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What Has Happened To The Glamour Of Tipp. Hurling?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH TIPPERARY HURLING? THIS IS A QUESTION YOU WILL OFTEN HEAR FROM ROSCREA TO CLONMEL. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE GLAMOUR AND TRADITIONAL, SOUND HURLING OF THE PREMIER COUNTY HAVE FADED SOMEWHAT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THE PRESENT SENIOR TEAM INCLUDES MANY FINE HURLERS BUT SADLY LACKS THE DRIVE, DASH AND "DIVILMENT" ASSOCIATED WITH TIPPERARY TEAMS IN THE PAST—ESPECIALLY THE FORWARDS.

Admittedly the county is doing well in the current National League, but even with an American trip in prospect, the League does not make the same demands on players, except perhaps in the final stages; there is not the same keenness as that associated with the Munster Championship.

For a county that has produced outstanding minor hurling teams—winning All-Irelands in this grade has almost become a habit—it is very surprising that the senior teams have not been more consistent.

What is more important is that the style and craft shown by these minors is the real Tipperary style—fast ground hurling with beautiful combined forward play.

WHAT'S WRONG?

Now the question is: why are these minors not graduating to senior ranks as they normally should? True, an odd minor flashes forth for a while but not in numbers sufficient to put a senior team on a sound footing.

There was a suggestion recently by an old-timer—that minors, especially those of a successful team like Tipperary, are burned out from match-play before they reach maturity. This has certainly given much food for thought in hurling circles in Tipperary.

Mainly speaking, I don't think this is true. As a rule, young players do not get too many hard matches. My opinion is that when finished with minor ranks they are often completely ignored by selectors, and then get the mistaken idea that they will

never get a chance on the senior team.

Of course, it is a big step between minor and senior ranks, but why cannot our selectors give those ex-minors a chance to steel themselves in junior championships, league and tournament games.

PROPER TRIAL

I would like to stress that any youth who has proved himself a good minor should be given four or five games to prove himself. I ask you selectors, what lad can do him-

self justice in one game, knowing that his every move is being watched carefully?

While it is all too easy to criticise our selectors, I do not mean to hurt the feelings of men who have given unfailing service to the Blue and Gold, but I think it is the duty and right of all true Tipperary men to give their honest views and suggestions the airing they surely deserve. What do other Tipperary men think?

J. C. L.

Kerry's Great Athletic Year

By M. J. KIELY

THIS year will go down as one of the greatest ever in the history of the Athletic Association in Kerry. Athletes and cyclists captured four All-Ireland titles, as well as many other major trophies.

Once more Kerry captured the Ras Tailteann and Paul Fitzgerald covered himself with glory by taking the individual prize.

A very promising runner in young Tom Riordan from Kerins O'Rahilly's and he was first in the one mile colleges All-Ireland championship, in which he set up a new Irish record.

Last year's Ras Tailteann winner, Gene Mangan had a great year and he captured the 100 miles M.S. All-Ireland Cycle Championship. R. O'Dwyer, of Kenmare A.C., won the All-Ireland Hop-Step-and Jump championship.

Twenty four club affiliated in the county and there were 25 sports meetings embracing open, novice and confined events.

In addition to these the Sec-

dary School and Colleges championships were held in Tralee and we had the revival of the National School championships which were held in Killarney.

The County championship sports were held in Tralee and Kerins O'Rahilly's took the Seamus Uí Conguille Cup for the first time.

Highlight of the season, however, was the manner in which the cyclists swept the boards in Ras Tailteann. Paul Fitzgerald, the overall winner; Gene Mangan (4th), P O'Callaghan (14th); John Landers (18th); J. Switzer (23rd); P. Moriarty (24th); J. O'Connor (31st), deserve the highest possible praise for their wonderful determination and great team spirit.

Would Be Big Blow To Club

RUMOUR has it that John Kissane intends to resign from the post of Secretary of the Kerins O'Reilly Club in Tralee. It would be a big blow to club and county if he carries out his intention.

John had done great things for the Association in Tralee, but of course his great love was for the Kerins O'Rahillys. For the past six years he has been the club secretary and played the major part in securing a playing pitch and dressingroom-cum-clubhouse.

John was always thinking up some new ideas of raising money to swell club funds.

Certainly if John Kissane persists in taking a "back seat" I, for one, do not envy his successor because he has an almost impossible task if he wants to come near the standard of his predecessor.

There is also news that "Buddy" Sugrue is considering handing over the secretaryship of the Tralee John Mitchell Club.

I doubt if the Mitchells will let this hard-working man get out of a job he has handled so capably for the past twelve months.

Out Killarney way, the Dr. Croke Club is celebrating the winning of the East Kerry League, the fruits of which have rested with their rival Legion Club for the past three seasons.

No wonder Donie Sheehan appears in such a jolly mood these times. The popular chairman of the Crokes has been working for this victory for quite a time.



UP THEY GO . . . D. Flood, full back, clears the Kildare lines despite the close attention of Cork forwards Niall Fitzgerald (right) and John Creedon (left).

A FAMOUS BELT RECALLS TRIBUTE

(By J. K. CLARKE).

THE exhibiting recently of the late J. J. Bowles's famous Handball Belt recalls to mind the paying of a tribute, unique in the annals of the pastime, to one of the greatest players Handball has ever known.

John Joe Bowles was, of course, the brilliant Limerick player whose career in the court spanned the opening decades of the present century.

The belt was shown at the Dublin Corporation Officials' annual distribution of Handball trophies by the Lord Mayor, at which Mr. Geo. Bowles, a nephew of the great J. J., and himself an official of the City Municipal Authority, very kindly brought along the historic belt. It was presented to J. J. by Ald.

P. H. Meade, Mayor of Cork, in 1905, on the occasion of his winning the Irish Championship for the first time, beating the holder, that master Cork player, Tim Twobill, in the semi-final, and J. O'Brien, Fermoy, in the final of the Cork All-Ireland Tournament of that year.

The award, a personal one, was altogether unique, as it was the only occasion upon which a belt has ever been presented for Handball.

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Famed Rock Street, Tralee Holds A Special Place

By D. J. KELLY

KERRY is often referred to as the "home" of football and little wonder when one considers the legion of catch-and-kick specialists which have grown up within its borders. But even in Kerry, famed Rock Street, in the town of Tralee, holds a special place.

Here were born some of the greatest footballers ever to grace our Gaelic fields and when you talk of the all-conquering Kerry teams of the late '20's and early '30's, you cannot but admit that Rock Street played a major part in the moulding of those sides.

Remember the late, great Joe Barrett, that peerless full-back whose deeds are still spoken of in tones of awe, both within the Kingdom's borders and further afield.

Yes, indeed, Joe was a product of the great Rock Street team, which now operates under the name of Auston Stacks. And the equally lamented "Peddler" Sweeney and Jackie Ryan? What memories they bring to mind!

SHREWD MENTORS

To-day, many of the men who strode so majestically to Kerry's greatest hours are available to lend their great lessons of skill, tenacity and powers of achievement to the younger men who are honoured to wear the Kingdom's colours. And when you read the names of some of them, take pause, for in the Hall of Fame their names are included amongst the truly greats.

The Landers brothers — Bill, "Roundie" and "Purty" — were all that forwards should be—yes, and even more! Their approach was poetry in precision, their skill a lesson for the masters and their deeds and valour worthy of the knights of old.

And then there was Miko Doyle, hero of countless battles, whose stature in the physical sense and in terms of achievement was in the classical mould.

Billy Gorman and Rory O'Connell were others whose safe, clean handling and accurate, lengthy kicking were factors which often assured Kerry of victory when fate seemed likely to thwart them.

MEMORABLE

And then there was that memorable occasion in 1932 when the three Landers brothers, Joe Barrett, Jackie Ryan, Doyle and O'Connell—seven from the same street—combined to give Kerry yet another All-Ireland success, this time at the expense of Connacht champions, Mayo.

And even that is not all, for you cannot mention Rock Street without remembering other outstanding exponents like "Peggy" Moriarty, Jim Baily whose nephew Denis figured prominently at full-back on the South Kerry team which won this year's County Championship, and Martin Bracker Regan.

In those Golden Days, too, the World's Handball Championship title was held by the late Fr. Michael Jones and guess the name of the street in Tralee in which he was born? Right, first time, Rock Street.

Busy Rock Street, has a fame which perhaps was too big for it so some of it spilled into neighbouring byways. For just around the corner, is the birth-place of the great Austin Stack.

KILGARVAN WON

(BY "PRESSBOX")

PLAYING A TYPE OF HURLING, TOO SELDOM SEEN IN KERRY, KILGARVAN ROMPED HOME FROM THE AUSTIN STACK PARK, TRALEE, A COUPLE OF SUNDAYS AGO WITH THE SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP. IT WAS THE CLUB'S SECOND PREMIER HURLING AWARD AND IT WAS WITH NO SMALL AMOUNT OF PRIDE THAT PAUD HEALY, CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM, BROUGHT THE TROPHY TO SOUTH KERRY.

Kilgarvan also won the title in 1953 after many years of striving. The club's area has always been a stronghold of the good old Irish game.

Away back in 1919, when the team was led by Jack Hegarty (Jubart) they were defeated in the final by Tralee Parnells, captained by the famed John Joe Sheehy. Again in 1932 Causeway beat them by a single point.

Inactive for some years, Kilgarvan were again in the news in 1941 when the club was re-organised and appeared in the 1944 final but lost to Crotta's O'Neill's. In 1946, they again reached the semi-final stage but on this occasion it was John Joe O'Sullivan's men from Ballyheigue who were their masters.

STARTED IN '51

The majority of the present crop of players came into prominence in 1951, when they reached the closing stages of the championship and every year since, with the exception of 1954, have succeeded in getting into the final stages.

This year they set out with a will to win and during the championship campaign bowled over the opposition in great style with their lowest score being 4 goals 5 points.

Believe it or not, but they lost that match to their opponents in the county final this year—Kilmoyley. Indeed, the prospect of facing a club which had already won twelve county championships must have caused some pre-match anxiety.

But under the direction of Oliver Browne, former National Bantam-weight Champion, they trained hard and their great fitness stood to them on final day.

Many months ago I was told by club secretary, Denis P. O'Sullivan to watch out for this Kilgarvan team and now they have justified his prophecy.

Club Revived

By MICHAEL O CADHLA

ALTHOUGH ASKEATON (LIMERICK) DO NOT FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE LIST OF CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS, THE YOUNG MEN IN THE MAIGUE-SIDE VILLAGE HAVE DONE THEIR SHARE FOR GAELIC GAMES IN THE DIVISION.

Up to a few years ago they had a first-class hurling team and the deeds of lads like the Fitzgeralds, Murphy's, Loughnane, and Mick Sheehy will not be readily forgotten.

A football team known as Ballykisteen was also very popular and it's not very many years since Denny Naughton, Mick Hayes, the Ranahan's, and company brought a county title to the parish.

This year the club was revived and the Juvenile footballers took the Western title defeating fancied teams in Castlemahon and St. Senan's.

Much credit for the success achieved can be attributed to club Secretary, Eddie Corbett.

Chairman, Rev. Fr. O'Dea, C.C., also had a big part in the revival of the club, while J. McGough, M. Ryan, M. F. Sheehy, and C. Walsh all did their share.

Present From U.S.

The gratitude of all West Tipperary gaelis goes forth to Rev. Br. Hennessy of Chicago, U.S.A., who, while home on holiday recently presented a magnificent cup for competition between the juvenile football teams of that area. A native of Emly, Br. Hennessy is a member of a well known Gaelic family.

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HURLING AWARD

Fr. Rodger Kinnane, of Rossmore left Ireland recently for the mission fields of Nigeria. Before leaving he had the honour of leading Rossmore to West Tipperary junior hurling championship honours. As a player and trainer he certainly did more than his share in bringing the title to Rossmore. When leaving he took a supply of hurleys with him. We wish him God speed.

SECOND PREMIER

Still hurling strong with Glengar junior hurlers is Shan Butler, who at the age of 45 years played an outstanding game against Emly in the No. 2 junior hurling final.

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Enthusiasm Among Waterford Gaels

By OUR WATERFORD CORRESPONDENT

FOR long enough now Gaelic games in Waterford have been troubled by competition from foreign games and inter-county matches have been very badly attended. So much so that it has been alleged that the Gaels in this traditional stronghold are deserting their games.

The truth is that, like the rest of us, they are human and a long succession of defeats and unimpressive displays had blunted the palate of even the most rabid supporter.

Now it is all changed; and what did it?—the drawn game with All-Ireland champions, Wexford. This draw, which just as easily could have been a win, fired the enthusiasm of young and old alike and, more important, encouraged the hurlers themselves to try harder.

Thus spurred on a supremely fit Waterford team went on to beat Dublin in convincing style. Then came what all Deise fans knew was a stern test; their meeting with Munster champions, Cork.

Here Waterford met with defeat, but showed magnificent heart in fighting back from being led 2-7 to 0-2 at three-quarter time, to finishing only three points behind.

Better Hurling

Of course, the improvement in the hurling team merely reflects a better general standard throughout the country. The championships yielded up much promising talent which carefully handled could make Waterford a definite force in Munster hurling next year.

Nothing succeeds like success and victory in the Football League to the Deise team was, perhaps, inspired by the great performance of the hurlers.

At any rate, the football team got off to a good start, when it defeated Kilkenny. Once again determination was a factor in the Waterford victory, for when Kilkenny went in front midway through the second half, a great rally by Waterford saw them equalise and then in a fighting finish forge ahead to withstand a determined Kilkenny assault. The win was a compensation for their defeat by Clare and they have still to meet Limerick and Tipperary.

There was much pleasure in Mt. Sion club circles at the success of their minor footballers in taking the club's first ever minor title. This added to the Senior hurling and football and minor hurling titles makes it an outstanding year of achievement for the club.

A Record Score

A new scoring record for a Limerick final in any grade was established recently when in the county junior hurling final KILMALLOCK chalked up a total of 13 goals 8 points to their opponents, South Liberties 1-1.

One of the highest scorers in Munster hurling for some years, Clare's Jimmy Smith, is meeting a great challenge to his supremacy in the local Ruan senior hurling team. His rival—none other than brother MICHAEL, who has taken over in Jimmy's old position of right full forward and is showing much of the craft of his famous brother.

Michael, also a former St. Flannan's, Ennis, star, is a Garda in Dublin.

The first Convention of the Clare Basketball Association was held in Lahinch recently.

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Limerick C.I.E

Hurling and football are very popular amongst the C.I.E. workers in Limerick City and in 1949 they caused surprise by defeating Athea in the Junior football final at Adare. Little has been heard of the footballers since but they are planning a come-back bid.

The hurling team brought two All-Ireland titles to the Shannonside City. Well-known Gaels at the helm of the football club are P. J. Begley, Denny Max and E. Fitzgibbon.

Inscribed His Name In Annals Of Many Sports

(By "LEESIDER")

RECENTLY Gaels, not alone in Cork but throughout the entire country, learned with deep regret of the death of "Billy" Mackesy.

Throughout his life "Billy" inscribed his name in the annals of many sports. As a G.A.A. player he had the rare distinction of winning All-Ireland Hurling and Football medals.

Around Limerick

The South Limerick club, Bruree, are finding it harder to field a senior team each year as many of their stalwarts have reached the veteran stage and the selectors find it difficult to get good youngsters.

During 1956 they organised a 10-a-side hurling league, the following teams taking part, Bruree, Rockhill, Ballintigue and Howards-town.

Club officials are: Chairman, P. Potter; Joint Secs., P. Fitzgerald and Mick Sexton; Treas., T. Riordan.

Murroe were the first Limerick senior hurling champions, but since then the standard has deteriorated in the parish and they are now competing in junior ranks.

This year they affiliated junior, minor and juvenile hurling teams and a minor football team.

Rev. Fr. Gilmartin, the very popular Divisional Board official, is club Chairman, while well-known hurler Neil Sheehan is Secretary. Frank Moore looks after the financial end.

The oldest and most popular football club in Limerick, Commercials, held the whip-hand by the Shannon in the pioneer days, and succeeded in winning two All-Ireland titles.

For many years now they have been missing from the Senior football arena, but they are making great strides to capture a Junior crown.

They captured city titles in '52, '53 and '54. Notable personalities behind the scenes are T. Slattery, C. Crowley, Sean O'Connell, M. Ryan, P. Mitchell, Con McGrath, J. Foley, J. Kenneally, M. Griffin, G. Browne, S. Keating and S. Kavanagh.

Youth is Patrickswell's big weapon and there were many tennagers prominent on the 1955 Junior champion team. This year they took the step from Junior to Senior ranks in their stride and they will yet be a force in Limerick premier competition. The Gaels in Patrickswell are doing their bit for the youth and a special club was formed to look after the affairs of the Minors and Juveniles.

Officers are: Chairman, J. Carroll; Vice-Chairman, G. Casey; Sec., John Foley; Asst. Sec., G. Bennis. During the year Patrickswell lost a great player in "Son" O'Brien, who captained the 1955 team. He has emigrated.

Born in Buttevant, he began his business career in Kinsale and helped the local hurling and football teams while he was in the town.

When he came to Cork City he played football for Lees and turned out with Blackrock in hurling.

Before long his prowess with these clubs won him county honours in both codes.

In 1903 he was member of the Blackrock team captained by Steve Riordan, which won the All-Ireland title, defeating Kilkenny in the home final and London-Irish in the final proper.

FOOTBALL MEDAL

Eight years later he was to gain an All-Ireland football medal with a Lees' selection, and so became the first Corkman to achieve the distinction of winning the highest honour in both codes.

He was a member of the Cork team which played Tipperary at Fontenoy in 1911. This was the first time a hurling game had taken place on the Continent.

He appeared in seven All-Ireland finals—four in football and three in hurling. He won five county hurling medals with 'Rockies and six football medals with Lees.

He was also a noted sprinter and participated in many major athletic meetings.

COURSING

When the years took their toll of this great sportsman, he turned his interests to coursing and track racing.

He won the Irish Coursing Derby at Clonmel in 1934 with his dog, Never Say Die, and the following year won the English Greyhound Grand National with Valiant Bob.

Not many men can aspire to the reputation enjoyed by Billy Mackesy in so many realms of sport. He earned the admiration and respect of all who knew him.

Sport is all the poorer because of his passing.

Solus na bhflaitheas da Anam.

* * *

The loss of Rev. Brother Sheehan, who has been transferred from St. Michael's Place, C.B.S., Limerick, to Crumlin C.B.S., Dublin, is a heavy blow to all Shannonside Gaels.

A native of Cahirciveen, Brother Sheehan, during his twelve years the city's best known workers for stay in Limerick has been one of the promotion of our native games. Limerick's loss will surely prove Crumlin's gain.

Their First Win

The junior hurlers of Emly made history this year when they won their first junior hurling title beating Glengar in the final of the No. 2 championship. They were narrowly beaten by one point in the divisional decider.

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Let Us Anticipate The Leinster Selections

By PEADAR BYRNE

TEAM forecasting is always a hazardous business. But even more so when a provincial selection is involved. The players you regard as 'certainties' are sure to be the ones that the selectors will leave out, and then every County votes for its own.

HOWEVER, LET'S TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS AND PLUNGE INTO THE TASK OF ANTICIPATING THE WORK OF THE LEINSTER SELECTORS WHEN THEY SIT DOWN TO CHOOSE THEIR TEAMS TO DO DUTY IN THE COMING INTER-PROVINCIAL CAMPAIGN.

The selectors in both codes will have problems—though of a different nature. Whereas the Eastern province is teeming with hurling talent, there is a definite dearth of football stars and Leinster are going to be hard put to regain the football crown they surrendered to Ulster last year.

Let's look at the brighter side first, however, and start with the hurling team. Wexford, as All-Ireland champions, are bound to claim the lion's share of the side but right now there is a hurling resurgence on foot in famed Kilkenny and the wearers of the Black and Amber are certain to have a good representation on the team.

Live Challenger

The Wexford-Kilkenny rivalry starts in goal where the man in possession, Art Foley, has a very live challenger to contend with in Kilkenny's Ollie Walsh. Foley has never let either his province or county down but Walsh has been turning in consistently brilliant performances of late and good as Foley undoubtedly is, I think he will have to surrender his berth to the Kilkenny youngster.

Many would be happy to put in the Wexford full-back line en bloc but I don't agree. Assuredly, Bobby Rackard is a brilliant player but he is essentially a long-range hurler and this style doesn't usually suit the corner-back berth.

Instead I would give the No. 2 jersey to Dublin's Dessie Ferguson who revels in close quarter exchanges as he did against Waterford recently.

The St. Vincent's man successfully "shadowed" Christy Ring out of last year's final and as he is almost certain to be pitted against the Glen Rovers wizard again this year, I think he would be the ideal choice.

The full back line is almost certain to be completed by those two towering Wexfordmen, Nick O'Donnell and Mick Morrissey.

Long-striking Willie Rackard, I rate the best centre-half back in the country and the Wexford pivot is certain to go in Popular Jim English is equally certain to get the right half back position, while flanking Rackard on the left, I would have the compact Kilkenny man, Johnny McGovern.

Biggest Problem

Veteran Kilkenny hurler, Willie Walsh, seems to have got a new lease of life and if he maintains his present fine form, he should get one of the mid-field posts.

Finding a partner for Walsh will present the selectors with one of their biggest problems. There are three Wexfordmen Seamus Hearne, Jim Morrissey and Ned Wheeler in the running. Add to these the

Silent Band Struggle On

WEXFORD, like most counties where hurling is in a flourishing state, seems apathetic about Camogie. Yet there is a silent band who continue the struggle for recognition in the county.

At present there are six clubs and consequently there is a lack of competition which, of course, means that there is no opportunity to improve the standard.

Since then there has been a lively interest in the game although emigration has robbed the county of some fine players.

Camogie flourished in the county in the early 1930's and then by degrees began to fade until 1947 when the County Board was reformed with Miss K. Hart (Campile) as chairman.

The present chairman, Mrs. T. Dunne (P. H. Pearse's) has given years of sterling service to the Association. She has been chairman of Leinster Council for some years.

name of Westmeath's Jobber McGrath and you'll see the magnitude of the task that confronts the selectors.

As for myself, I would settle for a Walsh-Hearne partnership and put Jim Morrissey on the '40'. Podge Kehoe (Wexford) seems a sound proposition for the No. 10 jersey, while his flying team-mate, Tim Flood must go in at left half forward.

Big Nick Rackard is a certainty for full-forward, while those two Kilkenny stylists, Dick Rockett and Sean Clohosey may get the corner forward berths.

All of which would give us the following team:

O. Walsh (Kilkenny); D. Ferguson (Dublin), N. O'Donnell (Wexford), M. Morrissey (Wexford); J. English (Wexford), W. Rackard (Wexford), J. McGovern (Kilkenny); W. Walsh (Kilkenny), S. Hearne (Wexford); Podge Kehoe (Wexford), J. Morrissey (Wexford), T. Flood (Wexford); D. Rockett (Kilkenny), N. Rackard (Wexford), S. Clohosey (Kilkenny).

With Footballers

THINGS ARE NOT SO BRIGHT ON THE FOOTBALL FRONT; RARELY—AND I SAY THIS WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO MY KILDARE FRIENDS—CAN THERE HAVE BEEN POORER LEINSTER CHAMPIONS WHILE WEXFORD, WHO OPPOSED THE SHORT GRASS COUNTY IN THE DECIDER, WILL BE DOING MIGHTY WELL TO GAIN EVEN ONE PLACE ON THE COMING LEINSTER TEAM.

Some of the old stars are not shining too brightly these days but still I think we'll see very few new faces on the team.

The goal-keeping position will probably resolve itself into a battle between Meath's Patsy McGearty and Des Marron (Kildare) and I would give my vote to the former on the count of experience.

Danny Flood played a major part in Kildare's triumph and he may just about get the full-back position, Mick Moylan (Dublin) can hardly be opposed at left-full back.

The right-full berth poses a big question for the selectors. The man in possession, Denis Mahony is a little short in match play practice and he may have to surrender his berth to Kevin Scally (Offaly).

Peter Nolan (Offaly), will hardly retain his place at centre half back and Kildare's Larry McCormack looks a likely replacement. Gerry O'Reilly (Wicklow) always brings in a good display for his province but he is not playing such good stuff lately and he may be succeeded by Maurice Whelan (Dublin).

Longford may get the left-half back post through their able representative Arnold Meagher.

Meath Midfielder

Mick Dunican (Meath) is sure to be included at mid-field but finding a partner for him is going to be a man-sized job. Jim Crowley (Dublin) had a long lay-off through injury and can hardly be considered. In the end the selectors may have to fall back on "play anywhere" Stephen White (Louth).

That old campaigner, Matty O'Donnell, will probably go in at centre-half forward, and flanking him I would have Sean Boyle (Dublin) and Seamus Harrison (Kildare).

Kevin Heffernan (Dublin) will probably operate on the fringe of the square while the inclusion of his club-mate Dessie Ferguson would increase the scoring power of the attack. Wexford's sole representative may be burly Paddy Kehoe, who accounted for most of their scores this year.

Kehoe is not very mobile for a corner forward but if things were not going too smoothly, he could always change with Heffernan.

My Leinster Football would then read:—P. McGreary (Meath); K. Scally (Offaly), D. Flood (Kildare), A. Meagher (Longford); M. Dunican (Meath), S. White (Louth), S. Boyle (Dublin), M. McDonnell (Meath), S. Harrison (Kildare); D. Ferguson (Dublin), K. Heffernan (Dublin), P. Kehoe (Wexford).

PEADAR BYRNE'S ROUND-UP

ST. VINCENT'S wonderful unbeaten record is now no more. A brilliant run of successes which commenced in November, 1948, was well and truly smashed in the mud of Parnell Park when a lively U.C.D. combination surprised everyone by mastering the champions by 2-3 to 0-6.

All credit to the students for their great win. Powered by inter-county stars like Jim McDonnell (Cavan), Kieran Denver (Down) and Sean Murphy (Kerry), they took all the champions had to offer and held out for a thrilling win.

In all fairness, however, it must be stated that St. Vincent's had to take the field without six of their regular players and although Des. Ferguson came on at half-time, he was unable to pull the game out of the fire.

As befitted champions, they put up a tremendous struggle but in the final analysis the absence of Moylan, Wilson, Whelan and Allen proved too much for them.

NOT FINISHED

But make no mistake about this, the 'Vins' are by no means finished. With the strain of maintaining such an imposing record off their shoulders, they will be all the better for this defeat and by the time you read this, I expect them to be well on their way towards annexing their eighth consecutive title.

O'Toole's! How the very mention of the word thrills old-timers and sends them racing back in memory to the golden twenties when the famed "Larriers" powered by such 'giants' as the McDonnells and the Synnotts strode the G.A.A. scene in majestic style.

Well after many years in the wilderness O'Toole's are back in the limelight again—this time as a hurling force. Recently they played their first senior hurling game and created a very favourable impression in holding a formidable Crokes team to a draw.

They play an excellent brand of open, constructive hurling and have some very capable players in Aidan Kavanagh, Tommy Bracken and Eugene C. Clarke. Given the 'breaks' they should develop into a useful combination.

Speaking of O'Toole's reminds me that their very promising young all-rounder, Charlie Feely has returned from England. Charlie, who figured on the Dublin minor team at 15, has been on the fringe of inter-county honours for some time past and now that he is back in "Larriers" again, should soon make the Dublin hurling team.

PARNELL'S REVIVAL

Parnells are on the way back to football glory. They have been turning in some very good displays lately and Roger Conroy, Des Carroll and Co. could well make things hot for the 'big guns' before the season is over.

One of the key-men in the Clan na Gael team which is playing very well just now is 20-years-old Dermot Sweeney. Dermot, a cousin of the Loughlins of Kildare fame, figured on the victorious Dublin minor teams of '54 and '55 and is now playing brilliant stuff at right full back.

Another member of that victorious Dublin team to figure with distinction on the present 'Clan's' team is diminutive Con McSweeney. A very neat ball player he links up with popular Johnny Boyle to form a very dangerous right wing partnership.

Mick Fallon (Clan na Gael) has a peculiar record all his own. Three years ago, he lined out with Galway, then he transferred his allegiance to Westmeath and to cap it all he played for Dublin in their recent engagement with Laois. That man surely gets around!

Gaelic players seem to be turning more and more to the game of basketball as a means of keeping fit. Several Dublin and St. Vincent's players have taken it up and seem to be faring very well at it.

Best known of course is Johnny Boyle who has numerous international caps to his credit. Johnny plays for Celtic and has as team-mate Dublin footballer Mark Wilson. The latter is one of the most versatile athletes in Dublin as he is also a very accomplished hurler and gained a Leinster senior medal with Dublin in 1952.

Tony Young (St. Vincent's) got a rousing welcome on his return to the Dublin hurling team for the League game against Waterford. Tony, brother of Galway's Joe, is a very good all-rounder and my guess is that his boundless energy is just what the Dublin football team needs to spark it off into the devastating machine we all know it can be.

My All-Ireland Team To Beat The Rest

By TONY O'HAGEN

WITH almost the same regularity as chestnuts and marbles, the team-picking season comes around and most of us fancy ourselves as armchair selectors. We often criticise the officials responsible for picking teams during the year, so in picking my All-Ireland team to beat the Rest, I hope there won't be too many brickbats.

Let's start with the goalkeeper. For this important position Galway's Jack Mangan; Thady Turbett, of Tyrone; Roscommon's Aidan Brady and the Dublin custodian Paddy Flaherty come to mind. But when I think back on a year of memorable displays, I have no trouble in plumping for the Galway captain, with Turbett as a good second.

As far as right corner back is concerned, I make my choice from Kerry's Jerome O'Shea, Dublin's Denis Mahony and Cork's Paddy Driscoll. I admit, that O'Shea has not performed with the skill he showed in last year's decider and Mahony's lay-off through illness prevented him from attaining peak form. That leaves the Corkman and an excellent choice he is!

Jim Devlin, Tyrone's full back gave such an outstanding display against Galway's Frankie Stockwell in the semi-final, that he commends himself for consideration but, in a year in which few full-backs caught the eye, I nominate Meath's Jim Ryan, for his sheer consistency.

A Hard Worker

For left corner, the names of Mick Moylan (Dublin), Tim Lyons (Kerry) and quite a few others spring to mind, but my man, and I make no apology for this is Galway's Tom Dillon, a hard worker who fights like a demon for every ball.

Cavan's Hubert Gaffney played so very well in the first half of the Ulster final at Clones that he must be listed for right half-back but he has strong opposition from Tyrone's Sean Donnelly, Galway's Jack Kinsane, Kerry's Sean Murphy, Wicklow's Gerry O'Reilly and Down's Kevin Mussen.

Still, Kerry's Murphy, the finest half-back I have seen for over twenty years gets my vote.

