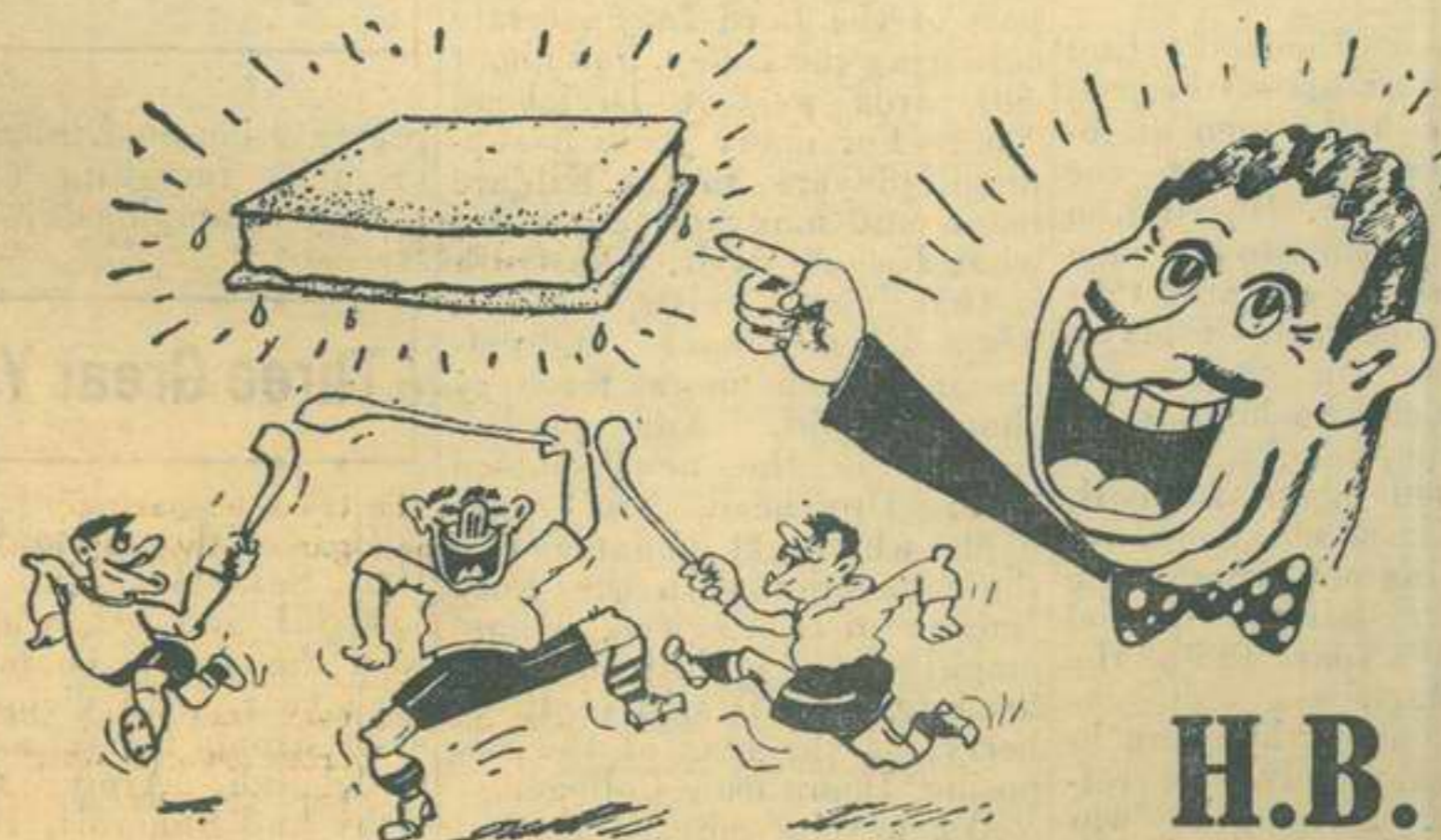
The NACAI pointed out that a majority of the members had not voted for a change in its status, so that the decision of the 1924 and 1932 Congresses must stand. The President over-ruled this and ruled that the NACAI must accept 26-County status.

NACAI Congresses in 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937 refused to accept this decision and the Association was suspended. As a result Dr. O'Callaghan and R. M. N. Tisdall, who remained loyal to the NACAI were unable to defend their titles at Berlin in 1936. O'Callaghan attended as a spectator, and saw the Hammer event being won at a distance well within his capabilities.

In November, 1936, the Secretary of the IAAF informed the NACAI that an application had been received from another body in Ireland which was willing to accept 26-County status. He asked the NACAI to reconsider its decision and to accept these terms. The NACAI refused and in February, 1937, was suspended "forever."

The body willing to accept 26-County status then came into the open—the AAUE was born.

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# Hurling Needs New Approach

THERE is no doubt that football enjoys a far wider popularity than hurling, and to some enthusiasts of the latter, this fact must be extremely puzzling. Granted, there are parts of the country where hurling is played to the exclusion of the "catch and kick" game, but, even in recent years, that state of affairs is slowly but surely changing.

The reason for this is not hard to find. It must be remembered that every county, with one exception, fields a football team for championship games, whereas, only Munster and Leinster show a healthy hand in competing for hurling's highest honour.

Can anything be done to rectify this dangerous position? Has the G.A.A. done everything in its power to encourage the growth and popularity of hurling?

What are the symptoms of this disease which denies our National game the support it so richly deserves? Why is the game so backward in Connacht, Ulster and parts of Leinster?

## DOWN SOUTH

Cork, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick and Waterford are in the top-flight when it comes to wielding a caman and the province's six counties, all have their names inscribed on the Honours' List—Kerry won the Blue Riband near the turn of the century when represented by the famous Luane Rangers.

Cork and Tipperary, of course, top the list, the two between them, accounting for over thirty titles. If one can forget Clare's poor showing in the National League play-off game against Tipperary, and remember instead the magnificence of their displays in the Oireachtas competition, it is easy to understand why many shrewd followers of the game regard the Banner County as the dark-horse for this year's Munster Championship.

In Waterford, it was a case of letting players grow old in harness, so to speak, with a mere trickle of youngsters stepping up to fill the gap. However, it is a safe bet that the Suirside will soon be riding on the crest of the wave again.

The same applies to Limerick—home of the fabulous Mackey brothers—but if one is to judge by the display of their junior side when winning last year's All-Ireland, the Shannonsiders are indeed well on the road back.

## Steady Improvement In Leinster

In Leinster, the position is not so good but, happily in latter years, there has been a decided improvement and the upsurge of Wexford and the re-appearance of Dublin and Kilkenny as "real" contenders, have made the issue a more open one with the distinct possibility that, in the not too distant future, the grip of the Southern counties will be loosened and eventually broken.

This fact has been brought out, painfully as far as the Southerners are concerned, in recent Railway Cup games, particularly in 1954 when Leinster won the Cup with as meritorious a win as one would wish to see.

## Ring's Glitter Should Be Widespread

By D. J. Kelly

The above three counties apart, however, there is plenty of room for improvement. Only a few years ago, Laois flattered to deceive when winning their way to a show-down with Tipperary. What happened then, of course, is now past history but the unpleasant fact is that the downslide of the O'Moore County dates from their inglorious exit from that year's championship.

In Wicklow, Westmeath, Meath and Offaly, officials and players alike are sparing no effort in their endeavours to hit the "big time" and they are under no illusions about the gap that has to be bridged.

There seems to be very little activity in the remaining counties, Kildare, Longford, Louth and Carlow and it seems as if this quartette are more concerned with recapturing the limelight in the football arena.

However, there is every confidence in the Eastern province, that this recovery, so evident in recent years, will not only be maintained, but also improved upon.

Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that credit for the game's present popularity, lies

not improve their prospects of carrying off the All-Ireland crown.

True, Roscommon have shown signs of a willingness to help in keeping the flag flying but their efforts in this respect, will have to be doubled, nay trebled, if that very desirable position is to be attained. A helping hand would be very welcome too from Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim where the call for an increase in the number of hurling clubs sounds suspiciously like the proverbial death-rattle.

Yes, Galway's plight is an unenviable one as, untried and unchallenged they must step into Croke Park ready to do battle with the might of Munster or Leinster—a position that is not only ridiculous but generally unhealthy for the game as a whole.

## Northern Outpost

Ulster's position is one that needs drastic remedies with the speed and urgency born of desperation. Gallant Antrim have

wavered in their willingness to come back for more.

## The Prescription

Those are the symptoms, and I diagnose the disease as being "Hurling Starvation." In other words, these counties in which the game is backward, have never had a chance to enjoy the thrills, spills and glory that are part and parcel of a "real" hurling encounter.

They have never seen Cork's fabulous Christy Ring, Vin Twomey, Josie Hartnett, or Willie John Daly; Tipperary's majestic Pat Stakelum, John Hough, Tony Reddan or Theo English; Wexford's mighty Rackard brothers, Bobby, Nick and Willie, Jim English, Jim Morrissey or Podge Kehoe; Clare's immaculate Jimmy Smyth, Dan McInerney, Donal O'Grady or Des Dillon; Dublin's superb Norman Allen, Kevin Matthews, Con Murphy or "Snitchie" Ferguson; or Kilkenny's masterful Sean Clohessy, John Sutton, Jim Hogan, Johnny McGovern, or

Finally, the Open Draw would mean that the best teams, and only the best, would clash in the All-Ireland Final at Croke Park in September and, after all, that is as it should be on that great occasion.

## A True Gael

By N. BYRNE

SURELY the above applies to Jos. Fletcher, who can be seen any day at Croke Park or Parnell Park whenever two teams, be they All-Ireland finalists or lowly juniors, meet. Jos is also Chairman of Fontenoys—one of Dublin's oldest hurling teams—and invariably is at every match they play. At the turn of the century Jos was quite a player himself, and to-day four of his stalwart sons form the backbone of the team. Last year a fifth retired after many years of sterling service. One of his sons, Matt won an All-Ireland Senior medal in football; another, Bill, has one for hurling, and, believe it or not, his daughter Rose has one for Camogie. Surely this record takes some beating. Yes, Jos Fletcher can be truly termed a "True Gael."

## REMEMBER THIS SCENE?



CHRISTY RING SHOULDERING THE ALL-IRELAND CUP.

—Photo courtesy "Cork Examiner."

fairly and squarely with the Munster counties who, by their zeal and enthusiasm, their foresight and skill, have aroused in those, and neighbouring counties, a love for the game that borders almost on the fanatical.

## EYES WEST

In Connacht, Galway are the lone standard-bearers and their grit and determination through the years in the face of adversity, have earned them a special niche in the Hall of Fame. In players like Jamsie Duggan, Billie O'Neill, Billy Duffy, Johnny Molloy, Tommy Boland and Joe Salmon, to mention but a few, the county possesses a richness in talent that matches that of any county but lack of proper match-practice does

not improve their prospects of carrying off the All-Ireland crown. True, Roscommon have shown signs of a willingness to help in keeping the flag flying but their efforts in this respect, will have to be doubled, nay trebled, if that very desirable position is to be attained. A helping hand would be very welcome too from Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim where the call for an increase in the number of hurling clubs sounds suspiciously like the proverbial death-rattle.

Time was when Cavan, Armagh, Donegal and Down put up at least token resistance to Antrim's superiority but nowadays the challenge is so weak as to be non-existent.

All credit then to the gallant Glensmen; to Kevin Armstrong and his stout-hearted men, who, year after year, had the dubious pleasure of making the journey to Croke Park for what, invariably turned out to be a trouncing; yet, their spirit was so strong, their hearts so brave, that they never

the many others which space alone prevents me from naming.

Is it right that these counties should be denied the right of seeing these true artists of the game in action in championship ties? Is it fair? Is it necessary?

The answer is "NO." The cure—the absolute cure—is an Open Draw for Hurling which would result in the strong teams having to visit the weak, thus inspiring the "weak" to greater effort; thereby attracting record attendances to those parts and giving the people a chance of learning the finer points of the game from the "stars." This would be especially appreciated by the youth of the country and create an incentive in the weaker sides to be just as good as their more illustrious opponents.

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## Heaviest Man—Lightest Hurley

THOUGH he is the heaviest man on the Wexford senior hurling team, corner forward Paddy Kehoe uses the lightest hurley—it weighs only 1 lb. 4 ozs. Mid-fielder Ned Wheeler wields the heaviest stick—1 lb. 7 ozs.



# The First G.A.A. Trip To The U.S.A. They Control New York's G.A.A.

BY PHILIP RODERICK

In these modern times, travel—whether it be to any part of Ireland, to Great Britain or even to the U.S.A. poses no problems for the G.A.A. Our athletes, hurlers and footballers can travel in the "lap of luxury," and if necessary can be transported from Ireland to New York within a matter of hours.

But spare a thought for the hardy men, who made the first G.A.A. trip to the U.S.A.—the "invasion" team of 1888. For them there was no luxurious trans-Atlantic liner, no strato-cruiser. It took three long tedious weeks of sailing from Cobh to New York, but looking back on that trip now, there can be no doubt, but that it was worth all the trouble and hardship.

These hardy men, from all parts of Ireland laid the foundation of the G.A.A. in the New World, and to-day the association there thrives and flourishes. The "invasion" trip may have been a decided flop from a financial point of view, but it would be impossible to estimate the tremendous stimulus and impetus it gave to the National sporting movement in America.

The promoter of the "invasion" team was the immortal Maurice Davin, first president of the G.A.A. and a wonderful athlete, who planned the trip as the means to establish the G.A.A. soundly in America and with the hope that it would lead to a series of international contests in hurling, football and athletics, between Ireland and the U.S.A.

It was also his belief that the financial gains from the trip would help to clear off a lot of the G.A.A. debts here at home. Unfortunately this aspect of the trip proved to be a failure, and subsequently Michael Davitt had to come to the G.A.A.'s assistance with a substantial loan to defray the debts incurred on the trip.

Incidentally it is interesting to note that at a later stage, when the G.A.A. was in a more prosperous position, the Central Council decided to repay this loan, but Davitt—wonderful Irishman that he was—refused to accept the money.

When the idea of an "invasion" team was first broached, it was received with unbounded enthusiasm, throughout the country, and it was eventually discussed and sanctioned by the Central Council in July 1888. In fact the enthusiasm was so great, that the All-Ireland series of that year were abandoned, so that a maximum amount of time and effort could be devoted to preparing for the trip.

Finally the great day dawned. On the 6th September, the team, composed of athletes, hurlers and officials, embarked on the S.S. Winsconsin at Cobh, and set sail for the New World. It was a magnificent team. Amongst the athletes were, James Mitchell, of Emly, Co. Tipperary, a world record holder in the weights events, and destined to become even more famous in America, where he set new world records, and also competed in the Olympic Games; Dr. J. C. Daly, another wonderful weightman; Pat Davin, world record holder in the high and long jumps, and one of the greatest Irish champions of all time; Willie Real of Co. Limerick, another world record holder in the 56 pound weight; Dan Shanahan, a 50' hop, step and jumper. Tim O'Connor of Ballyclough, Co. Cork, British and Irish high jump champion, who was to add the American championship to his collection; Dan Fraher of Dungarvan; T. O'Mahony, the "Rosscarbery Fire Engine," an outstanding quarter mile and half mile runner, J. P. O'Sullivan, and many others.

