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GAELIC ECHO

Clare Owes A Lot To McInerney

SAYS SEAN O'NEILL

SOME play for honour, some for the spoils of the game and others just for the love of it. Into the latter category probably go most of our players, both hurling and football, but none, in my opinion, have proven their sheer love of our native games, benefitting little in either honour, acclaim or reward as Clare's stone-wall defender, Dan McInerney.

Not alone has the burly Scariff man reaped little of the fruits of victory, but seldom has he been given a just reckoning.

Year after year he is there in the tussle for Munster supremacy, fit and hurling with the gusts of men ten years his junior, yet what few outside his native county realise is that to do this McInerney sacrifices far more than any player we know, both in time and in money.

Unlike most of us Dan is a big business man to whom time means money and big money—but when the honour of the Banner County is at stake time has always been found no matter what the cost.

Dan, with his father and two brothers, is the owner of one of the country's biggest contracting firms, handling huge construction jobs, not alone in Dublin and Cork, but all over the country.

IN CHARGE

At the moment, together with numerous others, they are in charge of the new developments in Croke Park. An engineer by profession, Dan's time is invaluable where contacts which usually exceed six figures are in hands, yet never have I seen him in a condition which would hinder him in giving his all when donning the Clare jersey and surely it takes quite an amount of training to keep that burly figure in trim.

Hurling with his native county for well over a decade McInerney has always radiated spirit and confidence into his fellow players, always inspiring them to fight on when things look other than bright—victory if possible and if not, well then at least a glorious defeat.

In his own quarter Dan has not yet met his master, full-forward after full-forward have found him just impenetrable. The list of wizard score-getters who have wound up an hours hurling, with McInerney as an opponent, with not even a minor score to their credit is a long one and it includes most of our great forwards, for brevity's sake I only list Christy Ring and Nick Rackard.

CHOSEN FOR MUNSTER

Chosen for Munster at left full-back in 1950 Dan played with distinction. An injury kept him out of the game for some months the following summer, but back he came again '52 to take over at full-back from the retired "Pappy" Callaghan.

Since then he has been the essence of consistency. Year after year he has given magnificent national league and championship displays, but yet to the amazement of southern provincial Gaels the Munster selectors have never favoured him.

Only the Scariff man himself knows how long more he will remain in the game and many Claremen to



Mick Cashman, the Cork goalkeeper, bringing off a save from Clare forward, Gerry Ryan, in the Munster championship game at Limerick recently.

whom I have spoken recently seem to think that after Clare's recent poor showing against Cork, in a game where most of the Claremen could well have taken a lesson in fitness and spirit from veteran McInerney, Dan may decide to retire.

Personally I am not too sure for I know that in that big heart which beats behind that powerful chest of Dan McInerney there is a hope—dwindled though it may be, it still is there—a hope that some day in the near future fourteen Claremen may join him in nailing the saffron and blue onto the All-Ireland hurling trophy.

ONE THING SURE

Whether that day comes or not, though one thing is sure—the Gaels of the Banner County in every town and village, from the rugged rocks of Black Head to the Atlantic stillness of Loop Head and stretching back across to the rippling boundry waters of Killaloe, will remember the mighty Dan and his efforts, both on and off the field, to win for his native county the awards of the game he loves.

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SAYS PREMIER

IN the game of hurling it is only on very rare occasions that a club retains a county championship for two or three successive years. In camogie, however, anything is likely to happen, and the Roscrea Camogie Club have the unique distinction of holding the Co. Tipperary camogie championship for eleven successive years.

When Roscrea defeated Tipperary in the 1956 final at Cashel last November, one wondered when the monotonous regularity of the Sean Treacy Cup going to North Tipperary would end. Roscrea were so much on top in the final that it seemed as if their title was safe for years to come.

Camogie throughout the rest of Tipperary is at a low ebb and for some time past did not receive good support. At the moment strenuous efforts are being made in the South of the county to foster the game, and to give Roscrea some worthwhile competition. Last summer St. Mary's, Cahir, organised a juvenile tournament in an effort to unearth some new talent, and new clubs were started in Newcastle and Glengoole. It is hoped that these clubs will affiliate for the 1957 championships.

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LEITRIM READY

Western team mentors are leaving no stones unturned to ensure that their best 'fifteens' will be on duty when the championships start, so trial and challenge games are the order of the day, or night, as many of those games are played in the evenings.

In the Minor grade, LEITRIM, proud Connacht title-holders, and defeated All-Ireland finalists, are determined to go one better in 1957 by retaining the provincial crown and winning the All-Ireland title, as well. After a series of trial and challenge matches, their supporters must feel more than happy about the outcome of the task ahead. With such outstanding members of last year's side as Murray, O'Donnell, MacIntyre, Fallon and Reynolds still

available and such brilliant newcomers as Lynch, Blessing and Mitchell to form the backbone of the side, they must start the long trek to Croke Park as favourites for the Western crown.

Watching them recently, I thought they moved with a slick competence not usually seen in minor teams so early in the season, displaying confidence and ability far beyond their years. A little too much elaboration and individualism, one the part of one or two of the older players, was the only weakness I could detect in an otherwise promising side. Knowing some of the Leitrim mentors, as I do, I am prepared to wager that this weakness will be eradicated without delay.



Handball Spotlight

(BY J. K. CLARKE).

THE DORAN BROTHERS OF DUBLIN

The Doran brothers, John and Andy of Dublin, though close on a quarter of a century has passed since they won their first open championship, are still capable of holding their own against the best in the All-Ireland junior class.

They were born and reared in the Halston Street area, opposite the Green Street alleys, where they commenced playing at an early age.

These alleys, some 20 feet shorter and 10 feet narrower than the Irish

regulation court, stand on the site of the old Newgate Prison, portion of the lower walls of which surround the little Park in which the alleys stand, and where many an Irish Patriot was incarcerated, after trial in the adjoining courthouse. In fact, one of the walls of the courthouse constitutes the main playing wall of the two alleys.

J. J. Kelly, who put up such a fine showing against J. M. Heney (USA) the World Champion, at the famous 'Boot Inn' court, Ballymun, in 1924, learned his handball on these

courts, when they were three-walled.

Pat Magill, one of the finest softball players of the century, was another, while J. J. Byrne and the Roes, were leaders in our own day.

The Dorans, were little more than school boys when they began to make themselves felt in Dublin championship circles.

Andy the elder, set the ball rolling, by winning the county Novice S.B. title, twenty-two years ago.

In 1936, at the age of 16 years, John won the county Novice S.B.S. Division I championship, from an entry of 41, beating A. Gilroy (Mets), a left-hander, in a hard fought decider. In the same year, Andy won the Co. Junior S.B.S. Division 2.

Resigned

In 1938, both resigned from Saint Joseph's Club, and joined Metropolitan, in which year, John set up a record by winning Dublin titles in three grades, viz.:— the junior S.B.S., in which he beat his brother in the semi-final—the Novice H.B.S., and the minor S.B.D. (under 18 years)—with G. Brogan (Mets.) as partner. He and Brogan crowned the season by winning the Irish minor S.B.D. championship—the first time it was ever played for, and the only occasion on which Dublin has won it.

In recognition of these achievements, John was presented with a special silver medal by his Club.

During the same year, Andy, in partnership with G. Marron, won the County Junior S.B.D. title.