For centre half-back we have Galway's Jack Mahon, Monaghan's Johnny Rice, and, despite his disappointing display in this year's All-Ireland, Cork's Denis Bernard. I would be more than satisfied with the Ulsterman, who, in the Railway Cup final was a truly memorable performer against Munster's best.

At left half-back, we have "qualifiers" in Cavan's Jim McDonnell, Galway's Mick Greally, Dublin's Nickey Maher, Cork's Dan Murray and Tyrone's John Joe O'Hagan.

On the score of consistency, I think the position would lie between Murray and Maher and while only the toss of a coin would separate them, I give my vote to the Dublinman.

Many Contenders

For midfield we have many contenders. There are, Jim McKeever (Derry), Jody O'Neill (Tyrone), Sean Moore (Cork), Mattie McDonagh (Galway), Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon), Stephen White (Louth), Larry McCormack (Kildare), Frank Evers (Galway), Tom Maguire (Cavan), Paddy Harrington (Cork) and Mick Dunican (Meath).

Despite the all-round excellent quality at centre-field, my choice falls on the first-named trio and to overcome the difficulty thus created, I propose to do a bit of manipulating; placing Cork's Moore and Derry's McKeever in the centre and allotting to O'Neill, who has played there with great success, the right half-forward position.

For centre forward, we cannot pass Sean Purcell as the Galwayman is now playing better than ever. Having "given" the right half-forward berth to a normal midfielder, I considered Paudie Sheehy (Kerry), Iggy Jones (Tyrone), Charlie Gallagher (Cavan), Johnny Boyle (Dublin), Johnny Brophy (Carlow), Tadhie Lyne (Kerry), Dessie Ferguson (Dublin), Eric Ryan (Cork) and Frank Morris (Wexford) for the remaining half forward positions.

Up-to-date form narrows the position down to Boyle, Jones, Ferguson and Morris but undisputed consistency added to the form influences me in favour of Boyle.

Back In Harness

HOW MANY YOUNG GAELS OF TO-DAY REMEMBER DICK HARNEDY OF CORK AND MUNSTER FOOTBALL FAME PLAY. NOT MANY I BET, FOR DICK RETIRED FROM INTER-COUNTY FOOTBALL IN 1942.

Dick made a comeback when he helped Kilbrin beat Kiskeam in a Cork novice football game.

Now back in harness once more Dick has ambitions of adding further lustre to his former glory.



An anxious moment for the Louth defence in the National Football League tie against Galway at Ardee.

Consistency

For the top-of-the-right position, we have Jim Brosnan (Kerry), Dublin's Ferguson who figured there with more than ordinary success last year, Armagh's Paddy Campbell, Joe Young (Galway), Tom Furlong (Cork) and last, but by no means least, Meath's young Tom Smyth.

However, Dublin's Ferguson, not only for his great consistency but also because of his versatility must come into the side.

The full forward position, like that of the centre forwards berth finds a ready-made performer in Galway's great Frankie Stockwell whose personal tally of two goals and four points against a defence of the calibre of Cork's in the All-Ireland final, makes him a "must".

Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), Gerry Kirwan (Galway), Johnny Creedon (Cork), Frankie Donnelly (Tyrone) and, of course, Kerry's Jim Brosnan are the left corner candidates.

My choice, however, is a man who has figured in many positions but recently moved to the corner seems to have found his best position is skilful and tenacious Toots Kelleher.

My Selection

My team would read: Jack Mangan (Galway); Paddy Driscoll (Cork), Jim Ryan (Meath), Tom Dillon (Galway); Sean Murphy (Kerry), John Rice (Monaghan), Nickey Maher (Dublin); Sean Moore (Cork), Jim McKeever (Derry); Jody O'Neill (Tyrone), Sean Purcell (Galway), Johnny Boyle (Dublin); Dessie Ferguson (Dublin), Frank Stockwell (Galway) Denis Kelleher (Cork).

That means there are four from Galway; three from Cork, three from Dublin and one each from Meath, Kerry, Monaghan, Derry and Tyrone.

Substitutes? Thady Turbett (Tyrone) for goal; Denis Mahony (Dublin); Dan Murray (Cork), Mattie McDonagh (Galway) and Iggy Jones (Tyrone). How's that?

See next month's issue for my Hurling selection.

CLARE CO. BOARD ELECTS N.C.A. OFFICERS

"Our aim for the coming year," said Tom Malone, newly elected Chairman of the Clare N.C.A., Co. Board, "must be to see that next August, Clare are represented in Ras Tailteann and to do this we must popularize cycling in the county and raise the present standard.

Officers elected for the coming year are — Patron, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Rogers; President, Mr. T. Crotty, Kilrush; Vice-President, Mr. R. J. Lynch, Tiermana; Chairman, Mr. Tom Malone, Miltown; Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. F. O'Halloran, Ennis; Treasurer, Mr. M. McInerney; Secretary, Mr. M. Coughlan, Leimeneigh.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1956

(By MAC LUGHADHA)

NOW that the year is drawing to a close, I thought I might stimulate a bit of argument or recall a pleasant memory as our minds turn to things of peace and goodwill. Here are the players and events which have made 1956 a memorable year for me.

Game of the year: Football—All-Ireland final Galway v Cork; hurling—All-Ireland final Wexford v. Cork.

Player of the year: Football—Sean Purcell of Galway; hurling—Christy Ring, Cork.

Outstanding newcomers: Football—Jody O'Neill, 19-year-old Tyrone captain; hurling—Seamus Hearne, Wexford's centre field whirlwind.

Outstanding Sportsman: Football—Jack Mangan of Galway; hurling—Bobby Rackard of Wexford.

Most exciting moment: Football—Iggy Jones's quick-silver flash through the Galway defence to the verge of the square that nearly brought that goal which might have swept the Sam Maguire Cup from the City of the Tribes to the Mountains of Pomeroy.

Hurling—Christy Ring's do-or-die effort in the hurling final, which must be rated as one of the most thrilling moments in caman history: The splendid effort of a hurling genius saved by the gallant and unflinching Art Foley.

Outstanding scoring feat: Football—Frank Stockwell's spree in the All-Ireland final. Hurling—Ring's three goals in five minutes to topple the hopes of a young Limerick fifteen in the Munster final.

Most controversial point: Paddy Kenny's 'goal' in the Tipperary v Cork Munster hurling semi-final.

Most popular losers: The gallant men of the Red Hand, Tyrone, who won the hearts of all Gaels in losing to Galway.

Special Awards—To the venerable Jim Devlin of Tyrone, who in one game jumped from "an unknown" into the position of the year's greatest full-back.

To 18-year-old Jimmy Doyle, of Tipperary, who in winning County minor, junior and senior hurling titles plus an All-Ireland medal, marked himself as the successor to the "Maestro".

Although the fortunes of Limerick's senior hurling team have been wavering in recent times, there are pockets of real enthusiasm and drive in the county which hold hope for the future. One of these spots is Kilmallock. Here the gaels have worked hard under the guidance of Chairman, Rev. Fr. Culhane, C.C. and Secretary Willie Hannon.

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Dublin-Galway The Crucial League Test

THE Dublin Football team has lost much of its glamour in recent months but nevertheless shares top position with Galway in Division III of the National League. The Metropolitans, undefeated after three games against moderate opposition, will face the crucial test in the Spring, when they travel to play the All-Ireland champions, Galway.

And while hopes are high in official quarters of regaining the league title surrendered to Cork last May, the "true blue" Dublin supporter is perturbed and perplexed by the negative policy being pursued by the selectors.

By persisting with almost the same team of tried players some of whom have been found wanting, the selectors are, it would appear, committing football hari-kari.

For their policy means that no new players will be "blooded" in preparation for next year's championship. Our selectors should now be striving for a potential All-Ireland winning team and also be making efforts to build up a strong panel of substitutes. At the moment not all our best players are getting a chance. At the moment Club influence seems to be a factor—for some of our recent arrivals at least.

Have they learned nothing from the magnificent failure against Kerry? I appeal to the selectors to shake off their lethargy and get out and around our playing fields and find the talent—which we know is there.

And surely we should, like other counties, use the league to discover and train the best possible combination to represent us in the battle for Gaeldom's supreme prize.

If our selectors believe that the prospect of a New York trip will prove the necessary incentive to our team they are quite mistaken. The majority of the present fifteen toured America with Kerry this year and have definitely got the "Yankee Virus" out of their systems.

I was told by one of our most prominent players that the present team's immediate ambition is not just another transatlantic trip but to win that elusive All-Ireland crown for Dublin.

WITH THE HURLERS
Dublin's "new look" hurling team

went down by 2-8 to 1-8 to a much boosted Waterford side in their initial league outing. However, that promising performance against a strong Decies side augurs well for the future.

It is significant that non-native hurlers are finding less and less favour. This, of course, is all to the good and is a measure of the tremendous strides that hurling has taken within the past few years in the capital. But let us never forget the hurling debt we owe to our non-native clubs, such as the famous Faughs.

Sunday, November 11, 1956, will go down as a historic date in the annals of Dublin football. For on that day St. Vincent's, unconquered in local competitions in senior football for eight long years, were beaten 2-3 to 0-6 by University College, Dublin.

However, it is well to view this historic game in its proper perspective. U.C.D., fielding a side which included eleven senior county stars, deservedly beat the champions on the day's play.

But the College will be the first to point out that the Marino club were without the services of regulars Mick Moylan, Mossie Whelan, Marc Wilson, Norman Allen and — until half-time—Des Ferguson.

Due to a County hurling engagement that afternoon the Vincent's were unable to call on Tony Young and Paddy Heron, and because of a Loving Cup game the same day they could not include any of their outstanding minors or juniors.

The game itself was thrilling and had Olly Freaney been in his usual shooting form the match might have ended drawn, for he missed at least three close frees.

A fortnight earlier a full strength Vincent's team in quest of their eighth title, defeated UCD in a hard fought quarter-final.

The shattering of their phenomenal record may be just the tonic the champions need for the spontaneous gestures of congratulations to their conquerors was an indication of the players' relief at the end of so long a period of tension.

To me there is little sign that the champions are likely in the near future to surrender their leadership of metropolitan football.

Golden Rules For Tyrone To Follow

By CRAOBH RUADH
WHO will contest next year's All-Ireland final? I expect to see the men of Tyrone fighting their way not only through Ulster but into the final of '57! Many critics will nod when I say this and will point a knowing finger at their poor display against Kildare in Croke Park and Monaghan's drawing with them at Ballybay.

On the other hand they must not forget their great Breffni Park win.

It is my own opinion that the O'Neill men after their meteoric rise to fame are in the growing pain stage at present.

Having found themselves head and shoulders above all others in the province, their legs have begun to shake and like any youngster they are having great difficulty in consolidating their position.

GREAT QUALITIES

The next few months, however, should see this happen as these Tyrone men have enthusiasm, determination, physique, skill, speed, in fact all the qualities required for kings of Gaelic football.

Theirs is no mushroom growth, as anyone who has watched the internal pattern of Tyrone affairs over the past few years will know.

I shall not deny, however, that there are faint signs of decay in the Tyrone camp and for that reason I would like to suggest golden rules for their benefit which I think might assist them in attaining their goal.

(i) You are champions—act like champions and you will attain that all important popularity inside

Ulster, which is so essential to the mental well-being of a team. There was far too much "haggling" over petty fouls, etc. in recent matches.

(ii) In these days of restrained collective training, challenge matches must play an important part in the preparation of any team for its championship engagements. These games should, however, be used intelligently. Remember every team that has nothing to lose is out to have a go at the "champs." By now Tyrone should have a list of all the challenge games, not too many, they intend to accept between this and next June.

(iii) Selectors settle on a line out. I know it is all important to experiment with positional changes but surely some of the recent switching and panic counter-switching is a little bewildering. Personally, I think both Eddie and Patsy Devlin are born defenders—oh, the sheer joy of Eddie's clearance from that Monaghan '50 at Ballybay.

Watch these points and Tyrone will stay on top not alone this year but for many years to come.

More Attention To Handball

The Committee of the Ballyanne Handball alley are shortly to make arrangements for the renovating of the court. One of the features of their improvement scheme is the provision of bigger and better accommodation for spectators. This, too, is timely, as attendances have been increasing at the court and no doubt, when the changes are made more important games will be played there with a consequent swelling of the spectators.

We Expected The Few To Do The Work

IN 1893, Conradh na Gaeilge was founded to save the native tongue from extinction and to spread the use of it throughout the land, writes Fear Suiil. Those early members of the Conradh set to work with a will and soon we had Feile an Oireachtais (1897), Feiseanna and Aeriochtaí throughout the country as proof positive that something was being done for the language, our native dances and our traditional music.

What was more important, the people were interested in the work of the Conradh and showed that interest in a practical way, both by active participation in the movement and generous financial aid.

It seemed as if the movement would, given time and opportunity, prove successful. Yet to-day, more than half a century later, what is the position?

The mists of history have enshrouded the foundation of the Gaelic League. The flood of literature which emanated from early enthusiasm and sincere endeavour has evaporated to a mere trickle.

The many methods employed under native government to equip the youth of the country with a working knowledge of their native language have been oft criticised, oft praised, rejected and re-accepted, but have produced no tangible, widespread improvement.

Enemies There

To-day the enemies of the language are loud-mouthed as ever, vehement in their hypocritical condemnation of methods, wastage of public money and "compulsory" Irish, scathing in their criticism of Departmental policy and of teachers' effort, protesting their defence of the ill-treated juvenile mind to the four corners of the land.

Scattered, if not disorganised, throughout the land are the remnants of the Gaelic enthusiasts, striving for an ideal, groping blindly in the dark for some miracle method to vindicate themselves and their belief—the belief of An Craobhín Aoibhinn, Pearse and the other noble spirits who envisaged a Gaelic-speaking Ireland.

And the majority of the Irish people, while they would like to see the language restored, are indifferent to the whole business.

Why has this once promising movement ended so? Because we played with an ideal and toyed with an idea and rested on our oars, expecting the few to do the work while we sat idly by to watch their progress or failure.

None Blameless

None of us are free from blame. The young, the old, the rich, the poor, the high, the low—we are all equally to blame.

The vagaries of Government policy, the indifference or thinly-veiled opposition of parents, the lukewarm methods of teachers, the failure of powerful national bodies to use the language movement wherever and whenever possible, have all contributed to the lack of progress.

We have tendered advice instead of help, criticism instead of patience, lip-service instead of action. SUGRADH IN IONAIÐ. Dairire.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. J. J. Steward, Chairman of the Leinster G.A.A. Council on his recent appointment as Master of the Coombe Hospital, Dublin.

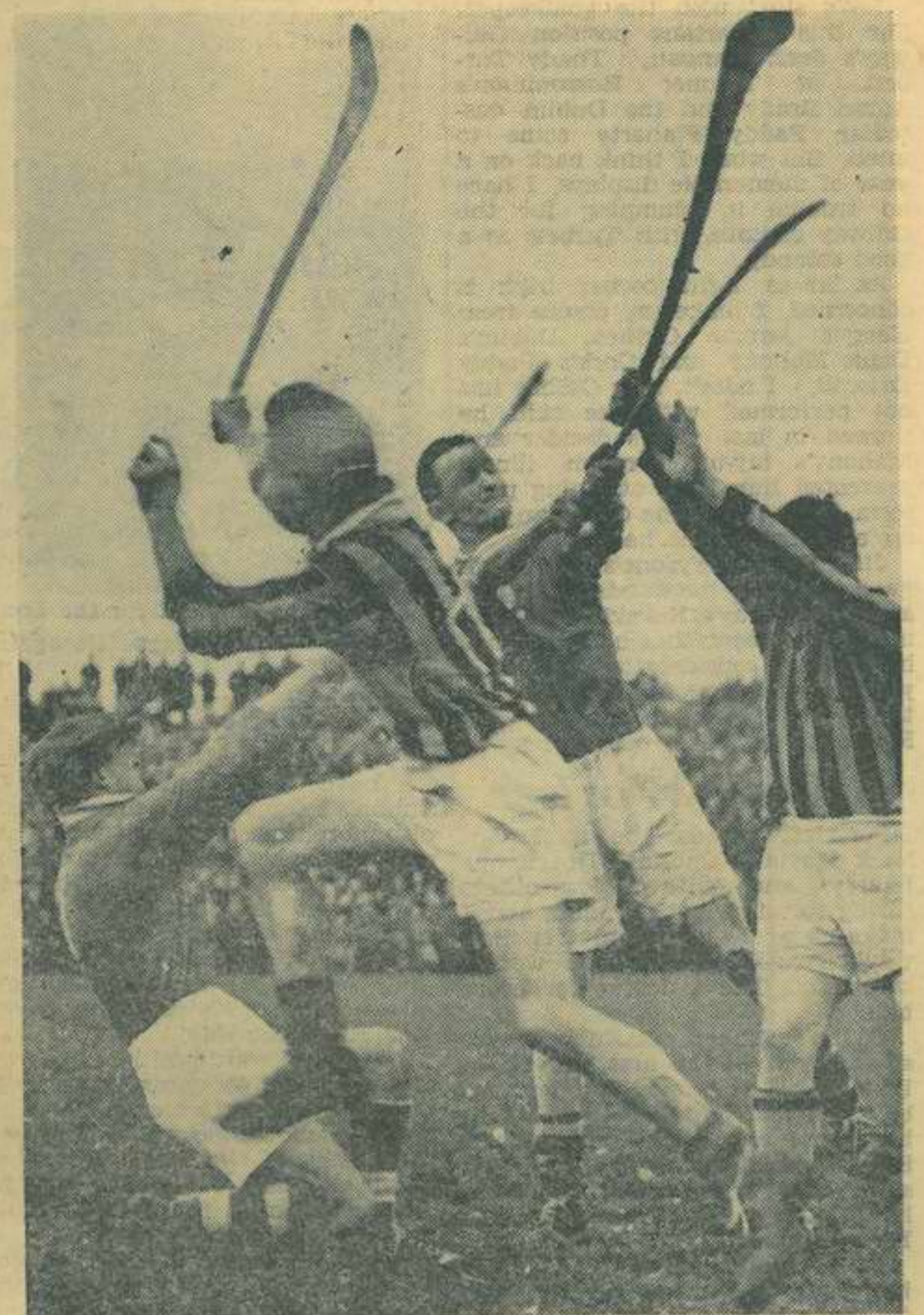
A native of Clare living in Dublin, Dr. Steward won a Limerick hurling title with Croom while he was surgeon in the local hospital there. He was also a noted University hurler.

In 1943 he refereed the Cork v. Antrim All-Ireland final.

Outstanding In Early Twenties

MR. D. J. O'ROURKE, who recently retired as Manager of the National Bank, Donegal town, will be remembered by many as an outstanding footballer of the early 'twenties. A native of Roscommon, he had the distinction of playing minor, junior and senior for Roscommon in the one season. He also played for Donegal on many occasions.

≡ Action ≡



One of the many thrilling encounters in the Cork v. Kilkenny National Hurling League game.



Cavan defenders clearing a Leitrim attack in the National Football League game at Ballinamore. (By courtesy "Irish Independent")



St. Ita's camogie team, Dungannon, winners of the Co. Tyrone Camogie Championship. They were presented with the cup by the donor, Mr. E. M. Doris, Solicitor, Cookstown, at a victory ceil in the I.N. Forester's Hall, Cookstown. They are the first winners of the trophy.

Junior Gaels Page

(By M. O DUBHGHAILL)

FROM a famine to a feast— from the quiet sheep-grazed Colleges' playing fields of August holidays to the eager running feet of schoolboys getting into form for their hurling, or football, competition encounters!

We are happy to note the champions of yesteryear showing that they had lost none of the craft and dash that secured provincial laurels for them. There were St. Jarlath's first blood victory over St. Muireadachs in Connacht senior football; James St. facile win (0-9 to 0-1) over newcomers Mount Merrion C.B.S. in the Leinster series, same code and grade; and the survival of old reliables, St. Patrick's, Armagh, in the first round of the MacRory Cup.

FRANCISCAN COLLEGE

Cead míle fáilte roimh romarnithe sinnsireacha Colaiste na bProinsiseanach ag glacadh pairte i gceaoibh chlúiche Laighean. Agus nar chruithaigh sibh go seoigh ar an gcead iarracht.

Ni fíor ar ndoigh gur bheannaigh na sagairt, siol fear ar laith, chum go mbeadh fas breá fada leis i bpaire ineartha.

Yes, this Franciscan College, Gormanstown—Belcamp O.M.I., hurling scop, had all the ingredients of a most enjoyable game.

To begin with, nothing pleases the neutral spectator as an upset for the

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Inspiring Address To Juvenile Gaels

ON the occasion of the presentation of the Father McHugh Cup and medals to Clones Juvenile team (the County Champions in the under-14 grade), Juvenile County Board Chairman, Philip Moore, B.A., Professor, St. Tiernach's Secondary School, Clones, gave an inspiring address, which carries a vital message for all Juvenile Gaels throughout Ireland.

Mr. Moore said that the G.A.A. was founded not only to exploit physical fitness, and prowess on the playing field, but also towards the restoration of the Gaelic State.

If players concentrated only on the game, he said, they were fulfilling half of the ideals of the Association only.

It was their bounden duty as young Irishmen to foster Irish culture in all its facets—Gaelic history, languages, song and dance—as well as Gaelic games.

He would remind them of the ideals so ably expressed by Patrick

Pearse—an Ireland free and Gaelic as well—ideals which in reality were virtually synonymous with those of the G.A.A.

"I sincerely hope," continued Mr. Moore, "that all the boys here present, and for that matter, all Irish youth will enshrine these ideals in their hearts."

"In future years it will help them in no small way, not only to achieve the ideals expressed by Patrick Pearse, but also the ideals of the great Gaelic Athletic Association, of which they held a proud fellowship."

Mr. Moore also expressed the hope that more and more senior clubs throughout Ireland would take an active interest in Juvenile football.

Endorsing Mr. Moore's remarks, Ml. Duffy, Chairman of Monaghan County Board, said that he hoped the youth of Ireland would always remain loyal to the Association.

In after life they would find no better friends than those inside the ranks of the G.A.A.

form team. And here the defeat of the strongly fancied Belcamp side by these Gormanstown boys, new to the competition, provided just such an aperitif.

But, of course, the grievance was the grass, or the length of it, which demanded a scoop rather than a strike, and rendered ground play impossible.

For all that, major credit must go to the Franciscan side for such adaptability, as evidenced by the success of their "scooping" tactics; for their stonewall defence, and for a forward barrage which netted them such a high score.

Franciscan College, Gormanstown, is, of course, the "Multy" of last year. It is pleasant to see that they have lost none of their great Gaelic traditions in the transfer. Go bhfasfae an fear breá fada dhoibh i dtolanh.

ST. FLANNAN'S

Yes, the same St. Flannan's, famed in colleges' competitions for a proud hurling tradition! But this time the spotlight is on their football prowess.

Pitted against that nursery of North Kerry football—St. Michael's, Listowel—the Ennis College secured the decision on a score of 1-7 to 0-3.

Pity it was that a sodden pitch, and a bitterly cold wind, robbed this encounter of very much of its entertainment, for both players and spectators.

We shall watch the second round encounter of St. Flannan's with more than usual interest. Certainly if

they steady down their forward play, their football enthusiasm should make them a force in Munster football, for the first time in very many years.

Their outstanding quintet: Queally, full-forward; Carroll, corner-forward; Hennessy and Morrissey, excellent centre-field men; and centre-back McGlennon, measure up to the standard of the best anywhere; but then you do need a fairly balanced fifteen for championship laurels.

OLD RIVALS

Just as we have a special welcome for newcomers, we revel too in the clash of old rivals. Rarely have we witnessed a game between St. Finian's and St. Mel's which did not produce high-class fare.

Of that calibre was their first round engagement in Leinster senior football at Mullingar. However, the slamming in of two opportunist goals by Finian's, and the "they shall not pass" determination of their rock-like defence, earned them entry into the second round.

HARTY CUP

What promises to be the keenest of all Colleges' championships—the Dr. Harty Cup—is already in its second round stage. If early form is any guide to final pairing, it looks as if Thurles C.B.S. will again be one of these finalists.

They shall have most of their top-notch hurlers which won this coveted trophy last season, in action again this year.

To attempt to name their rivals at this early stage would be foolish guesswork. For all that, it does look as if St. Flannan's will be their most dangerous opponents.

This Ennis side has seven of what was a first-class hurling combination again in action. But then, North Mon, have to be reckoned with too.

Unique

Undoubtedly, one of the most unique occurrences in modern Gaelic games took place recently at LISNASKEA, Co. Fermanagh, when BELNALECK played KNOCKS in the county Junion League final.

At right full back for Belnaleck was Charles Gilheaney and at full forward was his father James Gilheaney.

Both played well in a very exciting match, but with Knocks leading in the last minute of the game, Gilheaney senior became the hero of the day with a well taken point to level the scoring seven points all and so earn a replay.

Well beid la eile ag an bpaorac or should I say ag na Gilheaneys!

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The 1956 Champions

ALL-IRELAND champions for 1956 were:

- SENIOR HURLING
Wexford
- JUNIOR HURLING
Kilkenny
- MINOR HURLING
Tipperary
- SENIOR FOOTBALL
Galway
- JUNIOR FOOTBALL
Monaghan
- MINOR FOOTBALL
Dublin
- OIREACHTAS CUP
Wexford
- DR. McKENNA CUP
Cavan

And here's where the titles went in each province (giving the finalists in each grade):

ULSTER

- Senior Football
Tyrone, 3-5; Cavan, 0-4
- Junior Football
Monaghan defeated Cavan
- Minor Football
Donegal, 2-5; Armagh, 0-6.
- Junior Hurling
Down, 4-6; Donegal, 3-5.
(Antrim remain senior hurling champions).
- Dr. McKenna Cup
Cavan, 1-9; Donegal, 0-9.

MUNSTER

- Senior Hurling
Cork, 5-6; Limerick, 3-5
- Junior Hurling
Kerry, 6-7; Waterford, 0-3.
- Minor Hurling
Tipperary, 10-10; Waterford, 4-4.
- Senior Football
Cork, 1-8; Kerry, 1-7.
- Junior Football
Kerry, 4-10; Waterford, 1-4.
- Minor Football
Limerick, 1-7; Kerry, 1-5

LEINSTER

- Senior Hurling
Wexford, 4-8; Kilkenny, 3-10.
- Junior Hurling
Kilkenny, 6-11; Laois, 1-8
- Minor Hurling
Kilkenny, 4-7; Wexford, 3-7.
- Senior Football
Kildare, 2-11; Wexford, 1-8
- Junior Football
Kildare, 2-8; Wexford, 2-3.
- Minor Football
Dublin, 1-10; Meath, 1-9
- Walsh Cup
Wexford Kilkenny.

CONNACHT

- Senior Hurling
Galway
- Junior Hurling
Galway, 3-9; Roscommon, 3-7.
- Minor Hurling
Galway, 11-20; Roscommon, 1-1
- Senior Football
Galway, 3-12; Sligo, 1-5.
- Junior Football
Sligo, 3-2; Mayo, 2-3.
- Minor Football
Leitrim, 4-6; Sligo, 1-8.

Waterford City Has No Handball Court

Erect A Court With Each New Corporation Housing Scheme

READERS were told earlier this year, by J. T. Mac-Namara, of the heart-warming story of the glorious revival of handball in Limerick City. The same, unfortunately, cannot be said of the game in Waterford. On the contrary, handball in the Urbs Intacta is, at the moment, in a state of abeyance, and the future for the sport is certainly not very bright.

Even the most optimistic enthusiast can find no practical solution for saving handball from dying out completely; as the Waterford County representative on the Munster Council, Jack Flavin puts it: "There is no point in having a club when there is no ball-court available". And that exactly, is the big snag in Waterford city — abundant talent but no outlet.

only save the game from extinction in Waterford but would encourage more to play.

His brainwave? The erection of a handball court in conjunction with each additional new Corporation Housing Scheme. Part of the reason for Limerick's success is because of the numerous new alleys set up with each fresh housing scheme.

Some months ago, after several interviews with Mr. Flavin, Waterford Corporation decided to build an Alley on the site of the now disused Swimming Pool, at Stephen Street.

The place was inspected and workers eventually commenced clearing the site. But, low and behold, a short time afterwards, it was discovered that the plot of ground was the property of the De la Salle Brothers community and not, in fact, Corporation land.

Big Setback

This, naturally, paralysed completely the plans of the club and caused a very big set-back in their efforts to put Waterford back in its proper position on the handball map.

It seems rather strange that Dungarvan (29 miles from Waterford city) should have a really splendid ball-court, while Waterford is still without one.

Built a couple of years ago, by the Urban Council, Dungarvan, it is a first-class court. Last year, a gallery capable of "housing" up to 100 spectators was added.

Dungarvan's 50-member club is certainly a progressive one and has set a headline, thanks to the Urban Council's co-operation, for other towns — cities as well — throughout Ireland.

I Pick The Top-Ten Players

IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK TO PICK THE "TOP TEN" PLAYERS IN SUCH A YEAR AS THIS BUT I THINK THAT FEW WILL QUARREL WITH THE MEN I HAVE CHOSEN. WRITES PEADAR BYRNE. HERE IS MY RATING:

No. 1—Sean Purcell. One of the most versatile men in present-day football, Sean was the general who marshalled Galway to their first All-Ireland success in eighteen years.

No. 2—Nick Rackard. Hardest-hitter in hurling, Nick played a major part in Wexford's retention of the Senior Hurling crown.

No. 3—Christy Ring. 'Mr. Hurling' himself virtually 'carried' a mediocre Cork hurling team through Munster and very nearly gave them the All-Ireland title.

No. 4—Des Ferguson. Best all-rounder in the country. 'Snitchie' was a pillar of strength in both Dublin teams and gained representative honours in both codes.

No. 5—Sean Moore. Played a major part in Cork's football revival and was particularly effective in the All-Ireland decider against Galway.

No. 6—Donal Donnelly. The deadly accuracy of Donal was one of the biggest factors in Tyrone's great championship run.

No. 7—Frank Stockwell. A magnificent display in the All-Ireland final, climaxed a great season for Galway's crafty Frank.

No. 8—Willie Rackard. Best centre half back in hurling, Willie's raking clearances led to many a Wexford score.

No. 9—Ollie Walsh. One of the most promising youngsters to hit the hurling scene in a long while, Ollie has turned in dazzling displays for Kilkenny.

No. 10.—Larry McCormack. The Killeck man was largely responsible for Kildare's success in the Leinster Senior Football Championship.

Finally, the team of the year, in my opinion was not Wexford, Galway or Cork, but the gallant Antrim Camogie girls, who broke Dublin's dominance of the game with a thrilling win.

A motion was also passed that all juvenile competitions should start not earlier than April 1, and conclude before the end of September.

More Attention To Handball

MR. MICHAEL O'MAHONY, Chairman, presided at the annual Convention of the North Cork Juvenile Board which was held recently.