The hurlers, all household names throughout the length and breadth of Ireland came from Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Dublin, Leix, Wexford, Offaly, Limerick and Clare.

They were all fine specimens of Irish manhood, fit, strong, healthy

and good looking men.

On the 25th September they arrived in New York to be met by a vast concourse of Irish exiles, who gave them a heartwarming and heartfelt welcome to the New World. It was a great day. For the first time in history, a team of Irish sportsmen had come to do battle with the finest men in America.

Mind you the athletes of America did not take too kindly to the men from Ireland. Maybe they did not relish the idea of being beaten on their home grounds. Less than a fortnight after the Irishmen landed, they showed their strength by smashing several American records but unfortunately due to an athletic "war" which was then raging in the States, the attendances at most of the meetings were poor.

The Irish athletes continued in their winning way at Brooklyn, Yonkers, Providence, Lowell and Trenton, and at the American Championships in New York, T. J. Mahony of Rosscarbery won the 40 yards title, and James Mitchell, the 56-pound weight championship.

The Irish hurling teams were a great success. Never before had the Americans seen such wonderful sport. They thrilled to the artistry of Ireland's national game and the sporting writers devoted columns to the extraordinary dexterity of the lads from Ireland.

One of the unfortunate results of the "Invasion" was that the American way of living attracted over twenty of the team, and when the Irishmen assembled to set off on the long journey on the 31st October, these men decided to remain in America and settle down there. Among them was the doyen of Irish weightmen, James Mitchell, who stayed on to become one of the greatest champions of that time. Mitchell, who already won seventeen Irish championships, and five British, won twenty six American championships and fourteen Canadian titles before he finally retired from the athletic scene.

During the trip, Maurice Davin, who only travelled as the manager of the athletes and hurlers was persuaded to make an appearance at Worcester, and with a light hammer reached nearly 130' with one hand—an outstanding performance for a man, whose competitive days were long behind him.

His brother Pat was a great success on the "Invasion" trip, but apparently the stories of his prowess had gone before him, and America's champion all round athlete, Malcolm Ford declined to meet him on the field.

This gallant band of men, who blazed the G.A.A. trail into the New World are nearly all gone now, but their memories will always remain fresh in the history books of the G.A.A.

To them must go our gratitude for laying the foundation stone of G.A.A. sport in the New World. For that we must never forget them.



First row (left to right): Judge James J. Comerford, Installing Officer; Mr. Terry McGuinness, Recording Secretary; Rev. Egan Reid, O'Carroll; Mr. Patrick O'Callaghan, Mr. P. J. Grimes, Trustee; Mr. Richard Powers, Financial Secretary.  
Second row (left to right): Mr. Timothy Clune, Custodian; Mr. George Ryan, Trustee; Mr. Michael Flannery, Treasurer; Mr. P. Hughes, Auditor; Mr. Michael Martin, Trustee; Mr. John J. Byrne, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. Patrick Langton, Auditor; Mr. Sean Maxwell, Auditor.  
Messrs. Ryan, Langton and Maxwell were "stand-ins" for Messrs. James Ryan, James Kelly and Andrew Connolly, who were ill.  
(Gunning Photo service, 455 Ft. Washington Ave., New York 33 N.Y. (Photo

## ★ Peadar Lynch ★ Star Of The Future

By B. McLUCHUDA

It is nearly a year now since I first saw the brightest football prospect I have seen in years. He had just come to the city and it was his first game with Westerns. It was quite evident he was somewhat awed by the big occasion and to add to his unrest he had Sean Murphy of Kerry as an opponent, but to my surprise he covered himself with distinction and gave the Kerry star the game of his life.

From that out I took notice of the fair-haired young man each time I saw him play. The more I saw the more I began to realise that here was a star of to-morrow.

How perfectly he fitted with such men as Tom Dillon, John McAndrew, Mick Mulderrig and Peter Donoghue—his fine fielding was a delight—his drop-kick deadly accurate—and to add his knack of punching a ball when blocked from anything up to twenty-five yards out, over the bar.

Delightfully uncommon, match after match he improved, until now he is Western's top scoring machine.

By now most of you must know

## Seven-A-Side Season Games

Dear Sir—With the arrival of the long summer evenings, clubs throughout the country will take advantage of them for holding seven-a-side tournaments. Every year more and more clubs are realising the benefits to be gained from such tournaments, with the result that from now until the end of August many will be engaged in this novel form of competition.

At one time these tournaments were staged in conjunction with carnivals, fun-fairs or other forms of entertainment devoted to raising funds for some local charity. Now, however, clubs run their own tournaments and they sometimes last for as long as three weeks with up to thirty teams taking part. In short, seven-a-side tournaments are now Big Business.

What benefits are to be derived from such tournaments? First, and most important, there is the financial return. Because there is little expenditure even a moderate attendance insures a respectable profit. There are few clubs to-day who do not need money. The high cost of transport, footballs, and the rent of pitches eat into their slender resources. Thus a tournament is the only answer to this financial problem.

The seven-a-side game is also a splendid medium for getting a team into shape for the more important competitions and provides ample opportunities for trying young or inexperienced players. In addition, it is ideally suited for the country districts that have little to offer by way of entertainment during the summer season.

Prizes offered in these tournaments vary according to district. While medals are the most popular, such items as football boots, wristlet watches, etc., have also been offered. It has even been reported that members of winning teams have collected such fabulous prizes as radiograms and motor-bikes!

Despite its ever-growing popularity there are many who maintain that seven-a-side is not good football, that it does more harm than good. When asked to explain why, they can never give a satisfactory answer. My own belief is that more and more seven-a-sides should be played. What do you think?

L. MAGUIRE.  
Dunboyne.

## Ailbe Ryan Fit Again

By J. C. LONERGAN

Twenty-six years ago in the little town of Emly, Co. Tipperary, Ailbe Ryan made his debut into this world. As a boy at Tipperary C.B.S. he learned his football, and afterwards as he grew older, he developed the finer points of the game at Mount Mellary College Waterford.

Ailbe first came into the Tipperary team when he assisted the junior team in 1950, but a year later he found his place on the senior team as left half-back.

This was a great year for Ailbe, and he gave some wonderful displays during that season, his best being against Cork's Farnham Young whom he subdued in a four hour day of football.

1953 saw him win inter-provin-

cial honours, but he had the bad luck to be injured in the opening quarter of his first appearance for Munster.

This injury was the forerunner of many more, but Ailbe is back to full fitness again, and eager to take his place in the Premier County team, which he sincerely hopes will make things hot for the best counties in Munster this year.

Ailbe is an extensive farmer on the Golden Vale—a non-drinker and a non-smoker. Vital statistics. Age, 26; height, 5' 10"; weight, 12 st. 8 lbs.

His ambition? To win an All-Ireland football medal with his own Tipperary. Maybe he will some day. Down here in Tipperary, we all hope so.

## Athletic's Personality

DAVID BROWN OF ENNIS





# Gaelic Echo

## Agricultural and Industrial Review

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# Ireland's Progress

## A Lead to Other Nations

**A**CHIEVING the ideal of an Ireland not merely free and Gaelic, but populous and prosperous, was the ambition of all the men and women who set out in various ages to establish the new Ireland. There were economists side by side with the soldiers, industrialists fighting with the same aim as the scholars and poets.

In the Sinn Fein policy in the post-1916 period of that carried the nation so successfully from the apparent defeat of 1916 to the comparative triumph of later years, there was emphasis on economic independence and industrial prosperity.

Ireland was foreseen, yes, as a land guarded by its own independent army, taking its equal place among the nations, and a land reverting to the general usage of its old language. But in the minds of Griffith and others, and in the much earlier writings of men like Swift and Thompson, and back through the centuries, the ideal included economic prosperity.

How much of this economic ideal remains to be accomplished, and what are the chances of achieving it? Even

### In Future Issues

Apart from the industries we have mentioned in this issue, and other nation-scale industries which have been subsidised as an investment for the future, great progress has been made in the past thirty years by some private industrialists—such as the late William O'Dwyer of Cork—in creating new fields of endeavour.

This survey in future issues will give further summaries of progress and possibilities in agricultural, industrial and other spheres of activity.

### ḡaḡeiltḡ sa monarcain

Ir féorip le na cailíní aḡur na buacailtí acá aḡ obair ip na monarcain móran a ḡeanaí éun cabrú le aḡbeoacaint na ḡaeóitḡe. Cúḡ leo ḡaeóitḡ a labairt anoir a' r' air ar fead an lae, ar a laḡeas.

Tá ré ar a ḡcumar an méro rin a ḡeanaí mar tá an ḡaeóitḡ aca. Cail ríad na bliadna ó'n a ré go dtí a ceataim deáḡ aḡ foḡlum na ḡaeóitḡe. Óa b'riḡ rin tá ríad abalta an ceansa a labairt.

O'féarad ríad na beannaé-tai ḡaeóitḡe o'áráo. Cail-neócaḡ amán ḡaeóitḡe le na h-óib'ḡeóip i b'rao níor feair ná "jazz."

Ip na monarcain ra ḡaeó-eatcaé níl le cloirne ac ar ceansa o'úcair. Cé'n fáe nac mbead ré mar rin i nḡae monarcain ar fuo na h-éip-eann? Ar aḡaíó teip an obair!

### Cork Oil Project Marks Big Industrial Advance

The recently-announced plan to establish an oil refinery at Whitegate, Co. Cork, marks a major development in the growth of Irish industry.

In fact, in its far-reaching effect on employment, the £15,000,000 oil refinery may take a foremost place in the nation's outstanding industries, outstepping even the great beet and cement enterprises.

At the moment we import about £12,000,000 worth of refined petroleum spirits, and when the refinery is set afoot a great deal of this money will remain in the country, because the refining work will be done here and the imports will be limited to the unrefined raw material.

On the building of the refinery alone, thousands of skilled and unskilled workers will find employment on a project extending for two years at least. Engineers, chemists and other technicians will also find a new outlet for their skill.

In as much as our neighbour Britain finds it possible to export some 25 per cent. of her oil-refinery output, the possibility of a new channel of Irish trade—possibly a dollar-earner—suggests itself.

Irish Shipping will probably have a share in the tanker traffic which will be required to bring the crude oil to Cork for refining. At present the company has a coastal tanker on charter to Irish Shell—one of the three Irish oil companies financing the new project—and plans for the building of other tankers are under consideration.

### Reclamation for Beet Growing

With the reclamation of Gowla Bog by the Irish Sugar Company, many Continental countries (and many further afield) turned their attention to this "object lesson" in what can be achieved by intelligent planning plus modern machinery.

Experts feel that by continuing the reclaiming of the boglands, another million acres can be added to the country's 17-million acres of productive

land already available to farmers.

In less than four years, the 2,400 acres at Gowla have been reclaimed, and work has started on another 500 acres.

It was reported recently that the reclaimed 2,400 acres produce £10,000 worth of grass meal; hay valued at £1,200; compound dairy nuts at £6,400; and peat fuel to the amount of £7,880 a year.

### HOME SPUN



Irish Tweed is becoming increasingly popular with Leading Fashion Designers throughout the world to-day. See article, "Ireland Storms Fashion World," on page 9.

MEETING YET ANOTHER NEED

# SUMMER SHELL

Summer motoring makes its own severe demands on petrol. Summer Shell is specially blended to meet them.

HOT WEATHER increases every engine's tendency to knock—so Summer Shell is blended for higher knock resistance in hot-running conditions.

HEAT AND HEAVY FAMILY loads make for pre-ignition—so I.C.A.'s action in preventing pre-ignition becomes all the more vital.

SUMMER TRAFFIC—JAMS increase the risk of stalling—so Summer Shell is blended for reliable slow-running in hot weather.

FINALLY, SUMMER MEANS LONGER JOURNEYS. The further you take your car, the more important your choice of petrol becomes. You can be sure of Summer Shell.

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The most powerful petrol you can buy





# MECHANISED FARMING IN IRELAND

Mr. Harry Ferguson, speaking in Detroit, Michigan in 1947 outlined his approach to the problem of ever-rising costs and increasing populations that had not got enough to eat, in what is now regarded as one of the most accurate summarisations of the world food production problems. He said: "The good earth must produce 'more than enough' to keep its population in comfort. It must produce 'more than enough' at prices which the people of the world can afford to pay."

To bring about these obvious benefits to mankind, it was not just enough to have machinery. There must be a plan behind the machinery. If the plan were good, and the machinery good, then "we would have the greatest and best news that was ever heard." We would have a new hope for mankind.

This plan is the idealistic yet practical basis of the Ferguson System, and the one safeguard against the Price-Increasing System, for as Mr. Ferguson emphasised: "It is the farm which is the basic cause of the Price Increasing System. The whole trouble is definitely in agriculture. That is not the farmer's fault. He must be given an opportunity to produce the necessities of life at a cost so low that we can cut the vicious circle of ever increasing prices and wages."

Mr. Ferguson then pointed out that while much genius had been devoted to the manufacturing industry, the farmer's equipment is substantially as it was hundreds of years ago. The answer to this incredible situation was found in the Ferguson System of Farming, with its unique integration of tractor, and implement working as a single unit or piece, and the value of finger-tip control of implement proved to be most adaptable on small farms.

"The Ferguson System can be operated by a child in small fields and awkward corners, and makes the horse look as foolish as he would look in a factory. The old idea that only large farms should be mechanised is wrong. The smaller the farm, the greater the need for mechanisation, because the animal power eats so much of what the farm produces."

And Ireland, like the rest of the world, needs food. Mr. Paul Appleby, the former Under Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, said: "Two-thirds of the people of the world are normally engaged in producing food, and two-thirds of the world do not have enough to

eat." This incredible situation can only be solved by the most modern methods. But before this new system of mechanised farming could be successful, a scheme of education would be necessary.

From the introduction of the first Ferguson Tractors into Ireland, it was quite evident that if the new system was to achieve the success it deserved those who were to use the system would first of all have to go back to school to be prepared for the new modern methods.

It was decided that a Mechanised Farming School would be established in Ireland at which farmers of the future could be trained in the proper use and maintenance of the tractor, and the multitude of appliances which go to complete the Ferguson system—without fee or obligation of any kind, other than the payment of board and lodging.

And so the Ferguson Mechanised Farming School was established in the delightful, and charmingly scenic Powerscourt Demense at Enniskerry. This school exists, first and foremost for the training of personnel from the distributing organisation, and dealers throughout the country, so that they in turn could educate the farmer on his own land.

Many individual farmers, realising the superior qualities of this System have purchased equipment, but have not had the advantage of the specialised instruction which is now being given to Dealer personnel, and in consequence are not getting the maximum benefit from their investment.