In 1939, John finished second in the County Inter. S.B.S. He made no mistake, the following year, however, when he won the title, beating his brother Andy in the final. He also took the S.B.D. in the grade, with A. Gilroy as partner, both being selected as a result to represent Dublin in the All-Ireland Junior S.B.D. Championship. Doran finished the season, by annexing the County Junior H.B.S.

Runner-Up

In 1941, John with partner P. Murray, were runners-up in the Irish Junior H.B.D. championship, while Andy, and the noted left-hand Army player, Gunner J. Condon, finished second in the County Sen. S.B.D.

Andy won the County Junior H.B.D. in 1942 during the summer of which year he and his brother engaged locals at famed Ballymore Eustace in specially arranged Jun. H.B.D. exhibition games.

In 1944, Andy was runner-up in the County Inter. H.B.D., with C. Mullen as partner, and in the summer, partnered the writer in Senior S.B. exhibition games at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, in connection with the Glun na Buaidhe celebrations held there. Andy also represented Dublin in the Irish Junior H.B.D. Championships that year. The following season, 1945, Andy won the Co. Inter H.B.S. title, coming second in the doubles, again with C. Mullen as partner.

National Carnival

In 1946, Andy was runner-up in the County Senior H.B.D., with P. O'Brien, was has been twice to Australia since, where he took part in the Australian National Carnival. Both brothers were absent from the court for years, after this, Andy due to pressure of business, John because of emigration to England.

When they eventually returned, both were regraded Inter. John, staged a fine come back in 1953, when he won the County Inter. S.B.S., and with Jim Clarke, the doubles.

In 1955, he and A. Clarke were runners-up in the County Senior S.B.D. Last year, John annexed three County senior titles the S.B.S., and with A. Clarke, both doubles, successes he followed up by winning the Castle venue final of the All-Ireland Gael Linn S.B.S. Cup Competition.

Both brothers are active again this season, John in the County senior, and inter county junior, and Andy in the county Inter. grade, where they hope to do well.

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Sean O'Callaghan's Page

THE NATIONAL HURLING AND FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINALS HAVE BEEN DECIDED AND NEW CHAMPIONS ARE CROWNED. TIPPERARY DISPLACE THE HOLDERS, WEXFORD IN HURLING, AND GALWAY TAKE OVER FROM CORK IN FOOTBALL. GALWAY, OF COURSE, HAVE COMPLETED THE DOUBLE, BY CAPTURING BOTH THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND LEAGUE.

Both of this year's winning teams visit New York in October, to compete against New York selections in the St. Brendan's Cup games.

Galway's victory is a lucky break for the men of Tyrone, who now step into the breach and join Wexford and Cork hurling teams, for exhibition games in New York this month.

In dealing with this year's national hurling league final, I may say at the outset that the score of 3-11 to 2-7, for Tipperary somewhat surprised me.

A Surprise

The great displays by Kilkenny in all their league battles during the course of the campaign were, it seemed proof of their worth but they sadly disappointed their followers in the final.

Tipperary played their usual direct type of hurling, making the ball do the travelling. There was no blocking or stopping so far as they were concerned.

In consequence they won the game and earned the right to travel to New York. This was their sixth title in the course of the past nine years, so they can truly be called National Hurling League specialists.

Great Fight Back

There was, however, one very redeeming feature about the final. When matters were as dark as they could be for Kilkenny they put forth their very best effort.

Thanks to Sean Clohessy and Donal Heaslip and an effort from midfielder Mick Brophy, Kilkenny overcame a disastrous start and many good judges thought that they would at last break the Tipperary "hoodoo".

But no. Tipperary's youths Jimmy Doyle and 'Musha' Maher, turned the tide and so the Premier County swept on to victory.

The question may be asked: how did this year's final compare with the Wexford and Tipperary epic of 1955/6. Well, to my mind, anyway, Kilkenny were a poor substitute for the men of Wexford, who it will be recalled, conceded a sixteen points

margin at half time, and triumphed at the end.

An Answer

Turning to the football final between Galway and Kerry, there was more glamour about this game, and certainly greater expectations.

One thing is certain — whatever may be said of Kerry's great fighting qualities—when it comes to an important test Galway can provide the answer.

In the replayed 1938 All-Ireland final, Galway, then had their first chance of breaking the Kerry tradition of being unbeaten in replays. Galway won and Kerry's record was broken.

The man behind Galway on that occasion was John Dunne, aided by Brendan Nestor.

The same pair were to be the fore in this year's league final. John Dunne sat on the line watching every move of the game, and when danger threatened he was on the spot to apply a remedy.

It was John who made the switch between Purcell and Stockwell, after which the vital goal was scored.

October Only

I may add it was John Dunne who turned down the original offer for Galway to accompany Cork and Wexford to New York in June.

His idea at the time the proposal was first mooted was to go in October or not at all.

The question of Tyrone travelling was not even thought about at the time of the Special Congress.

Tyrone certainly deserve the trip to New York. But from the viewpoint of future progress it may cost them their Ulster title.

Not so long ago the Dublin footballers made the same excursion.

It cost them their league title and put an end to their championship hopes.

I have had an opportunity of discussing the Tyrone trip with a couple of their officials who, while not grudging them the right to travel, were none too happy as to what may happen on their return.

Both Wexford and Cork can afford to make the trip much better than Tyrone, as both counties have a record behind them.

Tyrone have not, and the coming year may or may not see Tyrone reach the heights all would like to see them accomplish.

This trip, to my mind, is bad championship preparation.

Those Changes

Looking back on the final between Galway and Kerry, its surprising when it comes to the vital moment, how these last minute injuries creep up.

As the teams were about to take the field we heard that midfielder O'Connell (Kerry) was unable to play and that the team was switched around.

It was known in advance that Jack Mangan, the Galway captain, had to cry off.

The inclusion of the Dublin player Joe O'Neill, in goal, did not by any means weaken the side. He took none of the chances that Mangan would have done. He got rid of the ball when it came to him, and no goal was scored against him.

Mahon Starred

Man of the match was Jack Mahon who blotted out Tom Moriarity. John Dowling was unfortunate to be called upon to try and curb Sean Purcell.

Ned Roche gained confidence as the game progressed by his marking of Frank Stockwell, but when John Dunne gave the signal for the pair to switch placings Kerry's hopes of visiting the Polo Grounds were shattered.

Mattie McDonagh played a lone hand for the greater part of the hour until Frank Evers came to life. When he did, it was all over so far as Kerry were concerned.

The championship season is not very far advanced but things are taking shape.

A few counties have already taken their departure from both the hurling and football forum.

Clare's hopes of a hurling title have vanished; Cork saw to that. What happens to the latter, after their return from the States, when they meet Tipperary is another day's work.

Limerick will play Waterford at Cork, and on my reckoning we may have another Tipperary and Limerick Munster final this year.

Good Progress

There has been steady progress in both hurling and football. Counties like Westmeath and Laois have lost hope so far as senior games are concerned, and in South Leinster both Carlow and Offaly have likewise fallen by the wayside.

Hopes are high in Louth, Meath, Dublin, Kildare and Wexford, and what happens in Longford remains to be seen. They succeeded over Westmeath at the second attempt.

There is not much need to look further than a Wexford and Kilkenny hurling final this year, as Dublin are hardly likely to cause a major surprise.

The month of June and July will see the Connacht and Ulster championships in full swing. There is hardly much need to seek further than Galway for champions, unless Mayo can pull out something extra for the big occasion.

Tyrone, Cavan, Donegal and Derry, can be taken in that order so far as the championship is concerned.

