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THIRD TIME LUCKY FOR LIMERICK ?

By SEAN O'NEILL

THERE was no record or near record crowd at the 1955 Munster hurling final, for to most the result seemed inevitable; Clare had proven themselves the "dark horse" of the championship by beating All-Ireland champions, Cork and Tipperary, and who could see them even tested by a completely unknown and young Limerick side who had only a doubtful victory over a weak Waterford side behind them.

Yes, it had certainly looked like Clare's year, and who could but feel glad for the gallant men of the Banner County; had they not richly deserved a turn of luck?

Year after year they had battled with Munster's best, usually losing by the minimum of margins, and if 1955 was to be their year, so much the better.

But it did turn out like that. As most of you will remember, Clare and Limerick will probably never forget it. From the throw-in it was all a flash of fleet-footed green and white, and at the end of the hour Clare's account showed a ten-point deficit.

COMING SIDE

Limerick were the team of the future — with this everyone agreed. They had shown a new brand of hurling which, with the non-stop rule, seemed capable of beating any slow-moving team, and anyway, were they not all almost teenagers who were sure to rise to even greater heights.

The young Shannonsiders strengthened this opinion when they matched the mighty strength and experience of Wexford for almost three-quarters of an hour in the All-Ireland semi-final. Hopes were high for '56.

VICTIMS AGAIN

Then came last July; another stylish victory over Clare and they were in the final to meet Cork, plus Christy Ring.

After a thrilling duel, Limerick proved themselves definitely Cork's masters, but not Ring's, for the Cloyne maestro snapped victory from them in five minutes, when thrice he flashed the sliotar to the net. So Limerick had to wait another year.

Now, 1956 has rolled by and only a few months remain until it is championship time once more. already on the Shannon's southern bank there is much speculation, and in many quarters it is felt that perhaps at last their turn has come.

Two years of seasoning has made men of the fleet-footed youths of 1955.

The speed has remained and is now allied to greater power, experience, skill and confidence. Poor National League showings are forgotten, for it is now taken for granted that these Limerick lads are really a championship team.

Wexford have definitely passed their peak; Kilkenny have not yet reached theirs; Ring cannot last forever — so Limerick are ready!



Waterford and Wexford hurlers in action in the recent National Hurling League game. (Result, a draw).

Holly For Hurleys — A Possibility

A POLITICIAN ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT THERE WOULD NEVER BE A SCARCITY OF HURLEYS IN THIS COUNTRY AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANTING 100 ACRES OF ASH EVERY YEAR. IF HE WERE FORCED TO SEARCH THE WOODS FOR SUITABLE TREES FOR CAMAN MAKING I THINK HE WOULD HOLD A DIFFERENT OPINION.

It is generally accepted that ash is the essential raw material for hurleys, but what is often forgotten is that 90 per cent. of ash trees are unsuitable for this purpose.

The trouble is that it is very difficult to find an ash tree that fulfills all the requirements necessary for the making of a good hurley.

If a piece of ash has a suitable "boss" it often happens that a good handle cannot be fashioned from the adjoining wood, and vice versa. Hidden knots and other imperfections abound in this type of timber also.

The wood near the root of the tree is usually the toughest and therefore the most suitable for caman-making. The timber higher up the trunk is often too soft to stand up to the rigours of a keen competition.

Best Near River

The best ash usually grows by a river bank and oddly enough the stunted and gnarled tree is often more suitable for hurleys than its comelier brother.

Unfortunately it is often impossible to tell what the timber will be like until it is taken to the sawmills, trimmed, and examined minutely.

During the war years irreparable damage was caused in our woods owing to the short-sighted policy of certain get-rich-quick timber owners. These people had no interest in hurling and many of our best ash trees were cut down and used as firewood during the emergency.

A friend tells me that although he examined thousands of ash trees in plantations down south he only succeeded in spotting raw material sufficient for less than a hundred camans. Judging by his experience it is obvious that suitable ash trees are at a premium.

Novel Idea

A novel solution of this unfortunate state of affairs was suggested by Nicky Rackard lately. He caused

a minor sensation when he remarked that holly trees could be used instead of ash for making hurleys. He said, that the best caman he ever used was made from a holly tree!

Contrary to popular opinion holly wood is not too heavy for hurleys and, who knows, perhaps we may see a revolution in caman-making by the use of this new material.

This is rather unlikely, however, as the tradition of the ash is firmly entrenched in the history of the game since the day the youthful Cuchulain won that famous hurling match at Tara single-handed with his "trusty hurl of seasoned ash".

As I see it, the pressing need at the moment is for an experimental plantation to find a tree that will fulfil all the requirements necessary for the ideal hurley — durability, flexibility and reasonable price. By careful selection and cross pollination it should not be impossible in this scientific age to evolve the ash or holly most suitable for caman-making.

The Central Council should sponsor such a scheme. The very game is at stake, not to mention our historical heritage that goes back to the dawn of time.

At present the game is strong in only a few counties. If, tomorrow, we witnessed the country-wide resurgence of hurling that the GAA, and indeed, all of us so ardently desire, where would the necessary camans come from?

This unsatisfactory position with regard to raw materials is a matter of grave importance.

Resolutions at congresses and conventions will not solve this problem — action is needed. Call in the experts behind the nation's forestry drive, tell them what is required, give them a free hand and a generous grant to get to the heart of the matter, and let us solve this problem before it is too late.

Organiser Appointed

AT the recent Convention of Wexford N.A.C.A., held in Adamstown, a rather unusual motion before the meeting was that an Organiser for the County be appointed.

The motion asked "That an organiser be appointed for the County, who would visit clubs

and give them instructions on the running of the club, on their organisation and on the proper running of sports meetings and training."

After long discussion, the motion was carried and Mr. Bill Esmond was unanimously chosen for the position of organiser.

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The Story Of A Pitch — And A Man

By LIAM S. O h-OISTIN.

WHEN THE NEW MacHALE PARK WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ON THE 15th JUNE, 1952, IT SAW THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM AND THE COMPLETION OF TWO YEARS' HARD WORK. BUT DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES ARE AKIN AND THE NIGHTMARE HERE WAS THE VERY HEAVY FINANCIAL DEBT INCURRED.

In spite of the voluntary labour so generously given by the people of Castlebar and others interested in the work, the cost of the new park was £15,000 odd—enough to provide nightmares for a dozen park committees.

But for one man, at least, that vast debt held no terrors. In fact, this young man made a promise in 1952 to the Castlebar club that within four years that debt would be reduced to less than a £1,000.

A rash pledge, you may think, and so did the most optimistic Gaels at the opening of the park.

But this man was more than a man of words—he was a man of his word and a man of action. At this year's convention of the Castlebar Club, he coolly informed the assembled club members that the debt on MacHale Park was now £251.

What an achievement within the promised time, what an amount of hard work was piled into those four years, what a success for a worker and an idealist. What a man!

Wonderman

Meet the man—genial Gerry McDonald, joint secretary of the Castlebar Mitchells and financial wizard of the West. No undertaking was impossible, no difficulty was insurmountable, no debt was too great to tackle for this quiet-spoken man of action.

No known method of raising money was ignored, and in fact, a few hitherto unknown ways devised—the results speak for themselves.

But one figure stands out above all others—that of £5,788-14-4, which was the amount of money involved in this year's financial account presented at the annual convention.

Of that, £2,997-17-4 was excess of Income over Expenditure—surely a colossal sum for any club in Ireland.

The methods involved to raise this money covered many fields—waste paper collections, amusements, membership cards, grants, gate receipts, raffles and a sweep which realised in itself almost, £3,000.

Dynamic Force

When one considers the enormous amount of work involved in those combined operations, then can one get some insight into the dynamic driving force that is Gerry McDonald.

Yet talking to Gerry, one gets the impression that he was in no way responsible for such a financial miracle.

He hands over the credit to such men as his able joint secretary, S. McCormack, to the architects of the work, to the architects of the work, Mr. T. P. Flanagan, B.E., Co. Engineer, and Mr. Jim ('Job') McGowan, B.E., Chief Assistant County Engineer, to the other members of the MacHale Park Development Committee, or to the valiant band of voluntary workers who gave of their best when asked.

Yet ask them—any of them who is responsible for the great work and the reply is always the same—Gerry McDonald. As one Gael remarked to me—"Gerry eats, drinks and sleeps (I think) in MacHale Park!"

Fine

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MacHale Park is one of the largest provincial parks in Ireland. Concrete seating is provided for 13,800 spectators with unlimited room for banking on all four sides, so as to cater for 50,000 spectators each having a perfectly clear view of the pitch.

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But Gerry is not satisfied with this—a friend of his whispers that he has further very big ambitions with regard to improvements. He has had the survey for alternative pitches already completed and present plans are for one other pitch costing approximately, £4,000, or just under two years work for Gerry.

Certainly Castlebar can be proud of their park, their own achievements and that of their incredible "Minister of Finance".

But they give all the credit to whom they believe, it is due, and at convention decided, unanimously, to leave the selection of the new MacHale Park committee to Gerry McDonald's discretion—after all, they say, it is "his park".

Josie's Honours List Complete

WHEN Gort won the South Galway senior hurling championship recently, proudest man on the team was undoubtedly the much honoured former county hurler, Josie Gallagher.

Why? Because although he has won many medals and trophies this was his first Galway senior hurling medal.

He showed, too, that while he has retired from the inter-county arena, he is still a more-than-useful wielder of the camán—he scored four points.

Amlaoibh O h-Eidersceoll, Dail Mumhan dein Chonnradh, has returned to Ireland, having stayed in London for some months.



Terry Jennings (St. Vincents) beats a Faughs defender in the Dublin Senior Hurling semi-final at Croke Park.

Nicky Is Top Scorer

SEAN O'NEILL has worked out the ten scorers and their averages for 1956. They make interesting reading, and here they are:—

| | Played | Gls. | Pts. | Tot. ave. |
|---------------|--------|------|------|-----------|
| 1 N. Rackard | 19 | 35 | 50 | 155 8.15 |
| 2 S. Clohosey | 20 | 19 | 50 | 107 5.35 |
| 3 F. Donnelly | 16 | 10 | 76 | 106 6.62 |
| 4 C. Ring | 11 | 15 | 34 | 79 7.18 |
| 5 S. Purcell | 16 | 5 | 55 | 70 4.38 |
| 6 V. Sherlock | 17 | 10 | 38 | 68 4.00 |
| 7 S. Harrison | 17 | 2 | 61 | 67 3.94 |
| 8 J. Smith | 11 | 13 | 23 | 62 5.63 |
| 9 W. Dwyer | 14 | 15 | 17 | 62 4.42 |
| 10 P. Kenny | 11 | 9 | 33 | 60 5.45 |

The actual average score, probably a fairer way of listing, changes things though:—

1—N. Rackard, 8.15 per game.
2—C. Ring, 7.18. 3—F. Donnelly, 6.62. 4—J. Smith, 5.63. 5—P. Kenny, 5.45. 6—S. Clohosey, 5.35. 7—W. Dwyer, 4.42. 8—S. Purcell, 4.38. 9—V. Sherlock, 4.00. 10—S. Harrison, 3.94.

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same Again . . . and Again . . . and Again . . . **Smithwick's Ale**

New Stand At Croke Park

Biggest GAA news of the decade is that a new stand is to be built at Croke Park. This will be a massive double-decker affair which will provide extra seating accommodation for 15,000.

The well-known construction firm of McInerney and Sons is in charge of building and work has already begun. The new project will cost £200,000, and the contract for the work was signed last month at GAA headquarters.

Following the signing of the contract, Pádraig O Caoimh, General

Secretary, said:

"The project will give us extra seating accommodation for 16,000 in all. This includes the 1,000 seats now in the Hogan Stand, so that the double-decker means a gain of 15,000 extra seats.

Big problem for the Association is to raise a loan of £120,000 for the New Stand. Repayment will be spread over ten years.

80 men will be employed on the project for two years and at the peak building period even more will have employment.

Genial Clare Gaels, Dan and Frank McInerney, are co-directors of the contracting firm selected by the Association for this mammoth job.

Dan McInerney still figures with the Clare Hurling team and brother Frank is a former player on the senior team.

The new stand will include facilities for broadcasting and television, offices and a large committee room for the Central Council. The new stand will be re-named the Hogan Stand.



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Wexford Have Given The Lead

By PEADAR BYRNE.

OFF THE FIELD YOU MIGHT MISTAKE THEM FOR FIFTEEN STRAPPING YOUNG BOXERS, HANDSOMELY BUILT SIX-FOOTERS FOR THE MOST PART; THEIR VERY PHYSIQUE RADIATES THEIR ATHLETIC PROWESS AND, MAN FOR MAN, THEY ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST TEAMS PLAYING IN ANY CODE IN IRELAND. ON-FIELD, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE BRILLIANT WEXFORD HURLERS. IN FACT, I'LL GO FURTHER AND SAY THAT WEXFORD ARE THE BEST HURLING TEAM WE'VE SEEN IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS!

Their record speaks for itself. They have figured in four of the last seven All-Ireland finals, being successful on two occasions. In losing to Tipperary (1951) and Cork (1954), they lost no caste but rather endeared themselves to the public a fact that was very much underlined by the great reception they got on beating Galway in the '55 decider.

And yet on reflection two All-Ireland triumphs does scant justice to the sterling hurling qualities of the Slaneysiders. Remember those two epic battles against Tipperary and Cork and how the 'breaks' went against the gallant Leinster men at vital junctures of both games.

Strangely enough it was those two games which helped in no small measure to put the seal on Wexford's greatness.

Not even in victory did any team acquit themselves as well as Wexford on those occasions. Despite their misfortune, they battled on with great heart and playing the game like true sportsmen they went down with all guns firing.

One of the big factors which tend to make the Wexfordmen so popular is their impeccable sportsmanship. Win or lose, their behaviour on the field is always above reproach and it is very seldom we see a Wexfordman get marching orders.

Indeed their sportsmanship is an object lesson to all young hurlers. Although better equipped than most to rough it, they seldom throw their weight around unfairly even when the going is toughest.

Although all-round solidarity rather than individual brilliance has been responsible for Wexford's great run of successes there is no doubt that it was the inimitable Nick Rackard who pioneered Wexford's hurling resurgence and set alight again the bonfires which had not blazed since that historic victory way back in 1910.

The Cornerstone

It was around 'Big Nick' that the Slaneysiders come-back took shape ably assisted by brothers, Bobbie and Billy. Little wonder then, that the name of Rackard is already jostling with that of Kelly as the hero of famed Killane.

The road to championship honours is always a long and treacherous one. But to these stalwart Wexford men it was even harder still.

You see, unlike their counterparts in Kilkenny, Cork and Tipperary, they weren't born with hurleys in their hands. They came up the hard way with grit, determination and a real fighting spirit their chief stock-in-trade.

They reached their objective and in the process shook tradition. The Model County has ever given the lead to the rest of Ireland: so what about it then, you weaker hurling counties?

Galway's Gesture

BOARD'S GRANT

Galway Co. Board of the G.A.A. have contributed £25 to the Hungarian Relief Fund.

Words Of Wisdom

"DO not praise the Irish language, speak it. Do not denounce English games, play Irish ones. Do not vilify or ignore foreign literature and history—study them from an Irish point of view."—Padraic Pearse.

Students' Games For Dublin

GAELIC ECHO REPORTER

IF everything goes according to plan Dublin will play host to athletes from nine counties at a miniature Olympic Games planned for the Metropolis next August.

The games are being held under the auspices of the Irish Catholic Students' Federation, which is affiliated to the International Catholic Students' Federation and it is hoped that athletes from Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, England, Austria, Spain, Portugal and Holland will take part.

The International Catholic Students' Athletic Federation was founded shortly after the last war in Belgium for the purpose of promoting an international scale, sporting events among Catholic students, for their moral and physical betterment.

Full Approval

From the beginning His Grace The Archbishop of Dublin showed a great interest in the Organisation and has given his unqualified approval for the running of the Games in Dublin.

Last year the Games were held in Lisbon, Portugal, and the small Irish team performed magnificently.

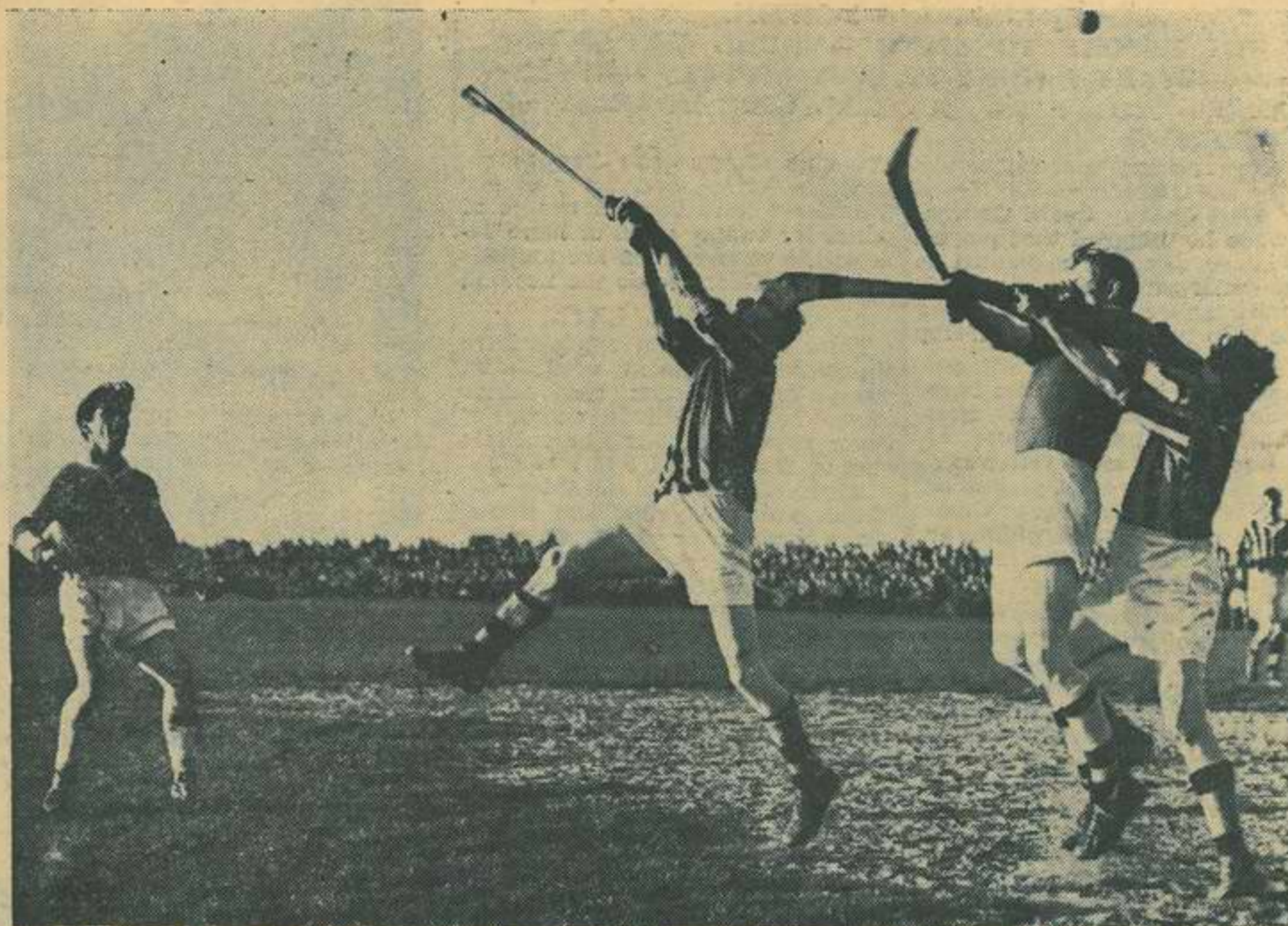
As a result of experience gained by attending the Games in other countries in past years, the Irish Committee feels that a success can be made of the Games in Dublin.

We cannot offer these visitors athletic stadia up to their own standards but by our hospitality and the intensity of our efforts we can guarantee the success of the Games.

The Games are confined to boys between the ages of 16 and 18 and students of all schools, secondary and vocational, are eligible for the preliminary heats to be held in Dublin shortly.

All field athletics will be represented as well as basketball and swimming and the final team will be picked on the basis of these trials. As the Irish Committee is based chiefly in Leinster it was felt that representatives were needed in the other provinces to look after the affairs of the Federation.

Father Ryle and Fr. Nesson were appointed for Connacht and Munster respectively, but as yet no representative has been fixed for Ulster.



A Wexford defender badly harassed by two Kilkenny forwards. Kilkenny won this duel.

This Must Cease!

By MAC LUGHADA.

ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, I HAPPENED TO SEE IN A WEST OF IRELAND PROVINCIAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER A DANCE ADVERTISEMENT WHICH BOLDLY PROCLAIMED THAT "ROCK AND ROLL" WOULD BE FEATURED.