To meet the needs of such farmers, special courses of one week duration have been instituted to give instruction on implements specified by the farmer himself.

The complete course of three weeks' duration for the instruction of members of the Ferguson Dealer Organisation is divided into three separate weeks, each covering a different range of implements.

Under fully qualified in-

structors, students are taught the handling, field adjustments, and maintenance of the full range of farming implements and gain practical experience in every aspect of farming from the reclamation of derelict land, through the normal cultivations to the preparation of seed beds, the sowing of crops and the final harvesting.

Instructional films and lectures are also included to augment the practical field work.

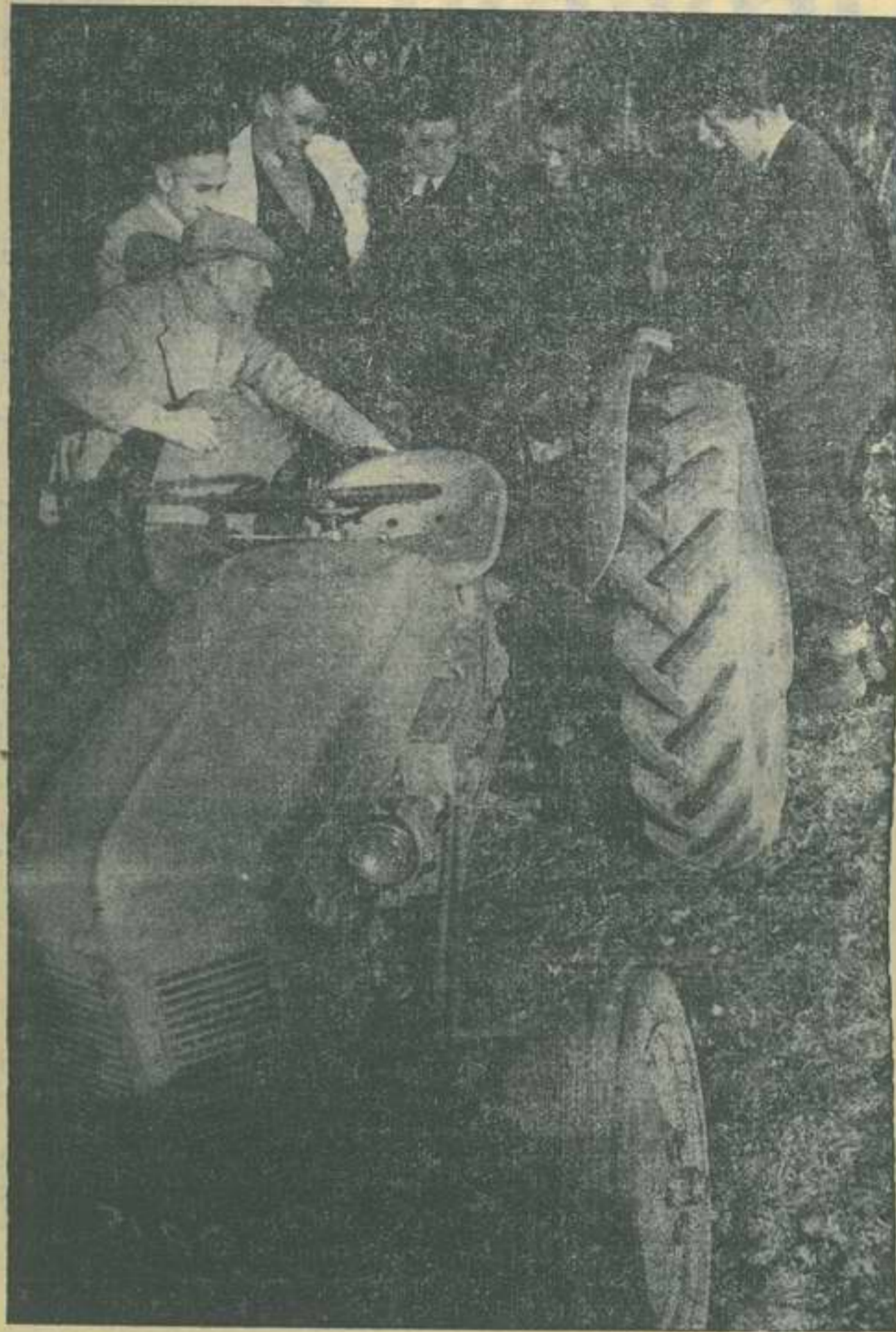
Mechanised farming is on the increase in Ireland. A recent check of the number of tractors in the Irish Republic revealed the fact that the figure had increased from 2,000 to over 20,000 since 1939. Ferguson should be reasonably proud that nearly half of this figure represents Ferguson Tractors.

Since 1939, the number of power animals in the Republic has fallen from 668,000 to under 300,000, which should prove that education in mechanised farming is really making headway.

The time when a tractor was merely an assistant to the horse on a farm is gone. Nowadays, the animal is not even an assistant—it is non-existent.

Obviously the Ferguson School of Mechanised Farming at Powerscourt has been a wonderful success.

## Plough Instruction at Powerscourt

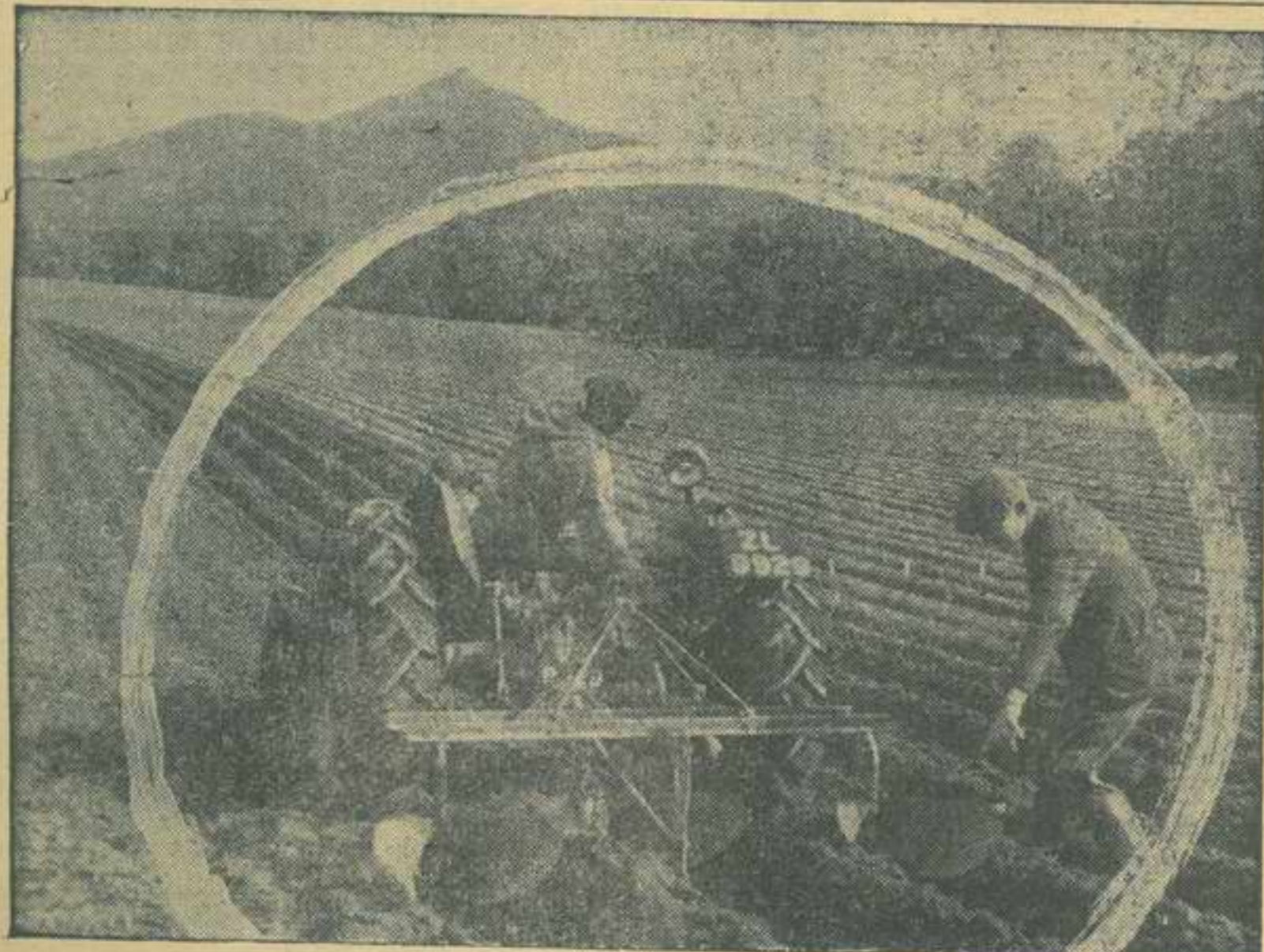
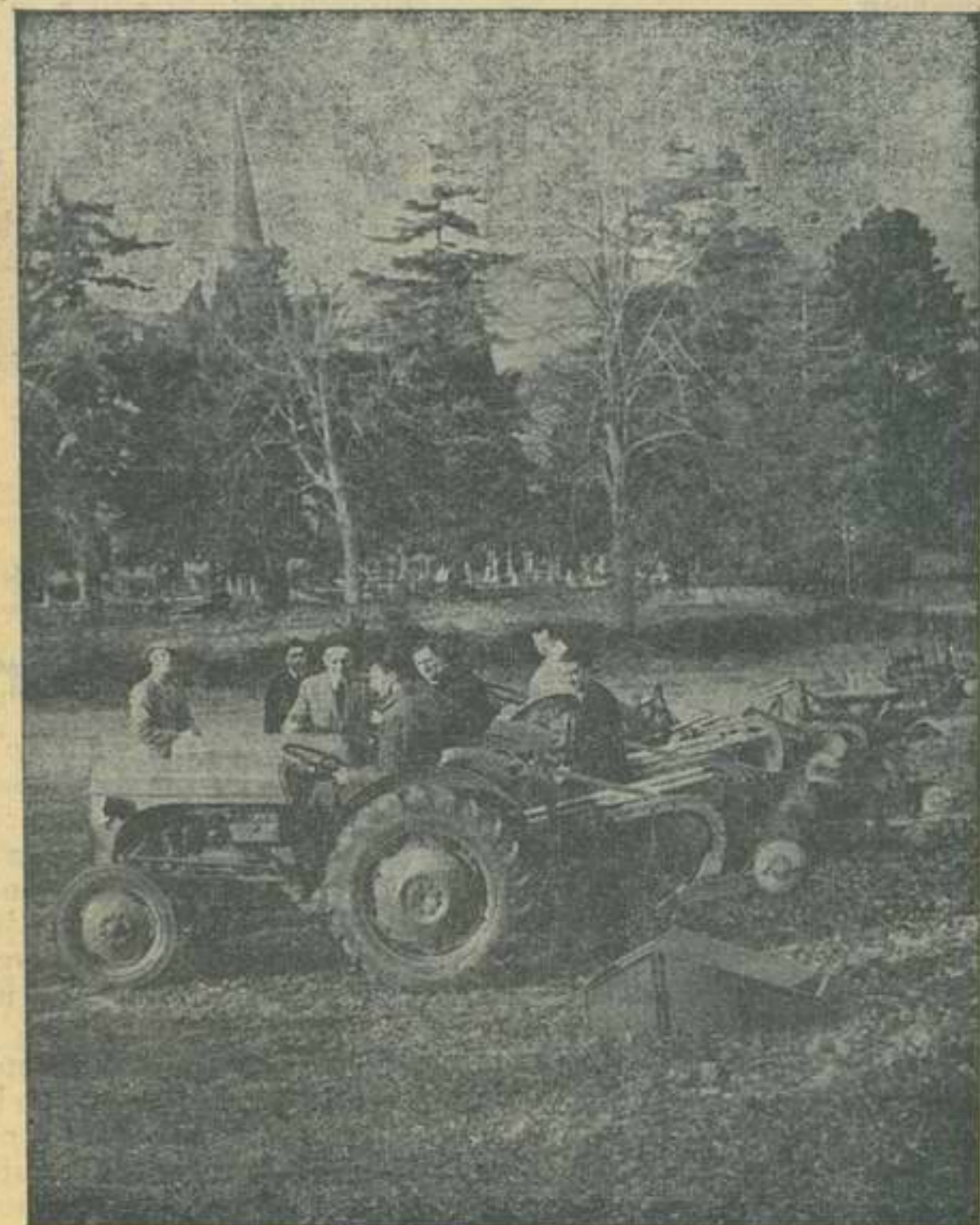


### POWERSTOWN

*Powerscourt lies in Co. Wicklow, less than an hour's run from Dublin. It would be difficult to find a more beautiful or fitting place for such a residence, surrounded as it is as far as the eye can see by gentle, hilly and glorious country.*

*To-day this historic demense houses the Ferguson School of Mechanised Farming, and it is a magnificent home. Prize herds of Hereford cows graze on the historic hillsides. To-day one of those hills, once considered too steep to plough has been cultivated by the Ferguson School and is growing oats—a fitting memorial to the school, and inevitability of man's ingenuity and progress.*

## The Machinery Paddock



A FAMILIAR SIGHT IN IRELAND TO-DAY.



# This Scheme For Power From The Wastelands Has Set Europe A Headline

WORLD students of the production of power from land-areas, rather than the already well-tapped rivers, lakes (natural or artificial) and other sources, are giving special attention to the Republic of Ireland, where the first milled-peat station of its kind outside Russia is being pioneered by the Electricity Supply Board and Bord na Mona.

The use of the peat in a granulated form introduces a system unique in Europe.

In less than six years, say the Boards, a great power station near Ferbane in the Midland county of Offaly will be using a million tons of peat each year to generate steam to drive giant turbines which will distribute 400-million units of electricity for domestic and industrial purposes.

The two Boards already have many men at work erecting the power station, and draining the bogland and preparing it to provide the peat.