In Munster the old reliables Kerry and Cork should fill the bill.

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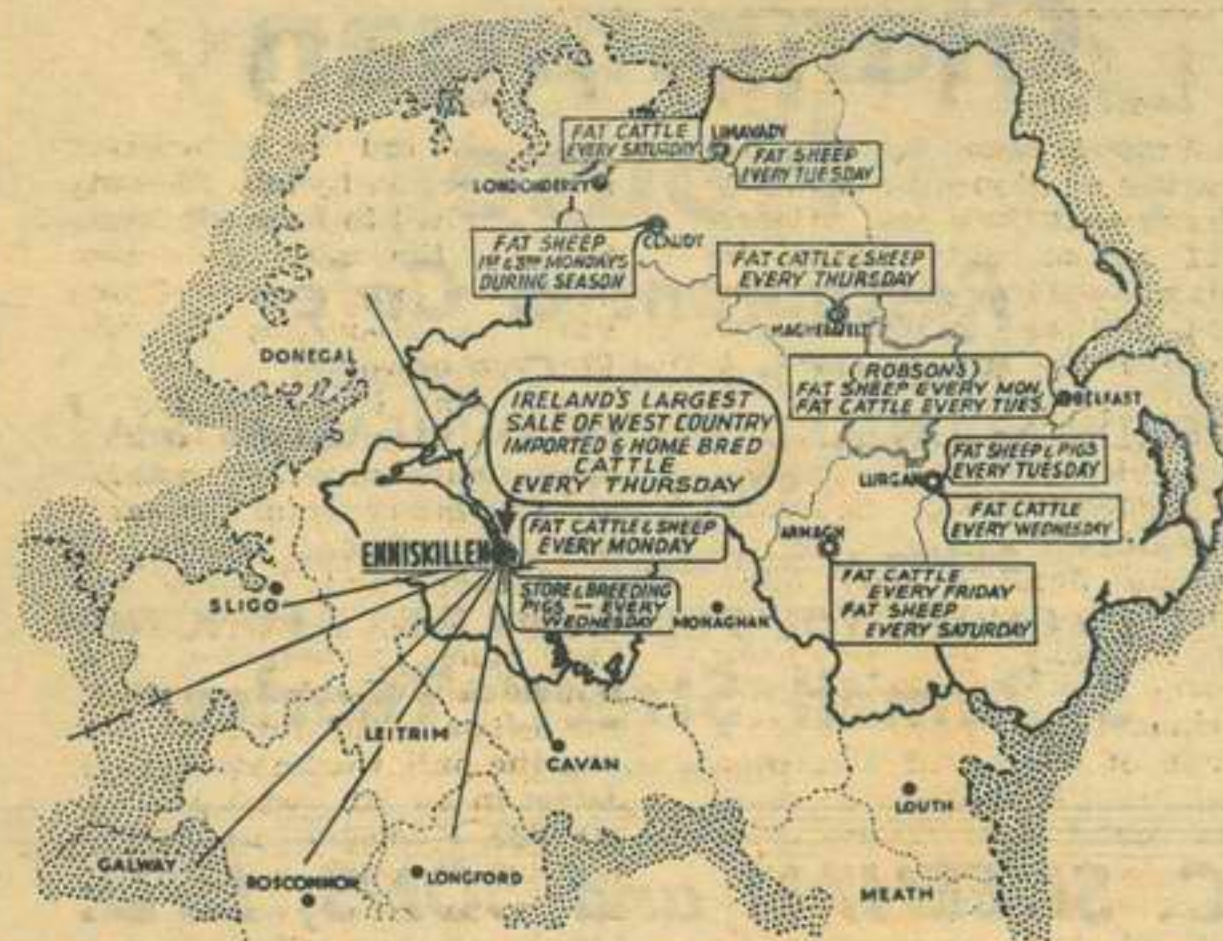
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THE AVERAGE ATHLETE

By "FLACCUS"

IT IS ALL VERY FINE SPEAKING IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE VALUE OR THE NECESSITY OF BEING FIT FOR YOUR PARTICULAR SPORT, BUT IT IS, OF COURSE, A VERY DIFFERENT MATTER PUTTING THE PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE. IT IS A PROBLEM WHICH APPLIES TO EACH INDIVIDUAL SPORTSMAN, AND WHICH APPLIES TO EACH IN HIS OWN SPECIAL WAY. SO, WE CAN SCARCELY EVER LAY DOWN ONE HARD AND FAST SYSTEM, AND ATTACH TO IT A GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL, IF ADHERED TO, CARRY ANYBODY TO SUPREME FITNESS.

However, there is to my mind an average athlete, even though we are told by the knowledgeable that an average man is the figment of imagination. But in athletics, football and hurling, perhaps, we may designate that imaginary character the "normal" athlete. He is the man who is approximately 5ft. 10ins., of medium build, not much superfluous weight; a man who can without great effort, or special training, cruise through a game without suffering any greater discomfort than just shortness of breath.

For this 'normal' man, as for all kinds, makes and shapes of athletes, there are two kinds of training needed: the training needed to get fit, and the training to keep fit which is, of course, a less rigorous business altogether.

THE PROBLEM

The problem of getting fit is one which faces too many Gaelic players each year about this time, and to my way of thinking the ideal solution is regularity.

Usually a player will not be very badly out of condition; perhaps, a half-stone overweight; perhaps short of wind even in a short run; probably easily tired leg, calf and thigh muscles due to lack of sufficient exercise.

I shall give what, to my mind, is almost an unfallible system of getting fit at a season's beginning providing one's condition is not unreasonably out of order. The monotony of the methods of older trainers' has, at last, become out-moded and the keynote of modern systems is variety. About twenty years ago it must have taken either inhuman devotion or a martinet of a trainer to get players through the monotonous scheme of lapping at a regular speed, and finishing with a sprint. We moderns may be of less stern stuff. But, at least our training methods are sugared with the spice of variety. But, whatever way we arrange our schedule it is, I fear, impossible to get away from the fact that lapping and sprinting are the basis and necessity of our work.

First: begin gently. Your body is stiff, and "cold," in much the same way as a motor car is cold at the moment when you start it to work. You need a little running-in, just like the motor-car, before you go all out in action of any kind. The best way to loosen up is by trotting at a moderate pace round the field two or three times. Let me forestall any cries of horror. I don't mean running hard two or three times round the circuit. A rather slowish pace is recommended and the most important thing is to lift your knees up high, now and then swinging your arms about. All this is intended as a means of warming up the physical muscle, and getting the muscles loose.

Many players like to do this preliminary exercise and, indeed, most of their training in canvas gym. shoes or some kind of rubber soled shoe. But, take ae warning, if

the ground is soft or slippery, or on the contrary if it is hard and the sun is hot, be careful not to go all out in sprints with this kind of shoe. The chances are that you will slip-up and do yourself some damage . . . And, now, finally, if you find yourself tempted to skip this loosening-up process at the beginning of your training remember the sanction: pulled muscles. More damage has been done to muscles by men rushing straight into the height of their endeavours without a pipe-opener or to be exact, a muscle-warmer.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES

Second: Physical exercises. This serves as a prolongation of the former for loosening the muscles, but more important is its function as a stretcher and strengthener of those muscles which are to be most used in the game. It is rather difficult to prescribe the best half-dozen or so exercises for almost everyone has some special merit, but for the normal player with a normal fitness problem I think the following are the best.