In his address he stressed the necessity for giving more attention to handball. It was one of the national games and should be brought back to its rightful place. He appealed to the clubs for more co-operation in this respect.

A motion was also passed that all juvenile competitions should start not earlier than April 1, and conclude before the end of September.

Good Record

TOM RIORDAN of the Kerins O'Rahilly Club, Tralee, must be one of Ireland's most promising and successful athletes. To date, this season, he has won eight Kerry championships, the Irish Colleges' mile, the Munster mile, the Munster 3,000 meters, and was second in the Irish Youths' mile championship.

Christy Ring had many prominent visitors during his recent stay in hospital. They included Most Rev. Dr. Lucey, Bishop of Cork.

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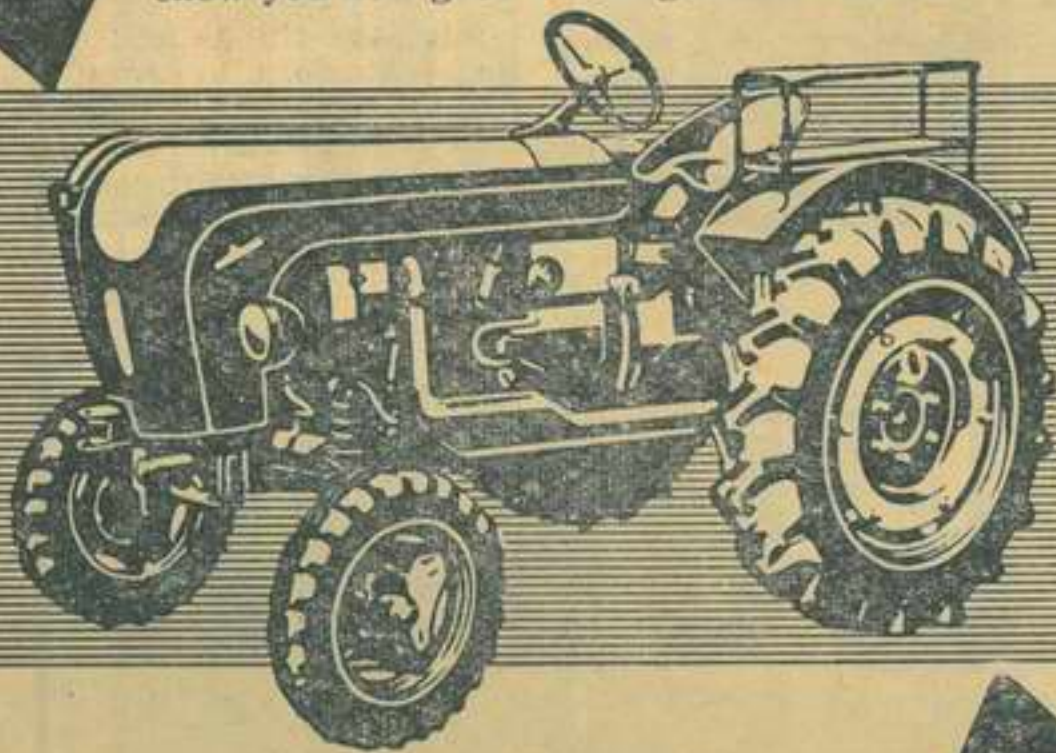
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Ireland's Second Largest Industry— £30 Million Yearly Income On Tourist Trade

CATTLE is the largest export that we have in this country; it brings an income of some thirty-four million pounds yearly into the country. The next largest industry on the list is the tourist trade, bringing in an annual income of 30 million pounds. It is only in the past thirty years that the importance of this source of income was realised.

FIRST TOURIST ASSOCIATION

In 1927 the first Board for the promotion of the tourist trade was formed in this country; it was then known as the Irish Tourist Association. The Government of that duly authorised the Local Authorities to increase their rates 1d. in the £, the increase to be used by the Irish Tourist Association for the promotion of the tourist trade in Ireland. The Association did their best with the limited funds on hand, but there was not a great improvement in the trade.

NEW TOURIST BODY

In 1939 a new tourist body came into being known as The Irish Tourist Bureau, this body started registration of Hotels, and all hotels that were registered under the Irish Tourist Bureau had to meet with certain required standards of efficiency. This move on the part of the I.T.B. greatly improved the standard of our hotels, for before this anyone that felt like it could stick the legend HOTEL outside his door no matter what kind of a dump they had. This improved the trade greatly.

BORD FAILTE

In 1951 some further developments were made to improve further this important source of income, a body known as Bord Failte was formed. This body set to work in earnest to make the Tourist a real source of National income.

A JOB OF CLEANING UP

Bord na Failte set out with one thing in mind, making the country look its best. They cleaned up the old castles and abbeys and prehistoric buildings, and set up signposts marking out where these things are; right-of-ways across fields were acquired by Bord Failte so that the people could get at these places without much trouble.

WATCHFUL EYE ON HOTELS

Bord Failte keeps a watchful eye on the hotels and visits them regularly inspecting them and giving advice on how to improve their standards. One cannot help seeing the vast improvements that have been made in our hotels in recent years, it brings money into every part of the country. Think what a poor place Killarney, and parts of Connemara would be if it were not

for the large sums of money that the tourist spend in those areas.

17,000 people gain their living from working in hotels and guest houses, yet only 15-25 per cent. of what the tourist spends goes on food and drink and accommodation.

The shopkeeper takes the biggest part of the tourist money, 30-40 per cent. This is not only enjoyed by the tourists but we benefit by it too, for when we are planning our own holidays we have a list of registered hotels and guest houses at our dis-

come to this country for the wonderful fishing holidays that they can have here. Ireland is one of the finest countries in the world for fishing, therefore we can say that our rivers are the great production lines along which our continental tourist come.

In Ireland the tourist can find almost any kind of fishing that he likes. There is salmon fishing in almost every district. There is brown trout fishing in many places. There is sea trout fishing in Connemara, Donegal, and Kerry waters. There is Mayfly fishing on Lough Derg on the Shannon, on Lough Corrib, the ger, a shop assistant, a bookmaker or in any other of the hosts of oc-



By Killarney's lakes and fells . . . Here a happy group of visitors "take off" by boat around the Lower Lake.

posal, which gives grading and fixed prices for meals and accommodation so that we can budget down to the last penny.

A BIG INDUSTRY

The tourist trade is a big industry, but not a very visible one, that is to say that it has no great production lines, nor large factories. It is the only decentralised industry that cent. Next comes entertainment at 25-35 per cent, and last in the list is 10-15 per cent. on internal transport.

TOURIST A BENEFIT TO ALL

The £34 million pounds that exported cattle brings into the country is mostly in sterling; and it is channelled to the rest of the country through the farmers and dealers. But if you are an actress, a cinema usherette, a bank man, things that might be called production lines.

FISHING BRINGS THE CONTINENTAL VISITOR

Most of our continental tourists

occupations you are benefitting directing from the tourist trade. **WHY THEY COME TO IRELAND** Ireland has many lovely places, and it has many historic places as well, but that is not what brings the tourist here. No, it is the people of Ireland that is the main attraction. In no other country in the world will the tourist find so much warmth of nature as in Ireland, no people in the world are so friendly to the stranger as the Irish and that is why people love to come here because they are sure to find a warm welcome; may it be always so.

OUR GREAT PRODUCTION LINES OF TOURISM

In another place in this article I have said that the Tourist industry had no production lines, after looking more closely at this I do not think that, that statement of mine was altogether correct; for in a manner of speaking here are many lakes of Lough Arrow in Westmeath, and in the end of June the fly is up on Loughs Conn, Mask and Carra. **TOURIST FROM THE U.S.A.**

Most of the tourists from the U.S.A. come because their forefathers came from some part of the old country. The production line that brings them, therefore, is a longing to see the beauty of the country that was once the home of their forefathers. What do they find? See the photographs accompanying this article and judge for yourself.

THE TOURIST FROM ENGLAND

Many of the tourists that come from England come for a golfing holiday, and we all know that they can certainly find that here.

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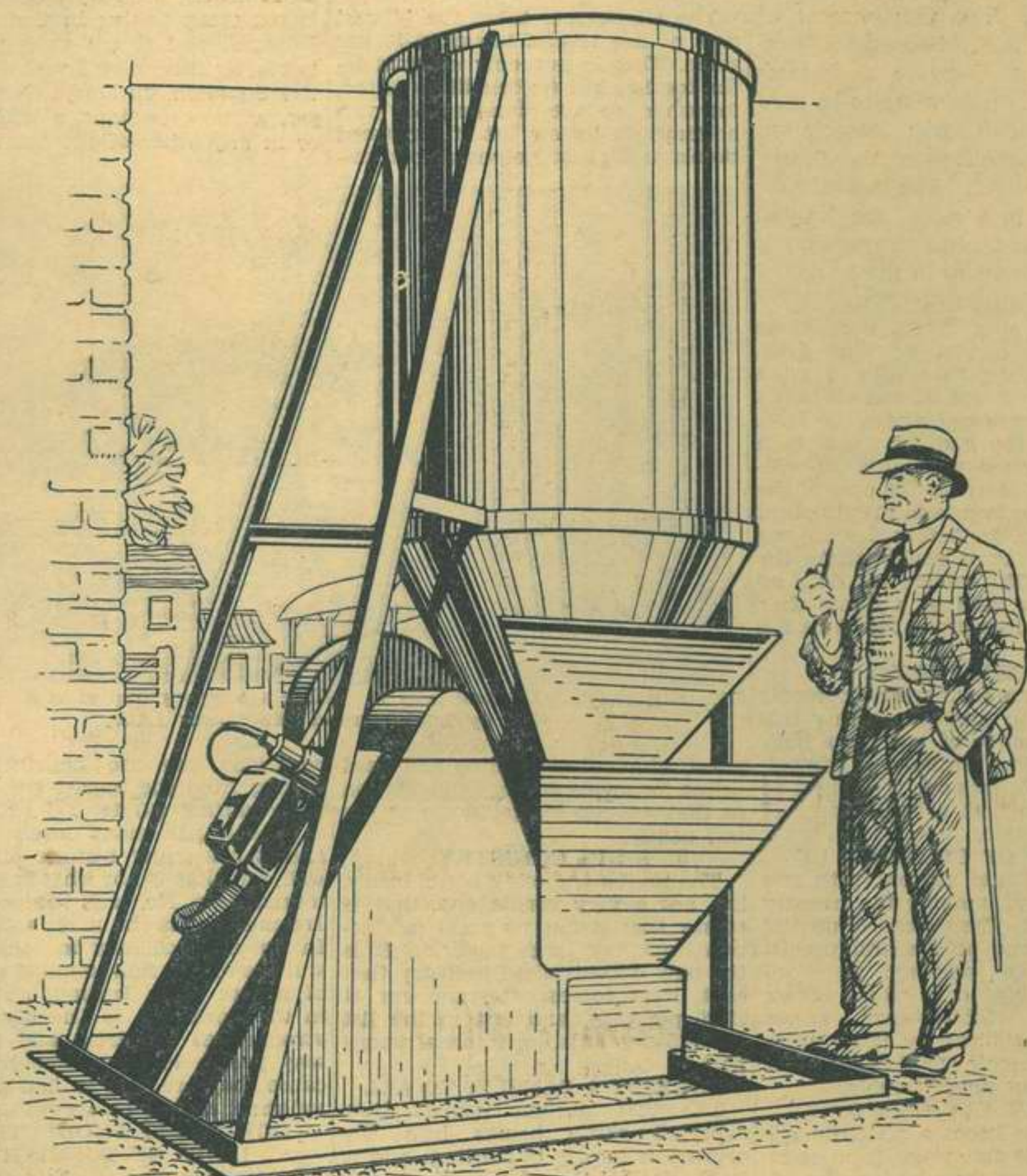
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AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL Review



Too Little Tillage In County Longford

By "FEAR SIUL"

THE population of Co. Longford is falling. Emigration is becoming a serious threat in spite of an increased birth rate and the influx of many "outsiders" to live in the county. Bord na Mona hostels, camps and villages have brought many workers to Co. Longford, but still the population is falling. Why?

The Answer

I think the answer lies in the way we utilize the land. A fair proportion of the land here is rich and fertile, but it is not used much for tillage as for grazing and raising cattle. Don't get me wrong—I do not disapprove of stock-raising. On the contrary, I think it a very important part of our national economy. What I do disapprove of is the over-development of this side of our agricultural economy to the detriment of our tillage in certain districts.

Better Balance Is Needed

Grazing is an easier way to make money than ploughing or reaping. But the result is a vast increase in the emigration rate from Longford.

Our agriculture should be more evenly balanced here. By all means let us have stock-raising. But we should also pay due attention to increased tillage. It means more

work, harder work, but less emigration.

Which gives the better result—a much-tilled and widely worked countryside echoing the voices of a hard-working people or acres teeming with fat bullocks to feed our people in the land of the stranger?

A New Branch

MR. R. Culhane, Organiser of Muintir na Tire, accompanied by Rev. Patrick O'Donnell, P.P., Columcille, Co. Longford, attended a meeting in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan, with a view to forming a new guild of Muintir na Tire. There was a large attendance.

Aughavas, Co. Leitrim, Guild of Muintir na Tire appointed All Souls Day, Nov. 2, as Graves' Day in the Aughavas Cemetery. Each year the Guild appoint a special day on which all persons having plots in the Cemetery turn out to clean their portion, and thus keep the graves of their deceased friends as they should be kept.

FOR AMERICA

John Hoban, aged 20, who has played at midfield for Ballintubber junior football team, will sail for the United States on January 26.

Winter Wheat

By "MAC HUGH"

THE sowing of winter wheat is becoming popular with many farmers in Westmeath. Winter sowings give a better distribution of labour on the farm than all Spring sowings. It yields one barrel an acre more than Spring wheat. It is better suited to harvesting with the combine harvester than spring wheat. It ripens earlier in early autumn in much dryer weather than later in the season.

T.B. FREE HERDS

The Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme was sponsored by the Government in 1954, but very few T.B. free herds are to be found in Westmeath. The advantages derived from having T.B. free stock are very few at the moment.

The Government has offered extra grants to farmers for the erection of cow-houses if they are partaking in the T.B. eradication scheme. This means that the farmer must just get his stock tested. There is no obligation on him to dispose of the 'reactors'. This scheme would be much better if those extra grants were only given to farmers with T.B. free herds.

N.F.A. GROWTH

The N.F.A. is gaining popularity in Westmeath after a slow start. There are a good number of new branches now being formed and the membership of the existing branches is increasing. The National Organiser, Mr. Tony Sherry, visited many districts to outline the principles of the organisation.

Good Yields

THE potato crop in the Mohill and Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim, districts is the best for many years, farmers say. For two days' digging on the farm of Beslin brothers, Druminbawn, Carrigallen, the output was estimated about twenty tons.

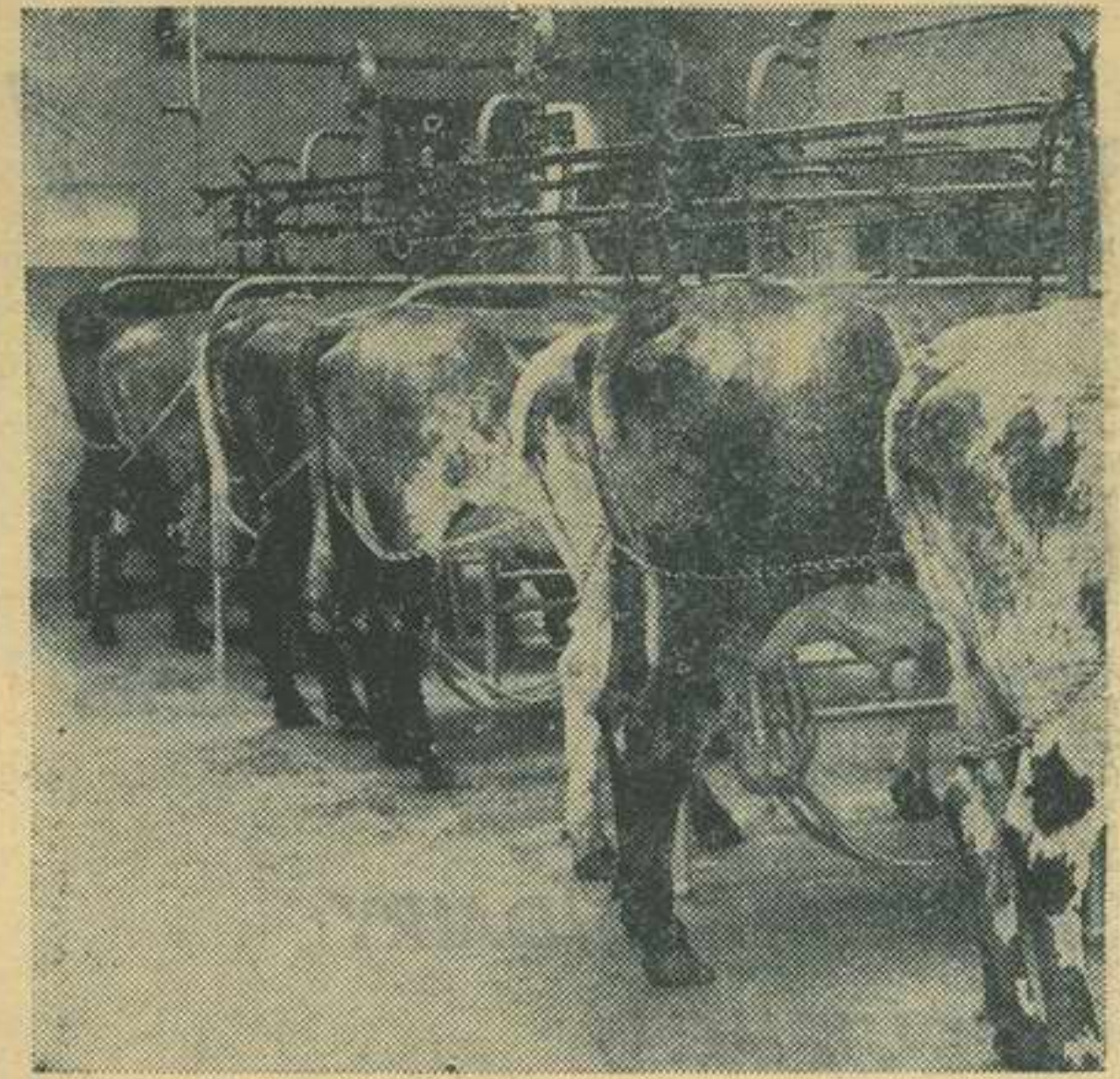
What was reckoned a small field of wheat in Carrigallen area, when threshed and sent to the mills, brought the owner a cheque for £64.

Three roods under barley on the lands of Mr. Michael Rourke, Corriga, Carrigallen, when threshed, yielded one ton; seed sown was one cwt. One acre of barley on the lands of Mr. James McCusker, Calloughs, Carrigallen, yielded one ton six cwt.; seed sown ten stone.

Rev. Fr. Davis, P.P., Crossmolina, President of Mayo G.A.A. Board and of Mayo Executive National Farmers' Association, speaking at a meeting of the latter body advocated an Agricultural College for the County.

Rev. Fr. Davis said that the N.F.A. should direct their attention to an effort to get an agricultural college for Mayo.

Continuing he stated that the farmers in the county were entitled to it as there were more mixed farmers in Mayo than in some other counties where colleges were established.



One more cow to keep one more sow, requiring one more acre under the plough.

By **DONOHUE'S**
It's **GUINNESS**

Clear Your Farm Of Rats For 16/-

DETHMOR Warfarin CONCENTRATE

A 1 lb. tin costing 16/- makes 20 lbs. of genuine Warfarin bait
Trial size, 4/6.

Dethmor PLUSBAIT

Mixed and ready for use. ½ lb., 2/6; 1 lb., 4/-
Contains DETHMOR Warfarin.

The tremendous success of DETHMOR WARFARIN has led to a number of imitations being marketed, so it is in your interests that we issue the following statement:—

* Warfarin is the original anticoagulant discovery of Professor Link, U.S.A.

* No other anticoagulant CAN be the genuine Warfarin because DETHMOR is the ONLY Warfarin available in EIRE.

THE NAME DETHMOR WARFARIN ON THE TIN IS YOUR GUARANTEE OF 100% CLEARANCE OF RATS.

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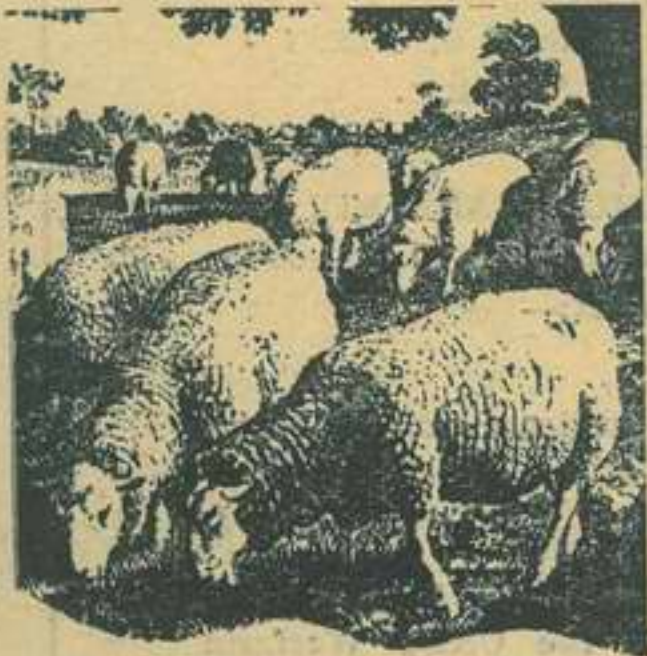
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AND
have dosed them with
COOPERS
WINTER WORM Remedy
which controls both
Worms and Fluke with
ONE DOSING

Cooper McDougall & Robertson
(Ireland) Ltd., Dublin.

Great interest is being aroused by the news that the Limerick Diocesan College building Fund Committee are running a competition for the champion senior hurling teams of the Six Munster counties.

GADGETS

INEXPENSIVE gadgets often solve troublesome sewing problems. Here are two particularly useful items:—

A Buttonhole Scissors, which is adjustable and cuts buttonholes exactly to size— $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1" and over. Cost, 7/6. It is stocked by Singers.

A Zipper Foot is an attachment which will fit your old Singer machine as well as the latest model. It is a "must" for easy fitting of Zipp fasteners to garments. Cost, 5/3. From all Singer stockists. These can be mail ordered on receipt of P.O. and postage by any any Singer branch.

DEATH

to
the
Robbers!

RATERO, the new ANTI-COAGULANT scientific rat killer, can safely be used even where children—or farm and domestic animals—may find it. When **RATERO** KILLS the other rats do not suspect this bait, and will continue to eat **RATERO**.

Economical — SAFE — Effective



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In Cork City, Na Piarsaig and St. Vincent's clubs have combined to run a very successful weekly Ceili at St. Francis Hall.

He Farmed, or Owned, a very Large Bit Of Land

IF you knew Dan as we knew him, you wouldn't relish him as a next-door neighbour. He farmed, or owned at any rate, a very large bit of land, but was always pulling the devil by the tail. It couldn't be otherwise, for he liked the look of the wine when it was red and retained that taste till in the true "happy-ending" style he completely turned over the immaculate new page. I don't know if we liked him much in his reformed state. His antics as a spendthrift were the talk of every fireside and the recounting of them by the visitors to our hearth on a winter's night was like a trip into Wonderland for us children. His dealings with men at fairs, funerals or any kind of gathering were rich and racy, full of an ingenuity and wit that must be as an acid to the one who had the misfortune to be his victim.

An Excuse

And two dogs fighting were enough excuse for Dan to don his Sunday suit, harness the mare, wrap the rug round his bony knees, sit far back on the sidecar and sally forth.

In the days before daily papers became known in every home, it was a mystery how Dan heard of deaths ten and twelve miles away. But he never missed a funeral and every deceased was a "friend of me mother's" if he happened to be questioned about going so far on a bad day perhaps. He revelled in funerals and held court in the most convenient pub on his way back. If he only went to town for a bag of flour, he made a day of it, and took many hours from the night when he was at such momentous business

as a funeral. We always said that from a wordy point of view, he himself deserved the largest cortege ever seen in our parish—that is, if people returned him half the compliment. But they didn't.

If I knew how, I could write a book on his doings for the twenty years that I knew him. A piece every month itself may give you an idea of our neighbour, Dan, although

my views about him have mellowed with the years. Change of habit for him brought change of outlook. He took life's frowns and smiles in his stride in the changed state.

And I know he was prepared at the end. He should be . . . for he married an angel.

(To be continued)

—K. O'BRIEN.



This is the unconventional David Brown 2D tractor. It is capable of an hour's hard work at a fuel cost of less than 5d. It has a 12-horse power 2-cylinder rear-mounted Diesel engine, which is air-cooled.

Mobile Library For Rural Area

By C. M. McNAMARA

AN important event of Co. Library services was marked by the inauguration of a Mobile Library Unit at Scotstown, Co. Monaghan.

The idea for such a service has been under consideration by the Monaghan Co. Manager, Mr. George Cannon, B.A., for the past five years in consultation with County Librarian, Mr. Martin McCabe.

The Monaghan Mobile Unit, which is a 16' x 6' caravan, houses 1,250 books, and is towed by a Commer station wagon. It will serve the Scotstown, Tydavnet, Ballinade and Smithboro areas of North Monaghan, and also the Drum, Rockcorry, Stranooden and Greenan's Cross area on alternate Tuesdays of the week; thus a period of two weeks is allowed to borrowers to read. They may choose up to four books per person. Provision is also made for the borrowing of children's books.

Stop-points are sign-posted in each area, and a very full and effective briefing was arranged prior to the inauguration.

To date, the unit has proved most successful. It is on a trial basis until March 31st next, however, when a larger and more ambitious unit, serving wider coverage throughout the County, is likely to be put into operation.

County Librarian, Mr. Martin McCabe is fully confident that this novel experiment is the only solution to the whole problem of library coverage for rural Ireland, especially in those areas which lack established civil or social focal points.

It is his convinced opinion, gained through personal experience and study that the average countryman only visits town on special business. The hours of his visit may not coincide with Branch Library opening hours. Hence, very often, through circumstances beyond the control of both the reader and the library administrators, the rural dweller is denied the facilities readily available to the townsman.

Now that a Mobile Library Unit was the only solution, and has been established, rural dwellers in Co. Monaghan may look forward to a winter's relaxation or study with books as their companions. This service ultimately saves the Ratepayer quite a substantial sum of money which otherwise would be involved in library buildings with the added costs of administration.

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MANUFACTURED BY

**THE ERNE MINERAL WATER
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CLONES, CO. MONAGHAN.

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Band label flour bag pleases Irish housewives

The beauty of this bag is that the miller's name on the band label soaks off in water—without boiling, scrubbing or the use of harsh chemicals—leaving an unmarked



length of white cotton material with a hundred and one uses. No wonder this new bag has proved so popular! The cotton material for band-label bags is specially woven for Goodbodies by the Slane Manufacturing Co. Ltd. in their new factory.

J. & L. F. GOODBODY LTD.

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• Hotel and Bar Fittings, Show Cases, etc. •

Alexander St. — Waterford

Minister's Tribute To A Giant Industry

Slane Company Opens A Huge New Factory

A NEW factory of the Slane Manufacturing Co., Ltd., at Slane was opened recently by An Tanaiste, Mr. Norton, Minister for Industry and Commerce. The new premises are very extensive, covering an area of 3,200 square feet. There are 208 looms, including a large battery of the latest type of automatic looms, all working on double shift.

Mr. Norton wished the directors every success in the courage and enterprise they had shown in erecting a mill of such substantial dimensions. Their demonstration of courage and enterprise deserved an economic reward and he hoped that reward would be shared in an increasing measure by all connected with the splendid mill.

They had read in the papers from time to time statements by people who disliked the establishment of Irish industry and who would prefer the country to be a vast grass land exporting beef, he said. The answer to such people was that mill and the enterprise of Irish industrialists.

Not only would the mill give valuable employment but at the same time it could be a rallying place for other industrialists who would see what could be done if they were actuated by their courage and enterprise demonstrated at Slane in such flowing measure, the Minister said.

The Minister referred to the

company's "excellent record of expansion." Production was now 14 times over the 1945 level, but there were still substantial imports of the type of goods manufactured there.

He hoped that in the future the factory would be producing all of the particular type of goods that were needed for the country's requirements.

GIANT INDUSTRY

The Minister said that the Slane enterprise represented decentralisation at its best. In that quiet halycon scene was to be found "this giant industry" which gave employment to 300 workers who might otherwise have emigrated and who produced goods that might otherwise have been imported.

The factory, Mr. Norton said, deserved not only the support of the Government but the enthusiasm of the workers.

Mr. H. E. Guinness, chairman of the company, said that for nearly 200 years there had been industry in Slane. Twenty-one years ago the

company, which had been formed to weave cotton, commenced producing there.

At that time, he said, J. and L. F. Goodbody, Ltd., manufacturers of sacks, who used cotten bag extensively, held a minority interest in the Company. In 1947 they acquired the whole of its issued share capital.

All the cloth used in the manufacture of modern cotton sacks, which were introduced by J. and L. F. Goodbody, Ltd., some years ago, was woven there, he said.

In post-war years the demand for bag cloth had fallen materially. Despite that, the company's production of cotton and rayon cloth during the past ten years had increased 14-fold; 100 different types of cloth were woven there compared to only four in 1945. Thirty operatives were employed in 1956, and at present 300 were on the payroll, Mr. Guinness said. The payroll, Mr. Guinness said. The great expansion in production had made it necessary to provide additional space.

MANY TRIBUTES WERE PAID

Referring to the actual construction of the factory, Mr. Guinness said this was somewhat unusual as the walls were formed of insulated metal panels and the roof was so designed that there would be no condensation.

The building contract, he added, had been carried out by Messrs. Joseph Healy of Drogheda, and he could not speak too highly of the work which they had done and the efficient manner in which it had been carried out.

From the national point of view this industry was to be commended; not only did it reduce the amount of the country's imports since it produced goods that would otherwise have to be purchased abroad, but it also gave comparatively large employment in an agricultural area, so stemming the drift from the country to towns, and also, in all probability, reducing emigration.

Mr. Desmond Goodbody, Managing Director, thanked the Meath County Council, the E.S.B., and the other contractors for their co-operation in the building of the factory.

The excellent relationship between the management and workers had made him feel that the company could face the future with confidence, he said.

VARIED OUTPUT IS PRODUCED

The new factory produced bag cloth, handkerchief cloth, cambric, calico, pillow cotton, cheese cloth, muslin, scrim, pocketings, silesia, canvas, linings, interlinings, rayon dress and furnishing fabrics.

The factory is constructed on the most modern lines, being equipped with the latest air-conditioning plant which enables the temperature and humidity in the building to be controlled at all times of the year.