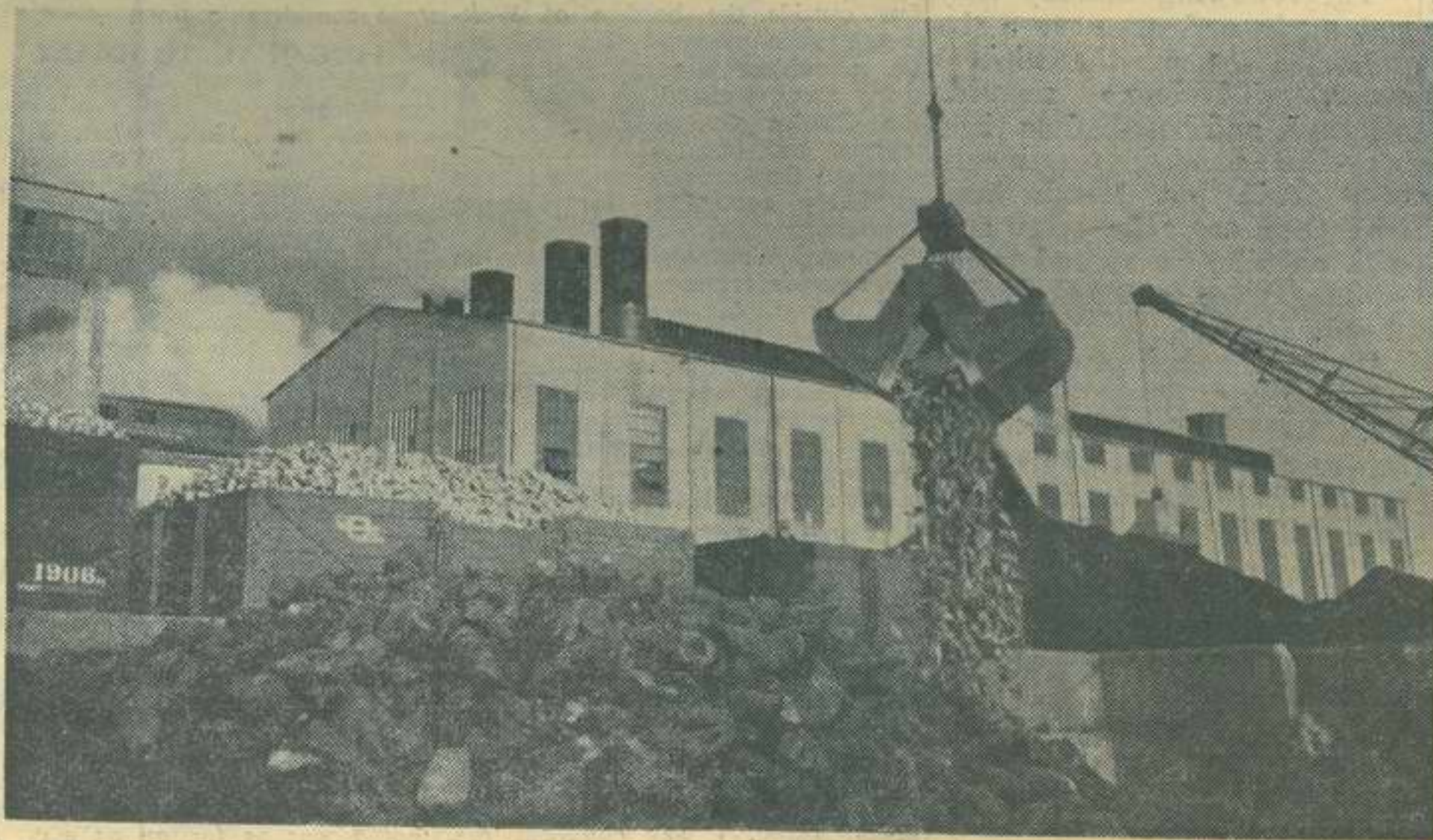
In time a wilderness will be turned into a highly productive area manned by over a thousand skilled and unskilled workers.

In the first stage, the station will be equipped with three 20,000 kilowatt steam turbo generating sets and three boilers, each with an output of 220,000 lbs. of steam per hour. The two water-cooling towers will each be 266 feet high and 185 feet in diameter. In less than two years, it is estimated, the station will be generating power at the rate of 240-million units a year.

Final stage will bring into action two further turbo generators and two boilers of the same capacity, and a third cooling tower.

Eventually, this one county will supply peat for three power stations. Already the area has a peat-fired station (using sod peat) at Portarlinton, and plans are being completed for another one near Rhode. This will have a generating capacity of 40,000 kilowatts, providing about 160-million units yearly.

Ireland's vast strides in harnessing its water resources, and especially its peat-expanses, have aroused the interest of all European countries.



SUGAR BEET FACTORY

## Mineral Wealth is Being Tapped

Unofficial probings by all sorts of people are revealing the extent of Ireland's untapped mineral resources.

Recently Professor W. D. Gill, a noted meteorologist, after surveying the Kilkee, County Clare, area, said he is convinced it contains rich deposits of natural gas—a near-relative of petroleum.

About the same time Mr. J. Tully, Labour T.D. for County Meath, expressed the belief that worthwhile deposits of copper, coal and zinc lie under the surface of that county.

In Bunniconlan, Co. Mayo,

according to members of the local County Council, there are coal deposits worth developing. Coal deposits are also thought to be available in the Ox mountains, bordering Mayo.

In Avoca, Co. Wicklow, Ireland's main source of copper, lead and zinc deposits are being developed.

Following the discovery of a substantial body of ore there, the mining rights were taken over by Mianrai Teoranta.

At Arigna and Castlecomer anthracite coal is mined.

### French Palate Seeks Irish Periwinkle

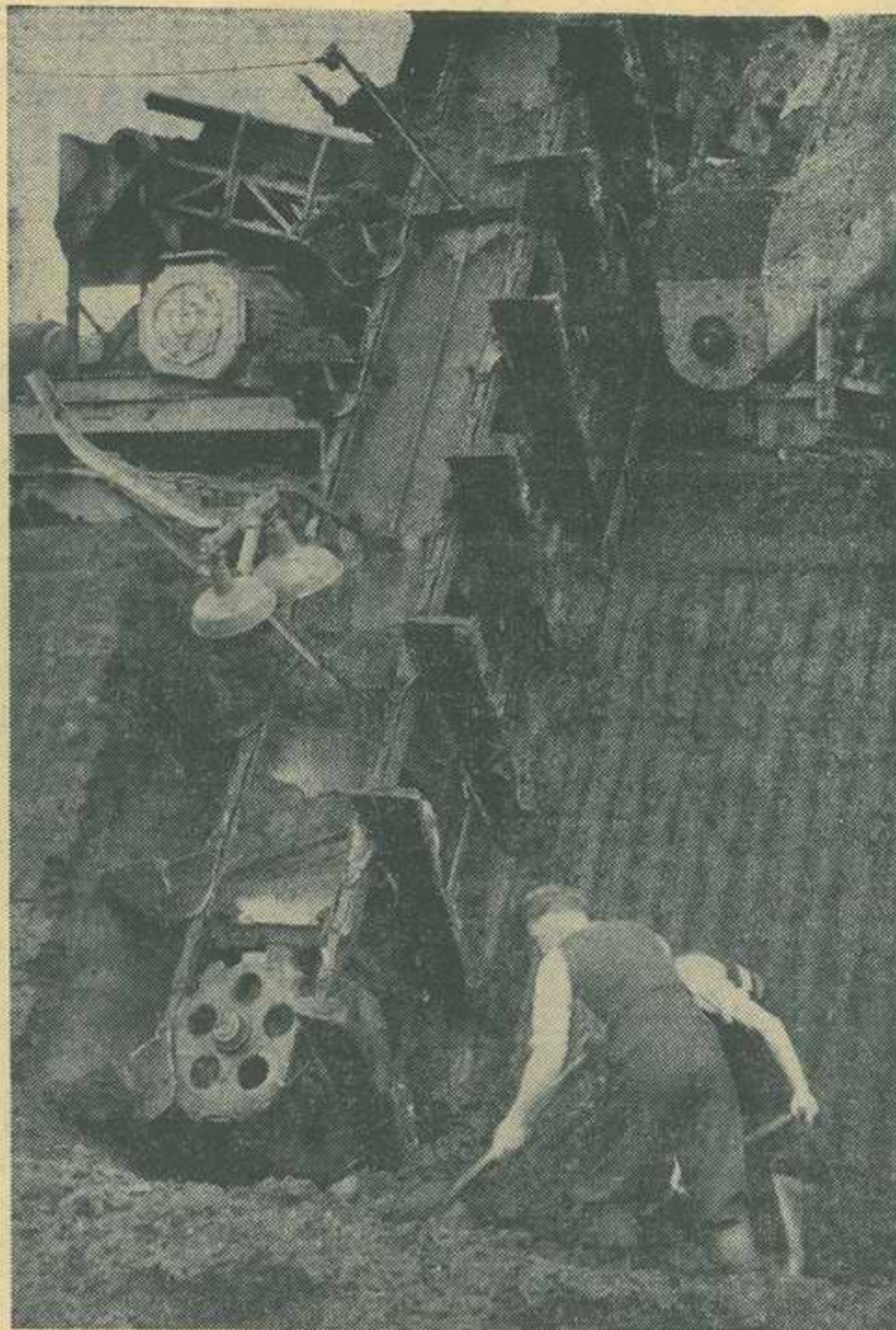
WHILE vast schemes have been proceeding—the development of the Western lakes and rivers, for instance, to create an “angler's paradise”—pioneers are not neglecting the possibility of various by-products of land and sea.

French taste for an Irish shell-fish, for instance, promises a new boom for part-time winkle pickers on the Southern and Western seaboard.

Last year family parties from Connacht fishing villages were able to usefully augment their income by gathering the shelled mollusc beloved by French gourmets, while in some Southern fishing centres the price of periwinkles went as high as £1 per cwt. In Loughros Point and Rosbeg, near Ardara, County Donegal, a good harvest was gathered.

The periwinkles are brought across to France in specially designed boats and are landed at Dieppe and other French ports.

Billingsgate and other British fish markets are also interested in Irish periwinkles.



MACHINE TURF.

## Ireland Storms Fashion World

Irish fashion pioneers, mostly working independently, have awakened world interest in Ireland's centuries-old tradition of quality, beauty and craftsmanship.

These Irish designers have stormed the strongholds of the long-established fashion leaders by taking their collections to all parts of the world—to America, France, Great Britain and to Australia, and as a result many foreign buyers came here.

This exchange of fashions and experts has raised the status of Irish designers to a high place in the world of fashion to-day, so much so that Ireland itself is only now fully realising the potential value of this revival.

It began with a simple appreciation by a few Irish pioneers of the beauty and grace of old Irish designs, some of them surviving in adapted traditional form since the far-off centuries when this land of ours had its native kings and its Royal Courts, and when banquets and flowing dresses and the priceless accessories of those far-off days (gold ornaments for neck

and hair and wrists) gave added splendour, grace and grandeur to the fabulous balls of Tara of the Kings.

Apart from the collections shown abroad, and in Ireland for visitors from abroad, there is an increasing number of local showings for the home trade. Smaller houses unite with manufacturers of accessories to hold joint exhibitions where anything from hats to shoes is represented; there have been similar showings in provincial cities and, meantime, the half-dozen or so leading designers, mainly interested in the international fashion world, are being highly praised in competitive cities abroad.

With such steady progress by the Irish designers, who have never lost an opportunity of going abroad not only to show their own designs, but to see what the world is doing, the future seems promising.

What Ireland is really doing in the international fashion world is adapting its traditional arts and skills (whose outlets have been limited for centuries) to win the position it has long had in other fields from racing to literature.

Sales of Irish designs in the United States and other overseas countries went well last year, said the experts of Coras Trachtala Teoranta. In 1954 Irish-designed clothes worth 50,000 dollars were sold in the United States alone.

This is no mean feat for a “baby” industry. In the years to come it will continue to grow, and perhaps one day the centre of world fashions may find its way to Ireland. Stranger things have happened.

### ARKLOW POTTERY WORKS ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT

Although Ireland has a glorious tradition in porcelain manufacture through Beleck, the Government thought it more important to foster the development of a factory producing every-day household wares, and so the Arklow Pottery Works came into being.

These works are completely

self-sufficient. The clay and minerals used in the manufacture of Arklow ware comes from the neighbouring Wicklow mountains. Electricity for the ovens is generated from turf and water power stations.

In its comparatively young existence, Arklow pottery has built up a growing tradition for excellent craftsmanship and quality.



## Following in Dad's Footsteps

By PADRAIGH MacAODH

Remember the late "Lovely Johnny Dunne," Kilkenny's star forward during their golden years from 1930 to 1940. His young son, aged 16, gave an outstanding display for Bennettsbridge in The Rower Parochial Tournament recently by scoring 2 goals and 3 points. His two goals had the hallmark of the "old lovely" stamped all over them.

Also appearing in this tournament was Mick Leahy, Clare inter-county hurler, with Tullogher, who beat St. Vincents by 2-6 to 2-5 in May. Mick is teaching in the Technical School in Tullogher, and many people are wondering if he will ever don the Black and Amber of Kilkenny which, incidentally, is also his present Club colours.

Watch out for James Murphy, Carrickshock, Kilkenny inter-county junior centre-field player, who saw service with the senior team during the League campaign. Great things are expected of him here in Kilkenny. Many think that he is the best prospect the county has had since Jim Walsh, also of Carrickshock.

## The Voice You Hear On Sunday Night

By PHILIP RODERICK

Ten years ago I was unfortunate to be in London one Sunday night, and as those of you who have been in London know, Sunday night in that city can be a very lonely time. I must confess that I was desperately lonely on this particular evening—lonely for my own fireside in County Cork; lonely for even the sound of an Irish voice.

I turned on the radio, looking for some music to cheer me up. Suddenly I heard it faintly—a homely voice, rich in its Irish accent, bringing a breath of Ireland into my lonely room.

It was Seán O'Callaghan giving his Sunday night talk on Gaelic games. To me at that particular moment it was the loveliest voice in the world. It brought me back into the Irish fold, for at that moment, just after ten-fifteen, I knew that in hundreds of small hamlets and villages, in remote farmhouses, in suburban homes throughout Ireland, thousands of Irish people were listening to the same voice.

Ten-fifteen on a Sunday evening is still a special moment for G.A.A. followers all over Ireland, even though we no longer hear Seán O'Callaghan with his Gaelic sports talk. Some years ago Seán decided to call it a day, and since he retired from Radio Eireann we hear instead the voice of his eldest son, Seán Og O'Callaghan.

Seán Og is a veteran broadcaster now, but to those of us who take a keen interest in G.A.A. games, his fame rests, not on his broadcasting but on his prowess on the playing fields. His achievements have added further lustre to the O'Callaghan name in the history of Irish sport.

Born in Newcastle-West just thirty years ago, Seán Og has lived for so long here in Dublin that he has now come to be regarded as a staunch Dublin man. For good reason, too. It was in Dublin that he made his first entry into Gaelic games, and it was here that he gained his greatest honours.

At school in Colaiste Mhuire, Parnell Square, with the Christian Brothers he was the youngest member of the Metropolitan Cup team in 1937, and his promise on the hurling field was rewarded during the following year, when he was selected to play for Leinster against Munster in the Inter-Provincial Schools series.

Leinster were beaten, but Seán acquitted himself with distinction, and showed adequate skill and speed, which were later to carry him to the highest honours in the game.

Following a spell with the St. Vincent's team in 1939, he moved to Eoghan Ruadh in 1940, and found his way on to the Dublin Minor team which won the Leinster title.