(1) The old old favourite: touching the toes. Remember do not bend those knees, and as you repeat the exercise snap into it more and more quickly. As you straighten up reach upwards at full stretch; its good for the back muscles.

(2) Stretching exercises, sidewise, upwards, forwards, and again snap into the exercise quicker and quicker as you repeat it.

(3) Slow knees-bend and back again into standing position. The operative work is slow, and keep the body erect and balanced.

(4) Feet well apart; arms extended sidewise; then, swinging the body and keeping the arms in the original position touch the left toe with right hand, the right with the left hand. In this exercise remember it is the body which is to be

swung from side to side and the arms must remain as they were—extended sidewise at shoulder height. Again, as you repeat, snap into the exercise, but this time not as quickly as with the first three.

(5) Again feet apart; touch the ground as far back between your legs as possible; then up and back, arms extended over your head. Remember to reach back as far as you can and to stretch up and back each time.

(6) Now one for the leg and stomach muscles. Flat on your back; hands folded behind head; elbows on the ground, too, and keep them there. Lift your left leg, keeping it straight, as high as you can; then down, passing the right on the way up. Keeping on this up and down kicking as long as you can, you must not put either leg back on the ground until the end of the exercise which should be prolonged for at least a minute. If this is too long to start with, build up to it day by day. . . Two variations on this exercise are very good: the bicycle exercise in which you should get well up in the air balancing on the shoulders and work up maximum pedalling speed; and the following which is very good for the back and backs of the legs.

(7) Position as for the last exercise. Raise both legs together and without bending as high as you can. Then touch with your toes the ground behind you: head keeping the legs straight. To do this you will need to leaver with your hands.

(8) Feet apart; with arms behind head, try to get your head down to touch the knees in turn. . . This is good for back and can be varied by twisting the trunk from side to side while keeping the feet and legs in the same position.

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Monaghan And Its Annual Feis

1905-'57

By "ULTACH"

NOW IN ITS 52nd YEAR MONAGHAN FEIS HAS SURVIVED THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL OF MANY OTHER PHASES OF THE GAELIC REVIVAL, AND IT IS STILL THE GREAT ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENT OF THE COUNTY.

Organised by a County Committee, the Feis alternates between the five towns of Monaghan and this year finds its home in Caislean Mathuna—"Castleblayney of the foreigner."

The beautiful Castle Grounds and now in the possession of the Franciscan Nuns, who very graciously permit the Feis in the precincts of their Guest House, will resound to our traditional music and song, when the Feis opens on Sunday, June 9th.

The first County Feis was held in Carrickmacross in 1905, while the 1906 event was convened at this year's venue and in the intervening years the Feis has amassed many historical associations.

The Bishop of Clogher has always been its patron and the present Bishop, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, has on more than one occasion performed the opening ceremony.

ELOQUENT SPEAKERS

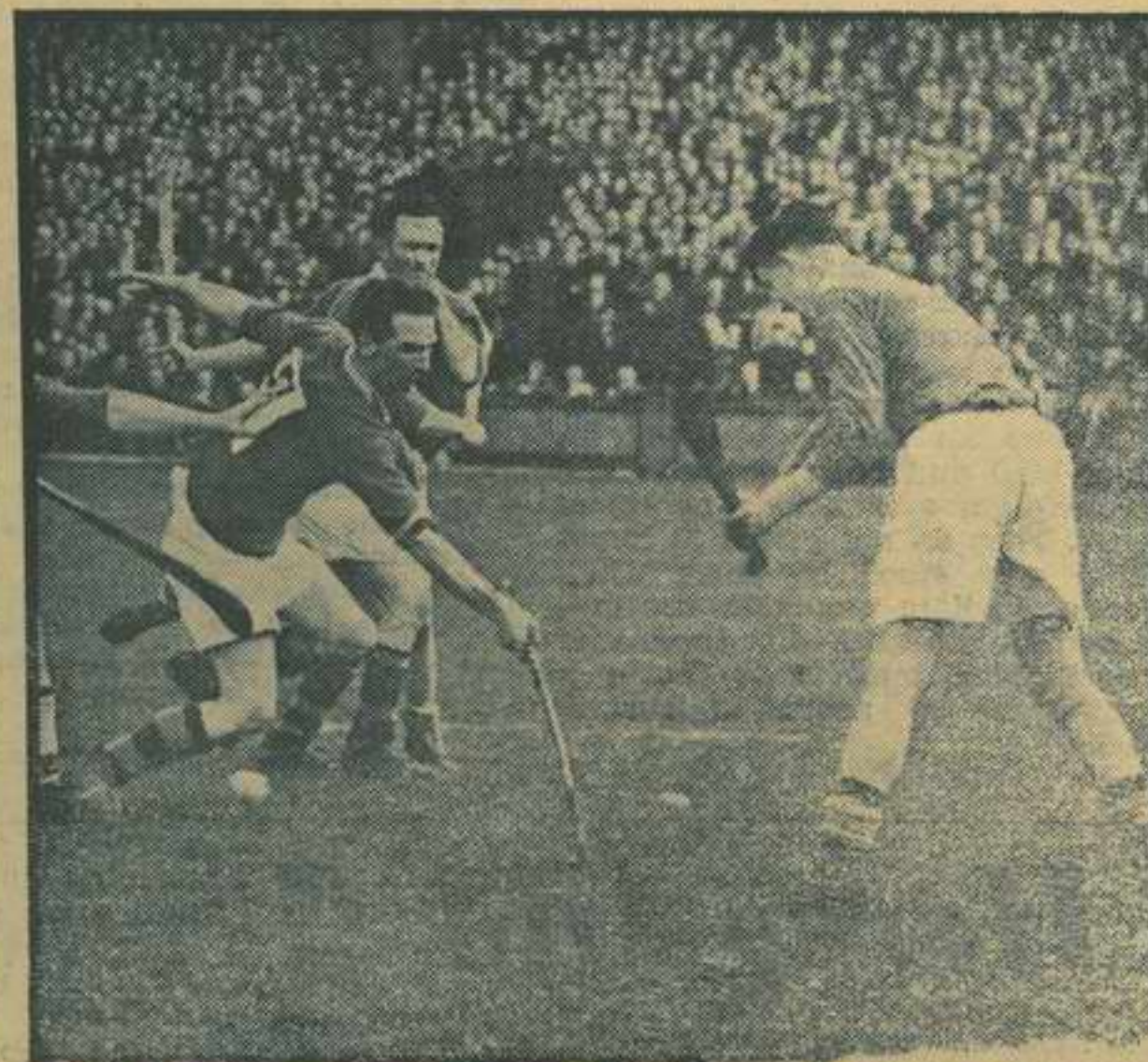
Of the many eloquent speakers who delivered the Feis oration the following came to mind: Seamus Mac Grianna ("Maire"), An Mac Giolla Bride (Ashbourne), Proinsias Mac a'Bheatha (Glin na buaidhe), Padraig Mac Con Midhe (ex President G.A.A.), An Sagart Eamonn O Doibhlinn (Donaghmore), and this year Peadar O Ceallaigh (Editor of Amarach) joins that distinguished company.

Among the adjudicators who officiated in days now long past we find the names of Eamonn Ceannt (executed 1916 leader) and Alice Milligan (the famous poetess).

A chairman in the early days was An Sagart O Dalaigh—now a canon and P.P., Castleblayney and chairman of this year's local committee which executes the decision of the County Committee.