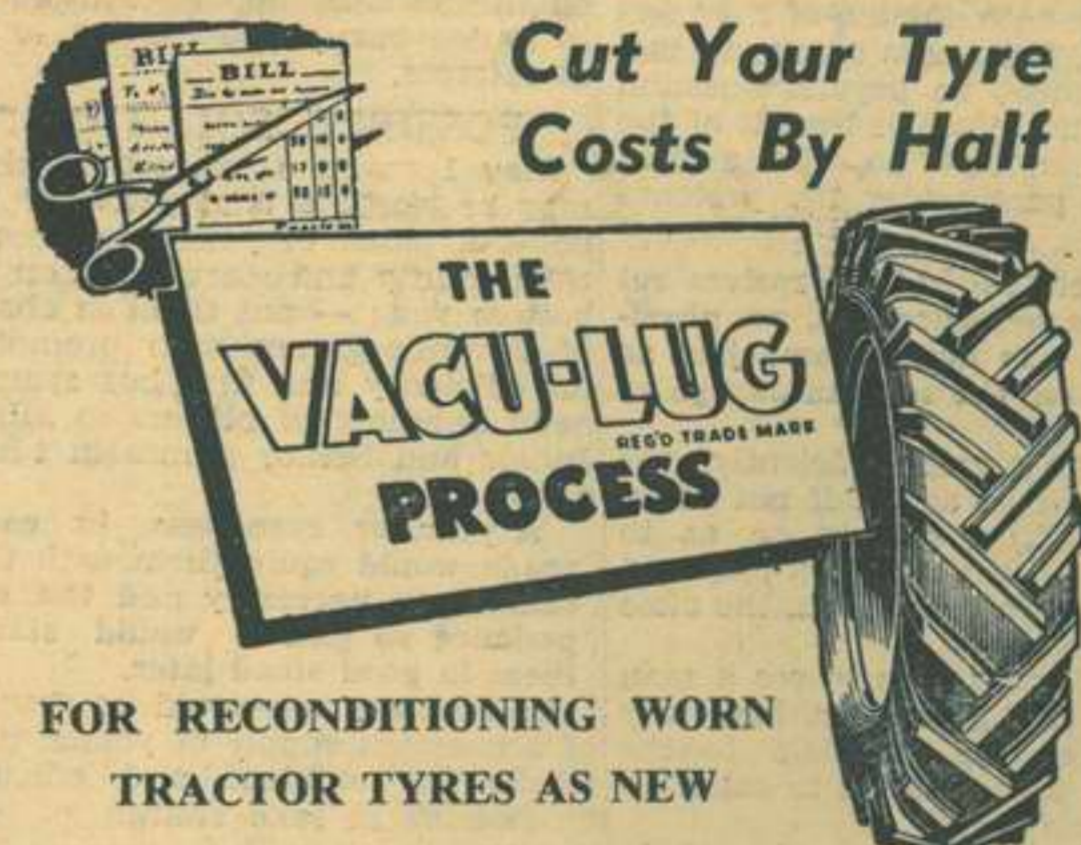
I was more than mildly surprised to see that such vulgar gymnastics were being introduced into a county where ceili and ceili and old-time dancing had always been favoured.

Imagine my amazement when I saw that this function was sponsored by an N.A.C.A. club, and one of the most prominent in the county at that; a club which can boast an All-Ireland champion and a number of Munster champions.

Now, as we know, there is no ban on foreign games or activities in the rules of the N.A.C.A., and therefore this club was fully entitled to sponsor the above-mentioned activity without infringing on the actual rules of the Association.

BUT surely to goodness there seems to be a contradiction somewhere when we have on the one hand, the policy of the Association demanding a united 32-County athletic front and recognising only such; the athletes banned from international competition because they refuse to accept Britain's plan for limiting our status both political and athletic to 26 counties.

The N.A.C.A. has a job before it—the job of seeing Ireland represented in athletics as a nation before the peoples of the world, but before it can ever hope to complete this task in a manner true to pure national ideals, it must first put its own house in order and in doing so it will gain that essential strength to continue to its ultimate goal.



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WHO will be the All-Ireland Hurling and Football Champions of 1957?, asks Rover. This is a question all Gaeldom will be asking during the coming months.

Firstly, let us concentrate on hurling. After lengthy consideration I have confined my choice to the following teams:—Wexford,

Tipperary, and Kilkenny.

There seems little doubt but that Wexford and Kilkenny will contest this year's Leinster hurling final, but who's going to win that match? Wexford are unlikely to give up their hard earned 'crown' very easily, and their all-round excellence will prove a stumbling block for most teams.

Still, I fancy Kilkenny to be that stumbling block, the yhave built up a very good team in the past few

years and judging by their recent encounters with Wexford, hold a very slight edge.

So, I look to Kilkenny to contest this year's hurling final. Who will be their opponents? It seems to lie between Cork and Tipperary and as the former appeared to me rather lucky winners in 1956 and having quite a few weak links, I choose Tipperary to cross camans with Kilkenny next September—and the winners? Kilkenny.

Wanted: YOUNGER REFEREES

By LIAM S. O h-OISTIN.

IN HIS REPORT TO MAYO ANNUAL CONVENTION, SECRETARY JOHNNY MULVEY APPEALS TO YOUNG PLAYERS TO TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN REFEREEING.

A more drastic suggestion was made by the Oranmore's Bill Keane at the West Galway Board Convention, when he proposed that players from minor clubs be appointed to referee senior games, on the grounds that older referees were not now able to keep up with the non-stop play.

Appeals for young referees have become hardy annuals at most conventions. While members of the Association make strenuous efforts to be selected as players or officers of clubs, divisions or counties, few of them seem willing or anxious to undertake the most essential work of refereeing.

They seem to forget that on this side of administration hinges the welfare of the whole Association!

Without efficient referees, we cannot hope to have a high standard of football or hurling, because referee who knows his job, and who has a sympathetic understanding of human nature and who is physically fit, will be capable of controlling a game in such a way that players will pay and must pay full attention to the ball and leave the referee to play the man".

MUST BE FIT

Since the introduction of the "non stop" rule, a player's fitness to last the pace must be beyond question as he has not now the benefit of the three-minute "rest" so often availed of in the past under the pretence of injury.

The new rule also deprives referees of a breather and, so, physical fitness has now become just as necessary for the man in charge of the whistle.

To handle a game efficiently, the referee must be as fit, if not fitter, than any of the players so as to keep up with the non-stop play and to keep his eye "peeled" in the close exchanges.

How ludicrous it is to see a man trying to puff and pant his way from one end of the field to the other in a vain attempt to catch up with the play!

And yet, the fault is not entirely

his—after all, someone has to referee our games, and many of our "whistlers" have been in charge of games for twenty years or more because the younger men are too lazy or too indifferent to do the needful.

NATIONAL LACK

Those two Western officials have pin-pointed a national need, even though the suggestion that minor players be appointed in charge of senior games might not be entirely wise or feasible.

There is an urgent need for referees who are young and therefore should be physically fit, who are still active players and therefore well versed in the rules of the game and also, of course, in the tricks of the game.

The Mayo secretary referred to a factor which makes refereeing a difficult and less attractive job— "criticism from the side-line which is not always well meant".

This, undoubtedly, has an effect on young would-be referees who are unwilling—and who can blame them!—to undertake the work if their only thanks will be hostile "barracking" from unsporting spectators.

Firmer steps must then be taken to deal with such unseemly conduct on the part of supporters if we are to entice our young players to act as referees.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION?

May I make a suggestion which may be worth a trial perhaps? Appoint a panel of young referees in each county and start them on the bottom rung—put them in charge of Juvenile games with promotion for efficiency and firm but sympathetic handling of players to Minor, Junior and Senior games in that order.

A year, or even less, in each grade would equip them with the confidence necessary and the experience so gained would stand them in good stead later.

In this way we would be assured of a constant supply of young, physically fit, confident and efficient "whistlers" to take charge of our games.



A heavy Erin's Hope attack in the Dublin Senior Football Championships semi-final. "Hopes" won this game, beating Clan na Gael, and afterwards beat St. Vincents in the final.

Depends on Midfield!

By LIAM S. O h-OISTIN.

WHEN THE WESTERN RAILWAY CUP TEAM WERE SELECTED, I WAS ONE OF THE FEW WHO FELT PLEASED—AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY. A FEW NIGHTS PREVIOUSLY I AND SOME FRIENDS PICKED OUR SELECTIONS AND I WAS CORRECT IN THIRTEEN OF THE PERSONNEL, IF NOT SO CORRECT IN THE POSITIONING OF THE VARIOUS PLAYERS. NOT THAT I PRIDE MYSELF ON BEING A PROPHET OR A MIND-READER, BUT I WAS SURPRISED AT SOME OF THE CRITICISMS.

This is a very representative team, though I felt that room might have been made for Brennan of Sligo, who played a storming game in the Connaught Final—and an extra sub. would hardly have made any difference among so many.

In my own selection, I thought that the goalie and the six backs were or should be automatic choices, though my personal preference was for Gerry O'Malley at centre-half back.

Probably Jack Mahon's total eclipse of Jackie Taggart in the All-Ireland semi-final, swung the balance in his favour. The storm in a tea-cup over O'Dowd's selection at full back is hard to understand—he has all the necessary attributes for the job and even though his experience there may be limited, I still consider his safe fielding to outweigh the claims of any other full-back in the province.

NO SHORTAGE

Connacht seems to be always well supplied with good midfielders and the problem facing the selectors was whom to omit and where to play those not admitted.

Blessing's display for Leitrim in the current National League could not be overlooked and I think that he will make an admirable partner for the towering Evers.

McDonagh has proved himself as a forward in Dublin football and with Purcell, O'Malley and Nallen (a sub.) Connacht have got "pucks" of midfield strength.

Purcell and Stockwell were automatic choices in their positions as was McGarty and Kirwan.

With Joe Young as top of the right, another Galway man, this forwards line should not want for combination and knowledge of each others play.

hinges on the centre-field supremacy. If Connacht dominate here, and I think they will, then the combination of the Western forwards should

just about beat the dour, dare-devil Northern defence, and give Connacht the right to fight for the title last won in 1951.

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PEOPLE IN OUR MIDST WHO DO NOT LIKE THE G.A.A. AND ITS IDEALS AND WHO ARE JEALOUS OF ITS POSITION IN IRELAND'S PREMIER SPORTS ORGANISATION, OFTEN RAISE THE CRY THAT GAELIC FOOTBALL HAS NO TRADITION AND THAT ITS ORIGIN IS OBSCURE.

Although there is no truth in these allegations about Gaelic Football, it is interesting to note that similar charges are never made with regard to Hurling.

The simple reason is, that everybody knows that the story of Hurling is the story of Ireland and that the game has always been an integral part of our history since the days the first settlers came to our land centuries before recorded time.

The first hurling match we know of took place at the Battle of Moytura about the year 1800 B.C. This match was between two great rival tribes, The Tuatha de Damainn and The Fir Bolgs, who were both seeking absolute supremacy in the Ireland of old.

From what we can gather from old manuscripts, especially from the Book of Leinster, it appears that this hurling match acted as a "curtain-raiser" before the real battle began! There were 27 players on each side—the chosen heroes of the two tribes.

It is quite likely that there was little difference between this game, played 4,000 years ago, and the game as it is played to-day.

The objects of the game were certainly the same—to drive the sliotar between your rivals' posts as often as possible and to bring honour and glory to the people you represented.

The next big milestone in the history of Hurling was when the God Hugh-Lamh-Fhada founded the Tailteann Games. All sports were catered for at these Gaelic Olympics, but hurling was the chief attraction and the champions performed prodigious feats before the High King and his court.

The Tailteann Games were revived in the Twenties of this century and led to a great resurgence in Gaelic Games. Unfortunately, after a while they were allowed to lapse again.

Cuchulainn, Finn Mac Cool and the other heroes of antiquity all played hurling and looked upon it as the only game fit for champions to play.

When the Normans invaded Ireland they found hurling the most popular pastime in the county. After a while the Norman leaders noticed a strange phenomenon—their soldiers were abandoning archery, their chief sport, for the more robust one of hurling!

So many of the foreigners were leaving aside the bow for the caman that in 1367 the Statute of Kilkenny

was passed, which mentioned among other things that: "It is ordained and established that the English do not henceforth use the plays which are called hurlings with grate sticks and a ball upon the ground."

Despite this ban the game remained popular down through the centuries and we find the English gentry betting heavily on the different local teams.

There was still no set number of players and no set length for fields—whole villages sometimes took part in these games and often there were 300 players on each side.

English Gaels please note: as far back as the 17th Century the game was played in the sister isle. There is a report of a match between two teams, one a team of exiles, the other a team brought over specially from Ireland, playing a game of hurling before King William of Orange, in London, with large sums of money staked on both sides.

The coming of the Famine almost dealt a death-blow to hurling and after the Hungry Forties it was only played in a few districts.

When the G.A.A. was founded in 1884 to stop the rot that was undermining our national well-being, the first matter on the dynamic programme of the new Association was to revive hurling and to give it its former position as the premier game of the Gael.

Despite the phenomenal rise in the popularity of hurling since the G.A.A. was founded seventy-three years ago, there is no room for complacency to-day.

The fact that 80,000 spectators attend the Hurling final every year in Croke Park should not blind us to the fact that the game is strong in only a few places, chiefly in Munster and Leinster.

The position with regard to senior hurling in Connacht and Ulster is very serious and Galway is the only hurling county of note among the fourteen counties that comprise these two provinces.

The position in our schools is also unsatisfactory. Although great work is being done in our primary schools, the state of the game in the secondary schools and colleges is very disheartening.

Although the Christian Brothers' Schools and Diocesan Colleges are doing their best there are still some schools lagging behind.

British garrison games are still played in these schools and are looked upon as an integral part of the education provided by these establishments. What a terrible admission forty years after 1916!



Snap of the play between Wexford and Kilkenny in which the champions' flag was lowered for the first time in this vital National League game at New Ross.

Give The Provinces More Big Games

By PEADAR BYRNE.

SPEAKING AT A RECENT CONVENTION IN CO. MEATH. MR. LIAM CREA VIN AIRED A RATHER PECULIAR GROUSE. IT CONCERNED LAST YEAR'S LEINSTER MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL, IN WHICH MEATH FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING HAD TO BOW THE KNEE TO DUBLIN.

The Meath mentor objected strongly to the idea of his county having to travel to Croke Park to play Dublin on their home grounds.

This is an old bone of contention in all grades but never-the-less I think that a good team will win anywhere.

However, he did have a point. For long now the question of decentralisation has been a thorny one in the side of the G.A.A., and this latest controversy only adds fuel to the fire. Soon or later the Central Council will have to show its hand.

SHARP DIVISION

Opinions differ sharply on the matter, with one school of thought stoutly demanding a continuation of the present policy whereby all big games are played at headquarters.

A deviation from such a policy, they maintain, would result in a loss of popularity of our National Games! "It wouldn't be All-

Ireland day without Croke Park," one Gael said.

Undoubtedly Croke Park is the greatest stadium in Ireland, and as such it is the ideal venue for the staging of all big games. In addition, it has a majestic sod which is a fit battleground for such games as the All-Ireland finals.

Personally, however, I feel that too many games are being brought to "Croker." Indeed, were it not for the excellent surface at Headquarters due to the loving care of groundsman Michael Curran, I shudder to think what the pitch would be like at the end of the playing year.

TO PROVINCES

Outside of Dublin's National League engagements and the finals of the All-Ireland and Inter-Provincial Championships, I think all their big games should be played in the Provinces.

Don't get me wrong. I fully realise that the adoption of such a policy would bring a horde of difficulties in its wake.

First of all, the standard of our Provincial grounds is not at all what it should be. Outside of Thurles, Limerick and a few others, we have no really suitable grounds, so it would be exceedingly difficult to house Championship games in them.

NOW'S THE TIME

However, a start will have to be made sometime and there's no time like the present. It should be the aim of every Provincial Council to have at least two grounds capable of housing 50,000 spectators.

And such a project should be within the compass of every Province. What about a provincial club championship, for instance. A competition run on these lines wouldn't be long in bringing in the necessary funds.

Even at that the Central Council would still nearly certainly suffer a loss in revenue by taking some of the big games out of the metropolis.

But it would be worth it all, for it would give the provinces, particularly the younger generation, a chance of seeing the "big guns" in action without undue expense.

PERSONALITY PARADE

Willie Kehoe

WILLY KEHOE, the pride of Wexford, has been taking part in National Ploughing Championships for 19 years and was Senior Horse-Plough Champion at Navan, in 1941; at Ballinasloe, in 1944; at Drogheda, in 1949; at Bandon in 1950. He switched to Tractor in 1953 and won the two furrow championship in 1955 and the three furrow in 1956. This proves that the Horse-Plough competition is a good school for Tractor-Plough champions to get their knowledge.

In Horse-Plough work the ploughman walks all day close to the soil and in this way sees first hand everything that happens and the effects of every adjustment, however small. This is a fundamental training for top-rankers so that when they take command of a tractor and plough they know precisely what to do to get the desired effect.

Willy Kehoe has the honour of being the first competitor to hold the championship in Horse and both the Two-Furrow and Three-Furrow Tractor events. He farmed about 70 acres up to a couple of years ago, when he acquired another 52 acres. No doubt, aided by Mrs. Kehoe, he means to provide work at home for his three boys and four girls.

Like many other first rate ploughmen he won all his championships using Star Ploughs, which are manufactured by the Wexford Engineering Co., Limited.

A large contingent from the London Craobhaacha of Sinn Fein travelled to Manchester for the Allen, Larkin and O'Brien Commemoration early in December.



KNITWEAR

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JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE



New Ireland defenders repel a St. Vincents' attack in the Dublin Senior Hurling League final at headquarters. Tony Young (St. Vincents) in the background.

yardstick, particularly in the case of St. Kieran's who were hardly extended in disposing of St. Peter's. Wexford, challenge.

FINAL WINNERS

It does look as if the winners in the first of the football semi-finals, Knockbeg College, Carlow, v Ballyfin, might make a bold bid for 1957 Leinster honours.

Not that we are unmindful of the sterling qualities of St. Joseph's C.B.S., who oppose O'Connell's in the other semifinal; and who could with luck add another Leinster trophy to the one they won in 1956.

MUNSTER AFFAIRS

When Colleges' competitions are resumed down South we look forward to very many keen encounters to decide this year's championships.

One of the oldest colleges' rivalries exists between St. Colman's, Fermoy, and St. Flannan's Ennis.

That rivalry existed of course more in hurling than in football; but it is in the latter code they shall contest the semi-final after the holidays.

Ni furas an toradh a bheas leis an gcluiche seo a mheas roimhre; níor imir Colaiste Cholmain cluiche ar bith sa gcomortas go dtí seo, aít nar imir Colaiste Fhlannain dha cheann a bhí dian go maith.

For the other football semi-final the De La Salle, Waterford boys,

who have qualified, must await the outcome of the Colaiste Iosagain encounter.

HURLING SCENE

In hurling, six teams are still in the running for senior honours. Of these, St. Flannan's, who have qualified for the semi-final are the only team with a chance of the senior double.

Thurles C.B.S. meet Ennis CBS to decide their 2nd round tie while Dungarvan C.B.S. and Doon C.B.S. are opponents in the same stage of the competition.

North Monastery, by their defeat of Farranferris have also qualified for the semi-final.

Ciacu fuireann díobh sin a bhuaidhfas sa gcomortas craoibhe? Fadh eile i sin gur deacair a reiteach. Cloisim go bhfuil an dochas ar fad ag Durlas Eile, cionn as go bhfuil moran d'iomaithe na bliana seo thart acu arís i mbliana, ach ní bheidh se furas acu in eadan na Mainistreach.

Thuaidh, ach oiread agus a bhí anuraidh; no ma theigheann se go dtí sin, in eadan Colaiste na h'Inse.

Whatever the outcome, we look forward to many brilliant exhibitions of the science and art of Munster hurling, before the winners of the Harty Cup are known for 1957.

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Now For Final Stages

(By M. O. Dubhghaill)

I have received very many enquiries during last term, for the names of schools and colleges championship holders in the several grades, in the various provinces.

As these are of interest to all, I have set them out here:

CONNACHT—Senior Football—St. Jarlath's, Tuam. Senior Hurling—St. Mary's Galway. Junior Football—St. Jarlath's. Junior Hurling—St. Mary's.

LEINSTER—Senior Football—St. Joseph's C.B.S. (Dublin). Senior Hurling—Patrician College (Ballyfin). Junior Football—St. Finian's Mullingar. Junior Hurling—St. Kieran's, Kilkenny. Special Junior Hurling—New Ross, C.B.S.

MUNSTER—Senior Football—Limerick C.B.S. Senior Hurling—Thurles C.B.S. Junior Football—St. Augustine's, Dungarvan. Junior Hurling—Thurles C.B.S. Special Junior Football—Scoll Croist Rí, Cork. Special Junior Hurling—St. Theresa, Castlemartyr.

ULSTER—Senior Football—St. Macartan's, Monaghan. Junior Football—St. Colman's Newry. Under 15 Football—Abbey C.B.S. Newry. Senior Hurling—St. Malachy's, Belfast. Junior Hurling—St. Mary's C.B.S., Belfast.

Incidentally my very gracious thanks to many schoolboy readers who sent us Christmas messages—congratulatory and otherwise. Ba mhór an togail chroí dhuinn go speisialta, litreacha Gaeilge a fuairamar ó Cholaiste Mhuimneach, agus ó mheanscoil in Ultaibh.

Go maire sibh—agus go mairadh ar. nGaeilg slan.

LEINSTER PROSPECTS

That Senior Football replay—St. Vincent's C.B.S. v O'Connell School—has left the stage all set for the senior semi-finals in both codes for Leinster honours. St. Joseph's C.B.S. and Patrician College, are now the only teams to survive, with chances of achieving the coveted senior double in hurling and football.

These two schools meet in the first of the senior hurling finals; and the form book indicates another win for the Mountrath boys—follwing once again the Dublin teams chances of the double as they did last year.

The issue in the other hurling semi-final is much more open. In it, two teams which until recent years monopolised the senior hurling title,—Mount St. Joseph's, Roscrea, and Kilkenny St. Kieran's, are the contenders.

Matches to date are as unreliable

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NEW ADDITION TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

THE new additions to St. Mary's College, Rathmines, consist of an Oratory 35' x 72', with a semi-circular apse and a gallery, with combined seating accommodation for 500 boys.

In the Oratory, there is a marble High Altar and two marble side Altars. The floor of the Sanctuary is Italian marble, and the centre and cross passage floors are laid with mosaic.

Three additional classrooms 18' x 18', a Science classroom 29' 6" x 21' and a Dean's office are provided on the ground floor, and sanitary accommodation has been increased.