Unfortunately, the losers in the final, Leix, objected to Dublin, and their objection was upheld. Leix

# A POINT THAT CAME TOO LATE

By D. C. DOYLE

Once again as the Championship campaign commences the eyes of all Meath supporters are focussed on the Champions, and there is quiet confidence in the ability of the men from the Royal County to once again bring home the Sam Maguire Trophy.

### Fervent Followers

How many of even their most fervent followers, however, spare a thought for the great battlers of former years who kept the game alive and flourishing, when some of the greatest teams that ever represented the county had the mortification year after

year of seeing victory snatched from them when high honours seemed certain.

### The "Lily Whites"

I met one of these stalwarts lately—Paddy Colclough of the famed Navan Gaels—and as I spoke to him twenty-five years rolled back to the 10th of August, 1930, when Meath met the "Lily Whites" in the Leinster Final.

Navan Gaels supplied five of the County team that day—M. Russell (Capt.), T. McGuinness, the inimitable Boiler!; P. Colclough, M. Rogers and T. Clusker (Club Sec.). Also on the team were P. Brown, T. Smith, M. Madden and J. Loughran, Donaghmore; W. Dillon and C. Cudden, Syddan; M. Nulty, Drumconrath; J. Cooney, Ballinabrackey, and M. Keogan, The Commons. And among the star-studded Kildare selection were the magic names of Matty Goff, Paul Doyle, J. O'Reilly and Jack Higgins.

### Kildare in Their Glory

"What a match that was!" said Paddy. "Kildare were at the height of their glory." All-Ireland winners 1927-28, runners-up to Kerry 1929, and now battling for Leinster honours, determined to dazzle and bewitch all opponents on their way to another All-Ireland, but Meath were on their mettle that day and when the long whistle sounded the scores were even.

The following Sunday they met again and once more the football was of the highest order. Kildare weaved, schemed, and beguiled as their beautiful passing movements bore fruit, but Meath kept with them score for score and with only half a second to go Kildare were a single point ahead.

"Out of a ruck of players," said Paddy, "the ball came to me. With a desperate effort I gave a mighty kick, but even as the ball left my boot the final whistle sounded. Every eye in Croke Park followed the flight of the ball as it neatly sailed over the bar for a point, a fraction of a second too late. Had we got that score," said he, "we would never have looked back."

### Great Lads

I asked his opinion of the present-day players. Paddy replied: "They are a great bunch of lads, as good as there is at the game to-day, but," laughed he with a twinkle in his eye, "the boys of our day had the beating of them!"

## Unique Partnership

Tomcode St. Munn's beat Castle-town in the replay of the Wexford Junior Football Championship (1954) 3-3 to 1-6 recently. Greatest attention of the day was paid to the Walsh family. Parent Jim Walsh, captain of the Tomcode team, played left corner-back, and his son Des played at left corner-forward.

## Bereavement

Johnny Clifford, the Cork and Glen Rovers player, suffered a bereavement recently by the death of his mother, and the sympathy of all Gaels goes out to this most popular sportsman.

## ACTION



WESTMEATH v. WICKLOW GAME

## Did "Garden" Men Ignore Danger Signals?

D. M. GILMARTIN

The defeat of Wicklow in the first round of the Leinster Football Championship was a shock which few outside the borders of Westmeath were prepared for, and will be a subject for speculation for many months ahead, as displays by the Garden Countymen in recent months had been of such a high standard that many considered them as likely contenders for Leinster honours.

Granted Westmeath have been on the upgrade for the past two years and their display against All-Ireland champions, Meath, was enough to have put danger-signals in the way of any future opponents. Did Wicklow realise the meaning of these signals or did they approach their task with an over-confidence which, in fact, proved their undoing?

### FULL STEAM AHEAD

I was inclined to subscribe to the latter reason. Wicklow, in a recent challenge game against new National League champions, Dublin, all but created the surprise of the season, and even the most ardent Metropolitan supporter will concede that his team, on that occasion, had more than its normal share of luck.

Having been present at that particular game, I was confident that the Garden County had at last turned the corner and that its approach into the top-flight of the G.A.A. elite would be "full steam ahead."

Frankly, I was not prepared for the Newbridge result. And I say that without any disrespect to Westmeath, whose supporters will forgive

me, I feel sure, when I admit that I have not had the pleasure of seeing their standard-bearers in action for some considerable time.

### UNEQUAL TO TASK?

Be that as it may, I had plumped for Wicklow, so that my surprise was all the greater when I read that not only were Westmeath the winners, but also that they were worthy of the honour. Having aimed missed the pleasure of seeing the Midlanders in action, I was forced to seek the opinions of those whose loyalty lay between the two or away from both. This is what I learned.

On the day's play, the better team won BUT . . . Wicklow's approach to the match was of such a leisurely nature that chances were squandered without thought of the consequences. Then I asked the inevitable question: Could it not be that Wicklow played as well as they were let? Could it not be that the Midlanders' display was of such a quality that the Garden Countymen were unequal to the task?

To those questions I got in return raised eyebrows, wrinkled foreheads and not a little hedging preceded by: "Well . . . maybe, yes, I suppose it's possible." Which meant that I was as far on as ever, and to make matters worse, victor and vanquished expressed views which only tended to make my confusion complete.

Having weighed all the facts carefully, I have arrived at the conclusion that I can no longer put off the pleasure of seeing Westmeath in action. So be it.

## NATIONAL CYCLING LEAGUE

The National Cycling Association has taken a leaf out of their Hurling and Footballing brothers in the G.A.A. by deciding to run a National League in addition to the All-Ireland Championships. Twelve races in eleven counties have been chosen, and points will be awarded to the first ten finishers in each race. Races selected are: "The

Tour of the Mournes" (75 miles), Ras an Tostal (63 miles), Ras Ciarraghe (110 miles), Grand Prix of Kildare (100 miles), Ras Cilldara (95 miles), Round the Houses (63 miles), Guinness 100 (63 miles), Ras Muigheo (100 miles), Tour of Tyrone (70 miles), Ulster Grand Prix (75 miles), Ras Cillmantain (63 miles), Grand Prix of Meath (100 miles).



# National League Win And The Future

## Dublin Must Prepare For The Hard Battles Ahead

By "Moltoir"

Dublin's victory over Meath in the National Football League Final at Croke Park on Sunday, May 8, was indeed a spectacular one but a word of warning to the Metropolitans lest the glory of their endeavours cloud the uncertainty of the future. Remember 1953!

Let us cast our minds back to a Sunday in the month of March, 1953. Croke Park was again the venue and Dublin and Meath were the rivals. Playing with a dash and élan that opponents could not match, the Dublin side scored a resounding victory to the tune of 3-13 to 2-3.

And what did the scribes say? What did we all say? We said: "Nothing will stop Dublin, they're great, they're unbeatable." And so, indeed, it seemed for a little more than a month later, on April 26 to be exact, the Metropolitans took on Cavan, the then All-Ireland champions in the final of the National Football League.

### GREAT PERFORMANCE

Do you remember that game? Will you ever forget it? Personally, it will live in my memory as the greatest exhibition I have seen by any team as Dublin's forwards cut through the Breffni defence like a hot knife through butter. Fit as the proverbial fiddles, the "home" attack mounted move after move with all the brilliance of execution that only "perfection" could describe.

Snitchie Ferguson, Olly Freaney, Cyril Freaney, Bernie Atkins, Tony Young, Kevin Heffernan—that was the Dublin attack which moved with the machine-like precision that had the Cavan defence floundering helplessly as they tried all they knew to stem the onslaught.

Then when Cavan regained some of their composure after those hectic opening minutes, during which Dublin had totted up three goals and a point after only 11 minutes, the Metropolitan defence, up to then regarded as "suspect," proved that they too had reached a greatness that the brilliance of Mick Higgins or Tony Tighe could not penetrate.

### HEROES ALL

And their names—from goal out: Tony O'Grady, Danno Mahony, Mick Moylan, Marcus Wilson; Jim Lavin, Norman Allen, Nicky Meagher; Yes, they stood firm, unyielding even as the Breffnimen moved with a purpose born of despair in the third quarter of the game, but as Higgins, Tighe and company probed for a breach, this defence tightened to such effect that goalkeeper O'Grady might well have gone home—so little was he troubled.

Then, the midfield pair of Jim Crowley and Mossie Whelan again regained the initiative and Dublin won as easily as the score of 4-6 to 0-9 would suggest. It was a great performance by the Dubliners—one that stamped them as the coming side for the Sam Maguire Cup and if there was anyone to stop them—well it just didn't seem possible.

### CAME THE DAWN

We move forward another month to May 24 at Navan's famed Paire Tailteann where Meath were Dublin's opponents in the first round of the Leinster Football Championship. What could the outcome be? Was it necessary to ask? Hadn't we shown these Royal Countymen just what we could do with them only two months before?

Came the day and we made our way, with thousands of other Dublin supporters to what promised to be not only the defeat of Meath but the final blow to their prestige.

It was then we learned that what it takes to make All-Ireland champions was not just the winning of a few games—no matter how easily. The Meathmen had the right idea. They took the field at Navan as if that other game in Croke Park was only a bad dream—something to be forgotten.

Yes, the formula of success was experience and a never-say-die spirit and we left Paire Tailteann bewitched, bothered and bewildered after the Royal County had triumphed by a point: 2-6 to 2-5.

### FORGET THE PAST

That was 1953, you say. That couldn't happen again, you say. But couldn't it? What happened once, could happen again. Our victory over Meath a few Sunday's ago, while it might have been more impressive, was certainly no more decisive. And we said then, what we are thinking now, Meath could never match the speed of our fellows and our fellows are too smart for them.

Do not forget, however, that prior to our final win, our fellows had undergone a special course of training under the able guidance of Peter O'Reilly but for the championship ahead, Meath, or whoever our opponents will be, will be a fitter lot who have tasted the bitterness of defeat but learned something from its consumption.

Then too, Kerry's Tom Moriarity

lack of inches may prove too great a handicap.

is also a "big" fellow and height is an advantage that just cannot be discounted. After sober consideration, I consider that Mick Moylan might well make the ideal centre half where his high fielding and lengthy kicking would be of tremendous advantage. To counter this loss of a place-kicker in the "full" line, Norman Allen, at left back, would be an admirable substitute.

Again, in attack, I feel that O'Leary's "jet-like" speed off the mark stamps him as ideal man for the "forty" with Sean O'Boyle taking up his old position and Olly Freaney moving up to the left corner.

### LOOKING BACK

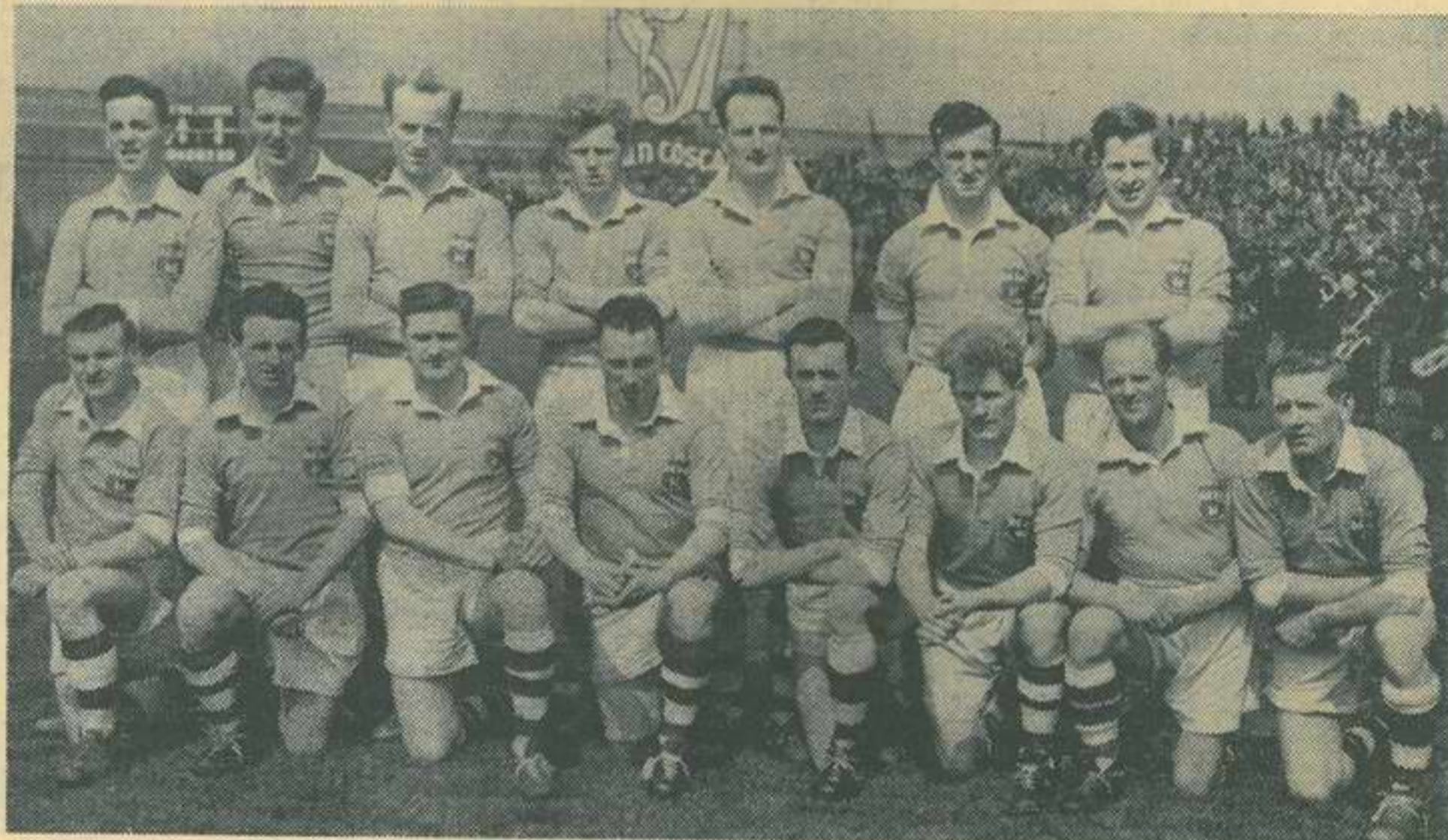
Summing up, therefore, while all credit is due to the gallant men who brought us our second title, we

## He Was Against His Boss

By McL.

Of the many thousands who watched the Ireland versus the Combined Universities hurling game, few realised that one of the Ireland players was marking his boss, Jackie Green of Clare, the Ireland full-forward, was playing on Dan McInerney, the Universities full-back. Jackie is employed by Dan as a store clerk. Maybe it's a good job that they are extremely good friends.

# THE CHAMPIONS



And that is not all. Remember, the vastness, the smoothness and the benefits from playing on a "home" ground that we experience in Croke Park counts for little on a smaller, less smooth "away" ground so that from the start our very "style" is impaired.

### LACK OF SPACE

I am not trying to say, as many others have, that Dublin is a "Croke Park" team but I am merely trying to point out that Headquarters is the ideal ground for our "type" of game and, to be honest, few provincial grounds come up to the standard of Croke Park despite the great improvements they have made in recent years.