FAMOUS CHAIRMAN

Chairman for many years was Rev. Fr. McCarvill, now Parish Priest of Inniskeen and the present holder of the office, Rev. Fr. P. O'Brien, St. Macarten's Seminary, Monaghan, has kept the flag flying since its revival following the war



Jack Culloty, in Kerry goal, gets better of Meath forward, Brian Smyth, during the recent League tussle between these counties.

years, during which the Feis was abandoned because of transport difficulties.

Among the many secretaries who worked ardously to maintain this cultural institution, the late Bro. Egan (R.I.P.) of Monaghan comes to mind, having held the office for many years and Bro. Cornelius of Carrickmacross, now in California, is another who is worthy of special mention.

The Feis returns to Castleblayney after an absence of nine years with the same chairman (Fr. Byrne), Treasurer (Eoin O Cleircin, Treas. Co. Committee Monaghan G.A.A.) and Secretary (Sean Mac Domh-

naill) as it had when last held there in 1947 and 1948.

CO-OPERATION

With the co-operation of the G.A.A. in the county a Feis Cup and medals for football has been inaugurated and it is intended to have it as a feature from now on, thus permanently associating the Feis and the G.A.A. For this liaison the Feis is indebted to the County

ORAIÐ IOMRAITEACH

Bilan amhain, i bhfad o shoin, thug Sean Leslie oraid na Feise. Ni raibh Gaelige aige Deir se fein go raibh ach an ach labhair se san bh Fraincis. duine sasta leis toisg nar labhair se i mBearla!

G.A.A. officials Michael Duffy (Chairman), Leo Burns (Secretary) and Kevin Cunniskey (Asst. Sec.). Clontibret and Ballybay compete for the cup this year—county champions and runners-up.

Competition is always keen and the trophies presented by Lough Egish Co-Operative Society, Erne Mineral Waters, Patrick McKeown, Contractors, Mullan Mills Boot Factory, McElroy's Furniture Factory, J. and J. McCaldin, Messrs. Jenkins and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.

The Emmet Ceili Band of Castleblayney will supply the music at the Ceili on Feis night where all prizes will be presented and the Malone School, Dublin will give an exhibition of Irish dancing.

I hear that the very active Lought C.C., Galway, are leaving no stone unturned to make the Ras Gallimh 100 mile National League Race a success. The fact that this club has been allotted the Leagus Race, speaks well for the revival of cycling in Galway.

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PEARSE STADIUM READY

Following close on La na gCurragh, Galway has all preparations complete for two other big days, i.e., the official opening of its new Gaelic park, Pearse Stadium, on June 16th, and the Connacht Senior Football Final at the same venue on July 14.

An attractive programme has been arranged for June 16, when League finalists, Kerry and Galway, renew rivalry in what should prove a thrilling encounter. Tipperary oppose either Kilkenny or Galway in the hurling match. Valuable trophies and the proximity of the All-Ireland tests should provide the impetus and spur for two great games.

FULFILLMENT

The opening of the stadium will see the fulfillment of an ambition and the provision of a long-felt want in Galway City. For many years, the Gaels of Galway have striven for a proper park to house their fixtures and have spared no effort to achieve their object.

Fahy's field and the Sportsground served their purpose for local games but were totally inadequate for important inter-county or inter-University fixtures.

To the owners and leasees of these grounds, the Gaels of Galway City owe an appreciable debt for their kind and generous help and co-operation over a long period of years. They do not intend to forget those who stood by them when Pearse Stadium was but a dream—ni cara go cruachas—nor those who helped them make that dream a realisation—ni neart go cur le cheille.

Here And There

Roscommon minors had a facile win over Westmeath on Easter Sunday and await their meeting with MAYO with confidence, on June 23rd. Mayo, however, has not been idle and have adopted the course that proved so successful in the past: the playing of trial games during Easter holidays, when all the College talent is available, and the selection of the team before the return of these players to school, thus leaving no room for excuses of not being fit. The side to meet Roscommon is: A. Fergus (Louisburgh),

M. O'Boyle (Ballina), A. Halloran (Ballina), J. J. Gibbons (Castlebar), M. O'Mallet (Breaffy), L. Doherty (Belmullet), C. O'Haire (Ballinrobe), C. Maguire (Belmullet), P. Waldrom (Ballyhaunis), S. Hoban (Ballycastle), J. Madden (Ballaghadereen), T. Rochford (Ballinrobe), M. Lyons (Louisburgh), W. Connor (Ballycastle), D. D'Arcy (Castlebar).

Centre half forward, J. Madden, figured in the same position for the victorious St. Nathy's Hogan Cup team.

Mayo selectors think, notwithstanding Leitrim's fine side, that there is another Connacht title in store for the wearers of the green and red.

Down Sligo way, hopes are high that the seven Sligo members of the Hogan Cup team will leave their mark on the fortunes of the county teams this year. E. O'Hara, captain and centre field star of the Saint Nathy's team, has been given a few outings with the Sligo senior team and his performances have pleased.

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Cycling Round-up

By "ROADMAN"

Big Whit Attraction

Final preparations are now being made for the holding of the 300 miles Ras Numhain cycle race at Clonmel on Whit week-end. The race, which is a three day event, is being sponsored by Clonmel Athletic and Cycling Club, and has attracted entries from the leading N.C.A. clubs throughout the country.

The first and shortest stage of the race will commence at Clonmel on Saturday, June 8 (start 4 p.m.) and the 70 miles course will be through Ardfinnan, Clogheen (over the Vee), Cappoquin, Dungarvan, Carrick-on-Suir and back to Clonmel.

On Sunday, June 9, a start will be made at 12 noon, and the 130 miles course will be through Cahir, Tipperary, Limerick, Croom, Charleville, Mallow, Mitchelstown (via Kildorrery) and Cahir, with the finish at Clonmel.

The third and final stage will be held on Monday, June 10 and the start will again be at 12 noon. The 100 miles course will be through Cashel, Golden, Tipperary, Bansha, Cahir, Clonmel, Kilsheelan, Carrick-on-Suir, Kilmoganny, Callan, Ninemilehouse and Clonmel.

The race headquarters will be the Denis Lacy Club, Clonmel.

A grand Ras Mumhain Ceili will be held in St. Patrick's Hall (the Casino), Clonmel, on Sunday 9 at 9 p.m.

All Cyclists are urged to give their wholehearted support to the raffle in aid of Ras Tailteann. Proceeds of this raffle will help to defray the heavy expenses incurred in running this race.

Tickets, which cost 2d. each; 7 for 1/- may be obtained from the Race Director, 141, Clonard Rd., Crumlin, Dublin.

o o o

With a strong County Board working, the Kilkenny stage of Ras Tailteann promises to be the best ever. I hear that these lads led by Lorcan Bergin and Billy O'Sullivan have just run a carnival to raise funds for the Kilkenny team.

Sligo has again hit the headlines as regards cycling organisation. This county has a very active following and a Ras Tailteann stop there this year would not surprise me.

o o o

The performance of the Antrim cyclists in Ras Uladh was of a very high standard and once again the N.C.A. is coming back in Belfast after a lean period.

This is due to the strenuous efforts of the Glen C.C., Elk C.C., Davis C.C.

All cyclists will be sorry to hear of the recent death of John Reilly, father of Meath cyclist, Frank Reilly, and Association Registrar Jim Reilly.