On the first floor four new classrooms and a new sanitary block have been provided by an additional storey to the existing one-storey building. The new section of the building provides an Art Room and accommodation for eight Professors on the first floor. With the old school, there is now accommodation for 650 pupils.

Buildings are faced with Kings-court rustic bricks and have slated roofs. The floors throughout are of reinforced concrete. The corridor floor in the School section of the building are covered with mosaic, and the classroom floors are in pitch pine and teak block. The floors of the Professors' rooms are covered with oak parquet.

THE NEW CHURCH

An endeavour has been made to plan the new Church in keeping with tradition and simplicity. It consists of a rectangular Nave with circular apsidal end containing the High Altar. There are two side altars, one on each side of the circular headed Chancel Arch.

There is an organ loft approached by a fireproof stairs from the school corridor. A rectangular Bell Tower has been constructed over this staircase. Surmounted by a simple Latin cross in gold, its white granite, stands out in pleasing contrast with the rustic brick and blue slate of the main structure. It is an added embellishment to the Rathmines district standing as it does sixty feet high on the low rise above the main road and suitably set off by the stretch of green lawn in front. There are two additional altars in the Organ Loft and an electronic organ.

The windows of the Church are circular headed and glazed with leaded lights, in which old Irish cross motifs from the ancient monastery of Clonmacnois have been embodied. Their height is noteworthy.

The internal walls of the Nave have been panelled to a height of eight feet with mahogany, over which they are finished in plain grey plaster. Confessionals are included in the general panelling scheme at the back. The seating is also in polished mahogany. The ceiling design consists of coffering which enhances the appearance and has definite acoustic value. Its height gives a feeling of amplitude to the Nave. The Stations of the Cross are in opal glass and gold mosaic.

Teak block has been selected for the flooring with centre aisle and transverse aisle in Italian mosaics. Beginning from the back of the church the three sacrifices of the Old Law mentioned in the Canon of the Mass—of Abel (a lamb), of Abraham (Isaac), of Melchisedech (bread and wine)—have been executed as subjects in mosaic insets of attractive colouring.

The simplicity, dignity and beauty of design are continued in the sanctuary which is executed in coloured marbles—black and gold in the risers of the steps, with treads in white and black Pavanazzo.

Two pairs of Etruscan marble columns bear up the High Altar. The altar table is a slab of beautiful black Kilkenny marble, weighing a ton and a half. The recessed frontal of rich onyx with its German Cross in white Carara marble as centrepiece, serve to make it the focal point of the Church.

Candlesticks, Crosses, Tabernacles, Sanctuary Lamp and wall brackets for lights—all of polished bronze—complete the harmony of design.

Externally, the Church is faced with red brick, with granite dressings to the windows, quoins, etc. The roof is covered with Killaloe slate.



Some Leinster Colleges stars in action in the Senior Football Championship.

PEADER BYRNE'S ROUND-UP

WHAT makes a town or village "click" as a thriving centre of the G.A.A.? Does success depend on the size of the population or is it sheer tradition which enables some towns to outshine others in the matter of producing outstanding players and winning trophies?

Take the town of Drogheda for instance. Here we have a place with a big population and soaked in tradition, and yet success has not come their way in the proportion one would expect.

Rev. J. Lennon, C.C., St. Peter's President of the local St. Dominic's club, saw no cause for rejoicing in the standard of play displayed during 1956. Coming from such an eminent enthusiast as Fr. Lennon, this statement certainly spells danger for Louth football in general.

However, things are not all that grim in the famed Wee County. On the credit side is the wonderful brand of football being served up by St. Mary's, Ardee.

Their recent 1-7 to 0-5 victory over Stabannon climaxed a great match-winning run for the Ardee team, who have thus swept the boards in all senior championships this season. Nice going, boys!

The most accomplished County Champions in Ireland was the label freely tagged on the Curragh Military Training College following their great win in this year's Kil-

clare championship.

Manned chiefly by players who had not yet reached the age of twenty-one, they produced an all-conquering brand of high-speed football that left such doughty championship battlers as Ballymore and Round Towers, trailing helplessly in their wake.

Now comes the good news that several of the young lieutenants who were commissioned last November, may be stationed permanently in the Curragh.

With players of the calibre of Lieuts. Bohane, O'Grady, Carey and O'Neil available, the future of Kildare football seems assured.

Speaking of Kildare reminds me that Sean O'Donnell, who figured with so much promise on last year's Kildare Junior Football team, has returned from England, and rumour has it that the Claneman may shortly be seen in the royal blue of the Gardai.

TALENT ON WAY?

Depending on the result of the recent entrance examination, the Garda team may soon become the strongest footballing force in Dublin.

Several outstanding footballers were among the large contingent who sat for the examination and one [well-known club in particular, stands to lose three of its best players, if all goes well for the entrants.

Best news in the Metropolis during the past month was the announcement that St. Vincent's would after all, continue to dominate matters on the Football Selection Committee.

The new champions, Erin's Hope were entitled to claim two places on the Committee but in view of the fact that most of their players had declared for their native counties, they decided to relinquish their privilege.

So the two Marino delegates, Messrs. Ferguson and Mangan, along with Tom Russell (St. Brigid's), Joe Farrell (St. Agnes) and Brendan Quinn (Parnells) will continue to be responsible for Dublin's football fortunes for the coming twelve months.

LOSS AND GAIN

Collin's football club has suffered a big loss through the departure of their able mentor Sgt. Mick Quinlan to St. Caillans.

Mick, who is vice-chairman of the Dublin Junior Board, will have promising material to work on in Vinnie Murphy, Sean Hazell and Joe Taylor, and given the 'breaks' they could make their presence felt on the Dublin Junior scene, in the coming season.

One of the key men in Sg. Uí Conaill's game but unavailing fight against Cr. Ruadh in the recent Smith Cup final was 21 years old, Larry Shannon.

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The Fashionable Present

In the year 1863 the Brotherhood started a newspaper, the **IRISH PEOPLE**, with the two-fold object of propagating their doctrine and increasing the revenue of the Society.

Thomas Luby, John O'Leary, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, and Charles Kickham were the leading figures behind this new enterprise.

From the date of its establishment the **IRISH PEOPLE** preached the doctrine that constitutional agitation for the redress of Ireland's grievance was worse than useless and that an armed uprising was the only solution of the problem of self-rule for Ireland.

HEADQUARTERS

In time the offices of the **IRISH PEOPLE** came to be regarded as the headquarters of the Fenian Organisation, and as such was under observation by detectives and touts in the pay of the Castle.

On the 15th September, 1865, at half-past nine in the evening, a



O'DONOVAN ROSSA

large force of police broke into the offices and seized all papers, letters, books and manuscripts.

In different parts of the city the Fenian leaders were rounded-up and among them were the four men most closely connected with the **IRISH PEOPLE**: Luby, O'Leary, Rossa and Kickham.

On Monday, November 27th, 1865, the state trials commenced in the Courthouse at Green Street, scene of Robert Emmet's trial half a century before. A feeling of anti-climax hung over the court as James Stephens, the prize catch of the police dragnet, managed to escape from prison a few days previously.

MATTER OF FORM

The result of the trials was a foregone conclusion. The Crown had evidence collected by one Pierce Nagle, a police spy who had been on the staff of the **IRISH PEOPLE**. Nagle had also been in the confidence of Stephens right up to the time of the arrests.

Luby was first to be tried. He was sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude after a short trial, and he listened to the words of sentence without apparent emotion.

Luby was conditionally released from prison in 1871 and soon afterwards he went to New York. He died in New Jersey in 1901.

O'Leary was next on the list. He received the same sentence as Luby—twenty years' penal servitude. O'Leary had spent many years in America prior to taking up the post of chief editor of the **IRISH PEOPLE**, and he gained the confidence of all the chief American Fenians while in the United States.

Spanning A Century

THE IRISH PEOPLE



THE "Gaelic Echo" is dedicated to all things Gaelic—games, culture and language, and we are glad to know that we are following in a glorious tradition, for it was in our present offices, in 13 Parliament Street, that the Fenian newspaper, "The Irish People," flourished under O'Donovan Rossa. Above we reproduce the historic title page of "The Irish People" and the now familiar title of the "Gaelic Echo," thus spanning almost a century.

When he was released he lived in France and America for a while, but he returned to Ireland towards the end of the century and wrote his "Recollections of Fenianism." He died in 1907.

Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa was next to be tried. When the **IRISH PEOPLE** started Rossa became business manager. He travelled extensively throughout Ireland and is said to have sworn in more Fenians than any ten of his comrades. He visited America to gain recruits for the cause but returned to Ireland when the **IRISH PEOPLE** started.

At his trial Rossa decided to conduct his own defence. He created a sensation by his brilliant questioning of spies, detectives and Crown lawyers.

After this bout of cross-examining hostile witnesses he caused panic by claiming his legal right to read through all the publications that had been brought in evidence against him.

These included the complete file of the **IRISH PEOPLE**! Rossa then stated that he did not intend to read everything in the files of the **IRISH PEOPLE**—as a concession to the court he would refrain from reading the advertisements!

MARATHON EFFORT

For eight and a half hours Rossa read extracts from the **IRISH PEOPLE**, mostly dealing with the shady political dealings of Judge Keogh who was trying him.

Next day the Judge proceeded to pass sentence. Summing up, he said: "The prisoner has entertained these criminal designs since 1859," whereupon Rossa interjected: "I have been an Irishman since I was born."

Judge Keogh sentenced Rossa to life imprisonment, but he was released in 1871. He then went to America, where he died on June 29th, 1915. On July 17th his remains arrived in Ireland.

His funeral was epoch making, and is still remembered as the occasion on which Padraic Pearse made his famous oration.

KICKHAM LAST

Charles Kickham was the last of the quartette to receive sentence. Although he was in very bad health—he was almost blind and deaf—Kickham was sentenced to fourteen years' penal servitude for his part in Fenian activities.

He was released after four years, however. He died in 1882.

The **IRISH PEOPLE** ceased publication in 1865 when the four leaders behind the paper were arrested.

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Garryowen's Greatest Day

GAELS CALL AT—
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By LONBEACON
Co. Galway, are to be taken seriously and there is little doubt that they were words well founded. Speaking from the shoulders of his team-mates in a corner of the New Eltham Grounds—that corner in which so many other captains have said "This has been my greatest day"—with the championship cup clutched in his arms, he said, in the course of a reply to the Rev. Father McNamara (Cork), who made the presentation: Our sporting victims to-day, Naomh Mhuire, may have better luck next year—maybe."

His emphasis on the word "maybe" came undoubtedly from the heart of this grand sportsman, who hails from the City of the Tribes. The chief architects working behind the scenes in this Garryowen achievement are J. Birmingham, Cork, and V. Goulden, Mayo, who have been associated with the club since its formation.
THE Garryowen Football Club, which is centered in the Hammersmith district of London, has been persistent in striving for a London title for close on ten years—

ever since the club was founded. Their quest was finally rewarded on a gloomy December day in the season which has just ended when they wrestled London's most coveted trophy and their title, the senior championships from none other than the reigning champs, Naomh Mhuire, in the decider. Naomh Mhuire have been London's most prominent club in recent years and defeating them, whether in a final or other qualifying encounter, is always regarded as an accomplishment in itself.

Cavan Want A Midfield Pair

By TONY O'HAGEN.
"WANTED — Two Midfielders" might well be the cry of the Cavan selectors, as they see their hopes and ambitions suffer through the lack of two stalwarts for the vital sector.
Some contend that the Tom Maguire-Jim McDonnell partnership is second to none, while others maintain that either Maguire or McDonnell needs a different helper.
I don't agree. Neither the Garda man nor the student is at his best in the centre of the field, and the sooner they return to their rightful positions, the better it will be for the team as a whole.

Line Failed

Take the half back line. Against Leitrim at Ballinamore it read — Mal Shields, Hubert Gaffney and Donal Kelly and it was not a success. And the Cavan selectors, who are among the shrewdest in the land, knew it was a failure.
Unfortunately, the re-arranged line for the Mayo game — Paddy Carolan, Hubert Gaffney and Brian O'Reilly did not materialise due to the defection of the Mullagh man and Donal Kelly took over on the right.
Again it failed to give satisfaction.

Brendan McLoughlin out-fielded and out-generalled Kelly, while O'Reilly failed utterly to curb the speedy thrusts of Mick Stewart.
Neither has Gaffney been a complete success as pivot. It is not fair to the player himself or to the team in general to pursue the gamble.
Gaffney is a right half back of more than ordinary ability but the position in the centre calls for a mobility of movement, a speed into the tackle and a weight behind that same tackle that the Dublin College of Pharmacy player simply does not possess.

Left Corner Best

O'Reilly's best position now seems to be at left corner back. Kelly, is not a defender but might well fit into the picture as a right half forward.
Following my line of argument, the gamble — and it is nothing less — of playing Maguire and McDonnell in the centre of the field is doubly weakening in that they are not at home at midfield and their absence from the half back line throws an undue strain on the defence.

Watching Garda Dan McCaffrey in action at full back against St. Vincent's in the Dublin senior football semi-final, I am prompted to ask "Why can't he find a place in the team?"
He is big and strong, and possesses a fine pair of hands. Cavan folk have told me that he was not a success in previous outings. But when I ask them how many chances they gave him to settle down in the one position, their answers were vague.
If memory serves me rightly the late great John Joe O'Reilly and the equally lamented Phil Duke burned no sudden paths to glory. Neither did right corner back Noel O'Reilly who was off and on the team with monotonous regularity. Now he is one of the best men in the position in the country!

Brian Gallagher is no newcomer to football but his play this year has shown such general all-round improvement, that from a never more than adequate footballer, he is now one of the most gifted in the four provinces.
So Cavan, give McCaffrey a chance — a real chance. Play him and give him an opportunity to develop his game and his confidence. And even if he is only moderately successful he will have done better than anyone — with the exception of near-veteran Victor Sherlock has done in your problem position for the past year.

Hurling Is Behind In Monaghan

BY G. M. McNAMARA
IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING THAT HURLING HAS NOT CAUGHT ON TO ANY GREAT EXTENT IN COUNTY MONAGHAN SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF THE G.A.A. IN THE COUNTY IN THE 1890's.
In the 18th and 19th centuries hurling was the main ball game played in both town and country areas there. Monaghan hurlers in the old days had a rather unique hurley ball—the brain of an ox mixed with slaked lime, covered a piece of eel-skin.
About 1850 James Maher from Nenagh, Tipperary, introduced the more conventional hurling ball to Monaghan, together with several other innovations in the game.
During the 19th century two famous Monaghan families, the Tomalty's of the Farney district, and a McKenna family of Trough, in North Monaghan, held a virtual monopoly for the making of the caman, a family monopoly which was developed into a small industry.

Not Particular

But the locals did not worry too much about the type of caman in use, and many an ash sapling in its natural state with a ready made 'foot' (as it was called) featured in the local matches.

In the 1890's hockey seemed to eclipse the game in the towns, and Gaelic football was introduced into parishes almost to the exclusion of hurling.
It may be said that Monaghan's hurling tradition has been of a sporadic nature. At no time was there an all-out effort made locally to organise the game on a county-wide basis.
Within the immediate post-war period there has been a revival of interest in the game, though once again rural clubs have been reluctant to exploit the game to any extent. Accordingly then the focal centres for the game are the town clubs such as Monaghan, Castleblayney, Clones, etc.

Keep It Going

The maintenance of hurling in Monaghan depends, for the most part, on the efforts of men who come from counties with a strong hurling tradition.
Thus, for instance, last year Martin McCabe of Clones, a native of Castleconnell, made an all-out appeal (in vain) to the Clones St. Feirney's G.F.C. to introduce hurling in the juvenile grade, and maintained that this was the only logical method of fostering the game in the county.
In Castleblayney hurling is on the upgrade. Several impressive games were played in the 1955 and 1956 seasons, with a Monaghan town hurling selection gaining the county hurling championship at Pearse Park, Ballybay in November, when they defeated the Blaney titleholders of 1955.

It is felt that hurling will never oust Gaelic football in the county, let alone become established even on a parallel basis.
Lack Interest
It is a pity that our county schools and colleges do not take a greater interest in the game because it is from the schools that we must expect any dynamic drive towards a renaissance in Monaghan hurling.

The Mid-Ulster hurling league is attracting much attention locally, and the few Monaghan hurlers are now looking forward to a possible Ulster title for Monaghan soon.
However, until the game is firmly established in every club throughout the county Monaghan cannot hope to field a representative county team.

Where Are Our G.A.A. Historians

By G. M. McNAMARA.
DOES not the fact that only one unsuccessful entry in the Oireachtas annual competition for a history of the G.A.A., has been submitted in the four years of the competition's existence, discover the serious dearth of literature dealing with Gaelic games generally?

The shelves of our Public Libraries and the show cases in our book shops are literally inundated with volumes covering every other sports game at home and abroad.
Yet, in the 72 years of the G.A.A.'s existence only a very meagre volume of literature dealing with Gaelic games as such have come from the printing presses.
In the case of other games, the voluminous literature that has been published on every facet of them has given these various games a marked fillip.

For one thing, it has cultivated at least armchair enthusiasts—millions of them—who might otherwise never cultivate any interest in outdoor sports.
The dearth of anything like a body of literature dealing with Gaelic games as such is an anachronism to-day in view of the popularity of the games, and the tremendous interest taken in Gaelic sports reports in the daily, weekly, and specialist newspapers.

Record Needed

However valuable the contributions of the ephemeral press, they cannot take the place of a permanent literature of Gaelic games in book forms.
The recent success of the "Tommy Doyle Story" (edited from an English press), coupled with the current vogue on sports reviews, should surely inspire both individual Irish authors and publishers to "risk" publication of a worthy Gaelic Athletic Literature.

Are our authors and publishers too conservative in their approach to the whole problem?
It is difficult to visualise any immediate improvement in the situation since Irish publishers are in the doldrums of recent years, but I hazard the guess that this would prove a lucrative line.

NEEDS EXAMINATION

We should, I think, expect a serious examination of the whole position by the central authorities of the G.A.A.
No better vehicle for the spread of the aims and the ideals of the Association could be found. No better ambassador of Gaelic gamse abroad could be found than a body of literature dealing exclusively with Gaelic Athletics as such.

At least one County Board has tackled the problem in a manner worthy of emulation throughout Ireland.
The Monaghan County Board has signified its support and interest in the publication of a comprehensive history of the county's Gaelic Athletic tradition! Work is in progress on this score. But that is only one small facet of the national problem!
Our Gaelic games are now part of our national heritage, and as such should be fully and permanently "documented."

Americans Like To See Champions

By DES. KEEGAN.
THE decision of the Special Congress that Wexford and Cork should be allowed travel to America has been well received throughout the country, and rightly so, for it will allow our exiles the pleasure of seeing our best hurlers in action.

I say that fully mindful of the fact that neither may gain National League honours, for I think that the championship rather than the league should be used as a yardstick to judge a team's capabilities.
Galway footballers, too, have had their tour sanctioned, but, in their case at least, they may well travel as dual title-holders.

DIFFERENT VIEW

Some, no doubt, will disagree and point out that the sending of others than League winners cuts across the purpose of the St. Brendan Cup competitions.
It should be remembered, however, that the championship is our primary competition and

that it can happen, as in Wexford's case, that the efforts associated with it, coupled with the necessity of fulfilling so many other engagements, have taken the edge off a team's effectiveness.

That is not to say, however, that Wexford will not measure up to their task, for the intervening months since the temporary hold-up in "hostilities" will have done the Slaneymen a world of good, and I await their New Year appearance with confidence.

Remember, too, that the Americans invited them over, and that irrespective of the National League winners both Cork and Wexford hurlers were the chosen to travel. This fact seems to be overlooked by the small minority who oppose the tours.

The Americans cherish every contact they may have with the homeland, and do not fear, the St. Brendan Cup games will not suffer.

τÁ ΤÚ ΔΡ
ἔΔΟΘ' ΝΑ
βυαίθε ἰ
ζσónαί λε

Arton

μυνητῖρ ἑαυθαίλλ' οὖν θεαίσαν
Ῥεάνσῖραι τοῖσιν βρεατῶ θυναίτε 1824

Ireland's Industrial Advance

HAS BEEN LINKED WITH LEATHER SINCE 1906

THE name Kennedy O'Brien is one that is well-known in the tanning industry and leather trade. Its first association with leather was way back in 1906 when a youth of sixteen years entered the employment of the tanning firm of E. O'Callaghan & Sons, Ltd., at Limerick.

After four years in the office there the firm showed its appreciation of the ability of their young employee in a very practical way when they appointed him Manager of their new branch office in Belfast, which was opened there in 1910. To-day, the same Mr. Kennedy O'Brien is undoubtedly the doyen of the leather industry in this country.

Last year, he completed fifty years association with the trade. During that period he has built up a great wholesale leather business in North Frederick Street, Dublin, helped to establish no less than four tanneries in Ireland and founded and developed a number of enterprises allied to the leather trade. He has seen the number of tanneries grow and, more important, he has played a big part in bringing about a tremendous increase in the output of tanned products.

Forty years ago only sole and harness leathers were produced by Irish tanneries and even the bulk of the sole leather used here was imported from Britain. To-day, Irish tan-

neries are making, in addition to sole and harness leathers, upper leathers and sheepskin leathers. Hides were numbered in hundreds in the early years, but now they are numbered in thousands.

It was in 1925 that Mr. Kennedy O'Brien established his own firm of wholesale leather merchants, which is titled Kennedy O'Brien & Co., Ltd. Apart from its wholesale leather business, this company trades in shoe manufacturing and repairing machinery of the most modern kind from many countries, including America, Denmark, England and Germany. The Manager of the firm is Mr. Kennedy O'Brien, Junior, son of the founder, and another son, Seamus, travels the territory that his father once covered on an outside car, having to change vehicles and horses at each town.