Offhand, I can think of six grounds in the country that are little behind Croke Park as far as the sod is concerned but there is that little difference which means so much to a team like Dublin that needs the space and smoothness of turf to exploit its talents to the full.

While I feel that the Dublin side that did duty in the National League final, is well-nigh perfect, I cannot but help feeling that a positional swith, or two, would add immeasurably to its all-round effectiveness.

### ASKING FOR TROUBLE

Norman Allen has given such sterling service to the county that it is really sticking my neck out to suggest that he is not ideally placed. His fielding, kicking and defence ability are of a high class indeed but against a big man, as was evident against Dr. Peader Carney when we played Mayo, his

must realise that there is no place for complacency if we are to gain the coveted Sam Maguire Cup.

We must remember that from time immemorable, people, and teams have learned from their mistakes and defeats and applying the proper lessons, have succeeded in turning the tide when least expected to do so.

I feel sure that the able Fr. Tully and the other team mentors have learned facts that they will readily apply to a Meath side which was but a shadow of its real self—such as we see on Championship occasions.

## NEW GROUND FOR THE ROCKIES

The famous Blackrock (Co. K) Hurling Club have at last succeeded in securing a fine tract of land at Church Road, Blackrock, and the work of development is to begin shortly. When completed the ground will rank with the best in the county.

# U.S.A. BOUND

By M. DOWNEY

Bound for America last month was Cavan and Donegal footballer Terry Keogan. Terry, who was born in Virginia, Co. Cavan, was a substitute on the Cavan team which took All-Ireland honours in 1951. Since then, he has been living in Dunglee, Co. Donegal, and has been a regular member of the Donegal team.

Equally at home in the half-back or half-forward lines, Terry has no intention of giving up football, and he hopes to continue playing in New York.

Another of the Kenneally family is in the news these days. This time it is Brendan, younger brother of the Kerry star—Colm Brendan plays with Dublin Geraldines, and shows county crown,

promise of following his brother into the Kerry team shortly. A student at Dublin University, he has played some magnificent games for the College, and is one of their outstanding members.

Galway folk are eagerly awaiting the meeting of Tuam and Cath Gaedlach (Army) in this year's county championship. Last year the Army side went down to Tuam, who subsequently went on to take the county title from Dunmore in the final. This year's Army team, however, will include Lieutenants Cathal O'Leary and Joe Young of Dublin. Tuam captain, Seán Purcell, and his men will have to be in top gear if they are to hold on to their

## West Tipperary G.A.A.

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations

By "J. C. L."

The Silver Jubilee of the West Tipperary G.A.A. Board was celebrated in no uncertain fashion at Dundrum on Sunday night, 8th May. The celebration took the form of a Banquet at which many notable figures in Tipperary's Gaelic scene took part. Every Club in the division was represented at this function and it proved to be an outstanding success, and must be regarded as another milestone in the progress of this great and historic division of the G.A.A.

I had the pleasure of attending and I witnessed one of the finest gatherings of the followers of Cusack as ever I have seen in my life. Just glancing back it may be of interest to note that this Board was formed 25 years ago under the guidance of such noted and great Gaels as the late Johnny Leahy and Arthur O'Donnell (R.I.P.).

In his opening address, the Chairman, Seán O'Dwyer, paid rich tributes to the men who were inspired with such noble thoughts when they founded this Board. He also paid tributes to the other great Gaels who nursed the division along from its infancy. He paid a special and well-deserved tribute to Liam O'Dwyer who has just completed his 25th year as Treasurer of the Board. The Treasurer also received a very suitable presentation from the Clubs in the division.

After the banquet all the Gaels retired to the local Golden Vale hall for a first-class Ceilidh.

During the Ceilidh the winners of the 1954 Championships were presented with their medals. The County Secretary, the well-known and famous Phil Purcell, who was also a guest, spoke with great feeling and sincerity—urging all the players of the division to train harder—remarking during the course of his speech that no player ever got to Croke Park by chance.

We also had a very nice and touching speech from J. L. Lysaght, now of Dublin, formerly of Dundrum, who implored the Gaels of the division to keep up the great work and embark on the Golden Jubilee era with the same spirit and determination as the Gaels of old.

The evening ended with the National Anthem.

## Passing Of John Hynes

Veteran Hurler of 1897

By J.P.C.

Another great link with the early days of the G.A.A. was broken recently when John Hynes of Cappamore, Co. Limerick, veteran hurler of 1897, died at his home at the great age of 87.

Striking tribute was paid to his memory by the huge attendance which thronged his funeral from St. Michael's Church to Towerhill Cemetery. The Cappamore Senior Hurling team led by captain Jack O'Brien paraded by the side of the coffin for the two miles to the graveside.

John Hynes was a member of the Kilmnane hurling team which brought the All-Ireland and Croke Cup to Limerick in 1897. He was also captain of the Cappamore senior hurling team when they won the Murphy Cup outright in the same year.

Only two now remain of the team that won the All-Ireland of 1897. They are Pat Mulcahy and Pat Butler, and both are still going strong.

It was a proud moment for John Hynes, when Cappamore won the senior county championship last year.

He was loved by all those who knew him. During his years of hurling he graced the playing fields of Ireland nobly. May he rest in peace.



# FIANNA TAKE THE FIELD

## Welcome to New Dublin Club

The decision of the special sub-committee appointed by the Leinster Council to deal with what had become known as the "Kickham Affair" has resulted in the birth of a new Dublin Club, and it is to this Club—Fianna—that belatedly, but sincerely, we say Cead Mile Failte.

A new club with a total membership of over 200 is certainly off to a great start, and with that membership spread over all grades, we feel that not only is the present position a healthy one, but also that the future is assured.

With the bitterness of the long-drawn-out dispute forgotten—and I know the officers on both sides are too big to bear a grudge—it is safe to assume that the rivalry that will now exist between the new club and the old (and that is a natural thing) will be of a friendly nature with no ill-feelings whatsoever.

### Shopkeeper and Star

By T. BROWNE

Some day when you are in Athboy, drop into Paddy Connell's shop and meet a man who combines the busy task of being a successful shopkeeper, and one of Meath's most versatile footballers.

Paddy, in his time has occupied nearly every position on the field, although it is as a centre-field player that he has made his name, and turned in so many glorious displays for the wearers of the green and gold.

Promoted from juvenile to a two-year spell with the Kells minor team, Paddy quickly made the grade to the county junior team, and won his first All-Ireland in junior ranks in 1947.

Greater things were to follow and in 1949 he won the first of his two senior All-Ireland medals. Then followed six years in which he has captured every honour which the game can bestow.

The thing that strikes one about Paddy Connell is the modest and unassuming way in which he talks about those golden years as if they just happened to everyone. But beneath his casual exterior, one can sense the intense and tremendous zeal he has for the game he loves.

Which of his trophies means most to him? Paddy finds it hard to choose. Wouldn't you? —3 All-Ireland (2 senior and 1 junior), 5 Leinster senior and 1 junior, 1 National League.

They make a nice collection on the Connell sideboard. Their owner can well be proud of them.

### IN GOOD HANDS

The official title of the new club is "Cumann Peile agus Baire na Fianna," and it will celebrate its first birthday on April 21, 1956. The officers are:

**Chairman, Mr. T. Fitzpatrick; Vice-Chairman, Mr. T. Norton; Honorary Secretary, Mr. A. Carr, and his assistant Mr. J. Gray; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. Deignan; Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Mr. M. Fitzgerald.**

Each of the above men has had a long association with the game in both a playing and executive capacity, so that the future of the club is, most assuredly, in good hands.

This year the club has entered for the following competitions: Senior Football League and Championship; Intermediate Football League and Championships; Junior Football "A" and "C" Leagues; Junior Football Championship; Junior "A" and "C" Hurling Leagues and Junior Hurling Championships. And that, my dear readers, is quite a formidable list.

### YOUTHS REMEMBERED

The position with the Minors and Juveniles is a complex one, to say the least, for while the majority of these youngsters are "signed for" Fianna, their position is such that they are playing in their respective League and Championships under the old name of C. J. Kickham.

This is because of a decision made by the Dublin County Board while the dispute was still on, so that these youngsters would not be deprived of the right to play their favourite games. It seems hardly necessary to mention, however, that these teams had already started on their League and Championship march prior to the dispute, and the Board's decision was to enable them to carry out their programme to its conclusion, after which they will play with whatever side they have already pledged their allegiance.

### MEET THE PLAYERS

The colours of the new club are White, with White shorts and Blue-and-White stockings—a colour that might well disclose the allegiance of its inter-county players, as Vinnie Bell, B. McLoughlin and B. O'Boyle were members of that grand Dublin minor team which won the county such glory last year, while Bell and Brennan are both members of the Dublin Junior Football team which promises so well this year. The other inter-county player is Brendan Deignan who filled the left corner berth on the Cavan team defeated by Meath in the All-Ireland Semi-Final of 1954.

To the uninitiated, Dublin and Cavan sport the same colours, Blue and White. This year, however, young McLoughlin decided to declare for his native county, so that Dublin's loss is Mayo's gain.

Gerry Guidon, who, if memory serves me right, is

one of the guiding lights in Dublin University's bid for honours in the Duke Cup, will captain Fianna's Senior football team for the year, while P. Whelan has been elected vice-captain.

### WITH THE JUNIORS

We positively offer no prize for naming the captain of the Junior Hurling team, but first we'll give you some clues.

1.—What player who starred with the Minor team in 1954 is positively scintillating with the Juniors (both hurling and football) in 1955?

2.—What former minor played a major part in Dublin's recent National Hurling League win over Cork?

3.—What Dublin Junior player turned out for his county in a Hurling game in the morning at Parnell Park and later in the afternoon for the footballers at Croke Park when the opposition in both cases was Wicklow?

4.—What Junior player was so instrumental in the defeat of Wicklow in both games?

Of course, you've guessed it—Vinnie Bell—while the vice-captain is G. Stakelum, and don't tell me he hasn't got Tipperary connections.

### ROOM FOR ONE MORE

We feel that you now know enough about Fianna to realise the richness of the talent available to the club, but it seems only fair to tell you, perhaps a better word is to warn you, that the other playing members of the club are little behind those mentioned in general effectiveness, and space alone prevents us from extolling their prowess.

Perhaps, in our eagerness to help you to know something about the Fianna Club and to meet some of its members, we have strayed a bit from what was intended to be the substance of this article, but if you, dear reader, think that you have learned something about the club, we feel that our time was indeed well spent.

In conclusion, then, we wish the Fianna Club every success—may your venture be a happy and successful one. Your appearance on the G.A.A. horizon is a welcome one and we know you will live up to its ideals.

### Antrim Gael



A. McMURAY

### Knockbeg's First Senior Hurling Cup



Willie Walsh, Hurling Captain, receiving the Cup.

Thursday, May 12, 1955, will always be a "red letter" day in Knockbeg College sporting history. On that day at St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge, the College Senior football team beat Synges Street, C.B.S., by four points to retain their Leinster Senior title and complete the second leg of a double which has not been brought off in the province since 1930.

The double? Winning the Leinster Colleges' Senior Hurling and Football titles in the same season. On March 27 at Geraldine Park, Athy, the College's hurlers beat St. Joseph's, Marino, in the Hurling final. It, too, was an historic occasion, being Knockbeg's first time to win the Senior Hurling title.

Another point of note is the fact that thirteen of the hurling team also turned out in the football final,

which must be a record in its own right.

Trainers of the teams were very Rev. P. Shine, Rector (football) and Rev. G. Murphy (hurling), both of whom were well-known on the sports-fields of Carlow in their younger days.

Here for the record are the names of those who took part in the finals: Billy Walsh (hurling and football), Kevin Blake (do.), Joe Fingleton (do.), Terry O'Reilly (do.), Paddy Fingleton (do.), Felix McDonald (do.), Seán Conlon (do.), Eddie Aughey (do.), Paddy Lacey (do.), Tom Turley (do.), Tom Greene (do.), Paddy O'Donoghue (do.), Fintan Walsh (do.), Gerry Hardy (football only), Paul Connell (do.), J. J. O'Connell (hurling only), Denis Gowing (do.).

### Aidan Connolly Pride of Enniscorthy

Wexford remembers with pride the famous Rapparees in the first few years of the century, and later the Slaney Harriers. One of the principal men on both these teams, well known in football for his place-kicking ability and in hurling as an energetic and determined attacker, was Aidan A. Connolly, Court St., Enniscorthy.

Aidan, who stands 5' 10" high, is a man of powerful physique, and now at 70 has retired from all public functions.

Interviewing him recently, Aidan gave me the following facts about his life.

He was only 17 years old when he won his first county medal with the Rapparees' Junior Football Club. The following year he was on the first club team to win both Senior Titles in one year—the Rapparees. They came again in 1904 and took the Football Title, and Aidan was very prominent in this win.

Aidan told me the story of how he put Wexford on the road to an All-Ireland in 1903. Leix had been leading Wexford by a few points, just on time Wexford got a close-in free, and Aidan crashed the

placed ball through the crowded goalmouth for a goal. Wexford lost to Kerry in the Final, but Aidan was not playing that day.

Between 1904 and 1909 he gave up both games, but was back in 1912 and 1913 to captain the Slaney Harriers in their County Championship victories.

His activities were not confined to hurling and football, however, for he was a well-known figure on the sports field, winning County Honours in the high jump (5' 11"), long jump (23 ft.), and the hurdles. He also had victories to his credit in the 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards and 880 yards.

Mr. Connolly attributes his sporting successes to the fact that he was and still is a non-smoker and non-drinker.

When I asked him who were the greatest players he saw he unhesitatingly replied that Lowry Maher was the greatest hurler and Jack Greene the greatest all-rounder. The greatest games he witnessed were the games between Cork and Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final in 1932.



# The Casey Court New York

By J. Clarke

THE Casey Ballcourt, Brooklyn, New York, may well go down in history as the leading extern centre of the cult of Irish handball, during the late 19th and early 20th century.

It is surprising the amount of confused thinking and writing one comes across concerning this venue, the authentic story of which should be common knowledge to any ball player worthy of the name. With a view therefore, to placing on record a more or less reliable account of the court's origin and present condition, this article has been compiled.

It was in 1887 that Phil. Casey—a New York broker—had erected at Brooklyn what was later to be described as the "most magnificent court in America."

Casey was an Irishman, born at Mountrath, Co. Laois, and while still a youth emigrated to the States where he became a successful businessman.

It was in Ireland, doubtless, he acquired his love of handball, perfecting his knowledge of the sport during his early years in America, where he gained the National Championship in 1868, a title he retained—(together with a still more important one secured later)—until his retirement in 1897 at the age of 55 years, unbeaten and, in the opinion of many competent judges, unbeatable.