MORE LIGHT ON RAS TAILTEANN

WITH their rival organisation, the C.R.E., unable to promote their Tostal 8-day race this year and the announcement that the amateur Tour of Britain will not take place, the National Cycling Association of Ireland, who this year will promote Ras Tailteann (August 4 to the 11) have proved that they are by far the strongest Cycling Body, not alone in Ireland but in Britain as well.

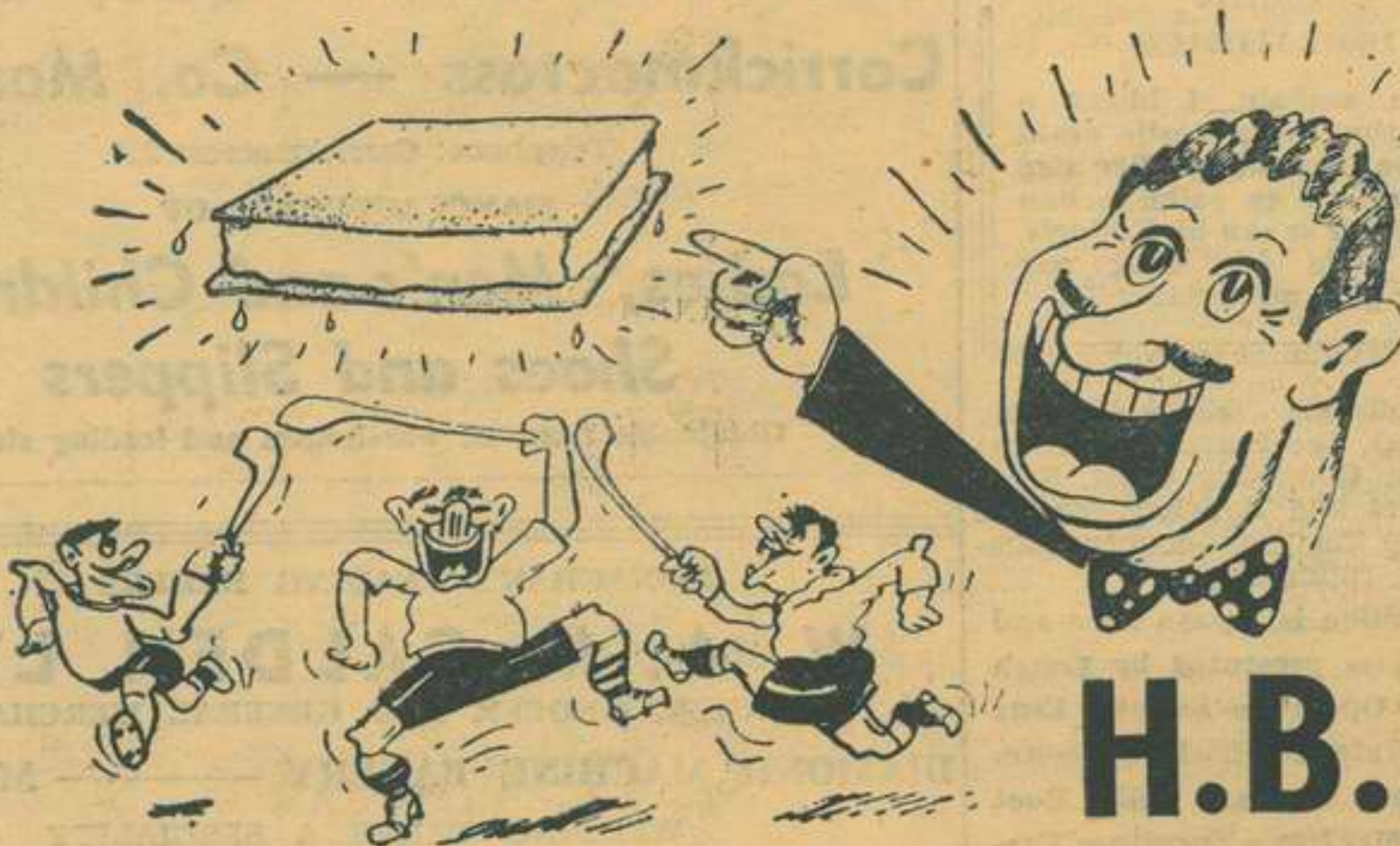
Therefore is it not criminal that this Association should be debarred from international competition because it is a national association and refuses to confine its activity to 26 Counties.

The new Race Director, Steve Abbott has lost no time in getting things going and already arrangements are in full swing for Ras Tailteann.

The course has not yet been announced but it is rumoured in racing circles that there will be quite a few changes in this year's race.

One of them will be as regards teams. The usual method is that a county selects six riders but with the improvement in the standard of the N.C.A. riders, Steve is considering letting counties enter as many riders as they wish, the first four to constitute the team. This would surely improve the race as over a hundred riders would then compete.

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N.F.A. IS GROWING STRONGER

SAYS SEAN FITZMAURICE

ON LAST JANUARY, THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION WAS JUST TWO YEARS OLD. IN THOSE TWO YEARS, THE ORGANISATION HAS ESTABLISHED ITS ROOTS FIRMLY IN RURAL IRELAND, AND IS NOW RECOGNISED AS THE PREMIER ORGANISATION REPRESENTING THE FARMING COMMUNITY.

With over 600 branches now functioning throughout the Twenty-Six Counties, it is clear that its development has been faster than that of comparable organisations in other countries.

Sometimes people outside rural Ireland may enquire as to the necessity for a farmers' organisation, but members of the National Farmers' Association realize that farmer direction and influence is vital to the well-being of the country and that the absence of a strong overall and non-political farmers' Association in the past is to a great extent responsible for our present economic ills.

In our national development, emphasis has been almost entirely on industry. Looking back on the past 30 years and our present economic situation, one cannot help questioning the soundness of that policy.

That brings us logically to one other question—is it possible that

because all other sections of the community were organised, they succeeded in having preference given to the projects which directly concerned them and that through lack of a Vocational Association agriculture became the Cinderella of our economic development?

It is an accepted fact that the basis of wealth in Ireland is the land and that through the proper exploitation of that wealth the prosperity of the rural community could be established and maintained.

Stressed Need

In the past many people have stressed the need for increased agricultural production but in doing so they overlooked the fact that unfortunately every time our farmers increased production of commodity, the price came down and he was worse off or at least not better off than when he was producing less.

The National Farmers' Association believe that the key to the problem lies in more efficient and effective marketing.

They realise that in order to sell

on an export market we will have to compete against other countries who will be providing the same commodity and that in order to compete successfully, consistency of quality, proper presentation and continuity of supply are vital factors.

This service has not always been given by many of the people who are directly concerned in the export of our agricultural produce; due to a great extent to lack of organisation in marketing and liaison with a producer organisation.

Consequently they failed to hold the markets and then the vicious circle came right back to react against the initial producer being reflected in falling prices and falling production.

Convinced

The N.F.A. are convinced that in order to improve conditions in rural Ireland, and incidentally in the country generally, it is necessary to study these problems closely and they have at their disposal for research work a team of economists.

Some points from the policy of the organisations are: that improved advisory services should be provided for farmers; that these services, should not be entirely state-controlled but that there should be sufficient flexibility to enable the advisor to approach the personal problems of the farmer in a realistic manner.

It also maintains that advisory services without the essential follow-up of credit facilities are futile. The agricultural industry is very badly under-capitalized and quite obviously if we are going to develop national prosperity we must make available to it the necessary capital to expand.

As the Agricultural Industry expands we must ensure that the produce coming from our farms is sold as efficiently as possible both on the home and on the export market.