In 1933, he was one of the founders of Irish Tanners Ltd., Portlaw. Other Companies engaged in the tanning industry with which he is closely associated are The Dickens Leather Co., Ltd., Dungarvan, Glue & Gelatine, Ltd., Kennedy O'Brien & Sons (Milford), Ltd., Rathangan Tannery, New Ross Tanning Co., Ltd.

Famous For Insecticides And Disinfectants

RICHARDSON Manufacturing Chemists, Ltd., of Clontarf Road, Dublin, was in its early days known as Richardson & Fletcher, and about a century and a half ago the firm were "the" people in the fertiliser industry. Now under its present title, the Company is best known for its highly effective insecticides and disinfectants for horticultural and household use.

The Managing Director today is Mr. Victor J. Albericci and the Chairman of the Company, Mr. W. H. B. Richardson, popularly known as 'Willie' Richardson, is a grandson of the original founder.

Probably their best known insecticide is "Slugtox" and during an interview, Mr. Albericci casually mentioned that there were only two firms in the world manufacturing a liquid slug-killer and "Slugtox" is one of them. It appears that a product of this nature is usually in a powder form, but Mr. Albericci maintains that the liquid form has decided advantages over powder. With the liquid it is possible to



MR. WILLIAM RICHARDSON

highly effective rat killer. This product is known as Ratero, and, judging from the results obtained, it is at the top of its class. Mr. Albericci is very concerned about the damage both to public health and property caused every year by the prevalence of rats. He has gone so far as to organise the first ever "Rat Week" in Ireland.

About 1954 the town of Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, due to its geographical situation, was suffering from an influx of rats. With the co-operation of Mr. Corry, who at the time was Vice-Chairman of the Town Commissioners, Richardson's undertook to organise a "Rat Week" in the town at their own expense. Public meetings were held and a considerable amount of pamphlets were published and circulated. A specialist in rat extermination was sent to Ballybay and he was available to any person who was interested in ridding his property of the rat pest. Richardson's product, "Ratero," was demonstrated in each case and its great effectiveness was noted to the satisfaction of the community.

Mr. Albericci says that enough praise could not be given to Mr. Corry, who actually supplied "Ratero" at his own expense to people who could not afford it themselves. A word of praise must also go to the "Northern Standard," who devoted space in their popular paper to the project. Mr. Albericci felt, however, that he might have got more support from the local Public Health Authorities. It has been estimated that £8 worth of damage per rat is done to private property each year. By the elimination of rats a very considerable sum of money could be saved.

Richardson's supply seven Industrial Chemists at their plant, and this is a high proportion for a small firm; 40 people in all are employed there. They find an outlet for their products through the retail trade, i.e., chemists, hardware shops and grocers, etc.

At present they are extending their premises on a large scale and their intention is to have all the latest equipment for the most important processes of "grinding" and "mixing." "Ratero," for example, goes through five operations and mixing and grinding before being packed. Each product is fully tested before being put on the market, partly the reason for having seven chemists. Richardson's believe in well-packed lines and go to great trouble to give the public a first-class product, packed so as to facilitate application.

control the slugs at their source." **EXPORT TRADE** It is of great interest to note that Richardson's have an export market in insecticide and disinfectants. Granted at the moment it is not a large one, but the idea is there and negotiations are in progress at present to extend this market. In view of the present state of the balance of trade, this company deserves praise for their efforts in this field.

RATS AND PUBLIC HEALTH Richardson's are producing a

Radio Taxis Operate On A 24-Hour Basis

AT Westland Row is a central depot in which the cabs of Radio Taxis are serviced, and on which their control is based. In these premises they have a licensed short-wave transmitter and receiver. Each cab has a small-scale replica and work on a 24-hour basis.

When a customer phones, he gets a pleasant surprise at the speed of the service. There is no secret about the technique. Each driver as he finishes a run simply stops at that point and reports to Central Control by radio. His position is charted by the control officer.

When a customer rings for a cab the control officer chooses one of the number located at perhaps twenty points around the city. The one parked nearest to his phone is told by radio to pick up the fare.

Mr. Harold McCausland, the Belfastman who is directing radio taxis in Dublin, claims to have had the experience of a man who went from his home to a phone box called Radio Taxis and found his cab waiting for him at his door when he went back. "That," says Harold McCausland "is how simple the system is and people find it quick, cheap and easy to get a cab at the door for an awkward cross-city trip. The practical result is that more business is generated by the advantages of the system to the customer."

A point of interest about Belfast, he said, is that there are now more taxi drivers in Belfast than when the system started and that more independent taxi drivers find that it gives them a more regular income to be employed by them than to run their own taxis.

The firm in Dublin buy all their cars, petrol, oil and spares in Dublin and employ Dublin drivers. Mr. McCausland maintains that the rapid availability of a first-class service will encourage the use of cabs and thus develop the taxi habit among the people. That will mean further employment.

Mr. McCausland knows his taxi business. In association with his brother he founded a taxi fleet in Belfast in 1939, and they introduced radio-cabs there in 1949. They have now close on 140 taxis on Belfast Streets.

A Rapidly Developing Engineering Factory

AN engineering factory rapidly developing in the town of Kildare is that of Alexander McDonald (Engineering) Limited, who manufacture very good quality Factory Trucks and Trolleys for every type of industry. Their range of manufactures is extensive and include light and heavy Turntable Trucks, Tipping Wagons and Trucks, Dyehouse Trucks, Textile Trucks, Galvanised, Aluminium and Stainless Steel Meat Trucks, Dairy Trucks, Sack Trucks, Bakers' Trolleys, 3-ton Trailers, Jack-Lift Trucks and Stillages, Steel Builders' Wheelbarrows, etc.

They also supply Gravity Roller Conveyors for Package Handling, Overhead Conveyors for Plant Mechanisation and all types of Mechanical Handling equipment.

The vulcanised-on rubber-tired wheels and castors, plain and roller bearing, supplied by this firm, are the most superior of their kind on the market to-day. All sizes of Cast Iron Wheels and Castors are also stocked by them.

A comprehensive training in engineering is given to boys, who are drawn from the local Technical School, and they are encouraged to continue their technical studies during the period of apprenticeship.

We wish this firm every success.

NEW WHEAT PRICE TABLE

Cut out this table and pin it up somewhere. It will let you see later on what price you should be getting for your wheat, and how much you could earn by holding on to it for a couple of months.

| Bushel weight | Basic Price | Wheat Dec. '57 | Wheat Jan. '58 |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 64 lb. or over | 73/6 | 76/- | 78/6 |
| 63 to 64 lb. | 72/6 | 75/- | 77/6 |
| 62 to 63 lb. | 71/6 | 74/- | 76/6 |
| 61 to 62 lb. | 70/6 | 73/- | 75/6 |
| 60 to 61 lb. | 69/6 | 72/- | 74/6 |
| 59 to 60 lb. | 68/6 | 71/- | 73/6 |
| 58 to 59 lb. | 67/6 | 70/- | 72/6 |
| 57 to 58 lb. | 66/6 | 69/- | 71/6 |
| 56 to 57 lb. | 65/6 | 68/- | 70/6 |
| 55 to 56 lb. | 64/6 | 67/- | 69/6 |
| Less than 55 lb. | 63/6 | 66/- | 68/6 |

To these prices can be added 2/6 per barrel for wheat of 22 to 25 per cent. moisture, or 5/- if the moisture is 22 per cent. or less.

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Gaelic Echo

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL REVIEW



The Agricultural Industry

By EAMONN O'LEANACHAIN

IN diagnosing the cause of the present economic crisis in Ireland, it is quite evident from the advanced nature of things that steps should have been taken at least three years ago to prescribe for a remedy. This remedy lay in the intelligent application of a policy of increased agricultural production, and so provide a bigger surplus of agricultural produce for the export market. If we are to save the country's economy we must apply this remedy without any further delays or evasions.

To get results in this connection we must first of all, set out to restore the confidence of the farming community, and this can only be done through a sound agricultural policy. Secondly, we must give an inducement to farmers for higher and more efficient production.

During the past couple of years the farmers have been exhorted, from all levels, to produce more and more. They have been asked to do this without a guaranteed market for their produce and, above all, stability for a longer period than they have been accustomed to get.

Misled And Misjudged

It is a fact the farmers, for a number of years, have been misled and as a result of the decline in our agricultural industry, have been misjudged by certain sections of the community. They have been publicly denounced as "Prejudiced Soreheads," "Political Interlopers," and "State Spongers." Some of our people have the impression that the farmers don't want to co-operate and this is altogether untrue. There is no anti-increased production attitude as far as the farmers are concerned.

Statistics show that there is still a further worsening of the export position, and as agriculture is our chief industry, we depend on the

farmers to lead us back on the road to prosperity. Now this end cannot be secured unless some definite and stable policy is maintained with regard to the industry on the whole.

What effective measures can we take to secure a substantial increase in agricultural production? The problem entailed is not a difficult one, but the method of approach must be one of positive action backed by sincerity of purpose.

We must offer the farmers a long term deal, the features of which would be a guaranteed market and price assurances for livestock and crops. In addition to these we must endeavour to promote improved marketing methods, credit facilities, advisory councils, co-operative enterprises in agriculture, improved stocks and equipment, and increased uses of fertilisers. These projects, however, cannot be fully implemented unless generous assistance is given by the State, and, moreover, it is only through such a policy that the State will bring the farmers with it in its fight for economic independence.

Competition Is Very Keen

The competition in the agricultural export market is very keen at the present time, and some of our people seem to think that there is a great danger of being priced out of these markets. I think, however, that the competitive efficiency of the Irish Agricultural industry can

be raised to a very large degree, despite the risk arising from fluctuations.

This question of stability of market and price may be a bit of a problem, but surely if other agricultural countries of the same size and with the same resources, can surmount such problems, there is no reason why we can't do likewise. There is a grave necessity for the State and farmer representatives to make a concerted effort to preserve our national solvency. The State must find the market for our agricultural produce, and must give the farmer a guaranteed price for the commodities to be marketed, which collectively would allow him a fair profit. Further, prices should be reviewed annually by the State and farmer representatives and with a policy of competitive efficiency in view, the guaranteed price for any commodity should not drop more than from four to seven per cent. from the previous year. Indeed, they may even go up.

Disadvantages Of Instability

We could, at least, introduce guarantees for those commodities, the marketing of which could be controlled at home. There was, for instance, a guaranteed price for home grown wheat for a number of years, and when the drastic cut was introduced two years ago the drop in the acreage under this crop was phenomenal. Little reflection is required to perceive the disadvantages of instability. We have only to turn our attention to the import and export figures for the first nine months of 1956—statistics show that during that period we imported 775,000 tons of wheat and 44,700 tons of sugar. On the other hand, our exports showed the following decline—Pork by 176,000 cwts., butter by 14,000 cwts., potatoes by 60,000 cwts., and eggs by 48,000 great hundred.

There is, no doubt, a retrogression in our principal industry, and unless appropriate and efficacious remedies are applied immediately, we will not only drift into a state of bankruptcy, but lose our economic independence, with the logical consequences of mass unemployment and emigration. With those abhorrent evils in view, we must, therefore, join in plans and efforts to overcome all difficulties and obstacles on our path to progress.

There is no reason why we cannot compete on the agricultural export market for wheat, potatoes, sugar, butter, cheese, poultry, eggs, beef, pork, mutton, wool and several other commodities. Having such potentialities and with a policy of stability, we can surmount our present economic problems.

Fertilisers

MAKE it a point to get all the nitrogen possible by growing clover and using farmyard manure and crop residues. Mostly when farmyard manure is used for a crop all the fertilisers needed in addition is phosphate and a complete fertiliser is not needed except on poor light land.

The granulated and concentrated fertilisers have much to commend them. Mixing even a few cwt. of different fertilisers is quite a job and one has always a feeling that a corn plant say may just get three grains of phosphate instead of one each of nitrogen and potash and two of phosphate or whatever figure one has in mind. The granulated stuff ensures that where one food element goes it is accompanied by the other two.

Some of the new combinations of fertilisers are highly concentrated and save something in the way of transport costs, as one gets the same value in half the bulk, but the accurate application of small quantities of stuff to a fairly big field is often more than the machine man can do and he invariably hints that a new machine should be bought which would work exactly according to its markings. A lot of fertiliser is wasted where the land has not enough lime to keep it in condition.

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Two Diseases Of Wheat And Barley

THE object of the practice of rotating crops around the farm is prompted by a number of considerations, but one that is often overlooked is that this helps to control diseases. A couple of years ago we had the spectacle of large areas of certain counties being unable to grow sugar beet because of eel worm, which had become a menace through continual cropping of the beet on the same fields.

When farmers master a technique and find that the exercise of it means more money, they tend to concentrate to too great an extent on that one enterprise, and this is the price they pay.

Any crop plan should have this as a main consideration; especially if any trace of trouble has occurred in the season before. Diseases to remember when thinking of growing wheat this coming season are Take-All and Eyespot. These are both caused by fungus growths on the plant, and they affect mainly wheat and barley.

EFFECTS OF DISEASE

Take-All also affects some grasses—scutch, Yorkshire fog and bent

grass—so farms that are clear of these have a better chance of remaining free of the trouble.

Take-All fungus causes a black discoloration at the base of the stem, and the ears of affected cereal plants will be bleached and empty. The bleaching effect has caused the trouble sometimes to be called "white head."

The other disease, Eyespot, causes oval, brown-edged spots on the stem near the base, spots which look just like an eye, hence the name. The growth weakens the plant and causes it to bend over under stress of rain or wind-lodging.

Control measures for the two troubles are the same, do not grow wheat too often in the same ground, and keep down weeds. If phosphate is applied to the wheat or barley it will encourage root growth and help keep off the effects of Take-All. A generous top-dressing with nitrogenous manure will also help against both. A short-strawed variety of grain is better if there is danger of eyespot since it will not lodge so easily.

CUMANN TREABTA NA HEIREANN, TEO.

National Ploughing Championships

BOYLE, CO. ROSCOMMON, 7th and 8th Feb., 1957

First Day: Junior Horse Class, 2-Furrow Tractors, both grades (Junior and Senior).

Second Day: Senior Horse, 3-Furrow Class, and Farmerettes (formerly girls).

Ceilidhe, Wednesday Night, St. Patrick's Hall, Boyle.

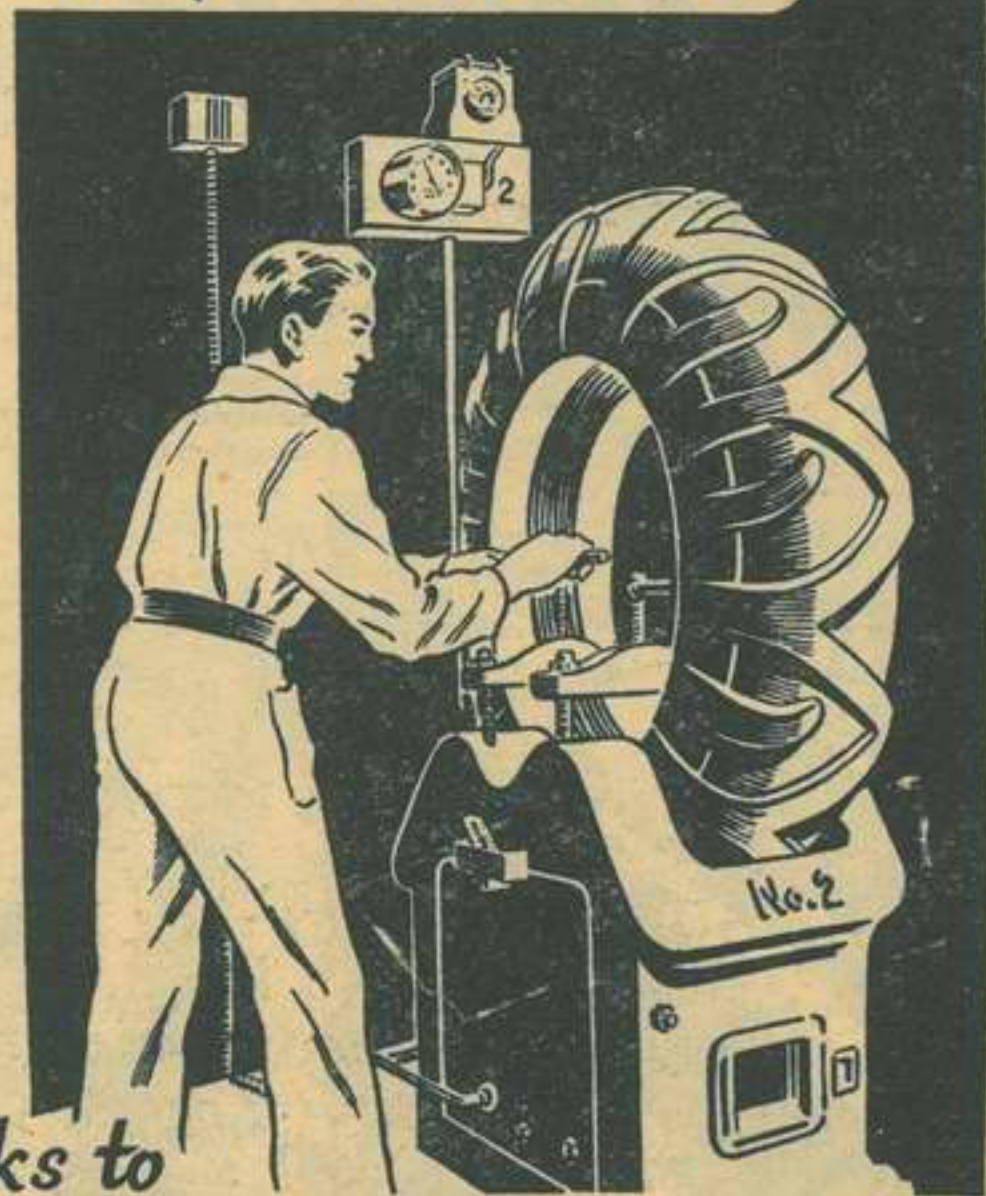
Ceilidhe, Thursday Night, St. Patrick's Hall, Boyle.

"Queen of the Plough" Dance, Friday Night, St. Patrick's Hall, Boyle.

If coming to the Championships we will be waiting for you at Carrownalaur at 10 o'clock each day. It will take you half a day to see everything on the Exhibition Grounds. The Ploughing will start at 12 o'clock and finish at 3 or 4 o'clock. There will then be another hour or two to spend in the Exhibition. It will be a long day from 10 o'clock, but there will be plenty to eat and drink in the Catering Tents. You can come and go as you please from one field to the other without extra charge, just pay 2/- at the road. If you have a car you can run it into a Car Park for 2/6, where it will be safe. You must not park on the road margins. When you are weary walking, drop into one of the three Big Cinemas, where you can see, without charge, lovely, exciting and highly educational films in an almost non-stop show.

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"Despite the petrol shortage and other difficulties, this year's National Ploughing Championships to be held on Thursday and Friday, February 7 and 8 at Boyle, Co. Roscommon promise to be one of the most successful functions in the history of the National Ploughing Association."

Mr. J. J. Bergin, Director, National Ploughing Association, made the above remarks to me in an exclusive interview, and went on to say that although some exhibitors found the venue rather inaccessible, a large number of new exhibitors from the West, who never before had the opportunity of meeting such a large number of potential customers, will be present.

Everything points to a memorable occasion: the prospect of perfect ploughing weather; Ireland's premier ploughmen (and women) showing how it is done, and a display of agricultural machinery that promises to come second only to that at the R.D.S. Spring Show in Dublin.

Additional attractions will be: free film shows (two or three different per day), refreshments at moderate prices provided on the field in several large marquees and mobile vans, and an exhibition of household electrical appliances, feeding stuffs, fertilisers and farm seeds.

Social events have not been forgotten and a long programme to suit all tastes has been arranged. These include ceills on Wednesday and Thursday nights, February 6 and 7 in St. Patrick's Hall, Boyle,

and the "Queen of the Plough" dance on Friday night, February 8 also in St. Patrick's Hall.

The 27th National Ploughing Championships are open to residents of the 32 Counties and the programme is as follows:

First day—

- (a) Junior Counties Horse Plough class;
- (b) Two Furrow Tractor Class.

Second day—

- (c) Senior Counties Horse Plough class;
- (d) Girls Two-furrow Tractor class;
- (e) Three-furrow Tractor Class.

Gates will open at 10 o'clock and the ploughing competitions will

(Continued on Page 14).

Around The Stands

IT goes without saying that the people who attend the Ploughing Championships are interested in tractors and David Brown Limited will put on a show of their products at Boyle that will delight all those who are devoted to the "iron horse". Their full range of tractors will be on view, including their famous "900" and also their "2D" which is capable of doing an hour's hard work at a fuel cost of less than 5d. It has a 12-horse power two-cylinder rear-mounted Diesel engine which is air-cooled.

McNally's of Elphin will be demonstrating the full range of Ferguson and Massey-Harris tractors. Highlights of this display will be the new "Ferguson 35" and also on show will be a full range of mowing machines, croppers and lifters, combines and buck rakes.

The National Farmers Association will be represented at the championships and will sponsor demonstrations and lectures on subjects of interest to all farmers. The subjects will include, "Good Grass Growing" "Our Exports and the National

Economy", Dangers of Tar on Sheep-Wool" and other burning topics.

The NFA is an organisation pledged to look after the interests of our farmers and it behoves all who make their living from the land to become members.

Philips Electrical will bring their famous "Phillishave Caravan" along to the championships and everyone will have an opportunity of trying this wonderful electric shaver. There will be ample trial machines and you will be able to shave yourself or get one of the pretty Philip's girls to do it for you! No doubt there will be much fewer "soap and blade" shavers throughout the country after this demonstration of modern shaving at its best.

Western Industries Ltd., Boyle, will be showing tractors and spreaders and demonstrations have been arranged. Western Industries are ground limestone specialists also and experts will be present to give advice on all agricultural problems connected with the soil.