Aluminium roof-decking has been used to obtain maximum insulation and to avoid condensation. The walls are constructed with the latest type of insulated metal panels.

Some of the 300 workers live as far away as 15 miles from the factory, but transport by bus is provided by the Company.

DOCTOR ATTENDS TWICE WEEKLY

A highly efficient canteen adjoins the site to cater for the workers, and a First-Aid room has also been provided, at which a doctor attends twice weekly.

The Company's original factory buildings were built as long ago as 1766, by a Mr. Jebb, for the milling of flour, which trade was continued for over 100 years. In 1880, it was used for various trades, including flax, scutching during the 1914-18 war.

In 1935, when the company was formed, the mill became known as the Slane Manufacturing Company, Ltd., and cotton looms were installed to weave flour bag cloth. This industry rapidly expanded, except during the period of restricted supplies of raw materials during the 1939-45 war.

In 1945 the Company became a wholly owned subsidiary of J. and L. F. Goodbody Ltd., of Clara, who decided in 1953 to build the present new factory.

ENGINEERS' SUPPLIES

We are proud of our association with the Slane Manufacturing Co., Ltd. We supplied Steam and Water Tubing, Valves, Belting, Vee Ropes, etc.

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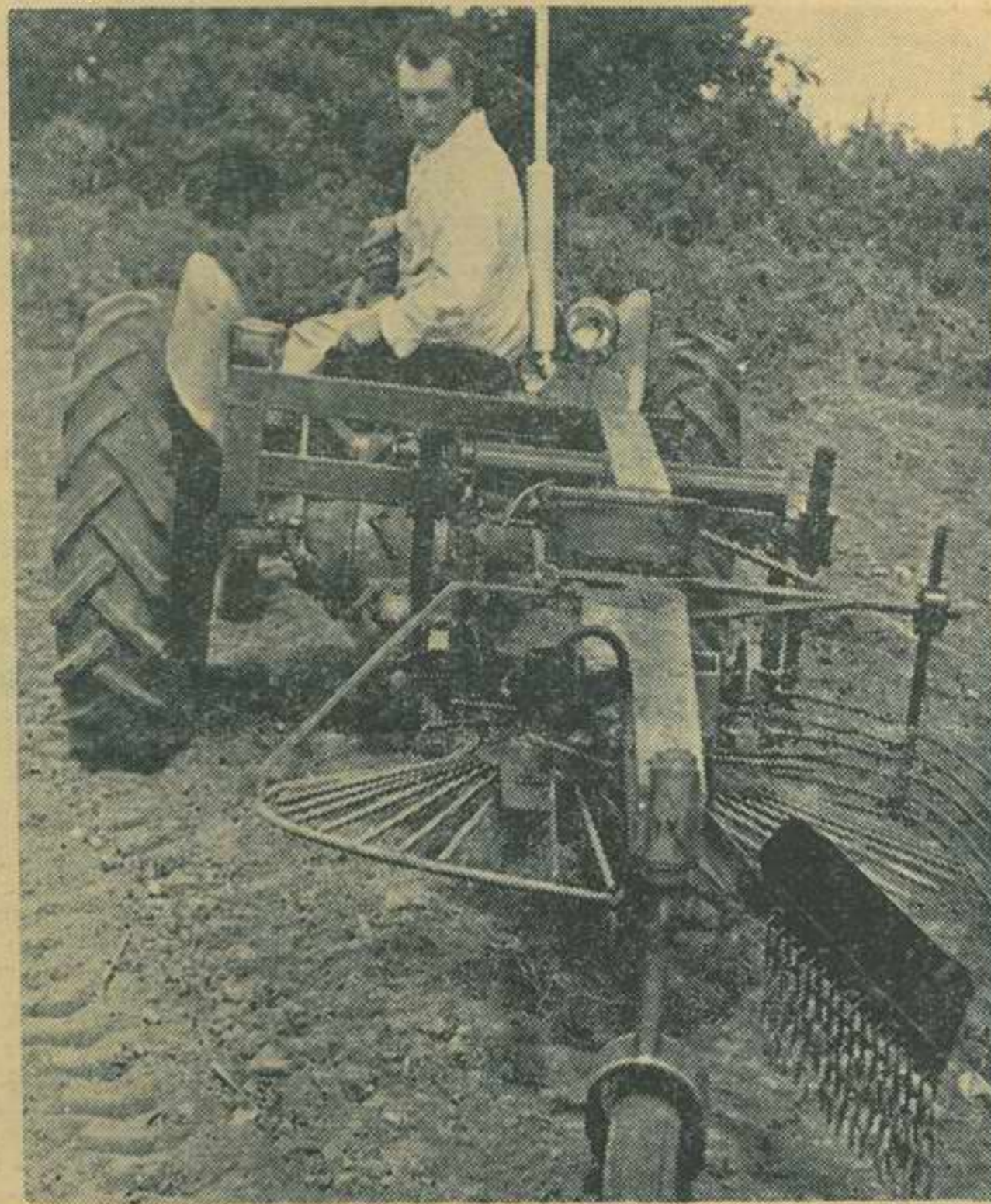
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Farmers! Save Time and Money

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POTATO LIFTER

- Low cost and efficient potato lifting.
- Smooth running plus low maintenance costs.
- Will work satisfactorily even on weedy or stony ground.
- Adjustable fore-carriage, will fit tractors with lift such as Ferguson, Ford, David Brown and others.
- The Roulet will be demonstrated on application any time, any place.



MR. P. A. PENTONY

ONLY a few years ago Swords was a small rural village drowsing contentedly against the soft, green landscape of County Dublin. To-day it is a thriving centre with new factories springing up almost day by day.

To cater for the increased trade and to provide the farmers with reliable service, Mr. P. A. Pentony, of Swords, has built a fine garage and farm requisites store.

OLD FAMILY

HIMSELF a member of an old Swords family which has been catering for the farmers for generations, Mr. Pentony is in an excellent position to appreciate and cater for the needs of the local farming community and he has taken the lead in many of the co-operative schemes which benefit the participants enormously. Mr. Pentony is manager of the Swords Farmers' Co-operative Society, suppliers of grain, seeds and fertilisers, which was founded in the Spring of 1953.

KEEPING ABREAST

SINCE he opened the business Mr. Pentony has been a main dealer for the famous David Brown farm machinery and equipment. A firm believer in progress, Mr. Pentony makes frequent trips to the Continent to inspect the latest developments in machinery and farming techniques. As a result he has been appointed distributor for what he considers the best potato lifter on the market. These lifters have been sold to numerous potato growers in this country, their first season in the Republic.

The Roulet O.K. Potato Lifter comes from Denmark and is designed for farmers who want maximum efficiency at a low cost. The cost of maintenance is uncommonly low (roughly 2/- to 3/- per acre and the machine's precision and efficiency have already aroused the enthusiasm of farmers in many countries. It runs smoothly and when properly adjusted will work satisfactorily even in weedy or stony ground. The gearbox has an oil-bath and ball bearings and the fore-carriage is adjustable. This machine has been designed to fit tractors with lift, such as the David Brown, Ford and Ferguson.

The advantage of the low maintenance cost, coupled with its efficient action, are, undoubtedly, going to make it a popular investment for practical Irish farmers. Furthermore this machine is guaranteed for 12 months and is, approximately, £20 cheaper than any machine of a similar type in this country.

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SWARDS Phone: Swords 298 CO. DUBLIN

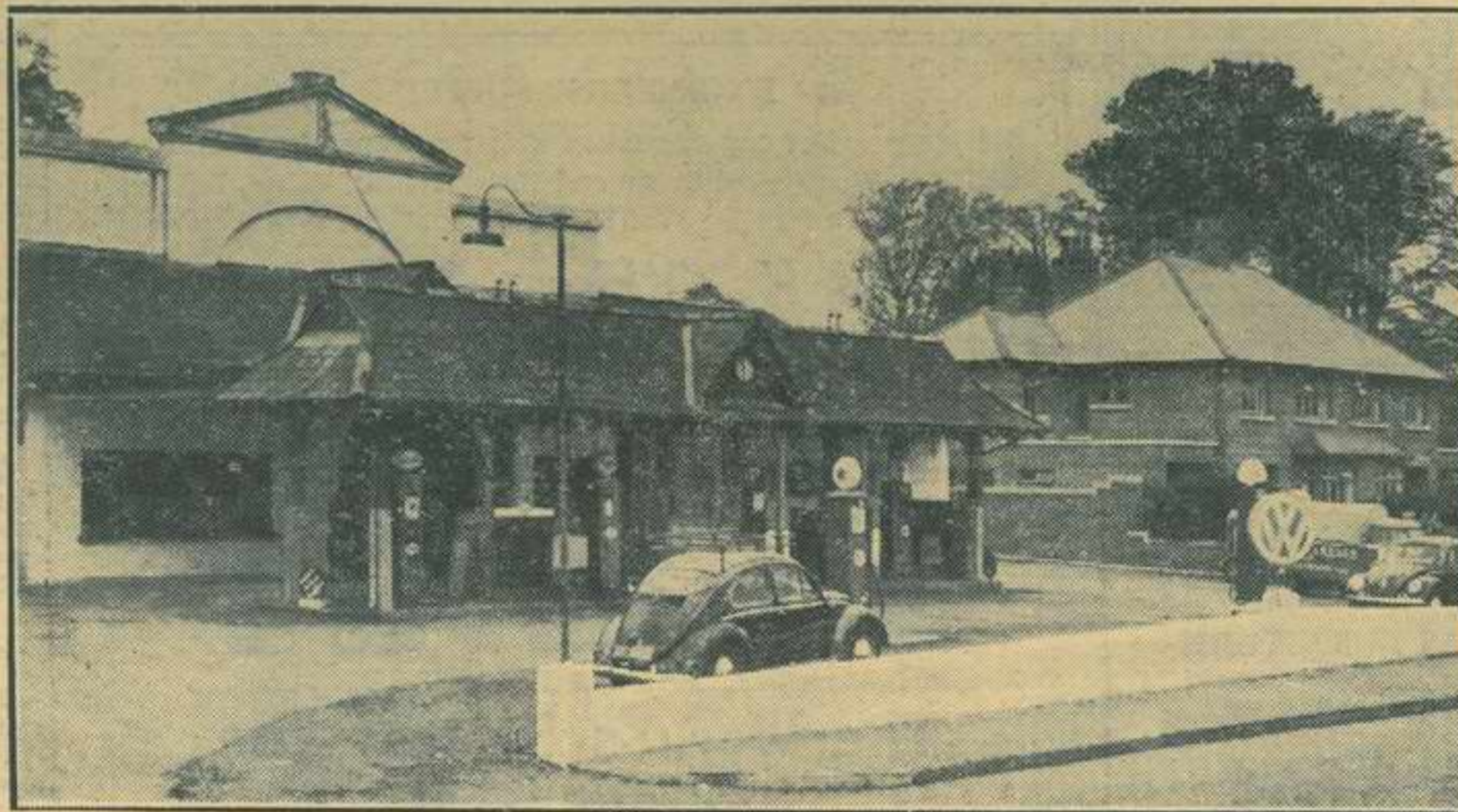
A Further Expansion

LAST month the new garage of Messrs. Noel E. Gleeson, Ltd., at Stillorgan Road, Mount Merrion Dublin, was opened. The proprietor, Mr. Noel E. Gleeson, a well-known racing motorist, has expert knowledge of engines. He entered the motor trade 13 years ago, and from 1949 played a big part, as sales manager of Motor Distributors, Ltd., in popularising the Volkswagen cars.

He opened his own garage in 1954 at Rathfarnham, specialising in the service and sale of Volkswagen cars. The steady increase in trade called for larger premises and their extensive garage at Mount Merrion is the answer.

Mr. Gleeson's new establishment gives more than four times as much space as the old one, its area being, approximately, 25,000 square feet as against the 6,000 square feet of the Rathfarnham premises.

The new garage is a handsome single-storey building, set well back



THE NEW GARAGE OF MESSRS. NOEL E. GLEESON LTD.

from the roadside. Its wide, sweeping drive is about 120 feet long and is fronted by a low stone wall, which leaves a generous entrance space at each end. The width of the drive is sufficient to permit double drive

through traffic and the latest American pumps, which are fitted with retractable hoses are being installed in positions that permit as many as four cars to be served simultaneously. This means that cars going

north or south can drive straight through without turning.

The most modern plant available operated by highly skilled mechanics under expert guidance guarantees satisfaction in sales and service.



The Volkswagen People Have Moved To Mount Merrion!

New and Used Volkswagens—
SPECIAL SCHEME

We have always made a point of giving top prices for a trade-in. If the car has been regularly serviced by us we give a bonus price. All used cars are fully checked and adjusted and if they have been previously serviced here we give a 3 MONTHS' GUARANTEE. You can see how sensible it is to deal with Noel E. Gleeson Ltd.

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EVERY JOB ON A
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of
GENUINE
VOLKSWAGEN
SPARES

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Branches: Cork, Limerick,
Galway and Sligo.

Christmas Shopping For The Homemakers



Mr. P. J. Conlon, Managing Director and General Manager of Messrs. Macartney and Co., Ltd., was educated at St. Finian's College, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, and was well-known in Westmeath athletic fields. He was unbeaten in cross-country running and in his college days, was on the Co. Westmeath

THE three stores of Messrs. Macartneys of Mary Street (i.e., Macartneys, 4 Mary St.; Grahams Stores, Talbot St.; and Grahams New Stores, Grafton Street), are walk around stores where goods are priced in plain figures, showing the exact cash price of each article. They do extensive mail order business, but the Management is happier if the potential customer makes a personal call.

All their furniture is Irish-made, and the suites are unit suites which means that you can buy any article out of the suite—which is a great advantage. An oak or walnut dining room suite priced 27 guineas is very good value. A settee and two chairs in red rexine with red moquette covered loose seals priced at 30 guineas. A steel tubular kitchen set comprising table and 4 chairs 25 guineas. The Table is covered in Formica—all colours—and the chair in washable material.

The electric Irish Sheettex Sewing machine in a cabinet which folds to form a bureau or table costs £46-7-6.

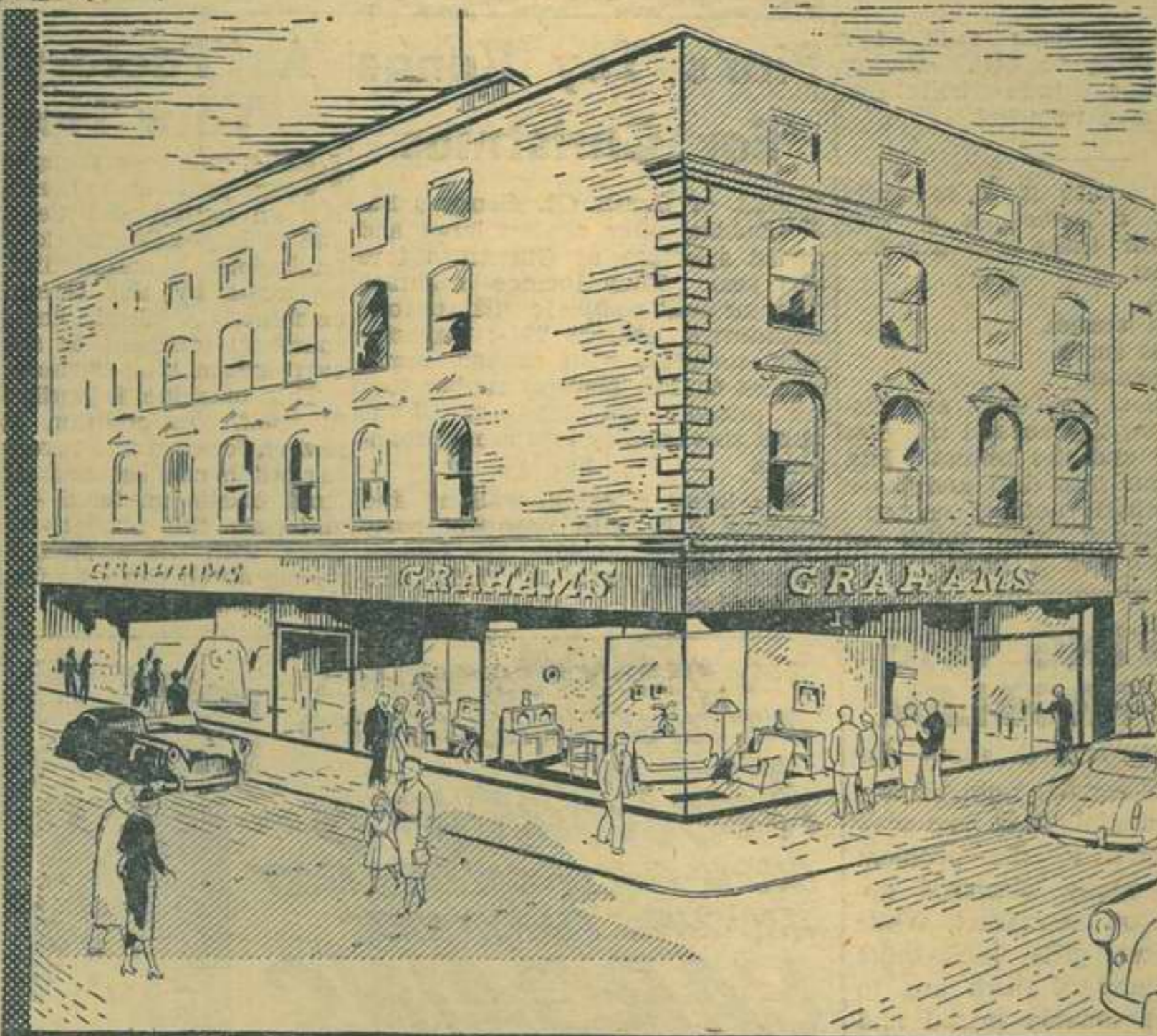
Their bedroom suites are very well designed and vary in prices from 35 guineas. These can be had in Walnut, Mahogany and Oak.

Going over to the toy department, I saw dolls prams—replicas of children's prams from £5-7-0. Miniature motor cars from £6-15-0. A miniature writing table and chair attached that can be used as a blackboard or on reversing—as a breakfast or tea-table. This in bright red at 59/6d.

With the cold weather now already here, their wide selection of Oil Stoves interested me. Valor, minor hurling and football teams, Solas, Alladin, Veritas and others ranging from £4-15-0. Also in stock most makes of Radios—Phillips, Bush, Pye, etc., from £15-15-0. TV sets at varying prices from 62 guineas.

Lovely China Tea Services, 21 pieces, £3-15-0. Also to be had in same design in a breakfast. The dinner services ranged around £10-10-0.

Visitors to Grahams Store, Grafton Street, may be impressed by the contemporary decorations of this premises. These decorations were carried out by Messrs. J. Tracey and Co., Stoneybatter, Dublin.



Dublin's newest furniture store

GRAHAM'S

BRING BETTER FURNITURE

to

GRAFTON STREET

Grahams—already well-known in Talbot Street and owned by the old-established Irish firm of

Macartney's, Mary Street—now open these spacious new premises. There's

an unsurpassed collection of high grade furniture, carpets and

bedding, to delight every home-lover.

Walk round this magnificent Store and see many fine bargains on show!

GRAHAM'S

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Head Office:

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Owned by the old-established Irish firm of Macartney's Ltd.

Sleep soundly on the "SLEEPY VALLEY"

SPRING INTERIOR MATTRESS

manufactured by us especially

for MESSRS. MACARTNEY & CO., LTD.

Hilton Bros. Ltd., of Dublin

Irish Cabinet Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

DONORE AVENUE, S.C.R., DUBLIN

Suppliers of Quality Furniture to the Trade.

The Complete Decorating of GRAHAM'S New Premises

in Grafton Street

WAS CARRIED OUT BY

J. TREACY & Co.

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KITCHEN FURNITURE

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D. C. BARRY — Furniture Manufacturer

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"The Galway" (illustrated above)

Ranges Removed and Tiled Fireplaces installed, with Boiler Flu Set if requested.

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Strictly Feminine

Edited By "Maura"

Important Points About Roasting-True Roasting

BY now I am sure you all have made your Christmas puddings and cakes and mince-meat, so I'll not dare to add to the recipes that abound in all the papers and magazines at your bookstore, but I would like to mention a few important points about roasting.

An uncovered pan should always be used for true roasting. If the pan is covered, the meat or bird is then cooked partly in steam and is more like braising or pot-roasting.

Unless you cover your turkey well with slices of fat bacon, you must baste well and often—that is about every 15-20 minutes.

If you are not too sure about the time your turkey should take, the following hints should help you.

Presuming you put your bird into a hot oven (with some dripping in pan) for about 15 minutes and then reduce to moderate, a drawn turkey weighing 7 to 10 lbs. should take 2 hours; 10 to 12 lbs., 3 hours, and an extra large bird, 15 to 20 lbs., 3½ hours.

To test whether it is cooked—prick in the thick part of the leg—which takes longer to cook—and if it is ready the juice should come out quite white.

REAL PLEASURE

IT used to be said that the one unailing tonic for feminine spirits was a new hat, but it would seem that millinery has lost pride of place to nylons. Certainly there is no gift more sure of giving real pleasure, nothing in which a woman takes more pride, than nylons. The certainty that her stockings are good looking is guaranteed to give a lift to the feminine heart—stockings have, in fact, become "big business."

Uses of Milk In Cooking

DURING Milk Week Mrs. Anthony demonstrated at the Gas Company's theatre, Dublin, some of the many uses of milk in the kitchen.

STEWED TRIPE AND ONIONS

Ingredients:
1 lb. mixed tripe (cut up small).
2 onions (finely chopped).
2 ozs. butter.
1 oz. flour.
½ pt. milk.

Seasoning.
Method: Wash tripe well, put down in cold water, bring to boil, drain and rinse tripe again.

Put milk, onions, seasoning and butter in saucepan, add tripe, bring to boil and cook gently until tripe is soft.

Blend in a little milk, stir into tripe, bring to boil, stirring all the time, then boil five minutes. Serve very hot.

JUNKET, because it is so easily digested a sweet, is a very useful one for those who are ill.

Ingredients:
1 pt. milk.
1 teaspoon rennet.
2 teaspoons sugar.
Grated nutmeg.

Method: Heat ½ pt. milk and dissolve sugar in it, then add the rest of the milk and the rennet. Mix well and pour into dish and leave till set. Sprinkle nutmeg on top.

Milk flavoured with coffee or cocoa may be used if liked.

SOLVING THE GIFT PROBLEM

IF you are puzzled about the right gift for the right person, it is quite possible that you may find the answer to the problem among the many electrical appliances now on the market. While most of these gifts look quite expensive, many of them are, in fact, very reasonably priced and from a patriotic point of view very acceptable as they are made in Ireland.

In the lower price range there are irons at £1 8s. 0d., cupboard heaters which may be used in the hotpress, wardrobe or cupboard and are priced at £1 5s. 0d., and a big selection of heavy aluminium utensils specially designed for use with electric cookers costing from £1 3s. 6d. upwards.

In the slightly more expensive range there are scientifically designed study lamps complete with shade, flex and bulb for £2 10s. 0d.; 1 kw portable electric fires at £2 15s. 0d., and highly polished chromium plated toasters for the low price of £2 4s. 6d.

For the really special gift few things could be more acceptable than an electric convector fire which warms any room quickly without any trace of "stiffness" or odour and costs £7 12s. 6d. An alternative is the new type glass panel heater which has the elements housed in an attractive glass screen and costs £7 2s. 6d.



A Recipe To Use When You "Bag" Or Buy A Pheasant

THIS month our recipes are supplied by popular Red Bank Chef-de-cuisine, GERARD FERNS. For those of you who are lucky enough to "bag" a pheasant, here is a delicious way of serving it.

Pheasant Normande

Roast one pheasant. When cooked cut into required portions. Place in saucepan with some diced apple and a few well-washed mushrooms. Add ½ pint of fresh cream and cook until apples and mushrooms are tender.

Place portions of pheasant on the serving dish and pour over sauce, and serve.

An Apple Dish

Make a paste with 1 lb. of flour, ½ lb. of butter, 1 oz. of sugar, 1 pint of milk, and 2 eggs. Mix 1 oz. of yeast with a little water and flour, add this gradually to paste mixture. Peel and slice 3 apples. Put a little butter in a saucepan and fry the apples until tender. Roll out the pastry and sprinkle with a little sugar and cinnamon and a few currants.

Fold over pastry and bake in a fairly hot oven.

Pim's Toy Range For Christmas

PIMS, of South Gt. George's St., Dublin, offer a very large and varied selection of Christmas toys this year. They include a Junior "Doctor Set," complete with scissors, stethoscope, etc., at 21/-; Tapestry Sets, complete with canvas, wools, etc., at 6/11d. Natural rubber toys are priced from 3/6d. to 18/6d., whilst soft cuddley toys are in abundance.

The latest sleeping, walking and kneeling doll, with beautiful curly hair, is offered at 45/-; the famous Pelham Puppets at 17/6d. and 26/3d.

A "Factory" In Your Home

HAVE you ever thought of starting your own home industry. For an outlay of little more than £75 it is possible to do so. Coats, frocks, blouses and kiddies' wear can be made by the Bernina sewing machine. A short, comprehensive course is sufficient to set up one's own dressmaking business.

This machine is really a factory in itself. In addition to straight sewing, forward and reverse, the zig-zag stitch can be used on even the most elastic material—on these materials the straight stitch will break with the stretch, whilst the zig-zag stitch can be relied upon to hold indefinitely.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

at—

Pims

Huge Toy Fair

THE KIDDIES WONDERLAND OF GIFTS, GAMES, TOYS AND BOOKS

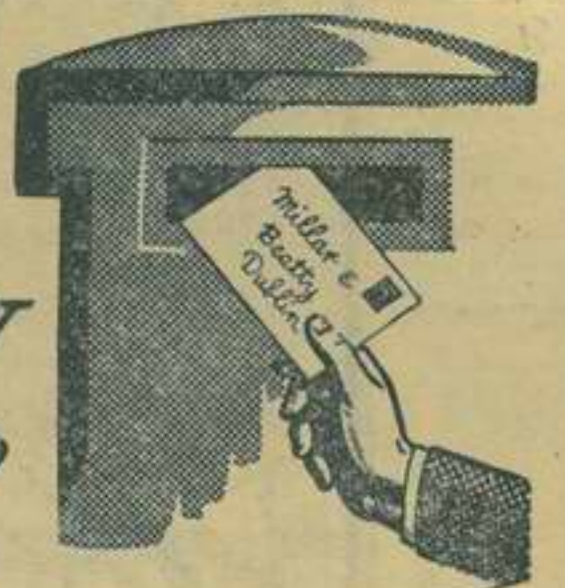
Bring the Kiddies for a Ride on the SUPERSONIC UNDERWATER WONDERSHIP

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G.E.

Pim Brothers Limited GEORGE'S STREET DUBLIN.

Useful and Enduring Christmas Gifts

ALL the shop windows are looking gay in their Christmas grandeur, but the toys, of course, steal the show—McBirney's in particular.

The children stood or pushed, wide-eyed with delight and wonder at the huge toy train packed full with teddy bears, golliwogs and dolls of all descriptions, and the big elephant behind it all got his share of praise.

Shopping for the younger members of the family is quite simple. They like anything that moves or feels cuddly or bangs loudly.

For the adults it isn't so easy, but I feel something that is useful, practical and enduring is always a very advisable buy.

LABOUR-SAVERS

For the housewife, newly-wed, about-to-be-wed, engaged, or flat-dweller, labour-saving devices are always welcome and ensure kindly remembrance long after the festive season.

Prestige have really good stainless egg-beaters from 22/8. There is also a variation of this that clamps onto the table and has an adjustable and detachable beater that you can suit to size of the mixing bowl.

A flat rubber knife-life spoon, selling at 2/3, enables you to clean out any batter or pudding mixture from the mixing bowl.

It practically eliminates the waste and helps you when you come to washing up.

A fireproof casserole would please anyone who cooks. I saw them in Woolworths; prices, 2/6 and 5/-.

NOT SO DEAR

I've always had the idea that serving knives were wildly expen-

sive, and to my surprise I saw very reliable brands on the market for as little as 10/6, made by "Skyline."

The chemist shop provides endless scope for the present-hunter; gaily coloured and perfumed soaps in a Christmas pack—Gala have one for around 5/3.

They also have a well-fitted manicure case in cleverly simulated cane-finish for 21/3.

The Gala people have introduced a relatively new idea in lipsticks—the Swivel Inter-change Holder and Refill; the refill is in a case of its own which fits straight into the lipstick case. Advantages: no messy fingers, and with only one case you can have as many shades of lipstick as you like. Price, complete, 7/9; refill, 3/9.

FOR THE MEN

FOR the men, the inevitable tie or scarf or gloves. Perhaps a few weeks supply of his favourite tobacco would please him better. For the man who has a hard day's work behind him when he comes home for his tea, nothing is more welcome than a soft pair of slippers.

Then again, one of those large rubber torches, by Ever-Ready—12/9 or 16/9—might be just the thing he's always promised to buy himself.

And by the way, if you haven't bought your Christmas presents, you should do so as soon as you can. You can't expect to get the best selection and the tried assistants' co-operation at the eleventh hour.

So a merry Christmas, good shopping, and may all your presents be "just what you've always wanted."

Last Month's Berries Are Now Jam

WE parted when I set off with a wattle on a black-berrying expedition. I got the berries ripe and juicy, and have since converted them into jam.

At Christmas, when blackberries are but a memory, and there's nothing left in their habitab but briars, thorny and gaunt, it will be nice to open a pot. I always think there is no fruit gathers the sunshine like blackberries.

Their flavour always reminds me of old, old gardens tended by women in huge swirling skirts, who plucked mignonette and lavender as they passed up the path in the quiet of the Sabbath morning, and whose taped and fur-bordered capes were topped by bonnets with tints of old-rose and purple.

Should you ever walk up my path I shall be only too glad to share some of my preserved blackberries with you. If you have so far neglected this humble fruit of the hedgerow, then you have missed something very good from your teatable.

Breathe it not, but I have fairly idle times these days. The threshing is over and the fowl are up to their eyes in grain in the haggard. They wouldn't thank me now for a bucketful of layer's mash. All they want is a drink and enough daylight to scrape and scratch in the chaff and to pick at one another for the choicest site in the mound of golden dust left after the machine (even among my feathered flock there is jockeying for position). So I have no boiling of potatoes this week, but the goodness will soon be gone from the yard and I'll be back to the old routine.

However, I made the Christmas cake and I give you the list of ingredients here, in case your's is still unmade. I didn't spare the eggs—dear as they are. I'd pawn the cat to get enough eggs for this cake. 'Tis a milestone in my existence.