Non-Political

This is a very brief summary of the aims and objects of the Association. In two years it has achieved a lot but having established itself it can now only be regarded as being in a position to tackle these major problems.

In undertaking this great task it is felt that the Association should have the good-will of every section of the community and the unified support of every farmer.

It is a non-political, non-sectarian, democratically constituted association open to every farmer. By attending his branch meeting each member through the democratic channels provided can directly influence the policy of the Association.

He will also have the advantage of the steady stream of information coming from Headquarters out to the branches.

It is not envisaged that the N.F.A. should be at any stage merely a pressure group or selfishly sectional.

Rural prosperity will result in busier ports and ware-houses, in new industries that will be an economic proposition and not dependent on imported raw-materials.

Question Time Again

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FEIRME



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WHEN Macra na Feirme initiated a National Question Time Championship last Spring, many were inclined to be somewhat sceptical of its success. It was pointed out that while the quiz was a suitable item for inclusion in a concert programme, a national competition on an inter-county basis would hardly be practicable.

The event proved more successful than its most optimistic advocates ever anticipated, however; a record entry was received; packed houses all over the country were the order; and the championships culminated in a thrilling National Final between Clare, Donegal and Carlow before a huge audience in the Courthouse, Tullamore, last September. The event was filmed in technicolour and recorded for broadcasting.

Now Summer is here again, preliminary inter-club and inter-county contests have been held in every cor-

ner of the land, and the way is clear for the commencement of the final stages of the 1957 All-Ireland championships.

This year the competition is confined to members under forty years of age and, in response to general request, the number on each county team has been increased from four to six.

The national final will be held at Naas on June 18th.

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The Spring Show In Retrospect

In This Very Searching Article "Agricola" Gives Us His Second Thoughts on Ballsbridge, 1957

IN spite of the weather, this year's Spring Show maintained its level of attendance and entries, and somehow the addition of the Simmonscourt Extension gave it a new atmosphere. Whether it was the bright flags in such numbers on the stands, and the striped awnings, or just the feeling of an open-air show it had, the new ground made the most significant addition to the Show that has taken place in its whole history since moving to Ballsbridge.

It would be nice to be able to say the same sort of thing about the stock, but here again we had the same old long-tailed classes. The top animals were worthy of inclusion in any show, anywhere, but there were far too many others who had as much chance of winning a prize as they would at a dog show. It is a wonder that the breed societies do not take up this matter and see that Ballsbridge is a place where only the very best representatives of their breeds should be shown.

Visitors always remark on this long tail to the classes, and it is inevitable that they go away with the idea that a very few herds in this country have animals worth putting into a parade. If the societies were more strict about this matter we would have Ballsbridge, the mere inclusion in a class there, as an indication of a certain degree of quality, and breeders would strive to attain that. The result would be a general lifting of level in the breeds throughout the country.

Confine Entry

It might be possible to confine entry at Ballsbridge to animals which have won at other shows, where possible, though the younger classes, of course, could not be worked on this basis. Whatever is done, something is needed if the Spring Show is to attain its proper significance. Something the same could be done with the March Bull Show, as the same criticism obtains there.

The Machinery exhibits showed that Irish firms are keeping up with trends and doing a bit of inventive work of their own. They are trying to produce machines and implements suited to Irish conditions, and

this is the best way to get a real hold on the home market.

A double lift buckrake, a grain spreader, a sack and bale loader operated from the tractor hydraulic lift, and a few other items were new and worthy of notice. It was noticeable that horse implements play a small part in the efforts of makers to sell, but they were well represented on at least one stand of one of our leading firms.

The Best

The Department of Agriculture exhibits were probably the best educational show seen at Ballsbridge ever. Elaborate in scope, the individual parts of the show were simple in the way they got their messages across. Movement in the models and charts was introduced wherever possible, though in one or two cases a little more explanation would have been welcome, as certain things had to be taken for granted, such as on the model cow which showed how tuberculosis organisms enter the body. Perhaps this is asking for over-simplification which would leave no room for the questions which demonstrate the real interest of the onlooker.

The idea of having a veterinary surgeon give a demonstration of such things as treating sheep for footrot is a really first-class addition to the educational value of the show. Much of the effect was lost, however, because the vet found it difficult to attract sufficient attention. He could have done a better job with a better platform in a larger space and a loudspeaker to attract interested people rather than those who just happened to be near at the right time. More talks of that sort would be very welcome.

The Department's models of farm buildings and a farm lay-out were sensible and in keeping with trends towards the loose yard and milking parlour. The model could have been larger with greater effect, but space and expense are factors that have to be reckoned with in preparing this sort of thing, and we know that Government money is not easily got, even for such a worthy object.

The E.S.B. put on a really splendid show, but it is a pity that they committed themselves to an old-type cow byre instead of a milking parlour. The byre was an excellent one of its type. And I understand that it drew many inquiries about purchase, as well as being reasonably priced. If, however, the idea is to show the latest thing, one could criticise. The sections on soil heating, glasshouse heating and horticulture showed how young men on farms could branch out into a lucrative sideline with the help of the Rural Electrification, on a small part of their home farms.

Farmhouse

The ICA model farmhouse attracted a tremendous crowd, which poured through it all day the whole week long. It was a fine job, but it looked expensive. It did, however, show what can be done with electricity these days, especially when so many of our farmers are using the current to a minimum degree and thus defeating the potential it holds. However, that will disappear in time, too.

THINK OF NEXT YEAR

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK OF THE TIME NEXT YEAR WHEN STORED FODDER WILL RUN SHORT AND SOMETHING GOOD WILL BE NEEDED IF THE OUTPUT OF THE MILKING COWS AND THE CONDITION OF THE DRY CATTLE IS TO BE MAINTAINED.

Roots have been for years one of the traditional methods of making provision for this period but their place is being taken by kale and rape, both of which have proved themselves first class substitutes, giving better food values with far less trouble in handling.

They can be grazed with the help of an electric fence and the stock rationed according to the amount that can be allowed them or according to their needs, whichever is the over-riding consideration.

There are three main types of kale used in this country: marrow-stem, thousand-head and hungry gap. Marrow-stem has a thick edible stem, but does not offer as much resistance to frost as the others and is thus not suitable where it is expected to last until spring.

Ragwort Is A Killer

IT cannot be repeated too often that ragwort on a farm is a constant source of danger. A number of cattle died on farms in Co. Cork last year from it, and there is no compensation.

Pull the plants early in July, but don't leave them lying around after pulling. Collect them and burn them. Pull again after about six weeks, and a third time later. It will pay to do this job.

If you teach the children of the neighbourhood to recognise the plant they could do the job for a few pence and cover many of the neighbouring farms as a sort of project.

Why not talk to the neighbours about organising a campaign?

Thousand-head is valuable for feeding in late winter and early spring, while hungry gap comes into its own in the late spring. Thus the three types can be combined or one or two used according to the feeding plan followed on the farm.

Usually only one type is grown on most farms, according to the farmer's experience, and the feeding plan worked out to take it at the most advantageous time.

Kale is a first class food for cattle, including dairy cows, and can be used for pigs too, and it makes an excellent medium for steaming-up sheep before lambing time, if good grass is in short supply.

It is sometimes found that feeding kale to dairy cows causes some degree of taint in the milk, and if this is found to be the case, care has to be taken to feed it only after milking, thus giving a long period between the kale feed and milking time in which the effects will have worn off.