Casey's most memorable contest was of course his famous home and home rub-

ber of 1887 with Pennsylvanian born John Lawlor of Dublin—then Irish champion—for a purse of 400 sovs.; and the first International Championship of the World which he won by 11 games to 7. The first 10 games (four of which were taken by Casey) were played at Ald. Horgan's flagged-floored court, in Cork, the remainder being originally fixed for playing at Sweeney's Racquet Court at 159 East 35th Street, New York.

But Sweeney's court never gained that honour, the games being played instead at Casey's court, built specially for the occasion.

It was erected in Decraw Street in the Borough of Brooklyn, being part of a three-storeyed building comprising offices for the Brooklyn Handball Club, a bar, dressingrooms with hot and cold showers, and of course the court, with its two-tier gallery raising up from the back wall.

Most remarkable thing about the court was its 35 feet high front wall faced with white marble-surplus material—so the story goes—and purchased by Casey from the Contractors of the nearby Evacough Hall then in course of erection, same being decorated internally with this valuable stone.

The side walls of the court were finished with Portland Cement presenting a hard, smooth, washable surface coated with white paint containing a blue mixture to prevent eye strain.

The floor, 65 feet long by 32 feet wide, was constructed of clean white pine, with planks 3 ins. thick by 4 ins. wide, laid lengthways (front wall to rear)—which inclined towards skid service.

It had a 9-foot high back-wall, the lower 5 ft. of which was of wood, the upper 4 ft. of plate glass.

Overhead were two galleries for spectators, the lower one capable of taking 200, the upper 250.

Excellent natural lighting conditions were procured by means of a 60 by 20 ft. skylight in an over-all roof.

The court ran due east and west—considered the most de-

sirable setting for throwing the maximum amount of light on to the front wall.

The 2-ounce O'Donoghue 'cracker', with cover dyed black, to show up against the white walls—was the ball in general use in those days—a form of the sport which has since died out in the States.

The court was also 'let out' for dancing and basket-ball, a practice which was discontinued after the floor had been damaged, necessitating the laying of a second one, over

now, since the last owner, a man named Ryan, sold out.

To-day, instead although standing in all its glory just as it did when giants like Casey, Lawlor, Dunne, McQuaid, Fr. Tom Jones and many others, for close on a period of 60 years, chased the elusive little black pill over the boarded floor—it is the property of a Frigidare Co., whose ice boxes clutter up the once famous arena, while the upper storeys are set in apartments.

No more is heard the ring of the ball nor the cheers of excited spectators as of yore.

It's day is over. But to those of us who love handball it will always be a cherished memory.

## CORK HANDBALL STALWARTS



Left to right: Mr. J. Hanlon, Chairman, Cork Co. Handball Board; Mr. W. Walsh, Middleton Mr. Griffen, Cobh, National Senior Soft Doubles Champions; Mr. M. Slattery, Secretary, Cork Co. Handball Board. In front: Master Tadg Slattery, the Secretary's son.

## ★ Free Competition-No Entry Fee ★

THE GAELIC ECHO (1954), Limited, has decided to inaugurate a series of competitions for our young readers. The first of these is a 400-word Essay on either of the following subjects:

- 1.—The History of Gaelic Games in my School;
- or
- 2.—The most exciting Gaelic match I have seen.

All Essays must reach our Offices before the 15th June. The winners will be notified by post before our July issue, and, if space permits, the winning Essay will be printed in the next issue of THE GAELIC ECHO. Special consideration will be given to entrants under 14 years of age, so please state your age clearly. No original manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

Address your entry to:  
The Editor,

"Gaelic Echo" (1954) Limited,  
13 Parliament Street,  
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**PRIZES**  
1st—GOLD MEDAL  
2nd—SILVER MEDAL with GOLD CENTRE  
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All Medals will be inscribed with Winners' Names

**ENTRY FORM**

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Age ..... Date .....

This entry form must be attached to all Essays.

the original; the boards of the new running at right angles to the old—thus largely spoiling the court for handballplay.

Prior to the erection of the famous 'Boot Inn' Court, at Ballymun, Co. Dublin, in 1908, Ald. Dunne of Brooklyn, by special request, forwarded the measurements of the Casey Court for use in connection with the Dublin venue—"as standardised courts were desirable for Internationals, and this opportunity should be availed of, as Brooklyn was the main stay of U.S.A. Handball."

Unfortunately, the specifications were not followed. It will interest boxing fans to learn that the great J. L. Sullivan, while champion, played handball at Casey's court as part of his training for major fistic contests.

And what of the court? Does it still resound to the slam of the ball and the patter of racing feet? No, unfortunately, not for a decade

## Connaught Athletic Records

By SETANTA

The following records were recently ratified by the Connaught N.A.C.A. As far as I know, the only other province which keeps authentic records is Ulster. Maybe some of our readers would like to compile a list of Munster and Leinster N.A.C.A. records. I shall only be too happy to print them in the "Gaelic Echo" if some athletic enthusiast feels like doing it.

- 60 Yards—W. O'Carroll, Ballinasloe. 6.4 secs.
- 220 Yards—T. O'Mahoney, Costume Harriers. 24.1 secs.
- 4 Miles—A. Monaghan, Kilmacnaron A.C. 20 m. 53 secs.
- Relay—Ballinasloe A.C. 4 m. (440 x 220 x 220 x 880).
- High Jump—M. McNamara, U.C.G. 5' 6"
- Long Jump—M. McNamara, 19' 8"
- Hop, Step and Jump—J. O'Regan, Loughlynn. 38' 1"
- Pole Vault—V. Kely, Ballinasloe. 10' 6"
- Shot—J. Duggan, Claremorris. 39' 1"
- Hammer—W. Byrnes, Ballinasloe. 134'
- Javelin—M. McNamara, U.C.G. 148' 11"
- Discus—M. Kelly, Ballinasloe. 128' 2"
- 56 lbs. Over Bar—M. Hehir, Ballinasloe. 14' 4"
- 56 lbs. for Distance—M. Hehir, Ballinasloe. 27' 8"





# THE ELUSIVE DOUBLE

Meath's shattering defeat by outsiders, Dublin, marks another unsuccessful attempt at the elusive Double. To date, only two counties have achieved the Championship Double—Kerry and Mayo. Kerry's triumphs were recorded in successive seasons. Captained by the mighty J. J. Sheehy, the Kingdom had a runaway victory over Monaghan in the All-Ireland Final of 1930, and went on to win the 1930-31 League, accounting for Cavan, by a single point in the final. The following year saw Kerry defeat Kildare in the championship final, and neighbouring Cork, in the League decider. Mayo followed up their first All-Ireland win in September, 1936, by annexing the League title (1936-37) against Meath. This was the last time the Double was achieved, though it has been attempted often.

By Gaoth Aniar

They almost ousted reigning champions, Cavan, in the final—only a single point saving the Men of Breffni. The Westerners had some consolation by retaining the League title against Louth. Two years later, Mayo was again trying for the double, but though they won the championship against Louth, Meath put an end to their League aspirations.

Cavan were concerned in a double attempt on two occasions. In 1949, they appeared in the All-Ireland Final against the Royal County and Meath won its first championship title. Luck was still against the Blues that season, for though they put paid to Meath's hope of League honours in the Home Final, they surprisingly failed to New York in the final proper. In 1952, Cavan won All-Ireland honours but failed against

Dublin in the League.

The Football League title has been won by Mayo on no less than 10 occasions, including six consecutive victories, 1934-39. Mayo did not take part in the 1934-40 campaign, but returned to win the title in 1941. The county had consecutive wins in 1947-48 and 1948-49. Kerry is second in the list, with four victories, 1928-32; Meath is third with titles in 1932-33, 45-46, 50-51. Dublin, who appeared in the first ever League final (1926-27) and have contested five since then, are credited with two titles. Laois (winners of the first title), Galway, Derry New York have one win apiece. Cavan yet to record their first League title appeared in the final five times. Other counties reaching the final, without success are Kildare (1927-28, '28-29), Fermanagh ('34-35), Wexford ('37-38), Louth ('48-49), Carlow ('53-54).

## Unsuccessful Attempts

Kerry and Kildare were aspirants for the first Double, in the 1927-28 season, but though Kildare revenged its previous season's Championship defeat upon Kerry, the "Lily Whites" failed by a single point to overcome the same opponents in the League Final. Meath's first attempt for dual honours met with disaster, the Royal County suffering defeat from Kerry in the championship, and from Galway in the League. A young Mayo fifteen caused an upheaval in the Autumn of 1948, by defeating Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final by a margin of 10 points.

## THE LILY WHITES



Since its foundation some years ago by Rev. Father Tom Maher, a former Kilkenny All-Ireland hurler, the St. Columba's Hurling Club from Crumlin has certainly made its presence felt in Dublin hurling competitions.

### THE EARLY DAYS

From the beginning St. Columba's have been to the fore in all secondary competitions. Their first notable success came in 1952 when they won the Dublin Minor Championship. Dublin Minors won the Leinster final that year, but were well beaten by Tipperary in the All-Ireland decider. St. Columba's Juniors reached the semi-final of the championship in 1952, but went under to Grocers. The following year they went a step further by reaching the final, but after a re-play they lost again, this time to Seán

### 1954 WAS A BIG YEAR

The St. Columba's Club achieved a magnificent feat in 1954 by winning the Dublin, Minor, Junior and Intermediate Hurling Championships. In addition, the Dublin Minors led by Bernard Bootman, Captain of St. Columba's, beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland final, thus bringing the Cup to Dublin for the first time in ten years. Bootman certainly played a captain's part that day, completely out-classing all opposition, and was largely responsible for Dublin's success. Incidentally, this player has since left the country to take up employment in England, leaving the St. Columba's Club poorer by his departure.

Now promoted to senior status, St. Columba's have so far given a good account of themselves in their first year in that grade. They have so far won two games in the League competition, despite the fact that they are pitted against men who have won the highest honours in the game. Though beaten in the first round of the championship this year they are determined that before long the Senior Cup will be brought to Crumlin for the first time.

The following is the Committee which looks after the affairs of the Club:

President, Rev. Fr. M. Power, C.C.  
Chairman, Rev. Bro. E. Fox.  
Secretary, Mr. S. Tierney.  
Treasurer, Mr. D. J. O'Sullivan.

## Do You Agree With Tim O'Donnell, Who Names His Ten Greatest Sportsmen Since 1940

Before I give you my top ten men for the past fifteen years, let me first of all give you my definition of a sportsman.

Above all else, he must never have been guilty of unsporting conduct on the field of play. Now, mind you, that may appear to be a little harsh, especially as tempers are apt to get a little frayed at times in the heat of exciting games. But my ten men have passed this test.

Then, of course, there is the very obvious requirement. My ten champions must be without peer in their own particular positions.

And now to name them. They are:

\* \* \*

- Peter McDermott (Meath).
- John Joe O'Reilly (Cavan).—R.I.P.
- Pat Stakelum (Tipperary).
- Paddy Prendergast (Mayo).
- Paddy Kennedy (Kerry).
- Jimmie Murray (Roscommon).
- Vin Baston (Waterford).
- Kevin Armstrong (Armagh).
- Paddy O'Brien (Meath).
- Bobby Rackard (Wexford).

\* \* \*

Now for a few words about them. I do not suppose for one moment

that even one person in the country will agree with me in my selection. It was only after long and careful deliberation that I arrived at the above ten. They were quite a lot of others who almost qualified for the top ten, including men like Jackie Lync, Mick Higgins, Padraigh Carney, Eamonn Mongey, Christy Ring, Seamus Duggan, Joe Salmon, Mattie Fuohy, Jimmie Kennedy, Harry Grey, Joe Quinn, the late Phil Duke, and, of course, Tom Sullivan of Galway.

Naturally, I must give reasons for my selection. Here goes.

### Peter McDermott

Peter McDermott got top position in my ten without any bother. I saw him play time and time again, and although on the last few occasions the edge was certainly gone from his wonderful play, he still had that little extra something that makes all the difference between mediocrity and brilliance. His position in last year's final as a captain, who signed his own list of players, must be unique in the history of the G.A.A. Now that he has gone from the hurly-burly of inter-county football, may we see more of the "man in the cap"—in future with a whistle in his mouth.

### John Joe O'Reilly (R.I.P.)

No. 2 on my list is that darling of Cavan, the late lamented John Joe O'Reilly. His last display—one of

his best—was on a par with all the others he played. If my memory serves me correctly it was at the opening of the reconstructed Breffni Park, and John Joe was persuaded to don the Blue and White once again. The large crowd rose to him that afternoon. He played brilliantly. Little did we all know then that we would never again see him at Breffni Park. His passing at such a young age was a great blow to Cavan and to entire Gael-dom. We will not forget him.

No. 3 spot goes to Tipperary's No. 6 man, who won three All-Irelands. Now it seems that the selectors want to play him in other positions, but personally I do not believe that his play will improve in other positions.

### Paddy Prendergast

Injuries have always been a bogey where Paddy Prendergast is concerned and possibly deprived him of many more honours, but his spectacular and gentlemanly play is still spoken of throughout the country. 1951 was his greatest year, and latterly he has failed to reach the same heights. But he could come again. I hope he does.

### Paddy Kennedy

Annascaul Paddy Kennedy is No. 5 on my list. How many times did this wizard from Kerry thrill the thousands at Croke Park, and I distinctly remember one of his

brilliant displays against Roscommon in an All-Ireland final which was an epic. Modest and unassuming, Paddy must be ranked in any list of great Kerry stars.

### Jimmie Murray

Blonde-headed Jimmie Murray, leader of the Roscommon vanguard, comes into No. 6 place, and in my estimation he richly deserves his place. Throughout his glorious career in Gaelic football, Jimmie never let himself or his county down. Morfe would have been heard of Jimmie had Roscommon reached the heights earlier, but Croke Park did not see him until he was in his thirties.

### Vin Baston

In No. 7 spot is powerfully-built Vin Baston of the Army and native of Waterford. Oddly enough, Vin achieved more fame with his province than with his county, and St. Patrick's Day Croke Park followers must remember his glorious performances for Munster.

### Kevin Armstrong

Known in his native North as "the hand-pass merchant," Kevin Armstrong, my No. 8 man, needs no introduction or description to justify my placing him in the top ten. He is a "must." The same applies to my last two—Paddy O'Brien and Bobby Rackard. They are magnificent and brilliant

exponents of football and hurling, and must always be lauded for their gallantry on the field of play. I remember one occasion particularly when Bobby, after an injury which would have laid many another man low, came back to play and nearly beat Cork single-handed. Then, again, the memory of Paddy O'Brien in last year's final with his bandaged neck will always remind us of a man who triumphed over pain to play the game of his life.

Well, there they are. Maybe you do not like my selection, and maybe you think you could do better. Why not try it?

## Matt Nugent to Retire?

Rumour has it that Matt Nugent, the well-known Clare half-forward, is thinking of retiring from inter-county hurling. If this be true, it will be a great blow to Clare's hopes for 1955. Matt has graced the county team for nearly a decade, and captained Clare in the Oireachtas final last year. In recognition of his many outstanding performances with the county, his own Club, Tubber, presented him with a silver cup. Last year Matt achieved another long-awaited ambition by gaining County Final honours with St. Joseph's.