Here's the list:

- 1lb. castor sugar.
- 1lb. butter.
- 10 very large or 12 ordinary-sized eggs (I used turkey eggs)
- 1 glass whiskey or rum (preferably rum)
- 1 sour apple, grated
- Juice and grated rind of one lemon
- 1 teaspoon spice
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 24 ozs flour
- 1½lb. raisens, 1lb. sultanas, ½lb. currants.
- 4 ozs. cherries
- 4 ozs. almonds (2 ozs will do and add 2 tablespoons golden
- 4 ozs. whole almonds.
- syrup).
- ½lb. peel.

This will make a cake of the "cut and come" size. You'll never miss a decent slice of this, no matter how many callers during Christmas.

I'm off now to put on my best "going to meetin'" apron, for I hear a car coming up the boreen and I'm sure 'tis the Poultry Instructress. She promised to call and have a look at the turkeys. I have three white ones, from which I hope to have the required plump double-breasted variety next year. The rest are the big American bronze type that I suppose I'll be selling for a song. But I don't grudge the women in the town cheap Christmas dinners. And as for size—a turkey couldn't be too big for my family. Thanks be to God they are able to eat it and that tisn't sending for the doctor I am.

—K. O'BRIEN.

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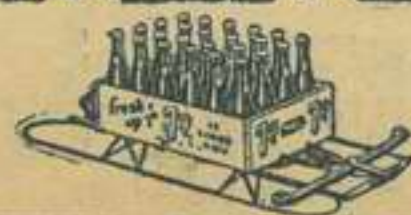
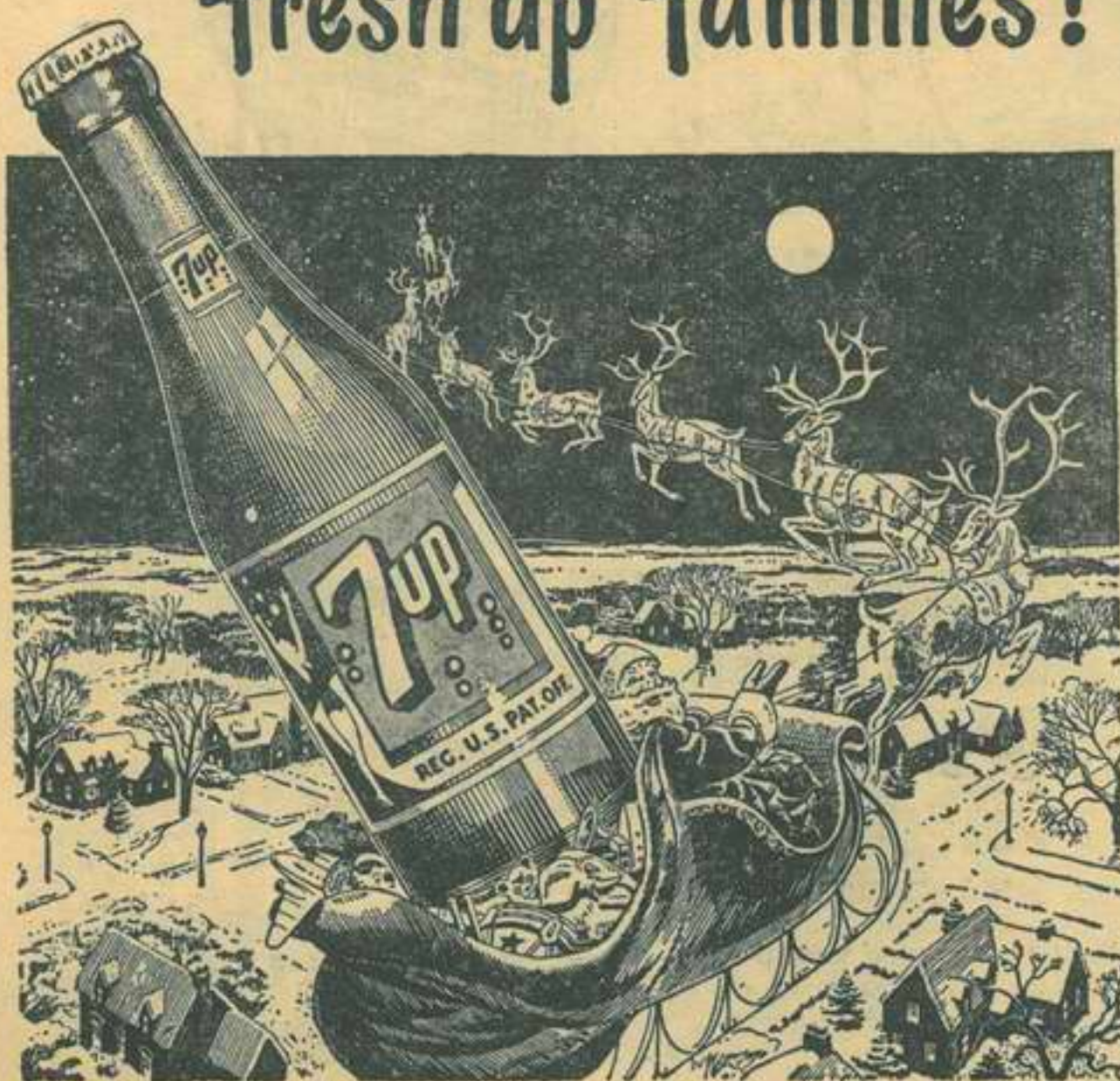
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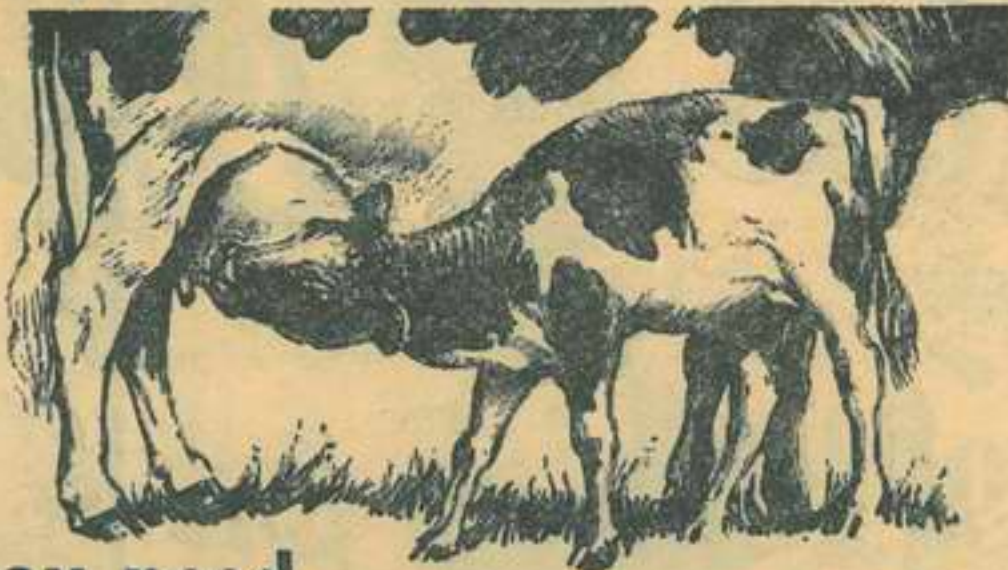
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BAGENALSTOWN, CO. CARLOW

Milk A Hygienic Food Of

THE VALUE OF MILK AS A FOOD HAS BEEN RECOGNISED FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, BUT IT IS ONLY WITHIN RECENT TIMES THAT ITS PRODUCTION AND USE HAVE DEVELOPED INTO A SCIENCE. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR NUTRITIONISTS REALISED THAT THE SHORTAGE OF MANY THINGS WOULD BE LARGELY OFFSET IF SUFFICIENT MILK COULD BE PRODUCED FROM HOME HERDS. CONSEQUENTLY THE PRODUCTION OF MILK WAS STEPPED UP BY EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE, FROM FEEDING THE COWS ON A FAR HIGHER PLANE TO SUBSIDISING EVERY GALLON PRODUCED.

The result has been that milk production has reached a high pitch of proficiency and various breeds of cattle have come to the fore as producers, and a further result has been the production of more milk than can be used normally.

From this position stemmed the campaigns which have been carried on in Britain to popularise milk as a drink, to experiment with milk as a base of many other types of food, to find new milk drinks and new manufacturing uses for it.

Milk produced under the best conditions to-day is a hygienic food of immense value to health. It is controlled by law to ensure cleanliness in production, and modern mass-production methods have been very successfully applied to its processing and distribution.

This factor, together with the gradual eradication of bovine tuberculosis and the introduction of pasteurization, have made people more conscious of the value of milk and caused them to consume more than was the case years ago.

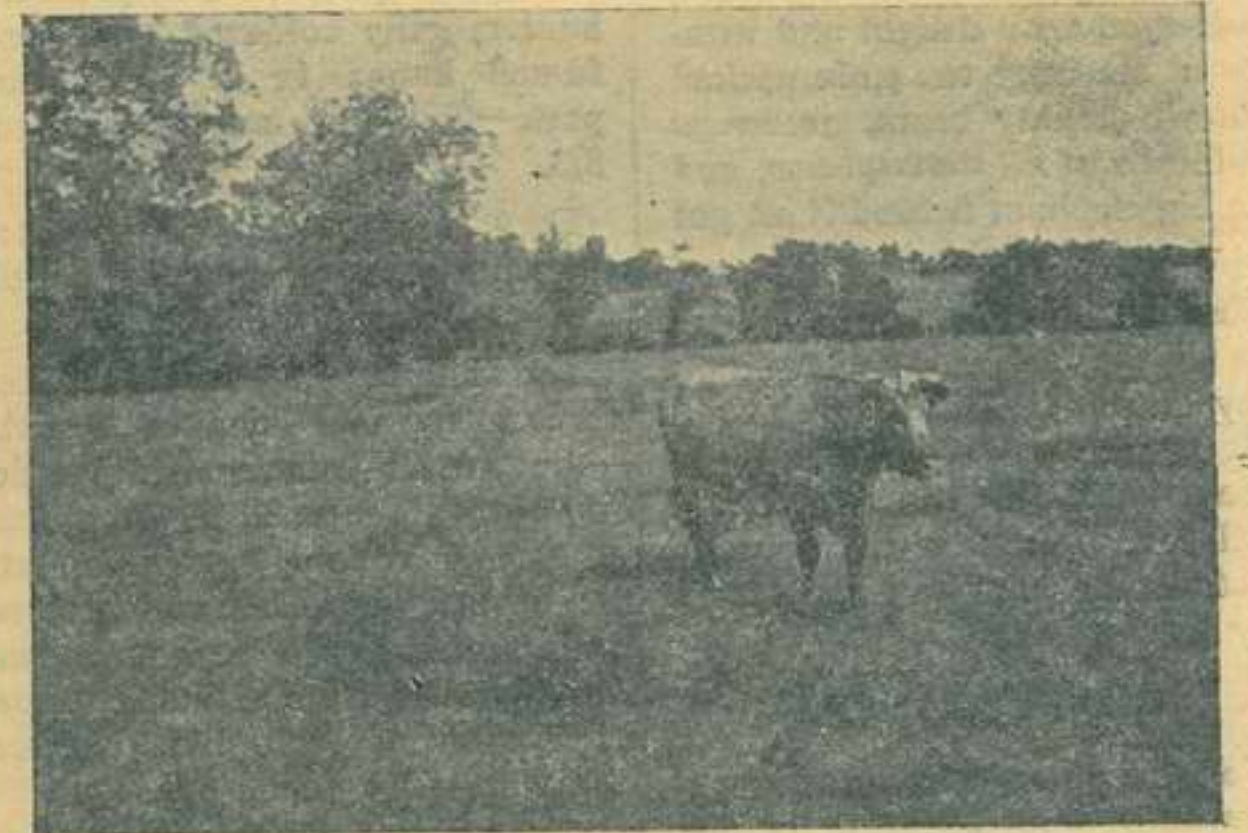
However, the efficiency of the producers and the specialisation of breeding have arrived at the stage where continuous propaganda is necessary to make people retain their awareness and to promote even greater use of milk.

SATURATION
In the Six Counties, 98 million gallons were produced last year, and it looks as if this figure will be surpassed this year. This is very close to saturation point unless further outlets are found, and there appears to be some danger of a fall in prices.

In the Twenty-six Counties this position might seem to be approaching, but in fact we consume so little milk per head that there is tremendous room for expansion on the home market if people can be induced to increase consumption.

The recent "Magic With Milk" exhibition arranged by the Dublin District Milk Board was an effort in this direction which could be extended to the rest of the urban centres and repeated regularly to keep the initial interest alive.

The cooking in the average Irish household is rather unimaginative



A High Yielding Cow of the Dual Purpose Shorthorn Type.

and in some there is a definite prejudice against milk. With the eradication of tuberculosis from our herds much of this prejudice will die out, but in the meantime much could be done to interest housewives in the hundreds of ways in which milk can be disguised in puddings, sweets, cakes and drinks so that youngsters will benefit.

Increasing the consumption of milk would probably give us a chance to stabilise the price to the farmer and give him a firm basis for planning greater production and the installation of machinery that would help him to produce an even better commodity.

OTHER OUTLETS
Although an increase in the consumption of liquid milk would mean a considerable benefit to the community, there are other outlets for greater production.

For instance, cheese-making is a very limited industry and hardly ever carried out on farms. Yet we import large quantities every year.

Cheese-making could be taught to farmers' wives or workers in small local factories. I remember meeting a farmer in England who milked about 80 cows but who sold no liquid milk, in spite of the high price to be had for it. He turned all his milk into cheese on the farm and made

more money from it that way, in spite of the bigger staff and greater amount of equipment necessary.

Skim milk and whey he converted into pig meat on the farm, thus producing two foods of high protein value, which gave high returns in cash. There would seem to be no valid reason why this sort of thing could not be developed on Irish farms in time.

How can an increase of any significance in our milk yield be produced? In other countries farmers have turned to certain breeds—Friesians, Ayrshires and Jerseys notably—while better feeding and management have helped to add to output.

Here many of our cows are still fed on hay, which differs in quality quite radically according to the weather in which it is harvested and the method of saving.

Our Shorthorn cattle have proved time and again that they can give yields up to the best levels if they are properly fed and bred, so that an immediate increase could be effected if a sufficient number of farmers were to pay more attention to the science of feeding their milch cows.

USE OF SILAGE
The conservation of grass as silage would also have an immediate effect on most farms, especially (Continued on Page 19).

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR

JERSEY Milk?

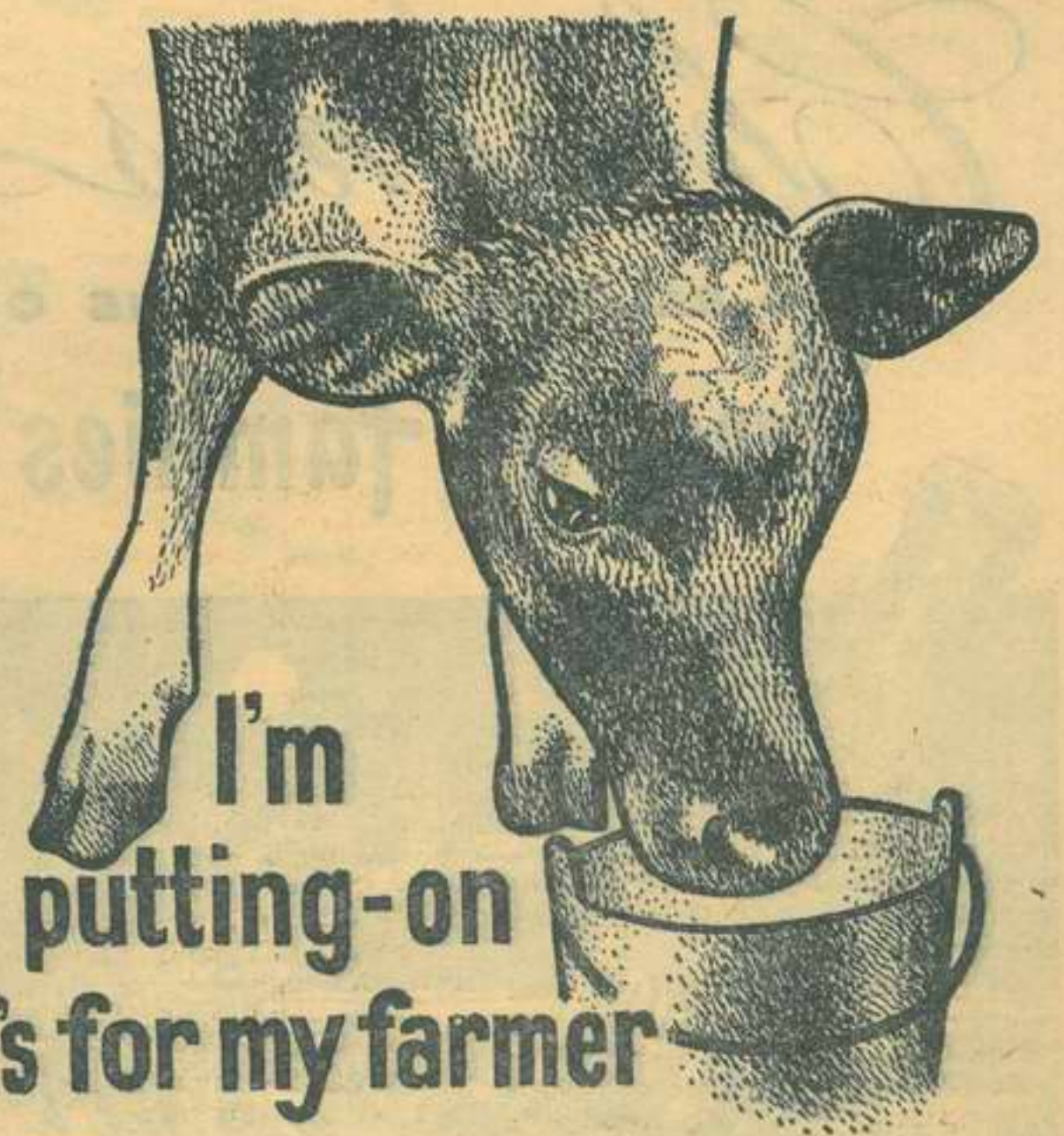
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Immense Value To Health

if the grassland was properly manured to give full production of balanced with meat and bone herbage. Home-grown barley, balanced with meat and bone meal, beans or even linseed, would have a similar effect. This sort of home-produced balanced feeding could supply adequate food for our heaviest yielding cows at a lower cost per gallon of milk produced, so that competition from other low-cost producers could be more easily met.

Planning the production of any considerable surplus of milk would be foolish as a national policy without first examining the chances of exporting this surplus in one form or another at an economic price.

Butter would appear to be the most useful way of exporting a surplus, but the world price of butter would hardly allow our milk producers to be paid anything more than a shilling per gallon for their milk, unless it was to be subsidised.

And farmers realise nowadays that the cost of subsidies ultimately comes from their own pockets.

Conversion of the skim into pig meat, poultry meat and eggs would help the farmer to produce it at this price, perhaps, but the marketing of these extra products would have to be seen to as well.

If creameries could find ways of using their staffs so that overheads were covered by more than the handling of milk, it would enable them to pay a better price to the farmers.

Some creameries have actually managed to do this by handling other commodities such as fertilisers and seeds, while some have added an educational service to their existing work for the farmers.

ON THE FARM

Some have experimented with the idea of having the farmers separate the milk on the farm, which cuts down the amount of transport needed, and it would appear that this practice is well worth examining with the object of general adoption.

These ideas are being tried in the tentative fashion that is inevitable where the market is limited, and many farm economists are inclined to think that it is not wise to advocate any increase in production under present conditions.

The Minister for Agriculture, however, has exhorted the farmers to keep seven cows where they formerly kept five, and so on, and it seems on the face of it that this would be a wise national policy.

The Farm Survey has shown that dairying is the most profitable enterprise for the farm of less than 50 acres, but there are very many farms, particularly in the western and midland counties, where dairying is not practised at all.

These areas could be organised on a milk-producing basis by the establishment of creameries and the education of the farmers in the use of skim milk for pig-feeding and poultry-keeping as well as in the economic production of the milk through proper feeding of good cows.

GRADUAL SWING

It would appear that a gradual swing over on these farms could be effected, shifting the emphasis from store cattle production to dairying, with considerable gain to the farmers.

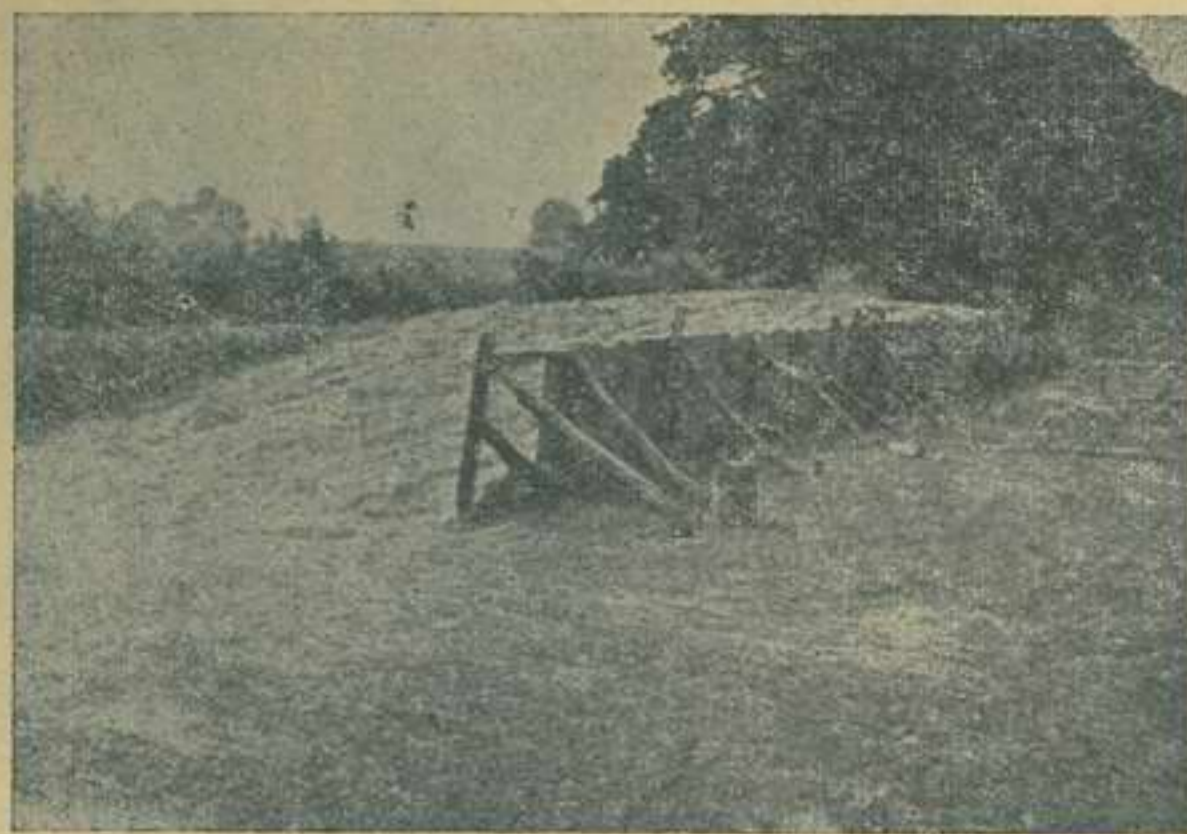
The monthly milk cheque plays a most important part in the farming economy of the creamery districts and helps to keep the people interested in the land and its improvement as well as the bettering of their stock.

When other enterprises ancillary to milk production are efficiently done these farmers lift themselves out of the average level and begin to appear as really high producers making full use of their opportunities.

Cattle raising does not offer the same opportunities and where dairying can be infiltrated there is bound to be an over-all improvement in farming as a result.

Specialised outlets for a surplus of milk are cream and farmer's butter. These are high-priced commodities which some of our farmers have exploited. They have the advantage that they could be sold in fresh condition on the British market without fear of competition from other countries, because of the distances involved in transporting them.

In this article, which is merely an



Grass Silage—Simple field-trench type for Silage.

examination of the position of milk-production in a very superficial way, with a brief look at possibilities for the future, it is not intended to say what is the best thing for the nation to do.

If, however, we were faced with the necessity for a rapid increase in our milk production as a safeguard of the nation's food supplies and health, the points already outlined would have to be considered seriously when deciding on the best way to effect that increase.

MILK BOARD?

Another important consideration that would face us is whether we should follow the British example and set up a body on the lines of the Milk Marketing Board. This body took over the whole business of milk buying in England in 1933, when the milk in travelling from farm to home was handled by as many as four intermediaries, including sometimes two wholesalers.

During the Second World War, the Board became the direct purchaser of milk sold by farmers, except that sold by producer-retailers such as farmers with milk lines in nearby towns.

The Board sold the milk to the Ministry of Food, which decided how much was to be sold as whole milk and how much to be diverted to other uses. The Ministry also succeeded in rationalising the collection and distribution and controlled the destination of the milk after it left the depots where it had been collected from the farms.

Considerable saving was effected by eliminating unnecessary transport, overlapping of delivery routes and so on. Whereas before a single street might be served by four or five different retailers, delivery in districts was divided up on a national basis. Something similar has been effected by the big retailer companies in Dublin, by mutual agreement.

WOULD IT WORK

Whether such an organisation would work in this country cannot be determined without at least long and careful consideration, but it has advantages from the farmer's viewpoint in the efficient collection of the milk, and other factors.

It must also be remembered that it was primarily a development of price-fixing machinery. To work a price-fixing scheme, some sort of over-all control is necessary, and the example is always before us.

From the individual farmer's viewpoint, milk is a commodity which he sells in the best market he can get. If he is in the liquid milk districts, supplying the cities for instance, he will be endeavouring to sell as much liquid milk as he possibly can and using the cash to improve his farm wherever he can.

The quota system under which he gets the highest price for a certain quantity and a reduced price for anything over his contract, rather tends to limit him to a certain output if he is producing large quantities.

Other farmers find it possible to sell all their milk at the highest price, and if more is needed for feeding pigs or calves, they rely on some of the modern milk substitutes. Or, if they decide to expand their pig or calf-rearing activities, these substitutes allow them to feed the extra animals adequately.

GOOD BRANDS

There are several good brands of substitute available, which are highly digestible and can be introduced at an early stage of growth.

In Britain, calves are often taken
(CONTD. ON PAGE 20)

PARENTS!

YOURS AND THE NATION'S GREATEST ASSETS ARE

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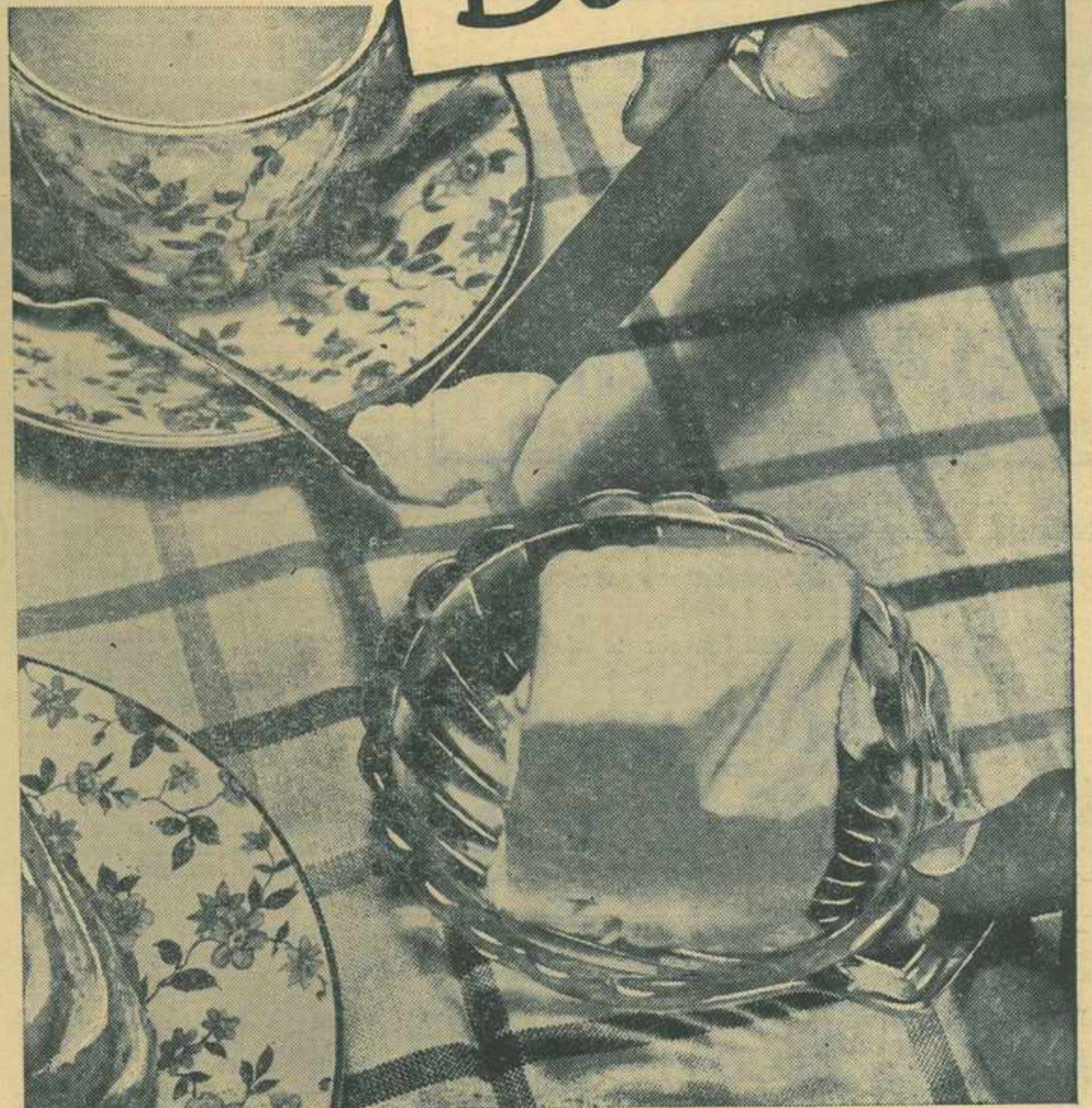
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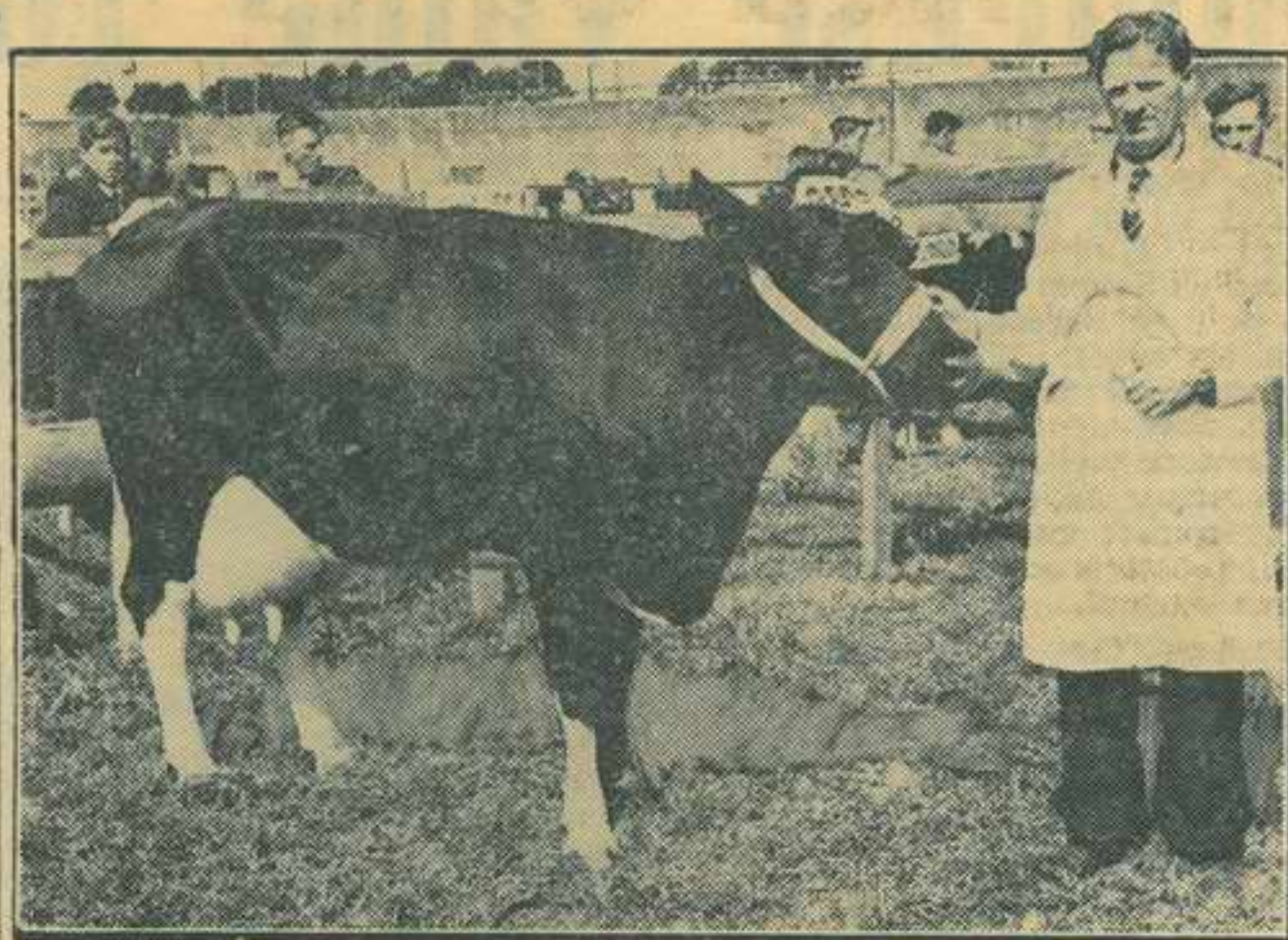
(Continued from Page 19)

off the whole milk at a week or two old and put on to the substitute with success, thereby releasing the cow's milk for sale either as a better income-producer or to keep up the farmer's quota.