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Our Neighbour Dan

MANY a fault was overlooked in Dan because of his love of a horse. He loved a horse that had good breeding, was fine and silky and light of limb. "That," as he said, "was a horse for the saddle".

The rough farm horse he tolerated as a necessity for the work, but he classed him distainfully as "a horse for the straddle".

At the local point-to-point meeting, he always had a couple of entries that would be there or thereabout at the run home. If the corn was shedding Dan would be there.

What matter the loss of a few barrels of corn compared with the lure of the horse and the element of chance? He lived among the scent of hay and clover, the crunching of oats in the nosebags, the rhythmic sound of high-stepping, long-tailed horses, whose forbears were in the stud book. And he dreamt of horses. Once when on a holiday many miles from home, he dreamt that one of his horses was dead. To his as well as everybody's grief, he found the horse drowned in a drain that ran out from a spring well.

It took him a long time to get back into his stride after this. It seemed as if his gait was slower, his talk less and without colour. But it was lucky it wasn't his beloved Clare that was lost—Clare with the black glossy coat and white flash that he bought at the fair of Claremorris and spent five days at the job—two days going and two days coming, by easy stages, and a day at the fair, Clare (short for Claremorris) was the apple of his eye.

Horse-racing, Bobby-beating and endless days out, were the wild seeds he sowed, but of these he never reaped if we judge his crop by the yard-stick of thistles being unable to produce figs . . .

Into his life came an angel.

Can We Grow All The Wheat We Need

IT is interesting to note that the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards is to establish a special laboratory for investigating the bread-making qualities of Irish-grown wheat. For some time past, the National Farmers' Association has contended that a first-class loaf, up to the present demands of consumers, could be made from our wheat, and they put forward certain findings by Swedish experts to support this assertion.

The bakers, at least the largest concerns in the industry, contended that they needed a certain proportion of foreign "hard" wheat to make the right type of bread, and that if they did not use any but Irish wheat there would be a fall in demand for bread because of deterioration in quality, with consequent loss in employment and other evils.

It appears that the big bakeries have been fitted with ovens of a type for which the dough now used is suitable, and that if hard wheat was to be left out of the mixture they would need extensive changes in their equipment.

RESEARCH LINE

The obvious line for research is to find how the loaf we demand can be made with existing equipment. If this inquiry is successful it will mean that Irish farmers may be asked to grow all the wheat we need.

Whether this would be a good or a bad thing is yet to be seen, but the NFA contends that it is a good thing, and they should know. Certainly, on the fact of it, it appears right that our own farmers should get the benefit of the home bread market's needs, so long as there would be no drop in other agricultural enterprises as a result of concentration on wheat. There is always that danger.

The Marrying Time

IN the country, tis the marrying season! It started on "Spotting Tuesday" (the first Tuesday after the Twelfth Day) and will end with "Salting Tuesday" (Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). "Spotting Tuesday" is the day eligible boys preen themselves specially and appear at the local markets, shaved and shirted, booted and spurred, for the purpose of looking over the local maidens.

But God help your head if you believe such a show of force and finery is now necessary. The country lads can spot form any day of the year and drive the hardest bargains in the end. He'd be considered a "slate off", that married a girl for looks alone. As an old County Clare friend of mine used say "she'd want the bit of change", if she were a Mona Liza, a Jenny Lind and a Mrs. Beeton rolled into one.

And she'd want to be closely related to "Balor of the Evil Eye" to keep watch on that "bit of change" as the marriage settles down to a jog-trot, or goes at the four minute mile pace. The old Clareman used have these thoughts on the vanishing substance, too, for he'd say: "tis no disgrace to be poor but it's mighty inconvenient". In the rapids or becalmed, that bit of change is very handy, whether tis in the jug on the dresser, or in the purse in the box, for tisn't every day you sell something in the country.

Anyway, the "spotting" period seems to have been successful, for in

my part of the country, there are many Shrove marriages . . . If I could only have a word with the brides . . . I'd pass on the advice I got myself as a bride—"don't appear to be too willing for the work". Every woman worth the name who puts the care of a house on herself is willing and more than that, to make a go of things. The danger is, to seem too willing. There will be many a shout of "hould the horse, will you?" just when you have your

hands in the wash-tub, or "stand before the cattle", maybe when you are bathing the baby and you wonder what on earth there's a dog in the house for . . . So tread lightly at first, brides. At the risk of taking sides in the "Vanishing Irish" question, I say, tis often bliss to be ignorant of work that doesn't concern you — a man's work, anyway . . . I know . . . for I married one of the boyos!

K. O'BRIEN

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DON'T LET EGGS GET DIRTY

THERE has been some controversy recently on the question of whether washing eggs in water will cause their quality to go down, but the fact remains that it is far better to cut out the necessity for washing if you can manage to do that.

In this connection, it should be remembered that the egg is always spotless when it is first laid; the dirt gets on to it afterwards, and if that fact is kept in mind it is relatively easy to plan to keep the dirt away.

One way is to avoid overcrowding in the nests. Four hens per nest is a good proportion to allow. The nests should have clean litter in plenty, and this ought to be renewed frequently. If the nests are closed at night the birds will not get into them and soil them. Do not use peat moss for nests, as it is liable to stain the eggs after they are laid.

Litter on the floor of the hen-house, whether the hens are in all the time or not, should always be clean and dry, and if you have the outlet at the far end of the house from the nest, the hens will have clean feet (or cleaner feet, anyhow) by the time they get to the nests to lay. To encourage scratching, you could scatter some grain around the litter.

Some poultry-keepers put a tray filled with sawdust in such a place that the hens have to walk through it, and this seems to be quite a good idea for clean feet.

Most of the dirt that gets on to eggs comes from muddy ground outside the house, and when the ground gets into that state the house should be moved. If it is a permanent house it may be possible to cover the muddy portion with straw.

Eggs left a long time in the nest will be most likely to get dirty, as successive hens walk on them, so regular collecting is also a help towards clean "hen fruit." Cleaning the dirty eggs will be made less laborious if the dirty ones are collected into a separate basket, so that you don't have to sort them when cleaning time comes around.

Change Feed Gradually

Animals are like babies, any sudden change in their diet will put them off normal health and production. The dairy cow is especially delicate in this matter and should be treated accordingly. The first grass in spring, or a change from roots to silage or on to kale, should always be made gradually, giving the cows more and more of the new feed and less and less of the old over a period of days. This is also especially important for young stock. When turning them on to young grass, the animals should be left on it only a short time at first, and it is also better to let them into it when the grass is dry.

Popular Department Official Retires

THE retirement has taken place, on reaching the age limit, of Mr. M. J. Fagan, who had been for many years head of one of the largest sections of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Fagan was an able and conscientious official, with a wide experience of our national agricultural problems, gained as a practical farmer and farmer's son, as an advisory officer, and later as one of the senior officials of the Department. He has always been mentioned with regard and respect all over the country, particularly in the schools and colleges which came under the control of his section.

He will not relinquish his interest in farming after his retirement, and will spend much of his time in North County Dublin, where his family has been farming for very many years.

DR. H. SPAIN APPOINTED

The office which had been occupied by Mr. Fagan has now been taken over by Dr. Harry Spain, whose name will be familiar to very many farmers and others throughout the whole country.

Dr. Spain has been for some time Director of the Parish Plan, and as such has given many talks and attended many conferences in many parts of many counties. He comes of a well-known farming family in Shinrone, Offaly, and had a brilliant career as an agricultural student at U.C.D., where he was contemporary

with others who have also made their mark in the scientific world of agriculture.

During his period as an adviser attached to Limerick County Committee, Dr. Spain carried out a great deal of work in the study of soils, which ultimately won him his M.Agr.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. In the course of his studies, he has travelled in Britain and on the Continent, where one of the subjects he studied was the reclamation of peatland. Since his appointment as head of the Parish Plan administration, Dr. Spain has concentrated on this work, which will still be his main job.

MR. W. R. DAY

Part of the duties formerly under Mr. Fagan's direction will in future be taken over by Mr. W. R. Day, a Cork man, whose family has both a farming and business background.

Mr. Day also has a wide experience of agriculture. He was in charge of work carried out in 1954, in co-operation with the army and local authorities, following the extensive flooding in the Shannon basin. Mr. Day made a survey of the area and drew up plans for new crops and other changes, which have resulted in considerable benefit to the local farmers.

He has recently made a particular study of farm buildings, which will be of considerable advantage to him in his new duties.

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Co-Operation—The Answer

AS our knowledge of the soil, of plant and animal life increases, as new implements become available and relatively new crops are cultivated, there is an increasing number of skills required for successful farming. There are still a few large estates having such specialisation. There is work enough for a full-time dairy-man, a shepherd, one or more ploughmen, carters, a man who devotes all his time to the pigs, a specialist gardener, with assistants, a carpenter, a smith and so on.

In times past they usually served an alien, and often an absentee landlord, who squandered abroad the wealth produced by their labour. They were miserably paid and had a poor cabin and a small potato patch, from which they got most of their food. They were living witnesses of great wrongs, the custodians of a long, bitter history of defeat. They lived in a world entirely separate from that of the owners of the soil.

This system could not last. It carried in itself the seeds of its own destruction in day to day injuries and in its being a link with the penal days when the common people were deprived of all property in land and of all rights before the law. It is no wonder that land hunger is almost an instinct with us, the heirs to this tradition.

The big estates are almost gone, but we should remember that they exemplified two things (1) the specialisation of agricultural work on an economic farm unit, which provided full-time occupation for each specialist, and (2) the capital resources, which, when used properly, permitted experimentation, long-term investment and through these things, progress.

In England, where the landlord tradition is on the whole good instead of evil and where it was generally the case that the great landowners were at least as concerned about their duties as about their rights, the large farm unit has survived. It has made notable contributions to the advancement of agriculture.

The smaller farmer in Ireland had not the capital, even when he

had the knowledge to take any such forward steps involving risk.

The average Irish farmer is, in fact, a very small farmer. He is, and has to be, under present conditions a jack of all trades unless he is purely and simply a grazier. Apart from the attractiveness which some men find in a relatively idle time, grazing has this to be said for it that the grazier has only one job to master and there is after all much personal satisfaction in being master of one's job no matter how lonely or narrow the scope may be. There is this, also, that by long tradition we are good cattle men. From early times the Irish were more attracted to cattle than to raising crops.

But nothing is more evident than the fact that there is no room for 4,000,000 people in Ireland, devoted to grazing, unless we are willing to revert to the state of semi-starvation and misery and degradation from which we have worked our way up.

The small farmer, therefore, must produce more wealth per acre than the grazier and in doing so he faces two really big problems. He must first face the simple facts that in the modern world work can usually be done better and cheaper by machinery than by hand and that for the full and economic use of modern machinery a farm unit of less than 1,000 acres may be too small.

He must, if he is to stand alone, master the increasingly complex profession of farming in all its aspects. Although we have an extraordinary large number of splendid farmers who have mastered their job by the devotion to their land of a life of constant toil and by a ceaseless search for knowledge, we should face the simple fact that there are too many skills to be mastered on the mixed farm by one man.

Our agriculture, despite all the real progress which is being made, is slipping past behind that of other countries, not only in research but in the application of modern labour-saving devices and the application of the most recent discoveries of science. In the matter of skill, it has gone backward rather than forward. The standard of knowledge and skill of the agricultural

Grow More Barley

If you have not gone into barley in any big way, think about it now and make up your mind to save yourself the cost of buying in feed, which puts profit into somebody else's pocket, not yours. It is especially useful for pig-feeding and gives good quality bacon. Your soil will need the right amounts of lime and phosphate to grow a good crop of barley. If you use these properly, you need not be put off by any talk that your land will not grow this crop. The new feeding barley varieties give excellent yields if treated right.

labourer of to-day is a common cause of complaint by farmers, but is the small farmer himself any better? Can he possibly be at once an expert ploughman, stockman, dairyman, pig-feeder and at the same time learn new skills such as making silage, and the old knowledge of how best to handle a soil in cultivation? Can he be his own implement repairer, his own carpenter, his own tractor mechanic, his own amateur electrician? Can he learn to recognise all the diseases and deficiencies in plants and animals which science is every day discovering? Can he master the new techniques of spraying, dusting, and seed treatment? He does not try to learn all that would be useful to him about poultry and which might make the difference between a profit and loss. He leaves that to his unfortunate wife, who has already more to do and less facilities for doing it than the wife of the townsman. Can he at the same time be an expert seller of his produce? Can he do all these jobs and have any time left for the amenities of life? Even if he makes time to till the vegetable garden, can he find time really to learn gardening as well? Do these questions really require an answer? But each one of a group of neighbours working in full co-operation could specialise and make his expert knowledge available to the whole group. He would in return have the special skill of his neighbours applied to other tasks on his own farm, which he often now does in an indifferent way.

In no aspect of farming is there greater need for specialisation than in the operation of tractors and tractor implements. The tractor can work all day, every day and into the night if needed. It enables man to do more work, to do work more quickly and to get each job done at the best time.

It is, unfortunately, true that many of our farmers cannot at present afford a tractor of their own. But with better farming practice, with more tillage, more output per acre and the higher income which this will give, most Irish farmers could become tractor owners.

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IT IS HARD TO GROW GOOD BARLEY . . .

**A SOIL EXPERT
SHOWS THE WAY**

THE statement made over Radio Eireann recently that there are soils in practically every part of the country which could grow good crops of feeding barley made a lot of farmers prick up their ears. Barley-growers of long standing, particularly those who have been growing malting barley for years, know that the crop needs rather special things in the soil if it is to be a success, but the statement was made by Dr. Tom Walsh, soil specialist of the Department of Agriculture, so we felt it was worth while to go after it. Dr. Walsh has given us permission to reproduce his talk, which is of importance in these days because the growing of barley for home feeding of stock can cut down our bill for imported foodstuffs.

Recognising, in his talk, that his statement might be challenged, Dr. Walsh said that it was not merely theory. He went on:

Field experiments, demonstrations and farmer experience have shown this in no uncertain manner. For instance 30 cwt. to 2 ton per acre crops have been obtained on some relatively poor soils in Monaghan, Cavan, Mayo and Connemara. In fact under more difficult circumstances still, on some poor peaty soils almost equally good yields have been obtained. I do not wish to give the impression, however, that any farmer, anywhere, can, without more ado, go out and produce a first-class crop of feeding barley. Certain precautions with regard to manuring and liming must be taken.

SOIL TYPE IMPORTANT

The first point to be considered is the soil type. There is a wide range of suitable soils, varying from the light mellow loams of central Wexford and S.-east Cork to the relatively impermeable soils in considerable areas of our northern counties. Many of the well known grassland soils in Meath, Westmeath, Longford and Roscommon give very satisfactory yields when broken up and treated properly. Each of these soils must be handled in its own way.

Offhand I would place the proper lime status of the soil as the most important single item needing attention in order to ensure satisfactory yields.

Except under special soil conditions the pH or acidity value of the soil must be above 5.8. In other words a slight degree of acidity only is allowable. From this point of view, the best soil is one which has been limed a considerable time previously in order to ensure full amelioration from the lime. Deferring the application of lime until sowing time may give disappointing results. While in some soils a late application works out all right, in others, and I might say in the majority, the interaction of the lime with the soil when applied at sowing time, is not sufficient to ensure the elimination of acidity effects which interfere with crop growth. In selecting your soil, therefore, for next year's crop choose one which has been limed already or is not in need of lime immediately.

PHOSPHATE HELPS

In connection with this acidity problem, and where conditions merit it, there is another approach which may give good results. From our experiments at Johnstown Castle we have found that the drilling of a moderately heavy dressing of a phosphatic fertiliser, in addition to supplying phosphates, also counteracts some acidity

effects. There is a sound scientific reason for this. Consequently if you cannot lime until shortly before sowing the crop, it would be a sound investment to combine-drill a heavier than usual dressing of phosphate, say, about 3 cwts. per acre. Either superphosphate or slag are satisfactory for this purpose.

Apart from the question of liming for barely this practice, is of course, essential for the all-round raising of soil fertility. Liming nowadays is a simple and cheap job.

Ground limestone is available to the Irish farmer at a rate cheaper than in any other European country; the exact amount to be applied can be determined accurately by a soil test carried out through the medium of your local Advisory Officer. He will also advise on the best means of application for your own particular soil. This may consist, if the ground is already ploughed, of working the ground limestone into the surface ploughed layer, and if not ploughed, by making a split application, part on the old sod and the remainder on the upturned soil after ploughing.

I would go so far as to advise that no soil should be sown to barley unless the farmer is sure that the lime status of the soil is all right.

As for other crops, a number of other nutrient elements, especially nitrogen, phosphates and potash, are also needed. Nowadays these can be satisfactorily applied in the form of compound fertiliser. A special word about phosphates and nitrogen. A phosphate deficiency is widespread in our soils special attention to phosphatic manures is desirable under practically all conditions. If possible drill the grain and fertiliser together. You can be sure of applying both phosphates and potash correctly if you have a soil test carried out.

NITROGEN A KEY

In the growing of feeding barley nitrogen is a key element. Because of the relatively short strong straw of such modern feeding varieties as Herta and Ymer, a relatively high

level of nitrogen can be tolerated without risk of lodging. In fact a comparatively high level of nitrogen nutrition is essential in order to bring out the best in these varieties.

Our recent field experiments have for instance shown a response of up to 4 to 5 cwt. of grain for the first cwt. of nitrogen fertiliser applied and of proportionally high amounts for subsequent increments up to 3 to 4 cwts. The latter dressings may appear somewhat large, taking the lodging problem into account and are only required where the nitrogen status of the soil is low.

The most efficient technique is the split application method with about 1 cwt. at sowing time and 1 cwt. in the grass corn stage.

It is also of considerable interest that the nitrogenous manuring of barley increases very considerably—in our experiments from 8.55 to 11 per cent.—the protein content of the grain, which adds of course, to its feeding value. The question of the need for a top dressing can in any case be determined by an examination of the crop when in the grass corn stage as the symptoms of nitrogen re easily recognised. Here again your adviser can help.

NO MYSTERY ABOUT IT

Finally, I may add that there is no mystery whatsoever about the growing of good crops of feeding barley. It is a crop easy to handle. With the use of the feeding varieties now freely available in every area of the country and with proper attention to liming and manuring success can be immediate.

There is practically no area in the country where soils capable of growing satisfactory crops may not be found. In particular it is desirable that during the coming year each farmer should, as far as is possible, grow sufficient to meet his own needs, especially in areas remote from the main tillage farming centre. In the problems of site selection, liming, manuring and subsequent cultural treatment your local Advisory Officer is in a position to give you first-class information.

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WHAT IS PROGENY TESTING?

THE recent publicity given to the fact that the Department of Agriculture is progeny-testing bulls which are standing at the Artificial Insemination stations throughout the country has aroused a great deal of interest in the whole question of what progeny-testing is and what good it can do.

The basic problem that it is sought to solve by progeny-testing is one that has exercised the minds of animal breeders for many years—How can we get the best animals by a sure-fire method of breeding?

For a long time breeding was largely a matter of mating animals that combined certain qualities, such as good appearance and high milk yields in cattle, with others that had the same or other desirable qualities and expecting to find that the progeny of the two also had the good qualities of their parents. But this did not work out at all readily, and it became obvious that there were many other factors involved.

Some knowledge of heredity and how it works has been obtained by examining the working of the cells from which an animal is produced in the womb of its mother after fertilisation by the father. These studies have given rise to certain principles, which are not always the same for different breeders or experts, so that we have regular arguments going on about the relative merits on this that and the other idea.

ORGANISED TESTING

However, it has become obvious that if we watch the results of any mating, in enough of the offspring, we will find out certain things, such as the consistency with which a bull passes on the ability to give high milk yields, which he was expected to pass on from his own mother. This idea is what has given rise to organised progeny testing.

The idea might seem pretty obvious, and in fact some private breeders have used it for a long time without realising what they were doing could be applied on the national scale for the good of the community, and the farmers particularly. But they were also rather oppressed by the idea that appearance was a very big factor, whereas the tendency now is to often forget

about appearance, except where it is closely allied to other desirable qualities.

By appearance here is meant the characteristics of well-bred cattle and not the obvious faulty body construction that is so common among the rag-tag and bobtail of the country's herds. There are certain points of appearance that are essentially connected with performance, like the size of the cow's udder, the fineness of its skin and so on, or the body formation of a beef animal, although it is often found that a perfectly formed beef steer will not be perfect when it has been killed and examined by the butcher's yardstick, which is the ultimate judgment in beef.

CATTLE TESTING

In progeny-testing of cattle the idea is to measure the extent to which various bulls pass on to their progeny the capacity to produce a large milk output with a high butter-fat content. Other matters have to be looked into, as mentioned above, such as the ease with which a cow can be milked, the size of the udder and its shape, the cow's disposition (which should be quiet), her general health, capacity to throw healthy calves and maintain herself in good health, and various factors connected with economic management of herds.

SHEEP COMPLICATE MATTERS

The progeny-testing of sheep has been begun in a small way at Athenry Agricultural College, Co. Galway, and it is interesting to note that so many different factors have to be watched with sheep that are not so important, or perhaps not even bothered about in cattle.

For instance, the size of a lamb's head is a very important matter, since a big-headed lamb causes the ewe trouble at birth and may even strangle when being born. So it is necessary to eliminate any tendency to give birth to big-headed lambs, even though this factor may be allied to more desirable ones.

Lambs are born in the winter, or very early spring. We are all familiar with the newspaper pictures of the pretty girl with two or more lambs against a background of snow, which arouses our sympathy immediately—"poor little things." Two things are therefore important for the lamb at birth—it must be well covered with wool to keep out the cold, and its mother must be able to feed it adequately from the very first. If its coat is not up to scratch, but the mother is able to look after it well, it probably will survive.