# THE VOICE OF OUR READERS

## Gaels Everywhere!

The newspaper you are now reading, THE GAELIC ECHO, is a newspaper of the Gaelic people, by the Gaelic people and for the Gaelic people.

The importance of that statement cannot be underrated. THE GAELIC ECHO knows no boundaries. It caters for all of the thirty-two counties of Ireland and contains news and gossip on our National Games from each and every one of those counties—without exception.

The news is compiled from correspondents in villages, towns and cities throughout the length and breadth of the land, assimilated by our Editorial staff and published without fear or favour.

To facilitate those clubs who wish to communicate with others for the purpose of arranging matches, exchanging information or to inform the public at large of any changes in the structure or panel of officers of the club, we shall arrange to publish a Club Notice to that effect, free gratis and for nothing.

Like any mortals, we know that we are not above criticism and any views, suggestions or, yes, even criticism you wish to express, will be welcomed and space for their expression will be made available in our columns.

Finally, "The Gaelic Echo" is a newspaper whose sole function is to keep you, the public, informed on the position and state of our National Games and as such should find its way into the home of every true Gael.

## Explain Dropping Of St. Vincent's Men

Sir—I wish we could make up our minds as to what sort of a team should represent Dublin. When St. Vincents had the selection of the County team we had nothing but St. Vincents men on the team with one exception. Now the selectors seem desperately anxious to keep the St. Vincents men off the team. How else can they explain the dropping of O'Leary against Louth and Mossy Whelan against Meath.

J. O'BRIEN.  
Donnyearney.

## Where Will Bellaghy Play?

By M. MORRIS

Bellaghy, Co. Sligo, has always been a part of Charlestown, Co. Mayo, as far as football has been concerned, but in the future the Connaught Council has directed that it must be regarded as being in Sligo—as far as G.A.A. is concerned.

Charlestown fans have taken a very poor view of this decision and are quite definitely against it. The question has aroused great controversy, and there will certainly be a protest to the County Board about this border incident.

## Hurling

Sir, This is the first time I have written to any newspaper as it has always been my belief that, where Gaelic games are concerned, there is little cause for complaint. However, I feel that something should be done to encourage the growth of Hurling in the areas where football is the only concern and that the powers-that-be have not done everything they can towards that end.

What are your views on the matter?

HURLING ABU,  
Rathdowney.

Editor: D. J. Kelly has something to say about that same subject in this issue, "Hurling Abu." We are happy to know that he is not alone in his thinking that something can be done.

## My Choice

Sir—How about this for an Ireland team: P. McGearry (Meath); D. O'Mahony (Dublin), P. Prendergast (Mayo), D. Murphy (Kerry), S. Murphy (Kelly), J. Fitzpatrick (Wicklow), N. Maher (Dublin); T. Moriarty (Kerry), T. O'Brien (Meath); P. Solan (Mayo), C. O'Leary (Dublin), S. White (Louth); J. McCormack (Kildare), A. O'Hagen (Armagh), K. Heffernan (Dublin).

Dublin Schoolboy.  
Summerhill.

Editor: A fine effort, indeed, my schoolboy friend, but if your team is to play the Universities, there is a strong possibility that Kevin Heffernan and, if I am not mistaken, Sean Murphy, would be on the other side.

## Songs to Cheer Them On

A Chara—How about some battlesongs for our Gaelic football teams? Follow an example of St. Finian's College, Mullingar. When in 1954 they won both the Leinster under 19 special competition for Colleges and the Junior Colleges Championships their supporters coaxed them on with the following song, sung to the air of "Clementine":

"Up the left wing, up the right wing,  
Up the centre every time,  
We will meet them and defeat them,  
Up St. Finian's every time."

T. V. CUNNINGHAM.  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

## Good Advice

Dear Sir—Dublin Regional Boards have started a new league to combat the encroachment of Soccer into the "under 13's" of the Primary and National Schools. But, unless the clubs take more care of the officials they appoint for these matches, the league will be in chaos before it has properly begun. Last week I saw a match which bears out this point. Two teams were engaged in the new league. One team's officials were a Christian Brother, a National School teacher, an inter-county player and a committee member. These officials gave good, solid advice and gentle, well-worded criticism. The other's officials were minor players who shouted and raged and poured abuse, which was certainly not in dictionary language, upon the heads of the unfortunate boys.

The result was obvious. The first team won well, although they were not much in front of the opposition in hurling ability. The second team—well, the lads got sore and turned on each other and their officials. The cause of their defeat is obvious. Young lads are sensitive and should be coached and guided and corrected with this in mind.

Surely clubs can afford one adult official to accompany their juvenile teams and to give proper service to the lads, otherwise the purpose of the new league is entirely lost, and the juveniles will be driven to and not coaxed from Soccer.

NOEL BYRNE.

Dublin.

## DONEGAL JUNIORS OF 1954



## This Rule is Farcical

### Says "Camog"

The very last Rule of the Official Guide of the Camogie Association is as follows:

**No Foreign Dances of any kind shall be allowed at a Ceilidhe under the auspices of the Association.**

What do we find? Not only are there flagrant breaches of this rule, but some clubs go so far as to run Foreign Dances.

Let me describe to you the experiences of two Ulster Teams in this regard. Last Easter the Armagh County Camogie Team and Officials went on a ten days Tour of Munster. During the course of their trip they were most hospitably entertained by their fellow Gaels down South. But one club invited them to a Reception Dance which they had organised in their honour. Needless to mention, the Arma-h girls who had been accustomed only to Ceilidhe Dancing and who were at a loss to understand the frame of mind which could countenance sponsoring Foreign Dances, boycotted the function. Might I mention that the Dance was a flop. Yes, there's a moral in this story.

Incident number 2. During the Summer Derry Camogie Team, Ulster Champions and All-Ireland Finalists came over the Border. They went to a Ceili. As they entered the Hall an Irish Dance was

in progress. When it ended, the M.C. called out an Old-Time Waltz. The players and officials of the Derry Team got their coats, turned on their heels and walked out, severely disillusioned by the conduct of their fellow Gaels in the Free part of Ireland.

But, of course, the trouble is that they are not really free. Their minds are enslaved by alien ideas. They feel that they must slavishly ape English ideas in Dance and in Dress.

You may be asking why Senior Officials of the Association do not take action against those members who break this rule. They can't! You see, all these Foreign Dances are run by the "Back-Door Method." No club or committee would dare do it openly. So this is the procedure. Another committee is

set up. Call it the Reception Committee, the Social Committee, the Entertainments Committee or anything you like! The important point is that the members of this Committee who are busily engaged in organising the Foreign Dance are one and the same as the club which benefits financially.

The money is the root of all the evil. Clubs maintain that nobody would attend a Ceili and that, therefore, they wouldn't make any money on it. Shame! Shame! on those pseudo-Gaels who would sacrifice principle to expediency.

As it is, this rule is a farce and many members of the Association are hypocrites.

All Ireland should be proud of young Gaels of the calibre of the Armagh and Derry girls. They know how to take their stand for Ireland in the grand tradition of Pearse and Emmet who even gave their lives for Ireland.

## Honour For Frankie Baird

Some months ago, the national and inter-national cycling honours during the past two decades, and his astonishing record includes over 60 national gold medals. He should be an invaluable asset to the Road Council, and we congratulate him on his nomination.

Some months ago, the national and inter-national cycling honours during the past two decades, and his astonishing record includes over 60 national gold medals. He should be an invaluable asset to the Road Council, and we congratulate him on his nomination.

## "The Poor Ref."

A Chara.

I have been reading the "Gaelic Echo" for a few years, but this is the first time that I have ever taken up my pen to write you a letter. I enjoy the paper, and I am glad to see from time to time that you are always prepared to pinpoint any abuses creeping into the game. I have a suggestion to make which I hope you will find space to print. Why not give more powers to the umpires and linesmen in hurling and football? After all, the poor old ref. has quite a lot to do with the entire field of play to look after and far too many fouls and blatant misconduct are carried on behind his back. Unfortunately, the poor ref comes in for a great deal of abuse himself when these things happen—most of which he rarely deserves. So why not increase the powers of the other officials, i.e., the linesmen and umpires. Let them call attention to these fouls behind the referee's back. Maybe then we would have some cleaner and more exciting games.

In conclusion, may I say that I look forward to the "Gaelic Echo." My only complaint is that it could be a little bigger. We could do with more and more news about G.A.A. games.

Yours sincerely  
M. MULLINS.  
Cork City

Editor: You have a good point there. Mr. Mullins and we could not agree more. As regards the paper, we hope you will enjoy the new style of presentation.



# Gallantry Of Meath And Wexford

TONY O'HAGEN

THE expression "Gallant in Defeat" is quite a common one when referring to our Gaelic Games, and two teams who qualified for that label in recent weeks were the Meath Senior Hurling Team and the Wexford Senior Football team in their Leinster Championship games against Kilkenny and Kildare, respectively.

Before their game with Kilkenny at Portlaoighise, even the most hardened Meath supporter could hardly have expected victory but, perhaps, it was that knowledge—that they were the underdogs—that inspired the Royal County-men, not only to extend the Nore-siders fully but also to expose weaknesses in their set-up which must be remedied for their subsequent matches.

## FLATTERING MARGIN

True, the score in Kilkenny's favour at the end was, what might be called, a decisive one; but it is generally agreed that it was, in fact, a highly flattering one. True too, that Dick Carroll and Sean Clohessy stood head and shoulders over any of the Meathmen in the matter of skill and guile, but that superiority was the exception rather than the rule.

There are those, however, who maintain that Kilkenny, and indeed any of the big hurling teams, always look poor when pitted against a team who substitute zeal and enthusiasm for skill and polish, but I am one of the school who subscribe to the old view that a team, any team, will only play as well as it is let.

I also maintain that if a team is "really" good, it will swamp a weaker side when pitted against it, as a team to be really good MUST possess its own share of zeal and enthusiasm.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MEATH

One must remember that it is only in recent years that the Royal County, in answer to the Central Council's plea for more hurling teams, took up the caman, and it is indeed a great tribute to them that they have retained their interest despite the poor return they have had to date.

The wonder is then, that not only have they maintained that interest, but have actually gone from strength to strength so that one of the original hurling teams, like Kilkenny, can no longer treat their challenge lightly.

As yet they are not top-grade in the strict sense, but in players like Fergus Foran, Brian Smyth, Sean O'Brien, Neil Collier, Frank Kelly, Michael Kane and Aidan Foran, they have men who can hold their own in any company, and once the other members of their team have become as adept as the above-named, I say: "Look out, not only Kilkenny, but also Cork, Tipperary, Clare and all other would-be title aspirants."

## TACTICAL ERRORS

One of the main causes for Meath's defeat in that game was the reluctance of their players to essay a ground shot when it would have been quicker and wiser to have done so. This is a fault that is shared by many counties, and it is my contention that more thought and practice should be given to its application.

One of the most pleasant features of this year's Oireachtas final was the willingness of both

sides, Wexford and Clare, to employ this gambit throughout the game, and the standard of play and the tempo of the exchanges gained tremendously from its employment.

Granted the raised ball and lengthy puck pay rich dividends, but if in endeavouring to lift the ball time is wasted, time in which opposing players can move into position, what does it profit a team to keep plugging at it?

## PRaise FOR MEATH

However, as colleague D. J. Kelly states in this issue, the gap

what at the expense of the catch and kick game in which that county holds a special niche.

Happily, however, in the last year or two, there are signs that this unfortunate state of affairs is in the course of being remedied. What success has been accomplished can best be judged by looking at the score line of their recent championship game against the rejuvenated Lilywhites. It read: Kildare, 1-6; Wexford, 1-5.

## SOMEWHAT UNLUCKY

The fact of the matter is that the game was only decided in the

## ACTION



between the Munster teams with Wexford, Kilkenny and Dublin, and the other counties is a formidable one, and one that cannot be bridged in a year or two. Hurling, even more than football, demands a skill that takes years to achieve and constant practice to maintain.

In that light, Meath's performance against Kilkenny was a highly creditable one, and one which augurs well for the future. Having seen the enthusiasm with which the Royal Countymen entered into the fray with their more illustrious opponents, I can well believe that the game in Meath has a bright future.

One has only to remember the amazing rise of Wexford in recent years to realise what can be achieved by honest endeavour and the will to get in among the Hurling "greats" and what the Model County can do, so can others with the same approach and determination.

## COUNTY'S "MODEL" DISPLAY

Like Meath, Wexford's footballers took on Kildare at Carlow as the underdogs, and like Meath they tackled the task manfully, and went within an ace of causing a surprise.

Unfortunately the incursion of the Model County into the hurling elite, has been accomplished some-

closing minutes when Kildare, drawing on reserved spurts of energy, came from behind to notch the all-important scores.

From the start, Wexford showed their intention to make Kildare play the Model County's type of football, and with each man covering off his opponent effectively, the Lilywhites never found themselves free to initiate those movements which had earned the short-grass men fame in days of old.

With that accomplished, Wexford went into the fray as if their very lives depended on it but, unfortunately for them, their efforts took heavy toll of their stamina, and when Kildare made their herculean efforts in the closing stages, they made full use of this one superiority they had over their opponents.

## HOW THEY PLAYED

In the opening half, Wexford faced by a strong wind, unexpectedly took the offensive, and this was made possible mainly through the great work of their midfield pair, Jim Morrissey and Frank Morris. However, there were signs then that the Wexford attack was not all that it might be, and despite the good work of Paddy Kehoe and Nick Rackard, the two suffered cruelly from lack of support, although Liam Larkin promised well and made full use of his speed.

The Model County's defence did well to keep the lively Kildare forwards in check, and Willie Goodison, Nicky Redmond, John Joe Culleton, and Jim Fardy came out of the game with enhanced reputations, while Jim Morris did more than his share in keeping the wily Dalton in a subdued mood.

As has been stated, however, Kildare's rally in the closing stages, caught the Wexfordmen on the wrong foot, but their great fight to avoid defeat and their very closeness to success must have been ample compensation for their efforts.

## SUMMING UP

So it is then that the underdogs, faced as they are with what is considered to be the impossible, find the energy and the heart and

the incentive to make a bid for victory, which, by its very unexpectedness and the fury of its effort, always impresses and sometimes succeeds. And it is those who can resist this challenge that bear the stamp of champions.

Defeat can be an honour in itself, if it is accepted in a sportsmanlike manner. That is the important thing, but also important is the effort to avoid the inevitable, to make that all-out bid for victory against opponents that are expected to win with ease.

Hats off then to Meath's hurlers and Wexford's footballers; they faced the odds, made the supreme effort and having failed, accepted their defeat in true sportsmanlike fashion. Do they deserve the label, "Gallant in Defeat"? Most certainly they do.

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