The overriding consideration in any examination of this question of expanding our milk production must be: what are we going to do with the extra quantity?

We have seen that home consumption can be stepped up in various ways, probably sufficiently to absorb the increase in the first few years; but after that we must look to the export market. Here we come up against the question of production costs—a thorny one as every farmer knows—but one which cannot be avoided in the circumstances.

As well as that, we need market research to pave the way for selling our surplus, in whatever form appears best. We are approaching the stage where these questions must be faced, if we have not already reached it.



DUNLECNEY LASS, in her last lactation, which was her third, gave 9,834 lbs. in 45 weeks, with 3.74 per cent. butter fat. In her present lactation of 15 weeks she has given 6,742 lbs. She has won this year five Supreme Championships, six Reserve Championships, fourteen first prizes and three cups. Six of her first prizes were won in Open Dairy Classes, competing against all breeds.

Cheap Source Of Protein And Calcium

"MILK is a cheap source of protein and calcium. It is one of the most complete foods that nature provides and it gives more of the protective nutrients for money than any other food." This statement was made last month by the Minister for Health, Mr. O'Higgins, when he spoke at the opening of Milk Week in the Gas Company Theatre, Dublin. The Milk Week was sponsored by the Dublin District Milk Board.

The purpose of this function was to encourage the consumption of milk, and during the week recipes for various foods, including puddings and savouries in which milk is used, were demonstrated to the public in the theatre.

"I wholeheartedly support their efforts in this regard," said Mr. O'Higgins, "as I am anxious that we should increase our consumption of milk, whether in liquid form as a refreshing and nutritious drink, or as part of the attractive and wholesome dishes which will be demonstrated here."

He said that milk was a cheap source of protein and calcium. It was one of the most complete foods that nature provided and it gave more of the protective nutrients for money than any other food.

The Minister expressed particular anxiety to see that children up to 14 years, and nursing and expectant mothers, should consume ample supplies of good milk. He would not be satisfied until all groups in the community were adequately catered for in this respect, according to their needs.

AMENDING BILL BEFORE DAIL

He went on: "While a plentiful supply of milk is desirable, clean milk is absolutely essential in the interests of public health, as infection can develop rapidly in, and be spread by milk that is contaminated from careless handling or otherwise."

The control of milk, he said, was provided for in the Milk and Dairies Act of 1935, and the regulations made thereunder, and an amending Bill was at present before the Dail which, if enacted, would improve this control in a number of respects.

The Minister said that it was the policy of his Department, and of the Department of Agriculture, to foster the sale of pasteurised milk, as they took the view that, until such time as bovine tuberculosis and other diseases transmissible to human beings are eradicated from our dairy herds, adequate pasteurisation of milk was the best safeguard against the spread of disease from these sources.

This was not to suggest that non-pasteurised milk was necessarily unsafe in itself. Indeed, the ideal was that milk should be produced from graded and disease-free herds, carefully handled and placed on the market, cooled and bottled in its raw state.

Mr. M. Mullally, Chairman of the Milk Board, said that the object of the Milk Week was to widen the general appreciation of milk in different forms and to illustrate the many useful and economic recipes in which it could

be utilised.

The daily consumption of milk in Dublin, he said, had risen from 38,000 gallons in 1936 to 68,000 gallons in 1955. That worked out at an average consumption of .7 pints per head.

Also present were the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. R. Briscoe, T.D., and Mr. J. J. Hill.

The cookery demonstrations were conducted by Mrs. Anthony from 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. each day of the week.

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Over 400 Guilds Have Been Founded in Nineteen Years

NINETEEN years ago the first Guild of Muintir na Tire was founded in the parish of Tipperary. Since then the Movement has spread into almost every County in Ireland, and more than 400 Guilds have been established. For some years Canon Hayes had felt the need of some organisation to handle the problems of rural Ireland. His first experiment dealt with co-operative societies, but he knew that his Movement must make a wider appeal, and be open to all dwellers in rural areas; it must include the labouring and professional classes as well as the farmers.

Expansion

Early in 1937, there was one Guild of Muintir na Tire in existence. In September of that year at the Rural Week in Colaiste Deuglan, Ardmore, fifty Guilds were represented. Rural Weeks have been held every year since, with an increase each time in the number of Guilds and the spread of the Movement throughout the four provinces.

In order to understand Muintir na Tire, we must visit the Guilds, and see what activities take place through the length and breadth of the country. Guild Secretaries are requested to furnish a yearly report on the work done in their parishes, and one is amazed by the diversity of the projects undertaken. These reports are published in the monthly paper, the Landmark, and in summarized form in the yearly publication called Rural Ireland.

Objectives

What are the activities of Muintir na Tire's Parish Guilds? The objectives are fourfold: (1) Social, (2) educational, (3) economic, and (4) recreational. The first objective is social, which aims at bringing the people together to ensure harmony and co-operation among them. Parish Halls have been built where people can meet and discuss their work, and the problems arising from it. Social functions are organised, and all members of the parish get to know one another and the idea of parish unity is realised. In these halls lectures are organised, and short courses in agriculture, and improved methods of farming. Classes are held in domestic economy, woodwork, arts and crafts. Summer Schools were set up, where short courses and lectures are given. Security and material betterment are the results of these efforts.

Parish Plan

In the economic sphere every possible effort is made for drainage, reclamation of land, afforestation, and the trial of new and better methods for agriculture. The special scheme known as the Parish Plan for Agriculture has been brought about by Muintir na Tire, and has been declared by a group of international experts as the most progressive step in the improvement of Agricultural Advisory Work in Europe to-day. This Plan brings the Department of Agriculture to the farmer's door.

Ireland is an agricultural country. Our survival as a nation depends on it. In the Parish Plan for Agriculture, Advisers are appointed in rural areas to be a constant help to the farmer in his everyday needs. There is also a scheme for supplying hot dinners to old and needy people in urban areas, and this has done much to keep sickness at bay, and ensure the well-being of an important section of our people—the poor. The Women's Section take care of this work by voluntary labour in the running of restaurants.

Our fourth objective is recreation. Rural Ireland is catered for by playing fields, where our youth can become proficient in the national games. Dramatic and musical societies are organised, and each year latent talent is discovered and developed amongst our youth. Ceilidhes are run, and card games, table tennis tournaments, and also inter-Guild concerts and question-times.

Rural Week is held each year where representatives of the Parish Guilds meet and discuss their activities and plans for the coming year. As Canon Hayes describes it: "Rural

Week now serves a double purpose, as a platform from which we address the general public, and as a formal Congress for our own members." At every Rural Week the Movement has shown greater strength, and now Muintir na Tire has penetrated into practically every County in Ireland.

There are two publications sponsored by Muintir na Tire. The first to be produced was the annual called the "Handbook," now known as "Rural Ireland." This has appeared each year since 1941. The second publication is the monthly journal, the "Landmark," which gives up-to-date accounts of the activities of the

Parish Guilds.

Muintir na Tire is a movement, not an organisation. It brings people together as families and member of the parish, and it succeeds by vocational councils in voicing the opinion of every man. As a community movement it must interest itself in every aspect of human life, and the claims of each section will ultimately be considered in the light of the community welfare. When a Parish Council meets, it represents all the people, and no class is excluded. This gives the parish and the nation security and peace.

Bail o Dhia ar an saothar uilig.

Are The Irish Really Vanishing?

"Yes," says Rev. Dr. J. A. O'Brien

GUEST of honour at a luncheon given by the Executive of Muintir na Tire in Limerick was Rev. Dr. John A. O'Brien, of the University of Notre Dame, editor of the best-selling book, "The Vanishing Irish."

Speaking at the function, Dr. O'Brien said that "The Vanishing Irish" was designed to focus attention on the strange phenomena of a dwindling population in Ireland for more than 100 years.

Yet it endeavoured, he said, to diagnose the fundamental causes of such alarming decrease in population and to stimulate the launching of constructive measures to stem the haemorrhage in the form of yearly emigration of 40,000 young men and women of Ireland, which was sapping the life blood of the nation.

LATENESS OF MARRIAGE
Secondly, he went on, it focussed attention upon the abnormally small number of marriages and the lateness of these marriages.

The book underlined the fact that Ireland has the dubious distinction of having the highest number of bachelors of any nation in the civilised world, plus the fact that, when the few marry, they do so at an unusually late age in comparison with other countries, Rev. Dr. O'Brien said.

The book also stressed the importance of the meeting, in rural life, of young men and women so that they will be encouraged to remain on the land. ("The Landmark," Oct., 1956).

"No," says Dr. R. C. Geary

"EVEN under the shadow of the showing of the latest Census I repeat what I said some years ago to Rev. Dr. John A. O'Brien and his collaborators, the Irish are not vanishing."

This has been stated by Dr. R. C. Geary, Director, Central Statistics Office.

Dr. Geary said that in comments on the 1956 Census results the old but very specious fallacy about the value of an emigrant had been exhumed again recently — the argument that an emigrant costs £1,000 to rear; that there were 40,000 emigrants a year, and therefore the capital loss was £40 million a year.

This argument, said Dr. Geary, was refuted 15 years ago in the Statistical Society; was unanimously respected by the Population Commission, and no economist or demographer in Ireland accepted it.

EMIGRATION

Dr. Geary said that Ireland always had a strongly positive natural population increase — excess of birth over deaths.

Since the beginning of the 19th century we had always had a large net emigration. During the past 100 years the populations of most European countries had doubled and the population of Ireland had halved.

The predominant and determining cause of Ireland's entirely exceptional trend since the Famine had been emigration.

(Courtesy "The Landmark.")

A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE

IN the year 1741 many an Irish landowner was faced with ruin, because in that year, under the Penal Laws, Irishmen were deprived of their lands. Timothy Mahony, a Kerry man, was no exception, and by the loss of his lands he was forced to leave his native county and seek a new life in Cork.

It was with a heavy heart he bade farewell to his old home and took the road to Cork. As a man who was always on the lookout for opportunities he started a small mill at Glanmire, for the manufacture of cloth, under the title—Mahony & Sons, Wollen Merchants and Manufacturers.

Thus was born the firm, that two hundred years later, would have grown up at Blarney, under Martin Mahony & Bros., Ltd. Owing to various difficulties at Glanmire, Mr. Mahony and his sons decided to move across the Lee to Rochestown. However, this site too proved unsuitable and the firm moved to Blackpool on the northern side of the city.

For fifty years the mill prospered and the fine quality cloths produced became known throughout the land and there was a steady and increasing demand for them. This, of

course, necessitated expansion, which in the surroundings, was well high impossible.

In the year 1822 a suitable site was procured in the picturesque village of Blarney. On this new site a modern premises was built and the new mills were opened in 1824.

Everything went smoothly for forty-three years, until one night the dreaded cry "Fire! Fire!" rent the air. It was only too true, for seven hours later only the main walls were standing. What a blow to the firm, and to the workers who depended solely on the Mills for a livelihood.

The work of rebuilding was soon under way and the new Mills were completed in three years. Today the extensive buildings stand out as a monument to those who many years before refused to accept defeat. Over seven hundred people are employed at the present time in the manufacture, not only of worsted and wollen cloths, but also knitting wools and hosiery. The machinery and buildings are maintained to meet modern requirements and the tweeds, knitting wools and hosiery offered by the firm, are in keeping with the high standard maintained throughout the years.

The Chairman and Managing Director is Mr. E. T. Mahony, a direct descendant of the founder.



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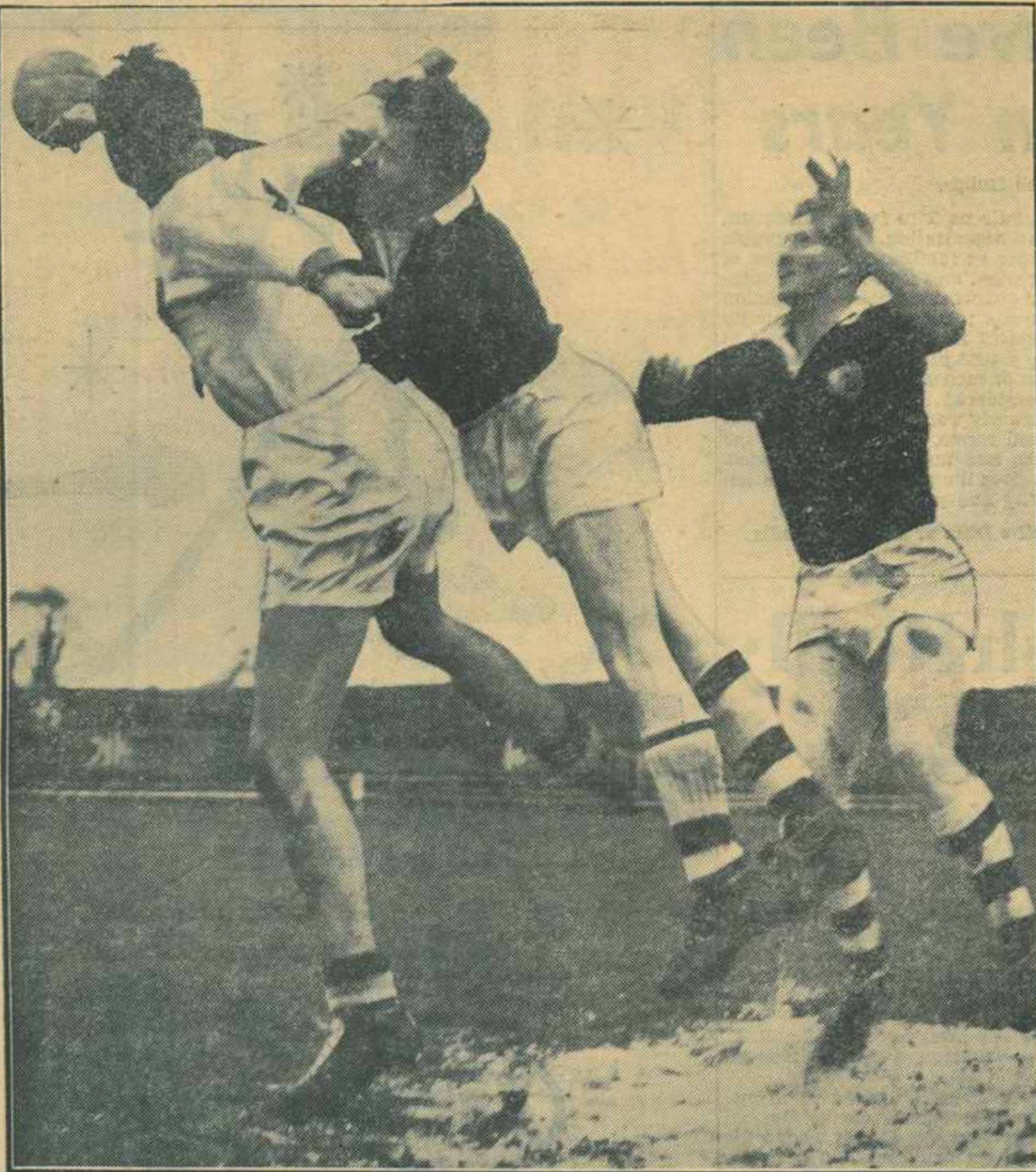
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ATHY



Galway goalkeeper, Jack Mangan, punches clear as Dan O'Neill (white jersey) endeavours to score for Louth in the National Football League tie at Ardee. On right is Gerry Daly, Galway's full-back. Galway won 3-6 (15); 0-8.

(By courtesy "Irish Independent")

A Munster Double?

BY SEAN O'NEILL

ALTHOUGH LACKING THE SPLENDOUR AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF AN ALL-IRELAND FINAL, THE ST. BRENDAN CUP FINALS TO BE PLAYED THIS YEAR IN NEW YORK, MUST HOLD AN EQUAL IF NOT GREATER ATTRACTION TO THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES.

This year more than ever before, the race for those plane tickets assures us of some hectic struggles in the next few months.

In both codes the duel for top honours is sure to be keen with Galway, Kerry, Dublin, Cavan,

Leitrim, Meath, Tyrone and Louth still in the running in the football and Tipperary and Kilkenny the hurling hopefuls.

Personally, I am expecting a Munster double with Kerry topping the football and Tipperary the hurling.

BACK TO FORM

The Kingdom seem to be back in great form. In their recent clash with All-Ireland finalists Cork they looked a very capable team indeed although missing Lyons, Sean Murphy and Tom Moriarty.

Their victory was more meritorious when one considers the Cork scoring spree against Kildare two weeks before.

This was said to be Cork's true form and their supporters were loud in claiming that had Galway been their opponents the result would have been no different. Against Kerry Cork had no answer and although never league specialists, I expect that the New York trip will be sufficient incentive to the Kerry men to continue their quest for 'home honours' in top gear.

All-Ireland champions Galway and Tyrone will probably be Kerry's greatest dangers but, as each of these prefer a dry pitch and the likelihood of dry pitches in the next few months is rather small, I must take Kerry to triumph.

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Christmas Greetings

IN anxious days not even the shadows of disaster or the uncertainty of events can darken the joyful coming of another Christmas.

The deep significance of the Feast's recurring awakens in us all the chord of common brotherhood; and, if for sportsmen it is a time of rest from sterner striving, it is, too, a time when family and friends renew old pledges, old loyalties.

To all our friends, who through the year have given us encouragement and support, we offer our best wishes, for happiness, prosperity and for a share of all the good things that this Holy Season promises.

To all our readers, our advertisers, our contributors, to all lovers of our national games at home and abroad, we wish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

APPRECIATION

WHEN all the clamour of victory had died down in Wexford after their senior hurlers retained their All-Ireland crown, the people of Pearse Road, Enniscorthy, joined together and as a token of appreciation for their most-honoured citizen they presented Art Foley with an 8-day chiming clock.

The presentation was made on behalf of the local residents by DENIS DOYLE, Wexford representative at the Central Council.

Here is The Spirit That Makes Champions

By CRAOBH RUADH

CROKE Park, nerve-centre of Gaelic Ireland, has once more hit the headlines by General Secretary Pdraig O Caoimh's announcement that this coming Spring will see the beginning of the end of the long-term reconstruction plan. There are, indeed, few Irishmen who have not warmed to the Croke Park thrill; few who have not felt their pulse quicken to the hush of the National Anthem on All-Ireland Final day.

Yet, some weeks ago came a greater thrill—to me, at any rate—in a most unexpected place, which set me thinking that the G.A.A. has thousands of greater monuments than gigantic, majestic Croke Park.

Stone-ditches, bare hills, a bleak wind; not a very imposing picture, yet it was all that met the eye as one wandered along a bye-road on the Fermanagh-Tyrone border last week.

Just as I passed the little Post Office, I was attracted by the shouts of some boys kicking a ball in a field alongside a little grey school.

As I came nearer I met some more boys carrying spades, shovels, scythes and grapes. I stopped for a chat and they told me that they were trying to drain their football field before the winter rains finished their athletic activities for the year.

INTERESTED

I was interested and followed the youngsters over the barbed wire fence only to bog my feet down in soaking moss.

The boys trudged cheerily on and I followed rather gingerly until we reached dry ground. Curiosity got the better of the footballers' shyness and most of the boys gathered round to talk freely.

They told me how a team from the area had this year played in Fermanagh Junior football competitions for the first time in many years; that hurling had been played there fifty years ago, that they hoped to win the Fermanagh Schoolboys' Championship next

year. From there they went on to show how they had turned, what many had called a swamp, into a fairly playable football field.

Rushes had been moved, drains opened rough, goalposts set up, a ball and fifteen jerseys purchased and most of the boys had bought their own football boots and togs.

They told me how the teachers and local G.F.C. had co-operated to run a four team league in the school and how a team from the area had been beaten in all its three competitive matches this season.

THE FUTURE

As they talked of their future I could see their little park taking shape before my eyes just as it did before theirs. I saw they had the determination to place another flag in the map of athletic prowess.

Half an hour later as I waved good-bye and left the bare hills, and the stone ditches of Coa behind me, I felt deeply moved as I reflected on what I had seen and heard.

There are thousands of little "Caos" all over Ireland and I thought to my-self that in these little places is to be found the power and strength of our association.

Again I thought, Croke Park has indeed given me great moments in life, yet, if I were asked when was I most proud to be a member of the G.A.A. I would say it was on that November day in 1956.

Architectural achievement is one thing but let us never forget that intensity of spirit, human endeavour and lasting idealism achieve everlasting greatness.

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SEAN O'CALLAGHAN says..

THE National Hurling and Football Leagues have only been in operation for a little over a month, and in that short space of time both of the holders, Wexford (hurling) and Cork (football) have been beaten, and their prospects for an American trip can be ruled out so far as these competitions are concerned.

How, one may ask, did this state of affairs come about so quickly. Well, in the first instance, there appears to have been undue haste in putting the leading teams into opposition at the outset.

Decisions have been reached which in ordinary circumstances would have been due around next spring. Consequently, what would have remained an open issue has become a closed book already.

The rules of the "St. Brendan Cup" competition preclude teams leaving this country for America in a year that the cup series is played.

Ruled Out

Wexford and Cork as the All-Ireland finalists have been invited to New York in the Spring of 1957. When permission was sought from the Central Council for the teams to travel, the President, Mr. McFerran had to rule the applications out of order.

The grounds were that tours could not be sanctioned in a St. Brendan's Cup year. The members of the Council were most sympathetic but were tied by the rules.

It seems, however, that there is a way out and that Congress will be specially convened in January to decide whether the tour will be permitted or not.

One Congress decision can only be upset by a decision of a similar body. As the annual congress next



Kevin Heffernan (D.) beating P. Kavanagh (W.) for possession in the Dublin v Wicklow National League tie.

Easter, would be too late to deal with the application.

Keen Competition

The present league winners in both hurling and football, will make the New York trip next autumn, and for that reason competition is particularly keen.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in the Dr. Lagan Cup series, where the issue now rests between Tyrone and Derry.

All the great work and preparations made by Monaghan went awry. The Monaghan men had their chance at Ballybay, and let it slip.

Tyrone and Derry are old foemen and when the teams meet on Dec. 9th at Lurgan, there should be a wonderful game with so much at stake.

Many of the Tyrone supporters were talking in terms of a New York

Leitrim Shine

Division II of the competition brings new contenders to the forefront in Leitrim, who never previously showed up so prominently as they have on this occasion. Having played two games and won each, they stand on the same level as Cavan and Meath.

It's rather surprising to see a county like Mayo without points. In the not-too-distant past they were the league specialists. They may put in a challenge later that will do damage and crush the hopes of Cavan or Meath.

To my way of thinking, however, the issue may rest between Cavan and Leitrim, although Meath may be in the running as well.

Of the seven counties that comprise Division III, four may be ruled out, Wicklow, Roscommon, Laois and Offaly. The issue, therefore, rests between Dublin Galway and Louth, the former pair are unbeaten while Louth are minus a point.

A decision may have been reached between Galway and Louth before these notes appear, but one way or another I fancy Galway and Dublin to be the two counties concerned in the fight for Divisional honours.

Kerry Fancied

The victory of Kerry over Cork puts an end to the latter's hopes of either retaining the title or being concerned in the finish.

Kerry have only one game to play — they meet Kildare at the latter's home venue. To Judge by the manner in which Cork tumbled the Kildare men recently, Kerry can easily be taken to reach the semi-final.

As a matter of fact they will have a qualifying test as they must meet either Clare or Tipperary in a divisional play-off (but that should be no bother to them).

The position so far as the hurling league is concerned appears to be heading for a Kilkenny v Tipperary decider, unless Clare can do something out of the ordinary when they meet Tipperary and Dublin likewise when they face Kilkenny. These, however, will be after Christmas affairs.

There are, of course, a few outside possibilities such as either Waterford or Dublin lowering the Kilkenny colours; if such a thing happened Cork would come right bang back again and the competition would be opened up again.

RAFFLE

THE Committee of the Countess Markievicz Memorial Park, Sligo, are running a raffle to raise funds for further improvements to their park. This is an object which is worthy of every Gael's support.

Centre Half Back Is Vital Position

(By PEADAR BYRNE).

WHAT IS THE MOST VITAL POSITION ON THE FIELD IN GAELIC FOOTBALL OR HURLING? A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

Yes, I thought so, too. Is there an answer? No doubt it could be the subject for endless argument, so I suppose I'm sticking my neck out a mile when I say that centre half-back is the most important man in both games. Ridiculous? Yes, that's what I thought you'd say.

Anyway, I've reasoned it out to my own satisfaction; see how much you agree with me.

Some will say that midfield matters most; others think that without a good full-back a team cannot succeed. In fact you will probably find that every position on the field has its champions.

I think that the argument can be limited to centre-half back, midfield, and centre-half forward. In modern times these have become the key positions.

Recall the great figures who have practically controlled games from the "40" yards mark—Padraic Carney, Mick Higgins, Olly Freaney, and, of course, Sean Purcell. And whose job is it to mark these will-o'-the-wisp stars? The centre-half back.

Then we had great midfielders in John Dowling (Kerry), Sean Moore and Eric Ryan (Cork), John Nallen (Mayo); in hurling, Phil Shanahan (Tipperary), Willie Walsh (Kilkenny), Seamus Hearne, are men who have played decisive roles in the centre of the field.

All very important, but take away the solid, constructive centre half-back and see how the midfielders and back row defence men will get on.

Our No. 6 jersey is the man who is ideally positioned for both defence and attack. Much depends on his clearances, because accurate placing of them can relieve the rest of the defence by sending the forwards off in the search of scores.

Another factor which adds to our centre half-back's importance is the decline in the art of high catching, especially at midfield. His vigilance will often be rewarded by the carelessly fielded ball.

Surely, too, his task of watching the "40" man is the toughest on the field, because very often the centre half-forward is the most dangerous man on the opposing team.

All things considered then, I think I am quite justified in nominating the centre half-back as the most important man in hurling or football. Nonsense you say! Well let's hear your views.

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VOLUNTEERS SHOULD HOLD THEIR OWN

MATCHES in this season's Louth Junior Championship and MacArdle Cup competition, provided more exciting fare than any other grade of football. Gate receipts, too, on the whole, were bigger than for most senior, second Division, and minor games.

The Junior Championship went to Volunteers, while the MacArdle Cup was won by Roche Emmets, the runners-up being, Roche and Geraldines, respectively.

The hard-hitting "Vols" side should hold their own in the premier grade in the coming year, especially if former County and Provincial star, Jimmy McDonnell, can maintain present form.

Former St. Bride's player, Paddy Hughes, now Secretary of the "Vols", and a great club-man says that with a strengthening in a few positions, they will be a match for the best.

* * *

The annual Convention takes place in Ardee, on Sunday, January 20, starting at 1.30.

* * *

Oliver Plunkets, Drogheda, sustained a loss in the departure to England of Steve Dempsey. Steve had been playing particularly well this season, and was included in the list of twenty-one players from which the County team was picked to play Roscommon in the League.

* * *

A stalwart player of the Mattock Rangers (Collon) team, Jimmy Reilly, is presently with Parnells, Dublin, and commands a regular place on the senior team. Jimmy thinks that he can regain his place on the County side next year.

* * *

The stylish displays given by the Dunleer team in winning the Mid-Louth Schools' competition, augurs well for the future of football in the area. They went through the campaign without defeat. The brothers, Tom (Sonny), Noel and Tony Dunne, who gave very fine service all year to Lennaire, are sons of a former Hinchestown footballer, Matty Dunne, Mountainstown, Dunleer.

* * *

Father Jim Conlon, one of the famed Stabannon brothers has turned out with the Cork team in New York, during the past few months.