CRITICAL STAGE

If, however, the mother's milk is small in quantity or late in starting, there is considerable danger to the lamb. Even if it does not die it is almost certain to be stunted through lack of nourishment at the most critical stage of its existence. Some ewes are tardy about giving milk, and even if they are perfect in every other way, such mothers are unsuitable, since rearing their lambs will mean a great deal of trouble to the shepherd or the flock owner.

Certain facts are emerging from the Athenry progeny tests on sheep, even though it is as yet merely a pilot scheme. For instance, there has been found to be some correlation between the quality of the lamb's tail wool and that of the coat it will carry when ready for shearing.

The immense number of details that have to be taken into account, the combination of factors needed for the best type of sheep, and the almost infinite variation that is possible in that number of factors, plus the undesirable ones, makes the keeping and correlation of records a very detailed and wearisome job.

PIGS AND BACON

With pigs, the main idea is bacon production, but there are points of almost the same importance to be considered. Economic bacon production in the individual pig is got when the pig puts on weight steadily over a short period and reaches bacon weight without eating so much food that his feeding costs come too

close to the selling price of the pig and profit is reduced, or even eliminated, as it often is.

So in pig progeny-testing the "rate of gain" is studied carefully and worked out as pounds of food needed to add each pound of flesh to the pig. Those boars and sows which produce pigs which gain weight rapidly without having to be fed too much are the most desirable, provided other factors are present also.

These other factors include things that become apparent when the pig is killed and reduced to a couple of sides of bacon. They include thickness of back fat and the proportion of the best cuts of bacon in the whole side. Thus, it is the aim of breeders to produce pigs giving thin back fat with a big ham and substantial meaty middle and light shoulder, the shoulder being the cheapest part of the bacon and the ham the dearest.

The more ham the grocer can get off a side the better he likes it, and the more he will pay for it, which means that the farmer who reared the pig will get more, too.

OTHER FACTORS

Other factors which the breeder looks for are the size of the litter that a sow produces and the weight of the bonhams at birth. It is too often regarded as normal for a litter to be uneven, that is, to contain pigs of different sizes and weights, usually with a couple of "runts" or under-sized bonhams. Healthy, even litters of good size, capable of making bacon weight on a minimum of food and then producing bacon of the top grade, are what every farmer hopes to have in his pig houses, but seldom does he achieve it.

By testing the progeny of numbers of boars it will be found which of them fathers the best types of pigs, and after a time there will be a considerable number of these "proven boars" in the country, making it possible for our pig producers to be reasonably sure that their bonhams will pay them when they come to bacon weight.

HOPEFUL ASPECT

Progeny-testing is the most hopeful aspect of breeding that has emerged in recent years, according to the farmer's viewpoint, as it offers an eminently practicable solution to his main difficulty in selecting stock—the difficulty of knowing with even a reasonable degree of certainty what the young animals are going to be like when they reach maturity.

A new pig progeny testing station is almost complete at Cork, and once it gets into full working order there will be more hope for the future of pig production. The cattle-testing may make its mark more slowly, but this is inevitable with the longer parturition period of the cow. The sheep progeny-testing is a long-term project which is not likely to have much effect for years to come. It has been said that we ought to have started all three many years ago. True enough, but at least we have started.

Make Sure Of Your Grass

Always think ahead as far as you can. For instance, have you yet decided on a manuring plan for grass and crops this season? There is not much use trying to build up your pastures when the winter fodder is almost exhausted. Do it now by applying phosphatic and potassic fertilisers. Later, you will be applying nitrogen, but with the others already working away for you, the nitrogen will have a much better effect, and the whole lot together will give you grass at the time when you want it most.



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Slipper: Mr. A. Murphy.

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INTERNATIONAL CUP for 32 All-aged Greyhounds.

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Between them they won nearly £9,000 in stake money, breaking track records everywhere and putting up phenomenal times over all distances from 500 yards to 700 yards.

In addition, they come from the finest blood lines in Ireland and are remarkably suited to bitches with Bella's Prince and Mad Tanist blood.

GULF OF HONDURAS

Bd. 76lb. May, 1953.

IMPERIAL DANCER — DARING BELLE

Winner of nearly £1,500, including Wembley Summer Cup, Chelsea Cup, Wood Lane Stakes (White City), 2nd in Welsh Derby, 2nd in the Eclipse, 3rd in the Laurels and 4th in the English Derby.

Best time (525 yards), 29.06 secs., and when winning the Chelsea Cup he did the astonishing time of 27.68 secs. for 500 yards. A great starter, his dam is by the great Shaggy Lad out of a daughter of Deemster and the immortal Sweet Cherry.

TITLE ROLE

W bd. 78lbs. Jan., 1952.

CELTIC CHIEF — COOLKILL DARKIE

WINNER OF £3,200, including the best St. Leger of all time; Wembley Gold Cup, Amherst Cup, West Ham; Wembley Summer Cup, and scores of other open races. He finished third (unluckily beaten) in the English Derby after clocking the phenomenal time of 28.78 secs. in the 2nd round when winning his heat.

He is a litter-brother to the great Coolkill Chieftain (winner of the Laurels, Stewards Cup, Puppy Derby at Harold's Cross) and he and his brother were sold to England for the staggering sum of £4,000 the two.

GULF OF DARIEN

W bd. 69lbs. March, 1953.

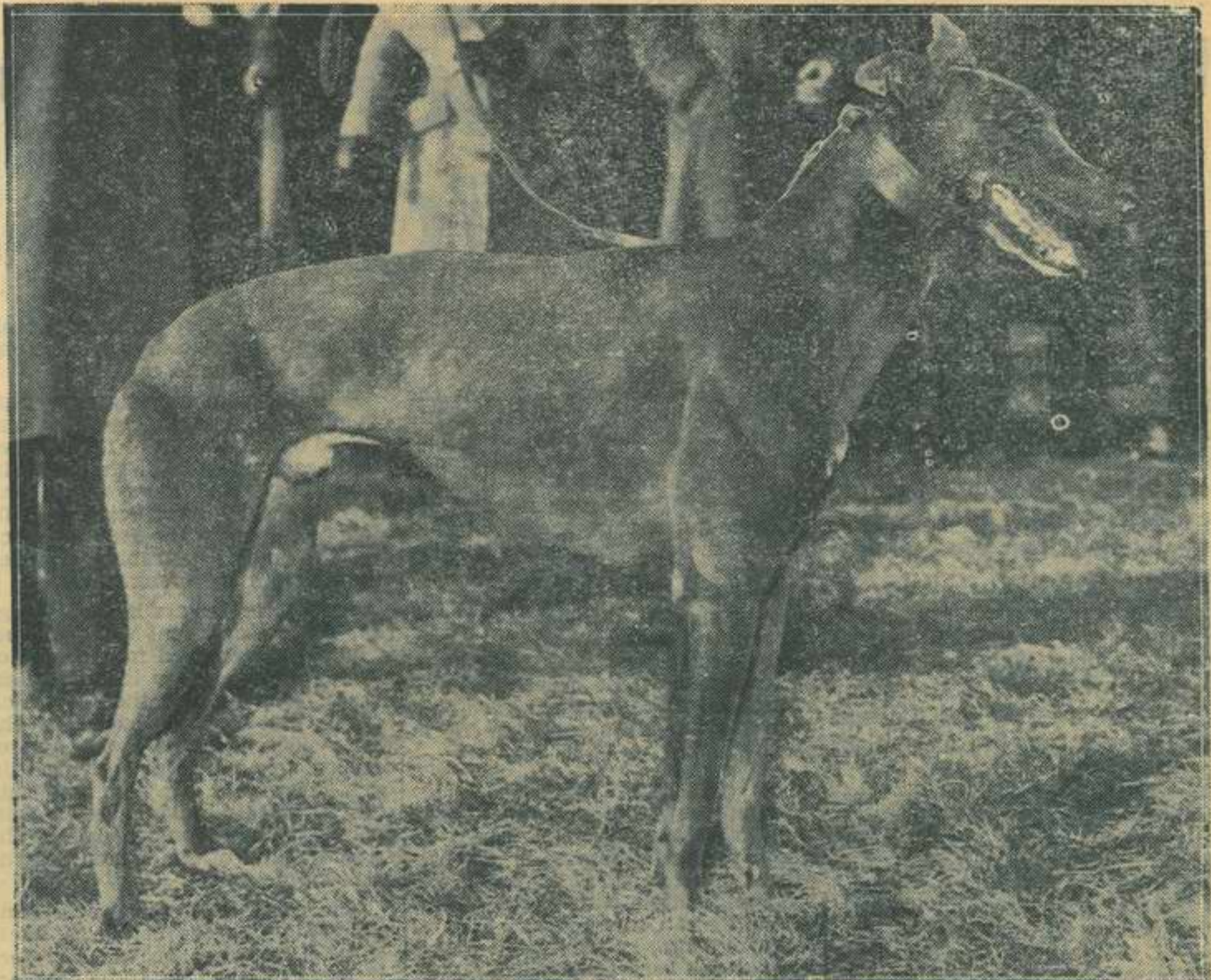
IMPERIAL DANCER — DOROTHY ANN

WINNER OF OVER £4,200, including finishing second in this year's English Derby, beaten only half-a-length by the winner, Dunmore King. He then ran 2nd, beaten only half a length, in the final of the Wembley Summer Cup, by his great rival, Northern King. He was second in the St. Leger and then won the Champion Stakes at Wimbledon. He then went on to the Cesarewitch, where he held the track record jointly with Magourna Reject. In the first round Northern King broke this record in an early heat, but half an hour later Gulf of Darien smashed the record again—a record which he now holds against the great greyhounds of history. Some which have held it are: Future Cutlet, Beef Cutlet, Ataxy, Magourna Reject, Northern King and now, for the second time, Gulf of Darien. Half-brother to the greatest bitch in history, Lizette.

All bitches at owners' risk. Seven days' notice and Veterinary Certificate will be required.

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LAST SEASON'S DERBY WINNER—LOVER OF PLEASURE.

National Coursing Week

THE National Coursing Meeting will be in full swing at Powerspark, Clonmel, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 6, 7 and 8. Coursing followers in Clonmel for these three days are representative of the thirty-two counties, and there is the usual sprinkling of cross-Channel visitors. There are bound to be first-timers, but the regulars are sure to be in the ascendancy.

There is no doubt about what the topic of conversation will be. The talk will be of dogs. The Trial Stakes of the past year are re-run and eye-witness accounts of courses are exchanged. The merits of the progeny of the sires standing at stud are weighed in the balance and compared with each other.

While the purpose of the meeting is to decide the winners of the Derby, the Oaks and the International Cup, it serves another useful purpose in bringing together owners, breeders and all who have a keen interest in the greyhound. The National Meeting contributes to the strengthening of the bonds between clubs and club members that have a common interest. At Powerspark, they meet on their own ground, and enjoy the thrills of the sport they all love.

Interest in the results of the big events goes a lot deeper than just

knowing the winner. The pros and cons are argued at great length and pet theories and aversions are propounded, as they have been for the last thirty-two National Meetings—the wise mating and the wrong mating, the cup dogs that got too much to do this season, the dog that could have won had he been better trained, the bitch that lost because she was over-trained.

such winners are eligible to compete. To have a runner in either event is, therefore, an achievement in itself, even if hopes for the big prize are dashed on the first run-up. To qualify carries with it a stamp of success for each qualifier has earned the right to run at Clonmel.

What makes the National Meeting what it is? Surely it is the fact of knowing that every dog and bitch competing in the Derby and Oaks is a winner—the winner of a

At Powerstown Park comes the opportunity of using that right to win still greater success—the supreme Puppy Championship of the year. When the test comes every

(Continued on next page)

IMPERIAL DANCER

(28 ins.; Nov., 1947; Brindle; 73lbs. r.w.)

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(Tokio—Chittering Duchess) (Castledown Lad—Negro's Lady)

Keep Moving, winner Irish Derby; winner National Sprint.

Gulf of Darien, winner of English Puppy Derby; winner English Cesarewitch; track record holder (600 yds.), West Ham.

Demon King, winner Scurry Gold Cup; track record holder (400 yds.), Clapton.

Imperial Champion, winner National Puppy Cup, Clonmel.

Montego Bay, track record holder, Park Royal (400 yards), 22.04.

Uskane Lad, winner Scurry Cup, Consolation Stakes (Clapton); winner Thames Silver Salver, Southend.

Imperial Reindeer, winner Critchley Memorial Stakes, White City.

Ballinlea Dancer, track record holder, Harold's Cross (325 yds.), 18.30.

Imperial Fawn, winner Spring Cup, Wimbledon.

Imperial Airways, sold £2,000.

Makra Bibis, winner Callanan Cup; winner Corn An Tostail.

Gulf of Honduras, winner Wembley Summer Cup.

Rare Rumba, track record holder, Tralee, 29.80 (525 yds.).

Shaun's Tip, winner Trigo Cup.

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SHELBOURNE PARK (525 yds.)—29.35, 29.20, 28.98 (old record, 29.50)

CORK (500 yds.)—28.15, 28.05, 27.95 (old record, 28.30).

WHITE CITY, LONDON (300 yds.)—16.70 (record), first time on track; 525 yds., 28.95 (h.g.); won International Challenge Sweepstake (£513), beating England's selected very easily.

No wonder the Americans were prepared to give £3,000 for him for stud purposes. Strictly limited to approved bitches at Forty Guineas (£42). No reductions, and please give timely notice. Apply:—

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SANDOWN CHAMPION — CLEOPATRA
(Fawn; Jan., '51; r.w., 75lbs.)

The most classically bred greyhound at stud. Now Ireland's best Dual Purpose Sire. His progeny are top-class winners on all the leading tracks. Red Flame, 30.18 secs. (525 yds.); Good Cleo, 30.39, and Moyvalley Cleo, 30.44 (525 yds.), Walthamstow; Cleo's Chum, 30.25 (525 yds.), Wembley; Cleo's Coronet, 30.31, and Limited Company, 30.34, Shelbourne Park. Other winners—Knockhill Cleo, Knockhill Chieftain, Purple Sand, Minnie's Countess, Minnie's Memorial, Gambler's Pride, Cleo's Mistress, Caragh Pansy, Carrie's Own, R.U.J., Quite Legal, Dunroe General, Portable Radio, Ballybane Dove, Wild Cleo, Trouble Ahead, Please Collect, Tiny Galtee, Montenegro, Hilali Regale, Hilali Ripple, Hilali Rajah, Corville Cleo. Sat., 22nd Dec., '56, Cleo's Chum 29.60 (525 yds.), Wembley. COURSING (Trial Stakes)—Minnie's Countess, Polo Nell, Cleo's Sprig, Mysterious Boy, Prince Galtee. Puppy Stake—Tiny Galtee. Fee—30 Gns.

DEMON KING

IMPERIAL DANCER — PRETTY WALTZER
(May, 1952; Bd d; 71lbs.)

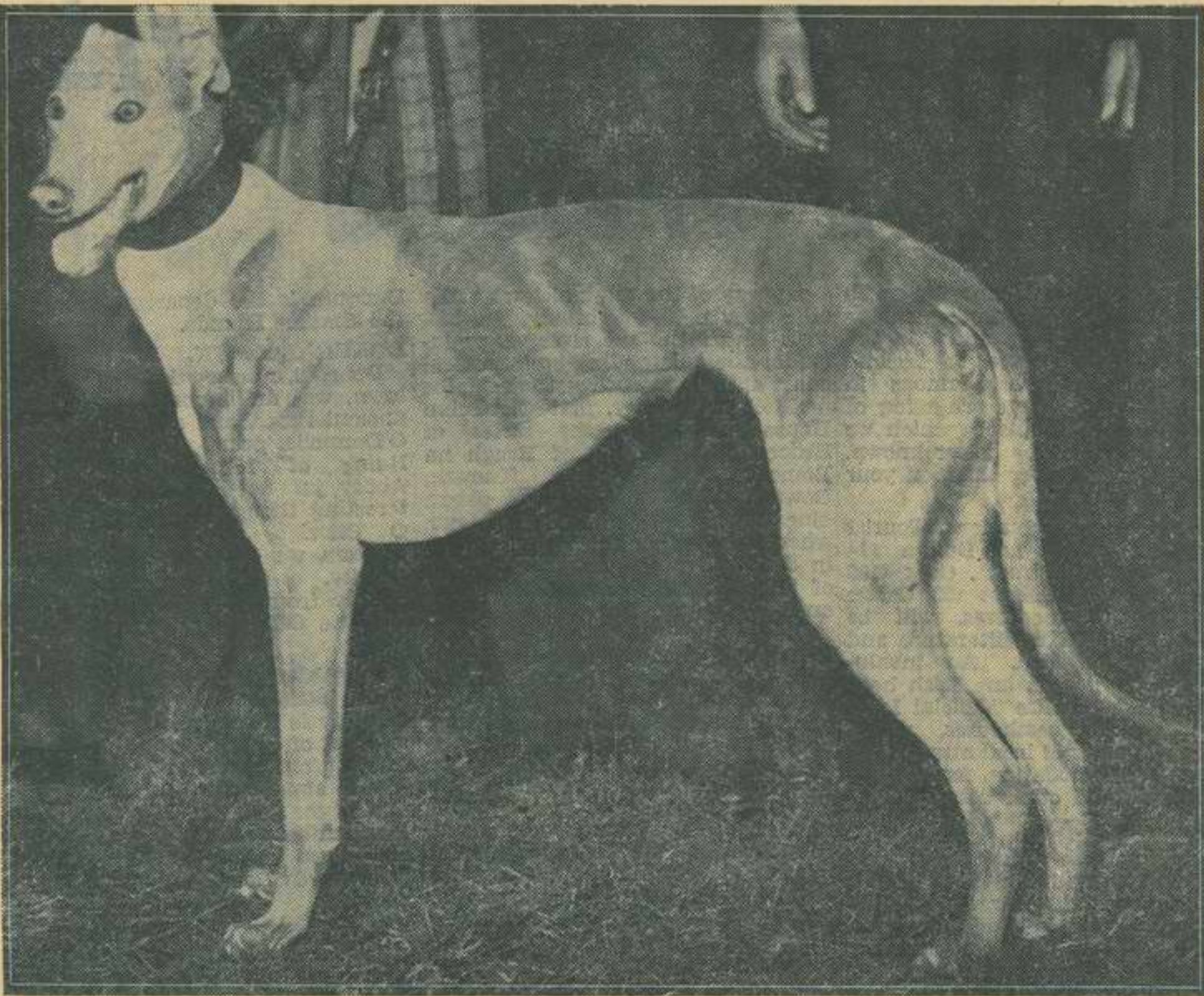
The greatest son of one of Ireland's greatest dams. Acknowledged by English Press as most clever dog to race in England for years. Retired to stud owing to broken leg. Very fast starter and excellent railer. Beat practically every good dog in England, including Rushton Mac, Rushton Spot, Home Luck, Daw's Dancer, Prince Chancer, etc. Winner of over £1,400 in prize-money. First race 17/8/53, last race 9/12/54.

Winner of the Wandsworth Spring Stakes; winner of the Scurry Gold Cup; winner of the National Sprint Championship, Clapton; winner of the Midland Flat Championship, Hall Green, Birmingham; track record holder, 400 yds. flat, Clapton (22.72 secs.). Won in 29.63 secs., 525 yds., Wembley. This young dog is bred in the purple and should be an ideal cross for Sandown Champion and Grand Champion bitches.

FEE — 25 GNS. Owners' risk.

JAMES KILLEEN, Sandown, Moyvalley, or Owner.

Tel.: MOYVALLEY 2.



LAST SEASON'S OAKS WINNER—REDONDO BEACH.

National Coursing Week

(Contd. from previous page) runner has his or her supporters, and with each success the number grows. There is the fellow club member whose contender must be cheered, and even if the club is not in it this year, then hopes can be centred in the home county's runner.

Thus the links grow tighter and the bonds bind firmer, but all the time the common bond is the love of the thrilling course, with exchange balancing exchange and the result in doubt to the last, so

that in the end the best coursing dog or bitch wins the multitude simply because he or she has given joy to a sportsman's heart.

There is another aspect, too the potential market not alone for the winner or even the runner-up but for all that have given what is expected of a really good greyhound. In recent times the Derby and the Oaks attracted the buyers of track dogs, and often the disappointment of a defeat on the field that removes the possession of the big prize from

the realm of possibility, is greatly alleviated by a good three-figure or a better four-figure offer that sets tongues wagging and adds further excitement to the already tense atmosphere.

The National Meeting's interest is not confined to puppies—even if they are the best puppies in Ireland, and who would be bold enough to deny that they are the best puppies in the world. There is the International Cup. Here the Cup stars of the year meet to make the International Cup one of the most coveted trophies in coursing.

These are the features that make the annual Powerstown meeting a different fixture from any others in the calendar, for nowhere else in the world do so many of the best greyhounds of their time compete on the same coursing ground.

HOW TO MAKE ENDS MEET



TWO SAVING SUGGESTIONS



The man who invented bacon was a genius. His name is forgotten but his memory is honoured in every Irish home where bacon is on the menu. And that's everywhere, for what is home without a rasher. You can cut your meat bill and still eat well by buying the economy cuts of bacon, the flank, the collar and the shoulder. Ten shillings won't get you far nowadays but a shoulder of bacon at around that price will get the average family over the week-end. You can cut a few rashers off it first, get a couple of dinners out of it after that, while the odd bits go into toasted sandwiches for tea. Did you ever fill low-priced rashers with forcemeat stuffing, roll and tie and cook in the oven with a little stock? Did you ever finish a shoulder of bacon in the oven? After boiling in the usual way, skin and cover with brown sugar with a few cloves dotted here and there. Put in a tin in a hot oven until sugar is brown and crusty (about 15 minutes). It tastes like baked ham at nearly half the price.



A GOOD TIP. Be sure to have a ticket in the next Sweep. There were 9,968 Prizes (including Sellers' Bonuses) in the last Sweep and next time may be your lucky time.