* * *

How many senior clubs will we have in Louth next year? There are quite a number of G.A.A. followers who think that the number should be cut down, and that the rather poor form early in the season of the Co. fifteen can be attributed to the fact that some sides were not experienced enough to present worthwhile opposition to teams such as St. Mary's (champions for the past two years), Strabannon Parnells, Young Irelands, Gaels, Naomh Mhuire, etc.

* * *

Young Irelands' keeper, Sean Og Flood, is eldest son of Louth's very able Central and Leinster Council delegate, Seamus Flood. One of his brightest displays was against St. Mary's in the Old Gaels' Cup (1956) competition, at the Grove, Castlebellingham.

Great Record

Few teams can boast of a record like that of Wexford Senior Hurling Champions, St. Aidan's, who, in the last seven years have won six senior titles, four hurling and two football titles.

This has been done, believe it or not, without any kind of training pitch. Surely a great achievement and one which must prove sufficient incentive for the Gaels of Inis Cortaig to do something about providing a pitch.

There was a great revival of interest in Camogie in County Louth this year, and the fact that the County side was well and truly beaten by Dublin in the Provincial Final at Paire na Chuinnigh, has not dampened enthusiasm one bit.

Handball was another sport in which "Wee County" folk took a keen interest. Joey Maher, St. Mary's, Drogheda, by winning three All-Irelands, gave a great fillip to the game.

Although Peter McArdle, the County's best ever middle-distance runner is now in the States, Louth should still do well at next year's N.A.C.A. meetings. Most interest is likely to centre on Tony Murphy, the very promising Dundalk sprinter.

Great Come-back

The spectacular resurgence of Kilkenny is being accepted by many as a sure pointer to League hurling honours but I prefer Tipperary's chances, that is if the Premier County men can account for Clare, whom they meet in the New Year.

Speaking to the Tipp. team prior to their game with Galway some weeks back, Co. Secretary Phil Purcell pointed out that this was the first National League that from the word 'go' they knew for sure that the winners were bound for New York.

On previous occasions, he said, the year had to wait until the campaign was halfway through before things were definite. If every player pulled his weight and trained hard he was confident that Tipp would be the team to leave Shannon Airport.

Team captain, Micky Byrne, also expressed similar views and said he would be glad to give his four All-Ireland medals for this trip and he felt sure that he was voicing the sentiments of all the hurlers.

Clare could be the dark horse of the League, but it is unlikely. With an almost new fifteen they have had rather insignificant wins over Antrim and Westmeath. The new blood though is sure to improve and prove the means of a great will to win.

As I see it, it will be a Tipperary v. Kilkenny home final with the more seasoned Tipp. fifteen coming through.

News Flashes From Leinster

MICK MORRISSEY, Wexford's Carlow-born hurling star is going into the Gents' Outfitting business in South Street, New Ross. His many friends wish him luck. Mick was presented with an electric shaver by the people of New Ross. Rev. Fr. Power, O.S.A., made the presentation.

* * *

Rev. Fr. Francis Codd, O.S.A., who left New Ross last week for Australia, is a brother of Martin Codd, the Rathnure and Wexford hurler. Before coming to New Ross, some years ago, Fr. Codd was attached to the O.S.A. house in Carlisle.

* * *

Congratulations to Tullamore Harriers A.C., on a most successful season. As well as capturing many Offaly titles, their athletes were prominent in other open events and M. McDonagh brought honour to his county by winning the Leinster Junior cross-country championship.

This Stadium Is First-Class

BY CAM. COR.

ONE of the most progressive grounds in the country is the O'Connor Park, Tullamore. Since it was opened, the Tullamore club has spared no effort to make the ground a really first-class stadium capable of housing big games.

A new extension to the sideline is being constructed and will be named Cloonan Terrace in memory of the late Stephen Cloonan, former county secretary. It is hoped that the extension will be opened and blessed early in the New Year.

All these improvements have been financed by the people of Tullamore and surrounding districts and it is to their credit that although no big honours have come Offaly's way they are giving the younger generation every opportunity of doing great things for their county in the future.

Big Game Venue

I only hope that next time venues are being selected for the closing games of the Leinster Championships that those responsible will remember O'Connor Park.

The park is but a few minutes walk from the centre of Tullamore and has ample parking space for cars.

Much of the credit for selecting such an ideal site is due in no small way to men like the late Stephen Cloonan, the late John Condon, former county councillor and Roddy O'Brien, present County Secretary.

To finish I will but quote Micheal O Hehir in a recent broadcast from Tullamore: "This park, with its excellent facilities, is one of the finest I have ever been in".

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A NOBLE GESTURE

LONGFORD Slashers' Club have made a gesture which should send a thrill of pride running through their countymen and which should be a shining example for the rest of the nation.

Since September, the club has been looking forward to and busily planning for a big Christmas dinner for club members. But at a recent meeting of the club the members unanimously decided to sacrifice the function and to contribute the funds which had been collected to the Hungarian Relief Fund. A truly noble act.

A Big Question For The Monaghan Fans

(By GAELIC ECHO REPORTER)

THE thorough trouncing which Tyrone gave Monaghan in the Lagan Cup, Section B decider, has set Monaghan fans thinking furiously. The big question is: Should the county concentrate on remaining in junior grade for championship purposes or should they venture into senior ranks?

Before their match with Tyrone, most Gaels in Monaghan would have unhesitatingly voted for going all-out for senior honours next year; now their judgment has been tempered by this rather heavy defeat and they are inclined to the view that the county would have a better chance of high honours in the junior grade.

The "wise old owls" will, of course, maintain a "we told you so" attitude. They have argued all the time that big-time success does not come overnight, and that juniors aspiring to senior championships must be handled with care and patience. After all, they say, wouldn't it be worth a lot of waiting to win even an Ulster Championship.

Most Monaghan folk will agree with the shrewd views of the old-timers but I think that it depends on the clubs, mentors and followers, whose enthusiasm can carry the county on to further success, or whose lack of it can plunge the county back into obscurity.

Undoubtedly, there is a movement afoot at present to stir up in-

terest in the parish clubs. If this is successful and if an intelligent programme of training is drawn up Monaghan can look forward to a prosperous future.

Although disappointed with the team's showing against Tyrone, County Board Chairman Michael Duffy, vice-chairman Fr. Kirke, and team trainer Fr. McCormack, are still full of hope.

As for the team itself, they are even more determined to succeed now and it is a freely expressed sentiment throughout the county that any lesser county than the Ulster champions would have been beaten.

A New Club

RECENTLY formed North Louth N.A.C.A. Club, Setanta, created a major surprise when they captured the team award in the county novice cross-country championships held at Dowdallshill two weeks ago. There was a huge entry for the event, a total of 106 runners. The first man home was Peter Stewart of the Lourdes Club, Drogheda, with T. Mulholland of Setanta second. The other members of the Setanta Club were: M. Cluskey, B. Kirke, J. Mulholland, J. Kieran and G. Carragher.



Big Re-Union In County Down

The Silver Jubilee of the "John Martin" G.F.C., Glenn, was the occasion for a great re-union Supper at which past and present players and members met. The Club was founded in mid-November 1931, by Louis E. Trodden, M.A., P.T., then a teacher in the parish.

The re-union supper was the first of a series of entertainments, which lasted for a whole week, and ended with a monster Cellidhe Mhor. Congratulations Glenn.

* * *

Father Jack Shortt, Newry, who was recently ordained was a former captain of the Down Senior County team. He has left to take up his priestly duties in New Zealand, and was the recipient of a handsome presentation at a farewell supper, prior to his departure. With him go the best wishes of all the Gaels in Down.

All The Clubs Were Present

DELEGATES from all Ulster clubs were present at the Ulster N.C.A. annual convention held recently in the Foresters' Hall, Dungannon. Present at the meeting were Mr. J. J. Killeen, Mr. Frank Baird and Mr. Tom McGovern, of the National Executive. In his report, Mr. P. J. Logan, secretary, said that the standard of cycling was very high in the province at the moment and during the year they had some very fine performances by members of Ulster clubs. They were in the happy position, he said, of having a choice of two or three meetings every weekend.

The officers elected for the coming years were: President, Mr. C. J. McGreevy; Vice-Presidents, Mr. M. Long, J. Hackett, M. Sands, M. O'Neill, P. Hughes and D. McGurk. General Secretary, Mr. P. J. Logan. Registrar, J. Hackett. Treasurer, Mr. J. McIvor. Road Secretary, Mr. J. McGreevy.

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They Shall Not Pass . . .

—So it would appear is the disposition of the Monaghan goalkeeper in the Lagan Cup game against Tyrone.

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St. Macartan's is the Nursery for Monaghan Football

By C. M. McNamara

ANY REFERENCE TO MONAGHAN'S GAELIC ATHLETIC TRADITION WITHOUT MENTION OF ST. MACARTAN'S SEMINARY IS INCOMPLETE. DURING RECENT YEARS, IN PARTICULAR, THE SEMINARY HAS BEEN THE NURSERY FOR THE CREAM OF MONAGHAN FOOTBALLERS.

Founded in 1840, the Diocesan Seminary of St. Macartan has long Gaelic football traditions, though at one time cricket was the only field-game played there.

Association Football was introduced to the College playing fields in the 1890's but in 1917 Gaelic football was introduced into both Saint Macartan's and Saint Patrick's (Armagh), and ever since has been the game played by the students.

CARDINAL'S CUP

In 1924 Cardinal MacRory, who was then Bishop of Down and Connor, presented a cup for the annual Gaelic Football match be-

tween the two seminaries, which by now was a feature of Ulster Colleges, having assumed the status of an Ulster College Competition.

St. Macartan's won the Cup for the first time in 1930, and again held it in the years 1932, 1933, and 1934. A period of six years without success elapsed, but in 1940, the centenary of the College foundation, the Seminary again captured the coveted trophy.

Linked with the development of Gaelic football in St. Macartan's are the names of Rev. Fr. L. Marron, now Adm. of Annyalla, Co. Monaghan; Rev. T. Molloy, Professor of Irish, St. Macartan's, Rev. P. Byrne, Professor of Mathematics and Science, Rev. P. Larkin, now C.C. Corracrin; and to-day Gaelic football is under the watchful eye of Rev. Fr. E. McCormack.

Since 1950, St. Macartan's has taken even keener interest in the game, and much of the credit for the current Monaghan revival goes to the Seminary.

DEFINITE PROGRESS

An improved football pitch has given better facilities for practice, and due to the fact that no other field-game is played there, the concentration on Gaelic football is beginning to pay rich dividends throughout the local clubs in Co. Monaghan.

At first the Cardinal MacRory Cup competition was a private one. Then in 1928, the colleges concerned, affiliated with the G.A.A.

Each year since 1928 marked the playing of the Inter-Provincial College Championship in which all four Provinces took part. In all these matches St. Macartan's men have played a prominent and worthy role.

Handball also holds an important place in the Seminary and the recent achievements of Messrs. Donal and Liam Hanley, both St. Macartan's students, go a long way to record the standard which the game has reached in the college.



LAGAN CUP: Tyrone v. Monaghan—O'Rourke (Monaghan) and Higgins (Tyrone) go up for a high ball.

Des O'Rourke For Belfast

QUEENS UNIVERSITY, Belfast, Gaelic football should benefit by the arrival there of the ex-St. Patrick's, Armagh, student Des O'Rourke, writes Craobh Ruadh.

Quiet, unassuming, Des is the type who gives much thought to the deeper principles of the association and likes to examine every move in an impartial critical manner.

A native of Roslea, Co. Fermanagh he has twice won senior championship medals with his home club. He has represented Armagh college for the past few seasons and was on the Ulster colleges inter-pro side last year.

However, Desmond's most notable contribution to the association is most likely to be his booklet entitled "Everybody's science of Gaelic Football."

One would never suspect that this book was written by a youngster, not out of his 'teen. Packed with useful tips on every aspect of the game it is written in a fine literary style and has nothing of the dullness one sometimes associates with such works.

Indeed in many places the author manages to reproduce much of the excitement that the game's highlights cause.

It is to be hoped that the Ulster Council which is at present reviewing the work with a view to publishing it, will give some encouragement to this young author.

Gaelic football is far too short of such works and I see this one if, published, being accepted as a standard text book by Ireland's youth. Indeed many teachers might find it a "God-send" when trying to encourage a more thoughtful approach to Gaelic games.

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Tyrone To Develop Rich Coal Mines

FOLLOWING a very successful year in the field of sport, Tyrone people are now looking forward to an achievement in the field of industry—Coal-mining at Conga outside Dungannon.

While coal-mining is nothing new in this area, the new development is likely to overshadow those of the past. New electrically-driven submergeable pumps will obviate the risk of water flooding in the mine. These pumps will throw up an average of 60,000 gallons an hour, which will flow through the townland stream to the River Blackwater and thence to Lough Neagh, causing no land flooding.

Many theories have been put forward as the causes for the closing down of the mines, but "one thing certain is that it was not the shortage of coal." This statement comes from 87-years-old James Donnelly, of Curran, Dungannon, in an interview with a "Gaelic Echo" correspondent.

Despite his years, Mr. Donnelly has a clear recollection of what happened until mining ceased. He was one of the first gang of men to work

in the mine when the shaft was sunk in 1891. There were over one hundred men employed. The depth was about 210 yards. A batch of four men were able to send up forty hutches a day and there were six or seven hundredweight in each hutch. The quality of this coal, said Mr. Donnelly, was equal to the best Scotch coal, and it was used by the local gas works, weaving factories and spinning mills in Dungannon and district.

Asked if he had any doubt as to the plentiful supply of coal there at present, Mr. Donnelly said there was no doubt whatever. All that is needed is a Company with the money to finance the work and provide the pumping machinery.

Mr. Peter McParland, a Dungannon man who has been connected with coal-mining in the district since his boyhood, states that the nine or ten miners now living in the district are fully convinced that huge coal deposits remain to be worked in the locality. There was, he said, a mining tradition in the district and that training centres would be set up early in the New Year.

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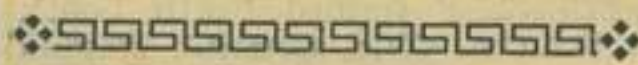
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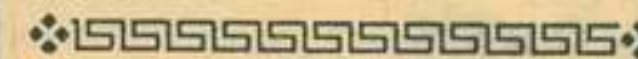
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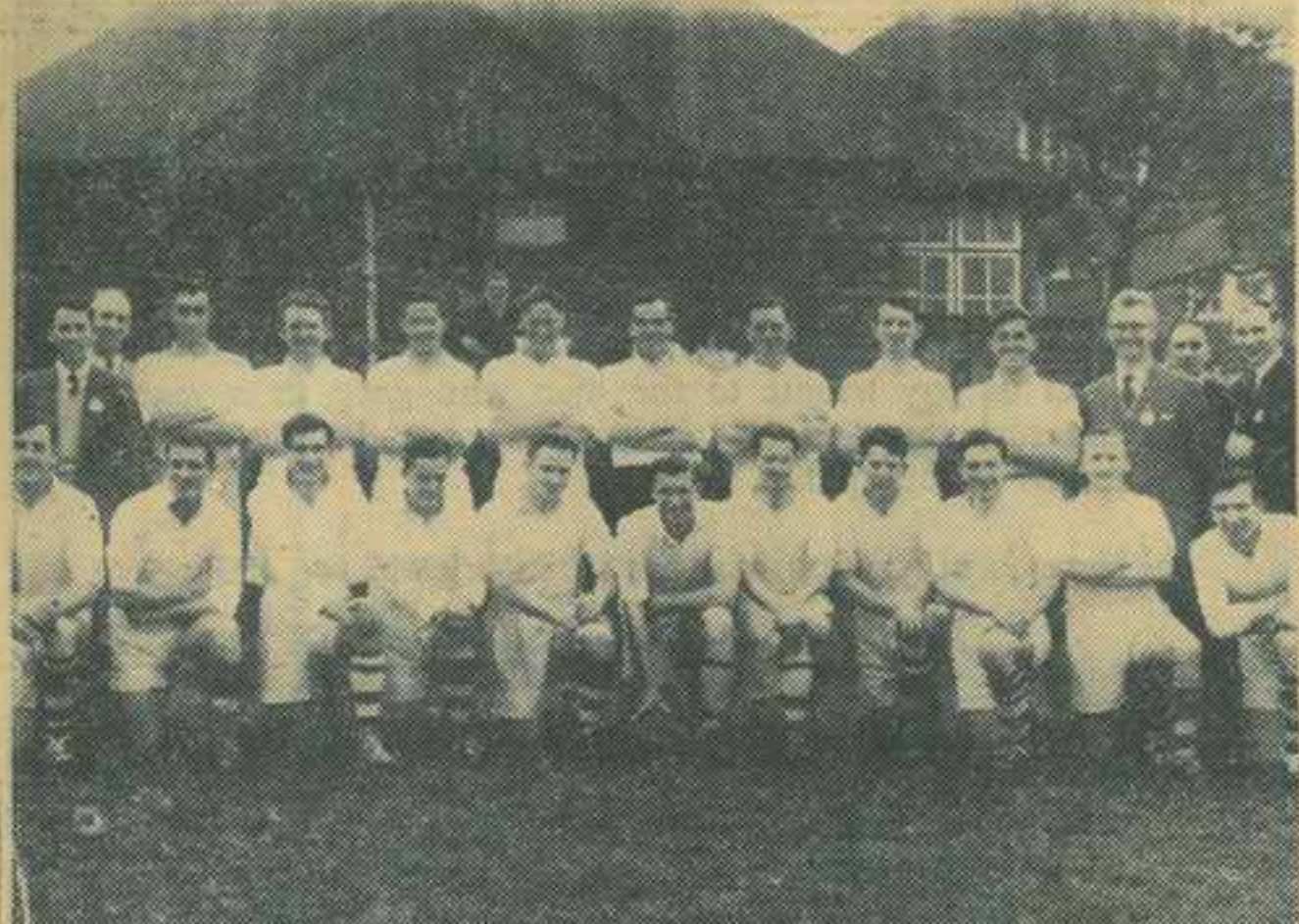
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Warwick's team which was defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland Junior Football Final at Glebe Farm, Birmingham, October, 1955. Front row (left to right): Bill Mannion (Galway), Mick Flaherty (Offaly), Jim Gately (Roscommon), Joe Johnson (Wicklow), Tony O'Neill (Donegal), Jim Wynne, Captain (Offaly), Pat Burke (Donegal), Paddy Halton (Cavan), Bill Maxwell (Donegal), Tom Quinn (Mayo), Mick Wynne (Offaly). Back row (left to right): Gerry Flanagan, Co. Secretary (Roscommon), Pat Tierney (Tyrone), Slector; Paddy Duggan (Antrim), J. Fitzpatrick (Monaghan), Charlie Deeny (Galway), Paddy Murphy (Roscommon), Dan McMahon (Limerick), Joe Turner (Mayo), Bob Malone (Kerry), Paddy Flynn (Armagh), Martin Langdon, Trainer (Galway), Chris Holden, Board Chairman.



Warwickshire Senior Hurling Champions, St. Finbarr's of Coventry.

Two New Club Names on Roll of Honour

Is the roll of honour, in so far as the 1956 senior hurling and football championships are concerned, to have two new club names added to its list? That is the question most London gaelis are asking when they meet. Young Irelands, the south-east London club have already taken the senior hurling title for the first time despite the presence in the competition of such bemedalled clubs as Brian Borus, Bros. Pearse and Cuchulains. By the end of November or early December the wearers of the 1956 football crown will be known. Of the three clubs now left to fight out the final stages, two of them, Garryowen and St. Josephs are seeking their first title. The third team in the race are the reigning champions Naomh Mhuire who are centred, mainly in the Kilburn area and who face their Ealing counterparts, St. Josephs, in the second semi-final. Both teams are drawn mainly from Kerry players and as a result favour the catch and kick methods so characteristic of their native Kingdom. In the challengers last outing they failed to impress sufficiently enough to suggest that they can conquer the '55 champions who still have the regular players at their disposal who have given them such good service over the past two years. Incidentally their only defeat during that period was at the hands of Shamrocks early this year who swept all before them to win London's first senior title of the season—the Tipperary Cup.

Greatest Hour

If London is to have newly crowned champions the team regarded most likely, or indeed likely to succeed are the red jerseyed Garryowens.

They had their greatest hour when winning their way to the final against the much fancied Shamrocks in the first semi-final. The star-studded Shamrock side included three players, Kit Carroll, Frank Keenan and John Fay, all

of whom flew home to assist their native Wicklow in the Leinster championships last May as well as four others. Sean Mulderrig, Michael Vesey, Edmond Nealon and James Kilbane who were members of the London team which went under to Monaghan at Carrickmacross in the All-Ireland junior final. They were the team which was best fancied and which the champions, Naomh Mhuire, probably feared most. Had they been successful against Garryowen they would still, no doubt, be hot favourites to win the coveted crown of '56, but now that Garryowen have passed on opinion seems to be evenly divided as to whether they can topple the '55 titleholders, should they meet in the final. They show a marked contrast in styles, Garryowen being the much faster side, in fact they are the fastest side in London and will in all probability outpace any opponents by yards. Yet unless their forwards resolve to playing more purposeful football than they did against Shamrocks the football honours list is not likely to have a new name inscribed on it for at least another year.

Mistaken Identity

The fan whose exclamation "Come on Mongey" at New Eltham on semi-final day was obviously not an inner circle Garryowen supporter for the player whose display delighted the fan in question was Vincent Gouldon (Mayo) whose receding hair must have been responsible for providing his sideline admirer with the befitting name.

HOLDERS FOR Twelfth Time

DUNGANNON Clarkes G.F.C., who defeated Clonoe O'Rahillys in the final of the Tyrone senior football championship (O'Neill Cup) at Pomeroy, are holders of the trophy for the twelfth time.

Improvements To Grounds

(From our Wexford Correspondent) WEXFORD Gaels and, indeed, those in other Leinster counties will welcome the news that the County Board are negotiating for the purchase of land adjoining the O'Kennedy Memorial Park, New Ross, for the purpose of providing new entrances.

It has been evident for some time now, especially when big crowds are present — the 16,000 who attended Wexford-Kilkenny is a recent example — that getting into and out of the ground was, as a tired follower put it after milling in the crowds for some time in an effort to get out of the ground: "a day's work in itself".

Should this project be completed, it would certainly relieve a lot of the congestion and inconvenience, and would bring back to use the old and very adequate entrance on the main New Ross — Ferrymount Garrett Road.

Other proposed improvements it is understood, include a further embankment and the erection of a stand.

Rest Needed

It is likely that the Wexford All-Ireland hurling team may not take part in any further games until the New Year, as after a very strenuous eighteen months playing practically every Sunday, through which some of their players sustained very nasty knocks, it is felt that the team require a much needed rest and considering that they have won within that time, the All-Ireland, Oireachtas and Walsh Memorial Cups as well as the National Hurling League, followers are anxious that the team should get a long break, so that they will be fresh for the new season's battles.

Consolation For Taras

Taras football mentors Tommy Cantillan, Kerry; Micky Lowry, Galway, and P. Lavelle, Sligo freely admit that their team this year is the best that has done duty for the club since it was formed in 1935. With a little more luck they might easily have won all three of London's senior titles this year. It was the flying Shamrock forwards which ousted them in the Tipperary Cup and championships and now that they have overcome that bogey in the league they are freely tipped to have a share in London's 1956 major titles.

Their team which includes Leitrim county man Joe Bohan, is mainly backboned by Galwegians V. Lynch capt. M. Lowry, Noel Cunningham, J. Broderick, and P. Roache.

Silver Jubilee

A WEEK'S festival, which ended with a ceili mor, marked the Silver Jubilee of the John Martin Gaelic Football Club, Glenn, Co. Down. The ceili was one of the most enjoyable for many a day in the county. Parties travelled to it from as far away as Dublin.

The club have also published a very fine booklet which tells the story of the native games in the parish over the past twenty-five years. It is really an ambitious effort for any club and the John Martin Club must be congratulated for their fine effort. Not alone is the booklet an item of interest to Co. Down Gaels, but it is one which all G.A.A. followers throughout the country could enjoy. Copies may be had by writing to the club secretary, Mr. Denis Smyth, Corgary, Jerrettspass, Newry, and the price is only 1/6d.

These Workers Are Volunteers

WORK is going apace in the erection of a new hall which is being built for the new boys' recreation club, sponsored by the local centre of St. Vincent de Paul, Dungannon. The boys themselves lend a helping hand in the work, which is entirely voluntary by local joiners, masons and bricklayers.

Chemistry Is His Career

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jody O'Neill, captain of the Tyrone team which reached the semi-final of the All-Ireland football championship, has taken up chemistry for a career and has entered a well-known firm of Pharmacists in Portadown to serve his apprenticeship.

TRIBUTE TO FR. RODGERS

IT was decided recently by Gloucester Gaels to make a presentation to Rev. Fr. G. Rodgers on the occasion of his departure from St. Peters, Gloucester to St. Mary's of Pin Hill, Swindon.

This presentation was made on Sunday evening November 11 at a big ceili in St. Peters Hall, Gloucester, following the county football final between St. Kierans, Bristol (3-8) and St. Patricks Gloucester (3-3).

The presentation was made on behalf of Irish friends in Glos. by Very Rev. M. Canon Roche, P.P., St. Peters, Gloucester who was introduced by Mr. Liam Griffin, Co. Secretary of the G.A.A.

Mr. Griffin opened by congratulating St. Kierans on their great win over St. Patricks in the county football final and said that general opinion had it that the game was one of the most sporting clashes between two excellent teams which had ever been witnessed in Gloucester.

He was proud, he said, to be associated with so sporting a body of men because by their display that day they had proved they were a credit to the G.A.A. and to the Irish nation as a whole. Now it was his very pleasant duty to ask Very Rev. Canon Roche to make, on behalf of Irish friends in Glos. a presentation of a car radio and a wallet of notes to Rev. Fr. G. Rodgers who was departing to St. Marys, Pin Hill, Swindon. Included in the presentation was a beautifully engraved folder listing the names of all those who subscribed to the presentation fund which was organised entirely by the St. Patricks G.A.A. Club.

All present, said Mr. Griffin, knew Fr. Rodgers without any introduction as he had lived and ministered among them for the last three years. Of all those present, however, he felt that perhaps the G.A.A. had a special reason to thank him because right from its inception he had taken a most keen interest in all their activities. He it was who had

founded the hurling club and indeed not alone in Gloucester itself but also in all other centres as well. By his own industriousness he had secured a permanent pitch from the City Council for the players and for that alone no presentation by the St. Patrick's Club would sufficiently express their gratitude to him. On behalf of all present said Mr. Griffin he wished to thank Fr. Rodgers for all he had done for the Irish in Gloucester and wished him success and God's blessing in his new parish.

Very Rev. Canon Roche, making the presentation, opened by expressing his heartiest congratulations to St. Kierans for their fine win that day. It was the second year they had brought off the double in football and it was a great pleasure to him to see these games played by the Irish boys far away from home and played in a manner that was a credit to us all.

Referring to the presentation to be made to Fr. Rodgers the Canon went on to say that it was a particularly pleasant and agreeable task to him to make this presentation on behalf of all present as he was quite aware personally of the great work which Fr. Rodgers had done during his stay in Gloucester for all the Irish boys and girls. He would wish Fr. Rodgers much happy listening and continued success in all his undertakings.

Rev. Fr. Rodgers in reply said that he found it very hard to express his feelings or the thoughts in his mind but that the predominant one was a feeling of his own unworthiness to be at the receiving end of this presentation. His interest in the G.A.A., however, had deeper motives than that of sport. It was, he believed, that whilst Irish boys and girls away from home had something of their native customs and pastimes to interest them they were more aware of other responsibilities much greater. This, said Fr. Rodgers, was the responsibility of the Catholic Faith.

From Longford

VERY Rev. J. C. Wall, Adm., Longford, presented the Canon Kearney Cup and medals to Saint Michael's school team at a pleasant function held in Longford's Temperance Hall recently.

Father Wall, who is Manager of the School, congratulated the boys on winning back the title after a lapse of 16 years. He paid tribute to Liam Glennon, N.T., who was mainly responsible for the team's success. It is worthy of note, continued Father Wall, that Mr. Glennon trained the team, which also won the title in 1940.

Master Harry Farrell, captain of the team, thanked Father Wall for coming along to present the cup and medals. He also thanked Mr. Glennon for his much needed assistance in helping them win the championship.

Longford Slashers club have also forwarded a subscription to the National Cycling Association to help in sending the Irish team to Melbourne for the Olympic Games.

Two Longfordmen figured on opposite sides in the All-Army Football Final recently. Cadet Jimmy Macken (Granard) was playing right full back for Military College, the winners, while Lieut. Jim Harold (Lanesboro') was at midfield for Eastern Command. Cadet Macken also won a Kildare Senior Football Championship medal with Military College this year. Both men are ex-St. Mel's footballers.

Congratulations to Padraig Gearty, on receiving his LL.B. degree at U.C.D. Padraig is a prominent member of Longford Slashers and U.C.D. clubs. He nows plays at midfield or full forward for Longford, but he was selected as goalkeeper on the Combined Universities team a few years back. He is a son of Mr. F. J. Gearty, solicitor and County Coroner, and Mrs. Gearty, Church Street, Longford.

Camogie clubs are active in Longford organising seven-a-side tournaments. The Killoe club have just completed a successful knock-out competition, Longford St. Ita's commence their tournament on December 2.

Mr. T. McLoughlin, Treasurer of the Mostrim club, received a presentation from his club prior to his departure for the U.S.A. recently. Tommy was not only a very efficient official, but was also a well-known player.

Longford Slashers club hold their Presentation Ceili on Sunday night, December 30. During this function the Senior Championship medals will be presented to the victorious team. The minor players will also receive their nine-a-side League trophies.

For the Club's second annual New Year Ceili on January 10, they have secured the services of the famous Gallowglass Ceili Band.

For the past three years the Carrickedmond club have been going great guns in Longford football. They entered a minor team in 1954 and won the minor championship.

The following year saw them take the Junior title which meant stepping up to Senior status.

Making their debut in Senior ranks this year they surprised everybody by winning the Senior League (Leader Cup). In their Senior Championship bid they lost narrowly in the first round to the eventual winners—Longford Slashers. Many of this year's team won minor honours in '54.

Carrickedmond's leading lights are John McGrath and former Multyfarnham College star, Sean Murray.

The late Alphonsus McCartan, Killeel, whose funeral took place a week ago was attached to the Detective Branch of the Garda. He served several terms of imprisonment on the Argenta and in Larne in 1922. He was a keen Gaelic footballer in his youth and played with the Young Emeralds F. C., Killeel.

Players from 29 Counties in the Championship

(By J. K. CLARKE).

WITH the playing of the last of the National Finals of the current Handball season comes an opportunity for reviewing performances. It has been a successful year, players from 29 counties taking part in the various provincial and Irish Championships.

Standard of play, speaking generally, was up to that of previous seasons, with an awakening of interest in the native or cracker-ball in Connacht, where provincial championships were arranged in junior and minor for the first time, resulting in the appearance of Western representatives in the corresponding All-Ireland series.

It now remains for Ulster to organise on a like basis, so that our dream of four-Province championships with the native ball will become a reality.

Wexford, Louth and Kilkenny

gained the lion's share of the championship honours, taking ten of the twelve titles between them, Kerry and Mayo sharing the other two.

Outstanding performers were the brilliant John Ryan of Wexford, who retained his senior softball singles title, and, with J. Doyle, also won the hardball doubles title. Ryan completed a wonderful record by beating the holder, A. Clarke of Dublin, in the hardball singles and winning the All-Ireland Gael Linn Cup, for which close on 200 competed.

MAHER BEST JUNIOR

Joe Maher, of Louth, proved the

best junior, taking three of the titles in the grade—the soft and hardball singles and, with J. McArdle, the hardball doubles.

Kilkenny swept the boards in the minor competitions, winning the four events, J. Murray and M. Sullivan each gaining three gold medals. Kilkenny also won the Tostal inter-provincial competition, the Delaney brothers coming out on top.

J. O'Brien and P. Downey, of Kerry, successfully defended their senior softball doubles crown against J. Ryan and J. Doyle, Wexford, in the decider, while E. Connolly, a former Ulster player, and J. Fleming credited Mayo with the junior softball doubles title.

Munster retained the All-Ireland Colleges' title, T. McGarry and C. Walsh, of Limerick C.B.S., proving victorious.

KINGSCOURT TOURNEY

T. Reilly and F. Confrey, of Louth, successfully defended in the annual tourney for the Brick Co. Challenge Cup at Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, beating the experienced F. Wyse and P. Shaughnessy in the final.

Tournaments continue to be run regularly amongst Gardai recruits at the Depot in Dublin, where splendid work is being done for the game.

LIST OF WINNERS.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:
Hardball—Senior: J. Ryan (Wexford). Doubles: J. Ryan and J. Doyle (Wexford). Junior: J. Maher (Louth). Doubles: J. Maher and J. McArdle (Louth). Minor: M. Sullivan (Kilkenny). Doubles: M. Sullivan and J. Murray (Kilkenny).
Softball—Senior: J. Ryan (Wexford). Doubles: P. Downey and J. O'Brien (Kerry). Junior: J. Maher (Louth). Doubles: E. Connolly and J. Fleming (Mayo). Minor: J. Murray (Kilkenny). Doubles: J. Murray and M. Sullivan (Kilkenny).

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES:
S.B.—T. McGarry and C. Walsh (Limerick C.B.S.).
Gael Linn (S.B.)—J. Ryan (Wexford).
An Tostal Shield (S.B.)—C. and J. Delaney (Kilkenny).

Kingscourt Cup Tournament (S.B.)
—T. Reilly and F. Confrey (Louth).

My Rating of Stars

(By MAC LUGHADHA).

WITH the conclusion of the All-Ireland Championships let us pay tribute to the men who gave us a year of pleasant surprises and of two of the most glorious finals in the annals of our native games.

Here is my rating of stars in each code for 1956:—

HURLING

1. CHRISTY RING (Cork).
2. NICK RACKARD (Wexford).
3. WILLIE RACKARD (Wexford).
4. ART FOLEY (Wexford).
5. SEAMUS RYAN (Limerick).
6. JIM ENGLISH (Wexford).
7. PADDY KENNY (Tipperary).
8. PADDY PHILPOT (Cork).
9. JOHNNY MCGOVERN (Kilkenny).
10. NICK O'DONNELL (Wexford).

FOOTBALL

1. SEAN PURCELL (Galway).
2. JIM DEVLIN (Tyrone).
3. FRANK STOCKWELL (Galway).
4. JACK MANGAN (Galway).
5. SEAN MOORE (Cork).
6. IGGY JONES (Tyrone).
7. LARRY McCORMACK (Kildare).
8. ERIC RYAN (Cork).
9. MICK CASEY (Offaly).
10. JOHN RICE (Monaghan).

Ex-Army Hurler Stars For Ballymoney

STARRING with Ballymoney in their recent successes in South Wicklow hurling circles was the veteran Jim Pender.

The Arklow postman won an All-Army hurling medal in 1939. Then in his hey-day he was a lovely hurler and in later years wore the Wicklow jersey in the inter-county arena.

Now in his forties, he is one of

the best forwards on the Ballymoney side and what he lacks in speed and dash is made up for in hurling skill and experience.

One of the most lovable personalities in the game to-day, he is a fine sportsman.

He is Vice-Chairman of the St. Joseph's, Ballymoney, hurling and football club and is a regular at all Board meetings.



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From Leitrim

— BY FIFTY —

DRUMSHAMBO have come back on the Leitrim football scene, and have appropriately named their club after the poor man of Assisi, St. Francis. Rev. Fr. McLoughlin, J. M. Mooney, M.C.C.; T. McMorrow, Ned McGowan and a few other old-timers are keeping the flag flying. They were a force at one time in junior football.

A hurling team named **Atha Bheas** defeated **Manorhamilton** at **Ballinamore** recently, which was a distinction for this recently formed hurling team in **South Leitrim**. The county final is usually contested between **Carrick-on-Shannon** and **Manorhamilton**. **Ballinamore**, incidentally, won the hurling title in 1935.

Aughawillan defeated **Carrick-on-Shannon** in the junior football semi-final on the score of 2-3 to 1-5. **Mr. Tom O'Riordan**, our active county secretary, was playing top of the right for **Carrick**.

The **craobh Sean Ul-H'Esline** (**Beal-an-Atha-Mhoir**) held a victory **ceilidhe** recently which was very well attended, funds being urgently needed to pay travelling expenses of the championship campaign.

Names to watch on **Leitrim** line-outs in the coming **League** campaign are: **H. Reynolds** (**Louth** fame), **C. Cryan** (capt. **Co. champions**, **B'more**); **P. McGarty**, **C. Flynn** (**C. of Pharmacy**), **N. Blessing** (**Garda**), **F. Quinn** (**Sean McDermotts**), and home based **J. Gordon**, **B. Sweeney**, **Tony Hayden**.

Many Supporters Think Galway Hurling Is On The Decline

Is Galway hurling on the decline? Many followers throughout the County think so and the recent defeat by Antrim has added fuel to the fire. That is not to deny the merit of the Northerners' win, but Galway's play was very far below the standard set in former years.

The Galway senior hurlers have had their good years and bad, but not till this year has their team been so poor. Early in the year they showed great promise with fine victories over **Clare**, **Limerick**, **Laois** and **Westmeath** in the **National League**.

An all-Galway **Connacht** selection—although beaten—gave a great display against **Leinster** in the **Railway Cup** semi-final in **February**. **Connacht** outthured them in almost every sector of the field but **goalkeeping** and **erratic shooting** by the forwards nullified their **outfield work**.

Followers were not disheartened. **Galway** hurlers trained hard for **All-Ireland** semi-final with **Wexford** in **July**, yet were completely at sea against a **super-confident Wexford** side and were routed.

Since then they have gone from bad to worse. In their **Oireachtas Cup** tie against **Kilkenny** at **Tuam**, they were very moderate and the **League** defeats by **Tipperary** and **Antrim** have sent their stock even lower.

Time For Action

Galway mentors should wake up. **Time** and **time** again they have

Almost Complete

Plans are almost complete for **Longford Slashers Victory** and **Presentation Ceili** to be held early in the **New Year**. The music — by the **Gallowglass Ceili Band**, of course. **Free transport** from many points will be provided to and from the **dance**. **Don't forget** — this will be a **night to beat all nights**.

been urged to use the **League** as a **trial ground** for **new talent**.

After the poor display against **Antrim**, they might be justified in asking: **Where is the new talent?** In that game they introduced **nine newcomers**, including **six new forwards**—**Antrim** won by **4-2 to 2-4!**

The truth is that the **new blood** is not up to **senior inter-county** standard. The moderate quality of **minor teams** of recent years is now **telling on the senior team**. Only by **concentrating on the schools** can they hope to bring **hurling** in **Galway** back to its former **glory**.

They could also take a lesson from the **Football Board** as regards **organisation**. **John Dunne** and

Brendan Nestor were in charge of the **footballers** and a **right good job** they made of it. **Galway's** **hurling team** should be built on the **same lines**. **Complete charge** of the team should be given to **two or three former stars**. **Sean Duggan** and **Josie Gallagher** with **Billie O'Neill** would be an **ideal combination**.

Leinster's invitation to **Galway** to take part in next year's **Leinster championships** may be the **'shot in the arm'** the **Westerners** need but it is up to those in charge of the **hurling team** to make sure that they **acquit themselves** with **distinction** in that competition when the **time comes**.

Establish An Athletic Club In Every Parish — Galway President

WE must try to establish an **N.A.C.A. club** in every parish," so said **Rev. K. Ryle**, **President**, at the recent **Galway N.A.C.A. annual convention**.

Speaking in his **presidential address**, **Fr. Ryle** appealed to those interested in our youth to get **clubs functioning**, especially the **older athletes** and **ex-athletes** as these had a **heritage of knowledge**, which it was their duty to pass on to the **younger generation**.

"This year," he said, "has been a **great one** for **Galway athletics**," for years they had been striving to win the **All-Ireland Cross-Country senior title** and this year they had brought it off in a **blaze of glory**, next to this they had also reason to be proud of a **great individual effort** of a **Galway man**, **John Keane** of **Lough C.C.**, who had on his own gone within an ace of winning **Ras Tailteann**.

He appealed to the **athletes** to train hard for the **track and field season** as there were yet many **laurels** to be won.

Although far down the list in **G.A.A. honours** this year, **Mayo** still came through to win an **All-Ireland title** when **Eamonn Connolly** of **Newport** and **Seamus Fleming**, **Charlestown**, defeated **Clare** to win the **National Junior Doubles Handball title** and it was to pay tribute to these two young men that many of **Mayo's prominent Gaels** gathered recently at a **reception** given by the **Charlestown Club**.

After supper many compliments were paid to the two young champions and toasts were drunk to the **Republic**, the **G.A.A.**, and the **Handball Co. Board**.

Among those present were—**Fr. Vesey**, **Jack O'Donnell**, **Co. Board Chairman**; **Sergts. Bligh** and **Caulfield**.

Garda's Unique Distinction

Garda John Byrne, who is at present stationed in **Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo**, has the unique distinction of having played with three different clubs in the last three successive **Mayo Junior Championship County finals** in **Ballintubber**, **Crossmolina** and this year **Ballyhaunis**.

Has Returned To New York

After a three months holiday in his native **Castlegar, Galway**, **Bernard Molloy** returned to **New York**. He is a brother of **Galway hurler Johnnie Molloy, Bernard**, who is a member of the **New York-Galway hurling team**, spoke highly of **GAA affairs** in **America**. He said that the **Gaels** looked forward to the visit from the **Irish teams** for the **St. Brendan Cup** games. He expressed the hope that **Galway** will soon be visiting the **U.S.**

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To EDITOR,

13 Parliament Street, Dublin.

An All-Ireland Link Broken

With the death of **Patrick J. Morrissey**, of **Craughwell**, **Galway** loses another link with its **All-Ireland winning hurling team** of 1923. He helped **Craughwell** to win the **County Galway hurling championship** in 1915-1918. He was a sub on the **Galway team** that won the **All-Ireland Senior Championship** in 1923. He played for **Galway** on numerous occasions.

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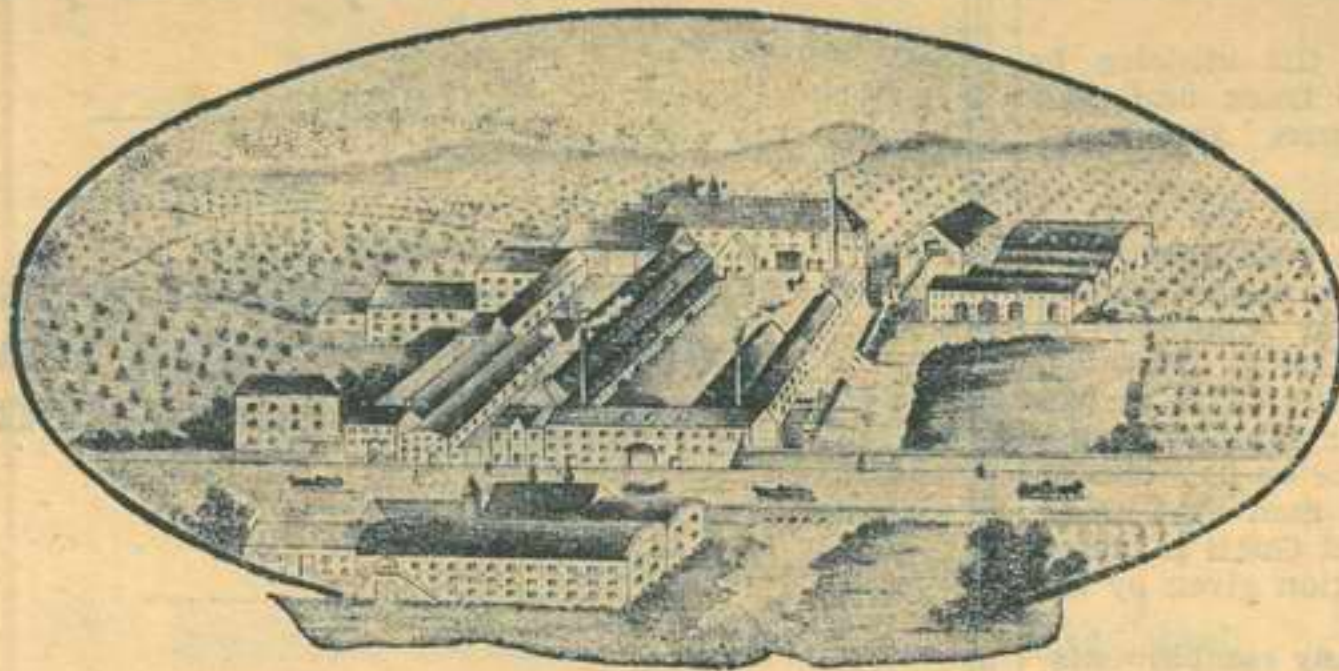
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Longford Gives A Shining Example To Other Clubs

By "FEAR SIUIL"

WHEN Longford Slashers won this year's Senior Co. Championship, one might forgive them if they rested on their laurels. But, no! Instead of resting they are working and that work, mark my words, will have far-reaching effects on football, not only in the county town, but all over the Co. Longford.

Few people realise what difficulties confront the "Slashers" in their own town, and those who should understand and do understand, place many uncalculated obstacles in the path of this gallant club.

Longford town has been for many years a traditional Soccer stronghold, a legacy inherited by many a 'garrison' town, and the local soccer team is backed by the monied 'section' of the town.

Add to that the insidious 'poaching' and strong persuasion of easy money dangled in front of young footballers by the promoters of this game.

Lose Players

The 'Slashers' lose players every year and no one stretches forth a helping hand to them. This year saw the suspension of two of their senior team and four of the minor team who, in innocence perhaps, had played foreign games.

Realising this ever-present danger, 'Slashers' have decided that the time has come when they must carry the war into enemy territory, and give their players attractions even greater than those offered by other games.

As a result, an entertaining programme has been drawn up for the winter months.

The list of fixtures includes home and away matches with Eoghan Ruadh, Co. finalists, Roscommon; Elphin, 1956 champions, Roscommon; Ballinamore, 1956 champions, Leitrim; Bornacoola, League winners, '56, Leitrim; Athlone, 1956 champions and Feis Cup winners, Westmeath; Mental Hospital, Mullingar finalists in Feis Cup, West-

meath; and last but not how far from being the least, the famous Tuam Stars, Galway.

Many Advantages

Besides acting as a strong counter-attraction to the foreign games "Slashers" believe that such matches must, in time, have a beneficial effect on their football and eventually on football in the county.

There are many Gaelic clubs and supporters throughout the county who may not subscribe to that idea, but one thing cannot be denied, 'Slashers' must be congratulated on their enterprise.

Who knows but that this is but the forerunner of greater things to come—a Leinster crown or a Midlands Gaelic Club League!

One thing is certain the 'Slashers' have given a shining example to other clubs who are similarly handicapped.

Will Mel Yield?

Congrats to Mel Murtagh, stalwart left full back on Colmcille team, on his appointment as Irish professor in Clongowes' Wood College, County Kildare. As they say in Kildare—none better! I wonder if the local GAA team will try to win his allegiance this year. I hope Mel does not yield—we want men of his calibre in Longford football.

Still In News

LIAM HASTINGS of Westport is, as far as I remember, the only school inspector to be a prominent active player. Somehow, we always visualise these men who used to pay us those annual visits some years back as being past middle age, stern (at least the master used to think so) and carrying a lot of papers; but Liam is not at all like that.

He must be one of the youngest inspectors in the country. He was a member of the All-Ireland winning Mayo teams in 1950-'51 and his elusive tactics and accurate shooting were in no way a small part of many a Mayo win. Now residing in Longford, Liam is still in the news for, playing at full-forward on the Longford Slashers' team, he was their outstanding forward on their march to this year's county senior title.

Two Parks For Castlebar

THE Gaels of Castlebar are giving a clear example to all of what can be done. At a recent meeting of the Castlebar Mitchels Club it was proposed that a second pitch be provided adjoining McHale Park. The proposal was adopted unanimously and work, which it is estimated will cost £4,000, will begin almost immediately.

Greatest Of The Past Decade?

Dear Sir,

I do not agree with the selection of T. Reddan as goal-keeper on the teams picked by your readers from the best hurlers of the past ten years. They should remember that when Tony Reddan was in his prime he was playing club hurling in his native Galway.

Galway selectors were not blind to his prowess then for he played in goal on their county junior team in '46 and on the senior team on a few occasions.

He could not, however, displace Sean Duggan as Galway's regular senior goal-keeper. It was not until he played with Tipperary in 1949 that Tony made his name.

He then had the advantage of playing behind the best defence in the country.

Anybody who witnessed Sean Duggan's display in the Oireachtas final of 1952 against Wexford, or the All-Ireland Senior Hurling semi-final against Cork in the same year would have very little doubt as to who is Ireland's greatest goal-keeper of the past decade.

ANOTHER GALWAYMAN.

* * *

Let Them Develop

Sir,

I would like to appeal to the many clubs throughout the county who are spoiling many of our young players by playing them in Senior ranks at the ages of 16 and 17. Why not give them time to develop even if they show exceptional ability. From experience we should know that very few can take the step from minor to senior ranks and stay there.

"RAMBLER".

Emigration Once Again

EMIGRATION once more lifts its ugly head and sweeps up and coming young Mayo footballer, Con Horan, from his native Ballinrobe to London. A member of this year's Mayo minor team, Con also played at full-back for Ballinrobe.

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Gaels In South Wales Have Just Formed New Club



P. J. COLLINS
Secretary, Thomas MacCurtain
G.A.A. Club, Dagenham.

(BY LIAM O GRIOFA)
THE G.A.A. AND INDEED THE GAELS OF GLOUCESTER-SHIRE WERE VERY HAPPY RECENTLY TO WELCOME TO THEIR RANKS A NEW CLUB, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN FORMED AT NEWPORT, SOUTH-WALES.

Under the very apt name of "Pride Of Erin" this club visited Gloucester to play a football challenge against St. Patrick's recently and proved themselves by their very excellent sportsmanship to be well worthy to take their place among their fellow exiles in the G.A.A. South Western area.

Though beaten by the margin of 2-9 to 1 point they looked individually to be a very sound team and with more games together and plenty of practice, will I feel make a strong impression in Gloucestershire, in 1957.

From Cardiff

At the moment they embrace a percentage of players from the Cardiff area but I am informed that it is hoped to form another club in this area in the near future.

The football club is actually only part of a much larger undertaking in Newport—the "Irish Club", which was formed in February this year to cater for the interests of the large number of Irish exiles in South Wales.

Founder and Chairman is Corkman, Rev. Fr. O'Dwyer, curate at St. Mary's, Stow Hill, Newport, who attended the challenge game personally and expressed himself quite happy with his boys on their first appearance.

The club is open on Wednesday and Sunday nights for Ceili dancing, and tea and cakes etc. is available to a membership of nearly 300.

Just proof that love of Ireland can be inherited is proved by the fact that Secretary of the club is a man who never saw Ireland in his life but whose parents came from Co. Cork, and have long since passed to their eternal reward.

Founder Member

Con Barry is his name and as well as being Secretary he is a founder member of this fine club. Treasurer is Bill McGoldrick of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal a grand footballer and also a founder member of the club.

Chairman of the football club and Captain of the Pride of Erin team is Athenry man Ned Kerins.

Ned, who played for Athenry Juniors before coming to England, is also a founder member and tells me that it is the intention of the club to field a hurling team if at all possible in 1957.

Below is the team which travelled to Gloucester to play St. Patrick's.

D. McGarigle, (Ballyshannon, Donegal); J. Murphy (Cork); F. Sheridan (Cavan Town); M. Doughty (Cavan); B. McGoldrick (Ballyshannon); M. Wyndham (Lettermore, Galway), Pat Flaherty, (Miceal Breathnach Club, Galway); M. Dolan, (Ballyshannon, Donegal), N. Kerins, (Athenry, Galway); M. McGarigle (Ballyshannon, Donegal), P. Grinnell, (Cleariestown, Wexford), J. McGarigle, (Ballyshannon, Donegal); B. McGarigle, (Ballyshannon, Donegal), B. Rooney, (Westmeath), J. Kelly, (Mayo).

RETURN GAME

More will be heard of this team during 1957 and already a return game is being arranged with the Gloucester Club.

Whatever the outcome I'm sure that the game will be as much a pleasure to watch as the previous one, when not even one single incident marred the enjoyment of the large gathering of spectators.

A fine example of Gaelic sportsmanship that is a fine example to our foreign hosts.



Brian Boru's hold a unique record in London, having won fourteen senior championships and seventeen Leagues since the club's formation in 1903.

BRIAN BORU'S PROUD RECORD

"COME on the Brians". This is the shout of the many, many supporters heard on the playing fields of London for the past 33 years, and even in the home counties of Cork, Limerick and Clare, last year, when the club made its first tour of the homeland.

Its records appear back as far as 1903 but it was re-established with the re-organising of the GAA in London in 1922, from that period up to the present year it has set up a record that may never be equalled by any other London Club, in winning fourteen senior hurling and one Junior Championship together with eighteen League Titles.

Players from almost all of the 32 counties have played in its famous black and amber colours.

With only twenty players in 1922, it now affiliates senior, Intermediate, and Junior Hurling teams as well as a Junior Football team, to the London Co. Board.

Three Limerick men, with the club since 1922, still help in the management, J. Cremins, who only retired last year after being Secretary for more than 25 years, now holds the position of Hon Life President of the Club.

P. F. Costello, the present Chairman of the Club, and J. Lyons a present Committee member, played for London in several Provincial and Junior All-Ireland Finals including the first Junior Final against Meath in 1928.

They also served as officers of the Provincial Council of Britain and the London Co. Board.

The Club has been fortunate, at all times, in having an abundance of talent both on its management and on the playing fields. The present Vice-Chairman, P. Organ, Tipperary, and the invaluable new Secretary, P. Ryan, also of Tipperary, play very active parts both on and off the playing pitch.

The Treasurer of the club, M. Hurley, Cork, has seen his Balance sheets grow from an expenditure of £23 a year to over £200. He also trains the teams and he played a major part in organising the club's first tour in which they visited Middleton, Co. Cork; Cappamore, Drumcollogher, Limerick City, Ennis and Killeek.

Outstanding memories of the tour were the club's defeat of the Clare 1955 County Champions and the winning of the Wild Geese Cup for the first time.

In its proud record to date over 800 medals have been won by its members, including at least 12 All-Ireland Junior medals won by its members playing with the London Co. Selection, when they beat Cork in 1938, and Clare in 1949.

With its age old motto:—"often defeated but never conquered", and with its present playing strength as good if not better than ever, the "Brians" look forward to a bright future.

CHAMPIONS



Senior Football Champions, Tara's (Birmingham). Captain Joe Johnson, former Wicklow minor, holding Croagh Patrick Cup after presentation by Co. Secretary G. Flanagan at the Harp Club, Birmingham.

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SARSFIELDS SET FOUNDATIONS

The Sarsfield hurlers were presented with 1955 junior league and championship medals at a social in North London recently by Rev. T. McNamara, Cork, founder of the club and who is also completing his first term as chairman of the London Co. Board. It was a case of 'here you are and more to come', for Sarsfields have now won the 1956 intermediate championships which ensures them of a place in senior ranks in 1957. No doubt they will make a bold bid to achieve the unique record of winning the junior, intermediate and senior championships in successive years. So watch your crown Young Irelands.

Best For Years

The second meeting of Taras and Shamrocks in the championship at New Eltham was, according to most witnesses of the spectacle, the greatest game seen in London for many years. Exchanges which were keen and hectic were taken by both sides in sporting fashion in a game which swayed from end to end as both sides strove with all their might to gain a winning score before the Kildare man Paddy Casey, blew his final whistle at the end of a great hour's football, which saw Shamrocks triumphant by the narrowest of margins.

REPLAY SPECIALISTS

Over a number of years, Shamrocks have not been beaten in a replay although they have figured in quite a few. This year alone, they have succeeded at the second attempt on three occasions.

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LONDON CALLING

By EAMONN LEAHY

WHIPP'S Cross Hospital in East London is renowned for its services to the sick of this city, and among the "Good Samaritans" who labour there are sons and daughters of Ireland, whose valuable services in Whipps Cross are a cause of pride to all Irishmen.

The Matron of this hospital is Miss Kathleen Fogarty of Tipperary, and nearly every county in Ireland is represented on the list of successes for 1955-56.

Miss Forgarty is sister of Mrs. Flynn, N.T., in Tipperary town and aunt of Fr. P. Flynn (Cabra, Dublin), Kieran Flynn, B.L., Tipperary and Kevin who is studying medicine at UCD.

The list of Irish Nurses who have gained State Registration and passed the Hospital Final Examination during 1955-56 is:

Isabel Eyre Shuel, Julia Daly,

Julia Lynch, Catherine Clifford (Cork); Mary Hurley, Mary O'Keefe and Anne O'Brien (Clare); Sister Mary Berchmans (Mary Philomena McDonald) and Mary B. Maguire (Cavan); Robert J. Hutchinson (Down); Judith T. Curry (Derry); Mary Liston, Helena E. Duffy (Galway); Sister Rosaline P.S.D.P. (Elizabeth Shea), Bernadette Dillon, Hannah M. Boyle, Eileen Leen, Mary T. Griffin, Thomas Cherry, Anna M. Kelliher, Mary B. Sayers (Kerry).

Ellen Doyle, Elizabeth Dollard, Annie T. Joyce (Kilkenny); Eibhlis O'Maidin, Mary Foley, Catherine Dillane, Eileen J. Murray, B. M. Moran and Johanna Lane (Limerick); C. M. McLoughlin, M. T. Moore, A. M. McCarthy (Laois); Martha M. Bohan (Leitrim); Mary J. Lennon (Longford); Margaret R. Gogarty and Mary T. Cregan (Meath); A. C. Maguire, K. M. Clarke, A. F. Maguire (Monaghan).

Bridget Byrne (Mayo), Irene Jane Duffe, Maureen Cummins, Anne T. Gardiner and Kathleen Mary Leenane (Tipperary); Margaret M. Stafford, M. T. Furlong, M. B. Hassett (Wexford), Frances T. Heskin, Ellen O'Brien, Ellen Murphy, Ellen Purcell (Waterford); Kathleen

M. Phelan (Wicklow); Elizabeth B. Gilvarry (Westmeath).

Nurses who passed the Hospital Final Examination:
Anne B. Bolton, Monica M. Morgan and Helena Cooney (Clare); Veronica Henue (Galway) and Bridget Teresa Dalton (Monaghan).

RETURNED TO IRELAND

A very popular young Irishman has returned to his native Lurgan recently. Eamonn Wright spent a year in this city and during that time was seldom if ever known to miss a Ceili or any function of an Irish character.

TAILTEANN

The second club under the N.A. & C.A., has been formed recently in Acton. Arrangements are in progress for a fixture with the Cardinal Griffin A.C. in the very near future. Officers are: Chairman, Martin Nicholson (Galway); Secretary, Tony Geoghegan (Carlow); Treasurer, P. O'Shea (Kerry). Committee: Tommy Ryan (Tipperary), J. O'Brien and M. O'Shea (Kerry).

IMPROVEMENT

There was a poor attendance for the inaugural meeting of the Gaelic League Choir early in November. However, the numbers doubled at the second meeting and new members are still enrolling. Choirmaster is Jim Purcell, who was adjudicator at the London Feis Singing Competitions last year.

It is hoped this venture will bring people who have heretofore had no connection with Gaelic League activities into the Organisation.

DANCING CHAMPION

It was a pleasure to see Miss Sheila Goulding (Victoria) being presented with the Corn Oireachtas Na Breataine at Liverpool recently. Sheila is prominent in Step Dancing circles in London and Birmingham and her many friends will join with me in saying "Well done, Sheila".

According to recent reports, Irish classes in London, sponsored by the Gaelic League and Sinn Fein respectively, are making great progress. It is pleasing to note that these classes are being attended by London-born Irish as well as the emigrants.

Reports from travel agents indicate a heavy Cross-Channel traffic during the Christmas Season. Some routes are completely booked out, while others still have "room for one or two more."

AGE OLD BUT NEVER DULL

WELCOMING the delegates to the Connradh na Gaedhilge Ard-Fheis in Liverpool recently in Irish, the Uachtaran dealt in brief with the policy of the Gaelic League and spoke at length on that age old but never dull topic of Unity.

He emphasised the fact that all must have heard the Irish saying: "Ni heart go cur le cille," but do we pay much attention to it from the practical point of view.

Donnchadh O'Suilleabhain, Ard-Runai of the Gaelic League, impressed upon the delegates his surprise at the various activities of which Craobhacha in England were the organisers. It was a happy occasion to know that all is going well.

The delegates were entertained by the Liverpool Craobh and a Ceili was held in the Catholic Hall in Rock Ferry, at which the delegates were guests.

The Connradh Na Gaedhilge Ard-Fheis was held in Liverpool recently. The Craobhacha of An Chonnradh represented were — Londain: Seosamh Mac Guidhir, Uachtaran and An Runai; Birmingham: Two Craobhacha were represented by Cait Stapleton (Tiobraid Arann); Seamus O'Briain (Luimneach), Tomas O'Canainn (Rossa, Tir Chonaill) and S. O'Dochartaigh; Coventry: Eamonn De h-Or; Liverpool: M. Breathnach (Ath Cliath), and Tomas O'Canainn (Doire); Glasgow: Eibhlín Ní Tighearnaigh. Central England Committee—Breasal Mac Guidheara and Cait Ní Bhriain.



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