BUY A TICKET IN THE GRAND NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKE

EVERY FIRST PRIZE £50,000

SERVICE FOR YOUR FRIENDS ABROAD: SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR FRIENDS RESIDING OUTSIDE IRELAND AND WE WILL ARRANGE FOR THEIR TICKET REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED PROMPTLY.

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(Bd; April, '51; 78 lbs., r.w.)

BALLYMAC BALL — TEMPLENOE MADORA

Lone Seal—Raging Tornado Smartly Fergus—Dublin Light

- | | | | | | | | |
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| Lucky Plum | Silver Seal I | Coady's Luck | Cherokee Border | Smartly There | Tanist | Dublin Lass | Shaggy Lad |
| Last Plum | Maona | Evelyn's Bank | Cutlet's Return | Mr. Moon | Tranquilla | Manhattan Midnight | Castledown Lad |
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| | Mutton Cutlet | | Cutlet's Return | | | | |

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F. O'REGAN, Bohermore, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.

FLASH JACK

(F. r.w., 72lbs.) Bella's Prince ex Quare Fire

Brilliant Litter-Brother of

OLLY'S PAL

Won 525 yds., Shelbourne Park, 30.05; won 525 yds. races at Harold's Cross in 29.95, 29.80, 29.78, 29.63; 325 yds. in 18.30 (Track Record). He was then sold for a large sum and went to race in England, where he won in the following times: Won 525 yds. race, 29.36, White City, London; won 525 yds. race, 30.13, Harringay; won 500 yds. (Middleton Stakes), Belle Vue, 28.32; won 525 yds. (Springfield Stakes), Harringay, 30.24; won 518 yds., Salford, 29.52 (track record); won 500 yds. race, 28.55, Belle Vue (Northern Flat Championship); won 525 yds. Stavely Stakes, White City, Manchester, 30.15.

Already mated to the following bitches: Cinderella's Favourite, Catch Penny, Peach Orchard, Brassy Blonde, Tumbleweed, Don't Retire, Eaton Crop, Excellence, Mad To Dance, Confey Lass, Colly's Astra, Flower of Duleck, Smart Adela, Pacific Lady, Miss Vogue.

Special terms to winners and dams of winners. To selected bitches—Fee, £25. Apply:—

GAY McKENNA, The Kennels, Cabinteely, Co. Dublin. (Phone 883261).

Sole Survivor Of Cork's Hand-passing 1890 Football Team

(BY ROVER)

EIGHTY six year old Mike Coleman is the sole survivor of the famous Midleton Football team which brought Cork its first All-Ireland title in 1890.

He lives but a few miles from Midleton town, a town to which he helped bring fame and glory 67 years ago.

He remembers with pride the day he won his first All-Ireland medal. Having beaten Armagh in the semi-final, they met Wexford in the final at Clontarf Park, Dublin in June, 1891.

FIERCE MATCH

After a fierce match they won by 2-4 to 0-1. On their return to Cork

they were given a terrific reception which Mike says "continued for many a day."

In his opinion there was no comparison with the game in those days and that of the present day.

When asked about their travelling arrangements, he replied "shanks mare most of the time."

Mike regretted that he had not seen Cork play in the 1956 All-Ireland final, for although promised a ticket he was disappointed at the last moment.

Still, he hopes to see his county contest the final this year and if so, Mike Coleman says he'll be there to cheer them on, stand ticket or not.

A Cara.—An interesting contribution in your last issue by Sean Russell prompts me to write to point out that hand-passing and the exploitation of the open space was a feature of Schools' League football in Dublin around 1917. At that time, the Dublin Junior Schools' League was won by a team whose hand-passing and precision movements carried them to victory over stronger and bigger opponents and, in addition, attracted large crowds in the Phoenix Park whenever they played there. I have a faint suspicion that it was in the Phoenix Park during this period that some of the Kildare boys working in Dublin got their inspiration.

NORTHERN GAEL.

SAVES HALF THE COST

For over four years worn tractor tyres have been reconditioned at the VacuLug factory at Templemore and for the last year at the new factory at Collooney. In that time, over 17,000 tyres have been relugged.

The Company claims that while some of these tyres have failed for casing faults, which is normal with all kinds of tyres due to the hazards of use, not a single case of lug separation has ever been seen.

The VacuLug Process is a recent American invention and it makes

use of a patented form of lug material which cannot come off if the work is correctly done. When relugged tyres pass the final inspection test at the factory, the VacuLug experts guarantee that it is impossible for the lugs to be removed by any cause short of cutting them off.

The work being done at Templemore and Collooney not only saves the farmer approximately half the cost of new tyres but it also saves Ireland large sums each year by substantially reducing the numbers of new tyres that have to be imported from England.

Erin's Hope

THE spectacular win of Erin's Hope over St. Vincent's in the Dublin Senior Football Final thrilled Gaels everywhere. This team, composed entirely of student-teachers, attending St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, has a long and glorious history in the game.

Erin's Hope was founded in 1886, two years after that eventful meeting in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, that led to the foundation of the G.A.A. This must make "Hope's" one of Dublin's oldest clubs. The following year, 1887, they won the Dublin senior football title.

From 1887 until 1932, the team had an uneventful existence, playing well but somehow never hitting the high-spots. Throughout this whole period, however, the team served as a training ground for several prominent players who played for their counties while attending St. Patrick's. In 1932, Erin's Hope won the Dublin senior football title for the second time with a star-studded line-up of 15 inter-county players.

The Club played in senior ranks until 1950 when, for various reasons, they dropped out of the championship. At the request of the students the team was reformed in 1956 and entered for the Dublin senior football championship. They beat Civil Service, Na Fianna (a team that is playing very impressively this season), and Clanna Gael, before meeting the giants, St. Vincents, in the final.

The result of this great match is now history. Erin's Hope won the Dublin senior football crown with a score of 1-7 against Vincent's 0-7. Hope's winning goal was scored by young Donal Hurley who has since earned himself what looks like a permanent position on Cork's senior fifteen. While the team played smoothly as a unit, inter-county players, Mattie McDonagh, of Galway, and Kerry's Tom Long, had a large hand in the Teacher's victory. This was a case of history repeating itself for the stars of Hope's win back in '32 were Brendan Nestor from Corrib-side and Murt Kelly from the Kingdom. The Dublin senior championship game, 1956, was very important for many reasons. It brought to an end St. Vincents' seven-year reign as Dublin's football kings, which is a good thing for the game in the Metropolis, as everyone, including the Vins will readily admit. If one team manage by their skill and talent to monopolise the game for long periods it leads to widespread discouragement among the players of weaker clubs, and an all pervading spirit of "what's the use" seems to descend on everybody.

Erin's Hope changed all that, the championship is again open and Hopes can forget about the "lost years" of 1932-'56 and instead look forward to winning the same title next year.

The St. Patrick's team are unique in that the players are all the same age—19 or 20. years They are highly fit and are probably the most uniform team playing -to-day. Their regular life of study interspersed with plenty of exercise help to bind them into a perfectly integrated team.

Discussing the team with one of their mentors, the subject of the influence of Erin's Hope on county teams naturally cropped up. As most of St. Patrick's students come from Cork and Kerry it usually happens that a few ex-Hope's men are playing on the senior teams of these counties and it seems reasonable to say that there is a two-way influence at work. The football styles of Cork and Kerry have an effect on that of Erin's Hope and on the rebound, the style adopted by Hope's in some subtle way makes itself felt in the Southern counties.



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SUPPLIES NOW AVAILABLE

HAVE JOINED FORCES TO GIVE BETTER SERVICE

It was pointed out in an article in the November, 1956, issue of the "Gaelic Echo" that as our economy is firmly based on agricultural output the success or failure of our agricultural policy depends in great measure on the well-being of the agricultural industry. Our agricultural producers must compete in world markets and it is only by using the most efficient and economic methods of production that they can achieve success.

Milk output can be raised without increasing the number of dairy cattle in the country, by using dairy herds with a guaranteed high yield. The employment of these herds would mean more milk for every acre under grass and more milk per man employed on farms.

Taking dairy cattle generally throughout the country the average yield is approximately 450 gallons. It has been established that herds of Friesians could double and even treble this yield. There are cases on record where this breed has averaged over 1,000 gallons are quite common. There are many other breeds of cattle as well as Friesian that will give high milk yields and it is a very welcome trend to see them replacing the old low yield general purpose cattle that are a factor in the low output of our farms.

No matter how good the herd, however, the final product, the bottled milk depends ultimately on how efficient the refrigeration, milk handling, can washing, and bottling system is. The best milk in the world, however, can be spoiled by old cans or inefficient or faulty bottling machinery.

THE LINK

After long and careful discussions, the Creamery Supply Co. and the Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., both of Limerick, have joined forces to give their clients an even more comprehensive and efficient service than ever before. Creamery Supply Co. was a department of Booth Bros., Ltd., Dublin, until the formation two years ago of APV (Ireland), Ltd. The Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., was a branch of the Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., of London. The title of the new Company is the Creamery and Dairy Supply Co.

The aim of the new company is to provide the most up-to-date technical advice on all matters relating to the Irish Creamery and Dairy Industries, and to translate this advice into the design, supply, installation

and operation of all such equipment, both small equipment and large schemes involving refrigeration, milk-handling, cream storage, butter-churning, can washing, milk bottle washing, filling and capping, etc.

First-class service is guaranteed on account of: enlarged designing and drawing office facilities, enlarged machine shop facilities and increased erection and servicing staff; closer contact with the creameries and dairies by larger outdoor sales force; even more comprehensive stocks of sundries carried for immediate delivery at competitive prices; supplies of essential spare parts for all plants installed by either Company in the past, will be readily available.

FABRICATION

The Fabricating Division of the new Company, at Long Mile Road, Drimnagh, Dublin, was established in 1954 by Booth Bros., Ltd., and its associates. The object is to provide high quality stainless steel and aluminium fabrication in the unit, the only factory in Ireland specialising in this kind of work.

The chief outlets for the stainless steel products of this division of the Creamery and Dairy Supply Co., are the creamery and dairy industries as well as industries handling foods, beverages, and medical supplies.

Thanks to this factory, a number of Irishmen working abroad have been able to return home and also with the close co-operation of the National Society of Coppersmiths, facilities are being provided to train apprentices to become qualified welders and fabricators for permanent employment in their own country. Maximum employment will be provided in both Limerick and Dublin.

Products and technical services will be available that were not hitherto available and problems posed by creameries will be solved in the new expanded drawing offices of the Company. Limerick Vocational Schools are co-operating with the Company by taking in hand a long-term scheme of apprentice-training for technicians, the drawing offices, estimating departments and the machine shops.

DOWN G.A.A. OFFICERS

Officers elected at the South Down Annual Convention were: Chairman: Rev. J. J. Pettit, C.C.; Vice-Chairmen: Messrs. P. Flynn and B. Carr; Treasurer: Mr. L. Cahill; Registrar: Mr. J. Morgan; Secretary: Mr. R. McConville.

Grade Up Your Herd

The cheapest way to grade up a herd of cows is to use the artificial insemination service. Some of the best dairy bulls in the country, many of them bought in Britain for high prices, are in service at the A.I. stations now and you can have their blood in your herd for a very low cost. The inseminators have become skilled men by now, after a couple of years practice, so you can count on getting the best chance of a high-grade calf from A.I.

How A.I. Is Used

We understand that the artificial insemination scheme in the North-West, which is run by a combination of co-operatives, has been a great success and that farmers have been using it in increasing numbers. While the effects on milk yields and herd quality generally will gradually be felt, it is possibly more important that A.I. is a successful way of dealing with certain types of infertility in cattle.

The disease Trichomoniasis is transmitted by the bull to the cow in natural mating, but is avoided by using A.I. This trouble has been to a great extent the reason for a lot of cows in the North-West area failing to calve, and a census of the number of calves will be the real test of how much A.I. is doing for the area.

Based on the main station at Sligo, where the bulls stand, the scheme reaches all of Donegal and the great part of the counties adjoining Sligo, with part of Mayo. There is now to be a station at Ballina and Tubbercurry, giving further coverage.

Youngest member of the Cardinal Griffin Athletic Club is Michael O'Sullivan (jnr.). Michael, who is only nine years old, has the makings of a great athlete of the future.

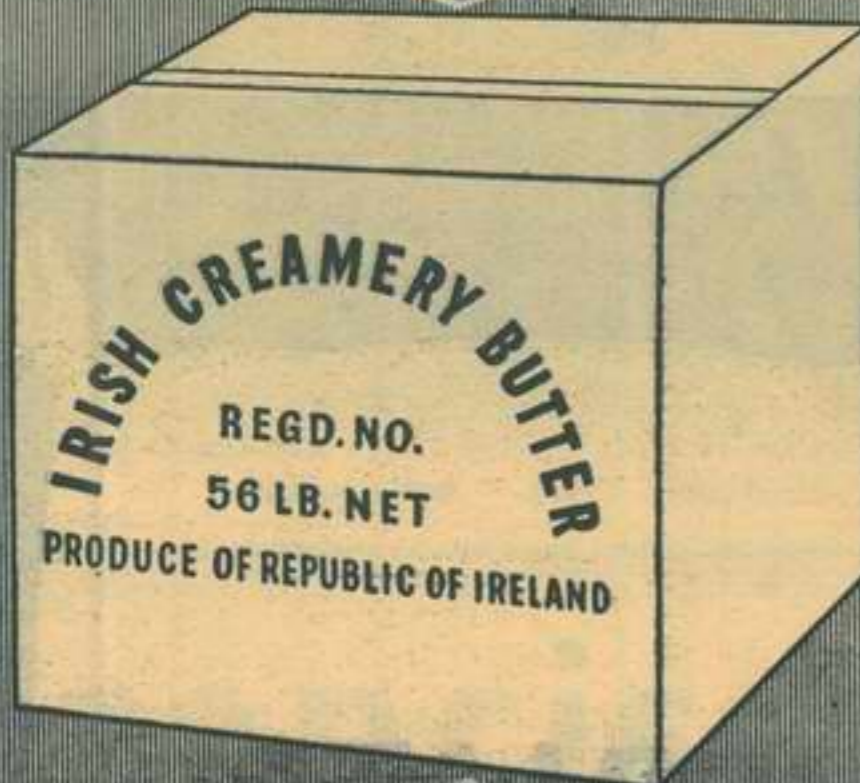
To those who know Michael's father it will be obvious as Michael senior, was prominent as an athlete in his native Kerry and further afield. Michael is chairman of the St. Anne's G.A.A. Club in Whitechapel and a committee member of the N.A.C.A. club in that parish.

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to endeavour to revive the egg and poultry business, so ideally suited to these counties, by giving advice, where requested, on management and production and every other aspect of this industry.

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Planning Technique Can Help Irish Farmers

(By ADVISER)

WHEN any industrial concern finds itself dropping revenue, its directors lose no time in taking stock of what they are doing. They try to find out what mistakes they have been making, what are the factors that have caused the losses and what can be done to offset them. If there is nothing to be done to change the position they immediately decide to cut down expenses, pull in their horns, so to speak, and try to tide over the bad times until there is some improvement.

In farming it might conceivably become necessary to take this last course, to pull in your horns, but it is difficult to think what circumstances would dictate such a policy. Farming is one of the most flexible ways of earning a living, and with the present governmental policy in almost every country of protecting their home producers as far as is feasible, there is always scope for changing around, for alterations in general methods or outlook to meet changing conditions.

Even the best of farmers will have to make these changes from time to time, even if it is only to keep his mind from becoming stagnant, but the vast majority of our farmers have rather allowed their minds to become stagnant though, in many cases, they have inherited this stagnation from their fathers before them.

The stagnation is very often not really a bad thing, except in that it prevents the farmer from making changes which would benefit himself and his family. He may be set on a way of farming that is sound and practical, that makes a decent liv-

ing for all concerned, and still be regarded as a good farmer.

DOUBTS BRING CHANGE

Once he begins to doubt his ways, however, he is on the way to change and it is likely that if he goes about it the right way the change will be beneficial. Mental attitude is a tremendous force in farming, and it is heartening that with the activities of Macra na Feirme, the NFA and the advisory services over the past few years there has been a stir in the minds of very many Irish farmers.

One of the signs of this is that many of them are now asking their advisers to help them with farm plans—not just how to get over an isolated difficulty—and those who have started working to proper plans have found the benefit.

The farm plan is probably the most important single contribution the adviser can make to the improvement of farming, and it is likely that it will become increasingly used in the next few years.

The Farm Survey showed us how low is the level of earnings of the majority of our farmers, and indicated some of the changes that can

be made to improve this. But these changes, on the individual farm, need planning, and the first step is to look at the farm itself.

Most Irish farms are awkwardly formed. There are small fields and large fields, fields of handy shapes and others that are dog-legged or just strips of ground which make movement around the farm laborious and time-consuming. By looking at the Ordnance Survey map of his farm the farmer can see the holding as a single unit and see also how it can be improved from the point of view of handling, of transport, of moving stock around, and of using a proper rotation.

ROTATION AFFECTS PLAN

The rotation can decide the future of the fields. If it is decided that the farm plan should be based on a five-year rotation, a farm can be divided up into five blocks. The size of each block will depend on the size of the farm, obviously, and on small farms it may be found better to iron out ditches so as to have each block a single field without any boundaries. Land can be added to the total acreage this way. On a large farm this may not be advisable, since hedges give shelter, and levelling too many might make the job uneconomic.

Often it is found that a strip can be taken off the whole length of the holding for movement up and down between the blocks that have been decided upon, cutting out needless walking or driving, saving time and energy in the different jobs. This is a side of time and motion study that is very applicable to many farms right away.

The plan must take cognisance of the quality of the land, its suitability for various crops and what crop changes could be made in the rotation to bring in more money. It must include the examination of the existing buildings with a view to their better use and improvement, if money is available. It must also take into account the temperament of the farmer, whether he is inclined to work a bit harder to make a better living, whether his family (if members of it are working with him) will co-operate and, most important of all, what is the state of his finances and how much he will and can spend on getting towards a state of higher over-all production.

The Irish mentality towards credit is gradually changing, and most farmers nowadays are prepared to borrow if they can see their way to paying it back comfortably. Credit has come to be regarded as another implement for the farmer, and a plan usually entails investigation of the possibilities in this line.

BUDGETING IS IMPORTANT

On the financial question, budgeting comes into play. This is the practice of finding out, by investigating available figures, what are the most paying enterprises for any individual farmer.

Budgeting is a rather complicated Labour available must be taken into consideration if work is to be added.

This last factor is as important as any other, because there is little use in giving a plan that means hard work to a man who is in love with leisure. There is equally little point in offering an expensive plan to a man with little money or little inclination to spend money.

process and would be outside the ability of almost any farmer, big or small at first. It will need the help of a trained adviser, and in fact it is a pity that there are not specialists in this side of farming available to give their services.

Probably it will not be long before the Department of Agriculture decides to set up a section to deal with farm finances, budgeting and planning in general. Dr. Robert O'Connor, who was responsible for the greater part of the work on Farm Survey, has had a wide training and experience in this subject and would have been an ideal man to appoint head of such a section. Dr. O'Connor has now taken up his appointment as C.E.O. in Co. Monaghan, so he is not actually lost to the country like so many others.

There is no doubt that tremendous improvements in the output of Irish Agriculture and the earnings of our farming families could be made if the practice of planning could be introduced rapidly. There is no point in planning without envisaging an increase in output, and the man who is content to stay as

(Continued on next page).

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NEW CATTLE MART FOR BALLINA

AMERICAN know-how plus Irish initiative — that unbeatable combination promises to put Ballina on the commercial map with Ireland's newest cattle mart which was opened on Monday, January 28.

This new venture is sponsored by Messrs Dunleavy Brothers, and behind that name lies the fairy-tale success story of two Co. Mayo brothers who went to Detroit, Michigan, centre of the American meat packing industry, learned the business, made a success of it and have now come home and put their money and skill into an enterprise that promises to bring prosperity to Ireland in general and to the West in particular.

While in the States James and John Dunleavy saw the advantages of cattle marts which are the common method of selling cattle in the U.S.A. When they returned home they combined with brothers Michael and Thomas who are successful farmers, in founding a new mart in the town of Ballina.

The brothers from Bohola found the ideal site for the mart at the former Ballina Greyhound Racing track. This was purchased and has since been renovated. Shining steel pens, concrete rundays and tracks, sales ring, auctioneers' stand and a roofed-in seating enclosure all go to form the ideal venue for cattle dealing.

The mart has a capacity for handling up to 500 head of cattle a day and will operate twice monthly, on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The next sales will be on February 11, February 25, March 11, March 25.

The days of standing on the streets in wet and windy weather for hours are over for Western farmers and in future they can sell their cattle in comfort at the new cattle mart, Ballina.

Each beast is weighed on a giant scales before being put up for auction and the weight supplied to buyers and sellers alike. The scales are so arranged that a seller will know to the half hour when his beasts will come under the hammer. This means that the seller can take time off for a meal or a chat, confident in the knowledge that his cattle will not be auctioned in his absence. If the stock does not come up for sale and the seller is not present, they will be held over until he returns.

Payment for sales will be made by cheque the day following the sales and will be sent on by post.

The seller pays 2d. in the £ commission but this does not prevent him from making a sale privately and avoiding the payment of commission.

Out of this 2d. in the £ commission the mart pays all auctioneers' fees, running expenses and toll charges.

Cattle must be in the mart by 11 a.m. English buyers will attend all sales and sharp bidding will be the order of the day.

A special C.I.E. representative attends all sales to advise on road and rail facilities.

Business people in Ballina are confident that the new mart will give a much needed boost to commerce in the town.

The mart will not clash with the the old street fair, held in Ballina on the first Friday of each month; but the 'new look' in cattle dealing is generally welcomed by buyer and seller alike as more in keeping with modern trends.

PLANNING TECHNIQUE

(Continued from previous page).

he is will not look for a plan. But if more and more of our farms began to show improvements as a result of a proper planning policy we would have the rest looking for the same service from their advisers. This has already happened in every adviser's district throughout the country where improvements have been achieved by seeking advice and acting on it. It looks as if the force of circumstance will make the institution of some such service obligatory.

BUDGETING CAN HELP TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND

THE December issue of the Department's "Farm Bulletin" contains a summary of a lecture given by Mr. S. R. Wragg, M.A., of Bristol University, to agricultural advisers on budgeting to decide on the relative merits of crops.

Mr. Wragg pointed out that this system of budgeting is not the same thing as cost accounting, which might easily give a wrong conclusion when applied to this problem. Now that farming has become more of a business and less a way of life, farmers who did not organise properly could get into a serious financial situation. The commercial risks of farming had been increased under modern conditions and that was where farm management advice and budgeting came to the farmer's aid.

The number of alternative courses open to a farmer in planning his programme was very great, and the adviser's task was to help the farmer to arrive at a combination of products and factors which would give the best economic return. Farm management was the art of deciding something from all the alternatives.

As an example of "partial budgeting", with which he dealt mainly in the talk, Mr. Wragg gave figures worked out for a farmer who was considering whether to sow wheat or beet on a plot of three acres. Using figures based on English rates, he showed what the partial budget put on each side of the account. The items were set out in this way:

| Additional Costs and Revenue | | Costs Avoided and Revenue Gained | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Lost | | Gained | |
| Additional Costs:— | £ s. d. | Wheat seed— | 12 0 0 |
| Beet seed | 3 15 0 | Fertilisers | 9 0 0 |
| Fertilisers | 33 0 0 | Contract Combining | 13 0 0 |
| Fuel | 12 0 0 | Miscellaneous | 2 10 0 |
| Transport | 12 0 0 | Revenue Gained:— | |
| Specific Deprec. (Beet Plough) | 3 0 0 | 36 tons beet | 216 0 0 |
| Revenue Lost:— | | Value of tops | 18 0 0 |
| Wheat Grain | 90 0 0 | | £270 10 0 |
| Wheat Straw | 9 0 0 | | |
| | 162 15 0 | | |
| Balance (Profit) | 107 15 0 | | |
| | £270 10 0 | | |

Mr. Wragg pointed out that if additional labour had to be brought on to the farm for cleaning, singling, pulling and topping the beet the profit of £107 might be cut down to £59. Here again, he used English figures for his example.

Trees For Money And Shelter

There are lots of places where trees could be planted on every farm and will grow into money in time, as well as improving your farm by giving shelter. Ask your County Committee to send out their adviser for a talk about it and you can plant any day now. This is good advice, as anybody can tell you who has planted trees in the past.

Stirring Ovation At London Ceili

By EAMONN O'LAOCHDHA

AT the weekly Ceili of Conrath na Gaelige Lonndain at St. Anne's Hall, Seaton Place, N.W.1., on Sunday night, 6th January, Seosamh Mac Guidhir, Uachtaran an Chonradh, asked that a minute's silence be observed as a mark of respect for the two young men, Sean South and Fergal O'Hanlon who, during the past week had given their lives for their country. The silence was observed with death-like solemnity.

Following the silence, Seosamh Mac Guidhir made reference to the circumstances under which these two young Irishmen died. "Let us think deeply of this fact," he said, "and, whether or not we agree with the policy which Sean South and Fergal O'Hanlon pursued, let us at least respect their beliefs and convictions, and let us be hesitant to condemn them as 'ruthless' and 'foolish' and as men acting without any guidance of reason. "Without a moment's hesitation," he said, "politicians of a State which is crippled by division and emigration, are ready to pronounce the fiercest condemnation on those young men, and to portray them to the world as ruffians and fools and to wave aside the feelings of the masses of the people as sentiment which is meaningless."

"My dear friends," continued Seosamh Mac Guidhir, "you and I, who are working here in forced exile for the betterment of our country and our national cause, you and I who know the pains and heartaches of being banished by circumstances from the land which bore us, we are brothers and sisters of these two whom the Motherland for her cause has caught to her breast, we shall not assume the judgment seat and appoint ourselves the judge of their intentions. Fools do not give their lives for a cause; mothers do not voluntarily sacrifice sons whom they know or even suspect to be fools.

Let the politicians say what they will about the dissimilarity between the past and present in the history of our land. Pearse and his comrades were branded as fools by many, but, when we are tempted to set ourselves up as judges of the intentions of young men who are prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for their cause, let us think of the words of Pearse at Rossa's grave and let these words sink deeper into our minds than the condemnations of politicians.

"They think," said Pearse, "that they have intimidated half of us and purchased the other half . . . but, the fools, the fools, the fools! They have left us our Fenian Graves, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

"Ireland, a Chairde Gael, is still not at peace. Sean South and Fergal O'Hanlon had visions of Pearse's Ireland, and, as we pray for the eternal rest of their souls, let us also pray and hope for the Ireland of their dreams and for many more Irishmen of their character, calibre and high aspirations." For fifteen minutes, applause rang to the echo.

FOOTBALL FORECAST

Who will win out in football? Here I have confined my choice very surprisingly to two Munster teams—Cork and Kerry.

Many will question my wisdom in omitting Galway. I may have to eat my words but I imagine that the winners of this year's Cork and Kerry Munster Championship clash will eventually go forward and capture the Sam Maguire Cup.

Kerry have a recent victory over Cork which will give them added confidence when the teams meet next Summer but I pick Cork to win.

So there we are, I have made my choice; I wonder what do the readers think? Perhaps they would let us have their opinion,

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STAFF REPORTER

APRIL, 1955, saw the birth of Na Fianna. This Club had a phenomenal beginning, as its membership totalled no less than 192 players at the outset, all as a result of the "Kickham Dispute."

Early in April, 1955, a sub-committee of the Leinster Council, investigating the dispute, decided that the section now known as "Na Fianna" could, if they so desired, form a new club and the Dublin County Board accepted their affiliation and entry for all competitions other than the current championships already underway. This should give lie to the statements that "Na Fianna" were a "break-away" body. The Dublin County Board did not adhere to the latter portion of this ruling and "Na Fianna" competed in all the 1955 championships.

To-day, "Na Fianna" are one of the most powerful Clubs in the G.A.A., fielding 13 teams (football and hurling) from juvenile to senior.

Initial colours were all white, but at present they sport saffron jerseys with blue cuffs and collars and blue and white stockings.

Na Fianna were primarily looked upon as a football force, as they gave some outstanding displays in the early months and, indeed, are concerned in the destination of the 1955/56 and 1956/57 Senior Football Leagues. Their hurling team won its way into senior ranks at the first attempt and won five trophies in the process inside seventeen months.

In 1955, Na Fianna won their way into Intermediate ranks by winning Section "A" Junior Hurling League without a defeat. They also captured the Smith Cup, competed for by the winners of various sections of the Junior League, and the Club rounded off a wonderful year by winning "An Corn Ceitinn" at their first attempt. In the final they Mastered New Ireland, who had the

majority of their senior championship team on duty.

Na Fianna also reached the semi-final of the junior championships, only to be narrowly defeated by Guinness, the eventual winners. In 1955 also the club's second team won their section of the Junior "O" League.

1956 saw Na Fianna sweep all opposition aside to carry off the junior hurling championship and the Intermediate Hurling League to enter senior ranks. They have also qualified for the final of "An Corn Ceitinn," again at the expense of New Ireland.

In the 1956 Senior Football Championships, Na Fianna were defeated by a disputed penalty kick by Erin's Hope, who went on to defeat St. Vincent's in the final.

Na Fianna are in the quarter-final of the Senior Football League, and are involved in the finish of the 1955 Senior League also. In junior football ranks they contested unsuccessfully the final of Section "A," 1956.

The club is in the happy position that it can look forward to the future with confidence, as it has some very promising material in its hurling and football teams operating under the Dublin Minor Board.

No review of the past achievements of Na Fianna would be complete without a mention of the late Harry Giltrap, who was cut off in his prime last year, aged thirty-two.

Harry had been active in G.A.A. circles in Dublin, Waterford and London during his short life. He was a committee member of the C. J. Kickham Club and was later active in founding Na Fianna, of which he was later elected chairman and honorary life member.

In an obituary published in the club's own monthly newspaper, "Na Fianna Nuacht," the President of the Club, Rev. Bro. Farrell, wrote: "Harry had no room in his heart for smallness and I doubt if he ever had a real enemy. He was the same to all men and from the number of salutations that greeted him no matter where he went, you realised others beside yourself had discovered this man among men."

To perpetuate Harry's memory a trophy has been inaugurated called "the Harry Giltrap Cup" and it will be awarded to "the Clubman of the Year." Not, mind you "the Sportsman of the Year, as this would, perhaps, be looked upon as a legitimate reward for the most outstanding senior player. The Harry Giltrap Cup will be awarded to the player, who, in the opinion of the committee, does most to uphold the ideals of the club on and off the field. The inauguration of this award is surely a pointer for other clubs.

Sir,

I do not agree with your reader "Another Galwayman" that Sean Duggan was a better goalie than Tony Reddan. Tony was mainly responsible for Tipperary's three All-Ireland victories and many other successes while Sean Duggan with all his brilliance could not help Galway win one All-Ireland.

Most Rev. Dr. Kinnane, Archbishop of Cashel said of Tony after Tipperary's All-Ireland victory over Wexford, "In him, Tipperary are fortunate in having one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time. I shall never forget some of his really marvellous saves to-day."

He was the cul-baire selected on the first Ireland team to meet the combined Universities. Why did they not select Sean Duggan?

"Up Tipp."

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The Future Looks Bright For Kerry

(By ROVER)

KERRY'S prospects for 1957 are very promising. Although they failed to win any major trophy in 1956, the year could by no means be termed a bad one.

On the contrary, their displays at the end of the season gave great hope for the future.

The senior footballers, after many indifferent displays, have jumped into the limelight by their National League performances.

Good Start

They commenced the campaign in great style by defeating Carlow by 0-9 to 0-6 at Tralee.

A trip to Wexford followed and again Kerry gained two valuable points. Then came their most impressive display of the year when beating a much fancied Cork team at Austin Stack Park, Tralee.

Kerry now seems assured of group honours and hopes are high that they will at least enter the League Final.

THE HURLERS

The season just past has been the most successful ever for the Kerry hurlers. Years of effort and hard work have been rewarded and surely the can expect even higher honours in the not too distant future.

In the 1956 Munster Junior Championship they romped through all opposition, beating Waterford in the Final by 6-7 to 0-3 to gain their first Junior Hurling Provincial title.

In the All-Ireland semi-final they easily defeated Down and thus qualified to meet Kilkenny in the "home" final.

Here, the experience of Kilkenny told, and although putting up a great fight Kerry were defeated on the score 4-8 to 2-4.

SPLENDID WIN

In the current National League, they opened the campaign in whirlwind fashion by defeating a fancied Limerick team at Tralee.

Victory over Laois followed, leaving Kerry hurlers with high hopes of winning group honours.

Thus Kerry look forward to a bright future and with teams like their present senior footballers and junior hurlers success must surely be just around the corner.

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London senior football champions, Garryowen. Holding the Cup is Mr. J. Glennon (Galway) and Mr. J. Clarke (Meath), with Mr. J. Kilcoyne (Mayo), President of the Club.

Gloucester Gaels Celebrate

By LIAM O GRIOBHTHA
(Gloucestershire G.A.A.)

THE SECOND ANNUAL DINNER AND CEILI MOR OF THE ST. PATRICK'S G.A.A. CLUB, GLOUCESTER, TOOK PLACE RECENTLY AT THE MIDLAND & ROYAL HOTEL.

One hundred and thirty Irish exiles patronised the function, which was a credit to the organising ability of the officers and members of the sponsoring club.

The ball room and dining room were decorated with the Tricolours, the crests of the four provinces and the Green and White of St. Patrick's, whilst at the entrance was the familiar slogan "Cead Mile Failte."

Many famous personalities of the Association in Britain were present, amongst them being Mr. Dan Murphy (Co. Kerry), Secretary of the Provincial Council of Britain, and Mrs. Murphy.

BOARD OFFICERS

Officers of the Gloucestershire Co. Board present, included: Rev. Fr. P. F. Cronin (Kerry), Chairman; Mr. W. Griffin (Kerry), Secretary, whilst all clubs in the County were also well represented.

Mr. W. Griffin, acted as Toastmaster, and carried out his duties in a very capable and efficient manner.

In proposing the toast, "the Hierarchy and Clergy", Mr. B. Devitt (Belfast), Secretary of St. Patrick's outlined, eloquently, the great part played by the Hierarchy and clergy of Ireland in their long and unselfish service to this great movement.

"We exiles", said Mr. Devitt, "have the same unstinting guidance and help both practical and moral from our Irish exile priests here in this country".

A GREAT HELP

"Indeed," said Mr. Devitt, "I am quite sure that without that help we would not long exist as an organisation in this country".

"There are few clubs in this country, I'm sure" he continued, "who do not rely on their Parish Priest for facilities to hold their meetings and transact their business".

Rev. Fr. M. Hayes (Thurles), C.C., St. Peter's, Gloucester, replying to the toast first thanked Mr. Devitt for his remarks and went on to say how glad he was to be present at this function.

He was quite new to the parish of St. Peter's but it was heartening to find himself among so many friends.

AMONG FRIENDS

"You know" said Fr. Hayes "when we priests move from one parish to another, one of the first things we think of is—are there any Irish

there? because if there are we can be sure we will be among friends".

"Another aspect of things", went on Fr. Hayes, "is that by means of the GAA, we priests are better able to keep in contact with you all for the purpose which is our chief mission—that of ministering to your souls".

"The GAA", continued Fr. Hayes, "has now spread to many parts of the world, America, Australia, New Zealand, and even to France, and wherever you find it you will also find the priest".

Rev. Fr. Hayes received a great ovation at the end of his speech.

To St. Patrick's 10 pt clear Mfikt The toast of St. Patrick's Club was proposed by Rev. Fr. Sean McNamara (Quinn, Co. Clare), C.C., St. Mary's Parish, Stroud.

Rev. Fr. McNamara said it gave him great pleasure to propose this toast.

"He had", he said, been for long connected with the St. Patrick's club and indeed had himself hurled with the club in its early days".

Fr. McNamara's speech, which was both witty and entertaining, concluded by wishing the club a happy and successful New Year.

GREAT PLEASURE

Mr. D. Fox (Treasurer, St. Pat's) in replying for the club, thanked Fr. McNamara for all his kind remarks and said that during his own association with the club he had derived the greatest pleasure in all its activities both social and otherwise.

Finally, Mr. Dan Murphy (Provincial Secretary), spoke of his own great interest in the activities of the Association in Gloucestershire.

St. Patrick's was, he knew, one of the strongest, if not the strongest, club in the county and great credit was due to its officials.

"The club" said Mr. Murphy, "was particularly lucky to have Mr. Jack Stapleton as their vice-chairman."

WORK WELL KNOWN

His long association with the Gaelic Athletic Association was well known both in Britain and in his native Thurles. With the guidance of men like Jack Stapleton and the help of every individual member of the club the success of the club was assured.

Mr. Murphy then thanked the officers of the club for their kind invitation to himself and his wife to attend this function, which, he said, they had looked forward to with the greatest pleasure.

Following the dinner a ceili was held and a special attraction was the display of Irish jigs, reels and hornpipes danced by the Blaisdon Hall Irish Dancers, under the direction of Rev. Fr. Boyd, S.D.B.

These ten and eleven year old obys suitably kilted in the Green and Gold must have brought back fond memories to many an exile and, indeed, a lump to the throat of not a few.

Presentation To Jimmy McGinnity

By EAMONN LEAHY.

ST. MONICA'S reviewed a year of progress which was clouded by the loss of the former Secretary, Jimmy McGinnity, who sails for Rochester, New York State, this month.

A presentation was made to Jimmy and he was elected President of the club for 1957. Many tributes for his zeal and enthusiasm were paid by all who knew him. His success and happiness in America is the sincere wish of sportsmen in London and Ireland.

St. Monica's loss is America's gain. Go n-eirighidh an bothar leat, a Sheamus.

Michael Parkinson, the newly-elected Secretary, is a founder-member of the club and has played a big part in the many successes over the years.

His position as bar manager does not allow him to take as active a part as he would wish but his spare time is devoted to the games of the Gael here.

Michael hails from Swords, Co. Dublin (renowned for its football prowess) and was a member of the Croke Park United and Thomas Ashe G.A.A. clubs at home.

The annual meeting was well attended. Officers and Committee elected were:

President: Seamus McGinnity (Scotstown, Co. Monaghan); Vice-Presidents: Rev. Fr. Curley, O.S.A. (Galway); Rev. Fr. Broder (London), and Rev. Fr. Foley, O.S.A. (Wexford). Chairman: Rev. Fr. Kane, O.S.A. (Claremorris, Co. Mayo). Vice-Chairman: S. McDermott (Armagh). Secretary: Michael Parkinson (Swords, Co. Dublin). Treasurer: Fr. Leddan, O.S.A. (Limerick).

Hurling Secretary: P. Sheehan (Cork). Football Captain (Senior): Frank O'Toole (Galway). Vice-Captain: Paddy Andrews (Ardcath, Co. Meath). Inter. Football Captain: Joe McDonagh (Galway). Vice-Captain: John Flood (Callan). Hurling Captain: D. O'Riordan (Cork). Vice-Captain: Jim Kennedy (Galway).

Committee: Con Mulvihill (Kerry), Hughie McKenna (Monaghan) and Eddie Bergin (Offaly).

LEITRIM MEN'S SOCIAL

The Leitrim Men's Association held a very enjoyable social at the Rising Sun Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, in January. The guests were entertained with music and song supplied by the Association's hard-working Committee and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

I have been informed by the Chairman that their Lordships, the Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, Most Rev. Dr. McNamee, and the Bishop of Kilmore, Most Rev. Dr. Quinn, have consented to become patrons of the Association.

Officers and Committee of the Leitrim Men's Association:—

President: Rev. Fr. Patrick Rynn, S.M. (Ballinagleara). Vice-President: Michael Mulvanerty (Keshkerrigan). Chairman: James Fox (Fenagh). Vice-Chairman: Frank McGrail (Drumkeerin). Secretary: P. J. Mulvey (Carrickon-Shannon). Asst. Sec.: J. Bohan (Cloone). Treasurer: Pat McPartland (Glenfarme). G. E. Rutledge (Keshkerrigan), P. O'Hara (Glencar), P. Prunty (Manorhamilton), Miss Lillian Woods (Drumsna), Miss Kitty Doherty (Fenagh).

CARDINAL GRIFFIN

The Cardinal Griffin A.C. Novice 3 mile road race attracted a very small field of athletes in January. The meet was held at Victoria Park and the results were:

1, Tommy Callanan (Limerick); 2, Murt O'Shea (Clare); 3, Johnny Brophy (Dublin). Biggest surprise of the race was

Johnny Brophy's great display. This Dublin city boy was less than ten yards behind the winner at the post and shows great promise for the future. Athletics are new to Johnny but he seems to have made a very quick acquaintance with the art.

At a recent General Meeting of the club, held in Whitechapel, the following, at the request of the Officers of the club, were appointed to serve on the Committee: J. O'Reilly and J. Brophy (Dublin), Maurice Cummins and Michael Morrissey (Waterford), Tommy Callanan (Limerick) and Tom O'Reilly (Roscommon).

CO-OPTIONS TO ARD-CHOISDE

The following members of the London Gaelic League have been co-opted to the Ard-Choisde:—Miss Phyllis Grennells (Dublin), Miss Noreen Moroney (Limerick), Uinsionn Duggan (Kilmallock), and Sean O'Rafferty (Muineachain).

MASS FOR YOUNG PATRIOTS

A Mass was offered in the Church of Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, recently for the repose of the souls of the two young Irishmen who died in a recent raid on the Six-Counties.

Among the many organisations present were members of the Old I.R.A., Cumann Na mBan, Sinn. Fein, Connradh na Gaedhilge, Gaelic Athletic Association, Cumann Gaelach and Gaelic Circle.

Representing the Gaelic League were Joseph Maguire, President, who recited with the congregation, the Rosary in Irish, Miss P. King, while Sean Dunne, Secretary, J. Moriarty and J. McCarthy represented the G.A.A.

Congratulations to Brian Bell (Dublin), and Miss Imelda O'Reilly, of An Uaimh, on their recent engagement.

POSTBAG

THIS is my idea of an Ireland football team.

J. Mangan
(Galway)

N. O'Reilly J. Devlin T. Dillon
(Cavan) (Tyrone) (Galway)

P. Harrington J. Mahon J. Rice
(Cork) (Galway) (M'aghan)

E. Ryan J. O'Neill
(Cork) (Tyrone)

S. Harrison J. Teggart W. O'Neill
(Kildare) (Tyrone) (Galway)

P. McGearty F. Stockwell I. Jones
(Leitrim) (Galway) (Tyrone)
(Capt.)

Subs—S. Morris (Cavan), P. Driscoll (Cork), M. Gould (Cork), T. Maguire (Cavan), V. Sherlock (Cavan).

Oliver O'Reilly,
Tullyvaum,
Corklough, P.O., Cavan.

Officers Elected

AT the annual meeting of the Derrydonnell Athletic Club officers elected were:

President, Mr. Willie Morris; Vice-President, Mr. W. Higgins; Chairman, Mr. Tommie Madden; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Bernie Ruane; Hon. Sec., Mr. P. Keane; Treas., Mr. P. Hanly.

Committee, Messrs. J. Lally, J. J. Burke, D. O'Sullivan, P. Ruane, P. M. Conneely and M. Martyn.

The club congratulated Willie Morris on winning the All-Ireland individual senior cross-country and also Tommie Madden and Bernie Ruane as members of the winning Galway team.

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same Again . . . and Again . . . and Again . . . **Smithwick's Ale**