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IT'S EASY TO MAKE A MESS OF IT!

Says "PLOWMAN"

EVEN though every effort may have been made to get the best grass possible for hay-making, it is still possible to make a mess of the job and throw away a large proportion of the trouble and expense that has gone into the early preparations. For ordinary hay-making operations on our farms the most important factor is still the weather, and the attitude of most farmers is that nothing can be done about that!

This explains why we are so conservative about hay-making and most other operations on the farm.

The first essential in saving hay is to get the stuff off the ground as soon as possible in the right condition. Plenty of sun can be as harmful as wet weather. It dries the grass all right, but it also dries up vitamins!

So, too much sun and rain are to be avoided. But you cannot control the weather, so methods have to be evolved to avoid getting too much of these "commodities."

The first is easy enough to avoid. It merely means getting the hay dry and cocked as quickly as possible. Rain is a different matter.

When the grass is dry enough to avoid heating in the heap it should be collected in small cocks. It is difficult to give any rule for deciding when this dryness has been reached, and experience is needed to come to a decision.

Every farmer can be relied on to judge the point, however, and heating in the cock is not a common occurrence except in really bad weather when there is a temptation to take a chance.

The idea of collecting into cocks is not only to facilitate ultimate collection into stacks, but it also reduces the amount of the hay that is exposed. The larger the number of bundles, the larger the exposed surface, and vice versa.

Usual Amount

About 3 to 5 cwt. of hay is the usual amount in the first heaps—wynds, pikes, tram cocks—they have various local names.

If it is not possible to draw these early for making the stacks, care should be taken to see that they are headed properly so that rain (will run off them without penetrating.

If the cock is shaped so that it narrows somewhat to the base, the run-off will not lodge at ground level.

A careful farmer will pull each cock at the base all round to give this effect, and it will be found that where this is done a higher proportion of the hay is saved in good condition when the stack comes to be built.

The method of hay-making above roughly outlined is entirely dependant on suitable weather, but modern thought turns towards methods (not necessarily new) which are designed to cheat the weather.

Such methods have been in use in other countries for hundreds of years, but have come here only recently.

Tripod

The tripod roused a great deal of comment, adverse and otherwise, when it was publicised by Proctor in Scotland some years ago. Three poles of 8 feet or so are held together at their tops, with their bases spread out in the form of a triangle.

Somewhere a couple of feet or so from the ground a strong wire is run around the triangle, making a sort of rail. On this structure the hay is piled until the whole thing resembles a very tall beehive with a nicely rounded top.

Provision is made for air space at the ground level to allow the wind to play inside the heap, which is, of course, kept hollow by the three poles. It is rather

like a tent built of hay on the three poles.

This is what is known as "tripod hay-making", and it has become more and more widespread through the last few years.

Undoubtedly it gives better hay in most seasons than can be made by the old methods, but it is slow and laborious.

This criticism is true enough, but users of the method have found that their men are able to learn quickly how to build up the tripods and that after a little experience there is little loss of time.

Get The Hay In Early

DELAY in removing cocked hay to the barn or stack can cause losses in feeding value as well as causing "burning" of the ground under the cocks.

If it is dry when cocked, it can be moved in two or three weeks, but too many farmers leave it out for a month and sometimes much longer.

The bottoms, tops and sides of those cocks are useless for feed when finally brought in.

Also it saves a great deal of the turning and tedding that is necessary with the older method when the weather is not too good.

Advocates of the tripod state that it gives hay of much higher protein content, which may mean only that it will dry grass which has been cut at an earlier stage than is usual with the older method.

The main advantage is that in bad weather the tripod will save hay which would otherwise be a total or partial loss, and save it in good order too.

An advantage of the tripods is that they can be used for drying out corn crops, and other things such as peas, at harvest time, treating the crop in the same way as hay.

Variations of the tripod are the quadrupod, rails and various other contraptions which have been tried out, rather on the clothes-horse principle.

Hay has been dried on strung wires too. But the tractor comes into the picture and adds to the facility which some of these ideas offer the farmer at hay-time.

Four-Legged

For instance, one idea that has come along is to have a four-legged affair of poles, held at the tips and each pair with a cross rail fixed between them half-way down, like the letter 'A' tied to another letter 'A' by the point at the top.

This affair is spread flat on the ground as if one 'A' was standing upside down on the other's head. The hay (or corn) is spread on this.

The tractor, carrying the buckrake in front, is then driven up, the buckrake pushed underneath the heap and the two 'A's' and the buckrake then elevated.

This lifts the tops of the two 'A's' off the ground, but they being held together and the weight of the hay on the rest of them, the effect is to raise the two tops of the triangles and leave the four feet resting on the ground.

When the whole is sufficiently high the buckrake is lowered and the quadrupod is left standing with its 'haycock'.

This took a long time to tell, but it is obviously a simple operation once you get the hang of it.

These tripods and quadrupods (or whatever number of feet you give them) are cheap to make, and if they are stored properly they will last for years. The

time, labour and expense of making them will be repaid in better hay and drier corn.

On some farms the tripods of hay or corn are transported by tractor from the fields when stack-building commences, and corn is sometimes left on them until threshing time.

It has been taken for granted that the drying of the grass for hay is helped by turning, tedding or other handling operations designed to avoid the collection of moisture.

Baling

The principle of baling is so obvious that it is hardly necessary to mention it—the compressing of hay into small bundles that save labour in later handling.

But bundling like this means that if the grass is not sufficiently dry it may heat inside the bale.

It is necessary to get the hay dried fairly quickly, by tedding, turning, shaking or otherwise knocking it about (not too roughly) so that the air gets through it.

The surface moisture must be removed entirely and the internal moisture reduced to less than 30 per cent. of the bulk of the grass if baling is to be a success.

Sheep Dipping

IT IS CUMPSORY UNDER THE LAW TO DIP SHEEP SO THAT SCAB WILL NOT BECOME PREVALENT. AN IMPORTANT INCIDENTAL IS THAT SHEEP ARE ALSO PROTECTED FROM THE ATTENTIONS OF BLOWFLIES, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BLUEBOTTLES AND GREEN-BOTTLES.

The fly itself does not cause any direct harm to the sheep it lands on, but when it lays its eggs on the sheep these hatch out into maggots which may eventually kill the animal.

The greenbottle maggots are those which cause the worst damage, and the flies are attracted to live sheep, though they will also lay eggs on carcasses.

The warmth and protection of the wool helps the early development of the maggots.

In Australian experiments it was found that the number of maggots averaged 1,300 for each strike of the fly, which gives some idea of the breeding capacity of this insect.

Where sheep are farmed in large numbers, as they are in New Zealand and Australia, regular and minute supervision is not possible, so some sort of wholesale method of dealing with maggot infestation has to be evolved.

So far, dipping appears to be the most efficient, though other things have been tried.

Trap

Early this century, in Australia, where the blowfly was always a problem with sheep ranchers, an attempt was made to trap the flies on one ranch, and 10 million flies were reported to have been taken in the traps in four months.

The method has many faults and was not carried far.

It was found that sheep were most often affected by eggs laid in the region of the crutch, under the tail and between the hind legs.

A system of spraying the sheep in

this region with a powerful jet of sodium arsenate was found to give protection for about six weeks.

"Breech strike" as the laying of fly eggs on the crutch was called, is the most prevalent maggot trouble in Australia, and another method of control was based on the fact that the skin folds and wool folds in this part of the sheep's body could be removed surgically by a simple operation.

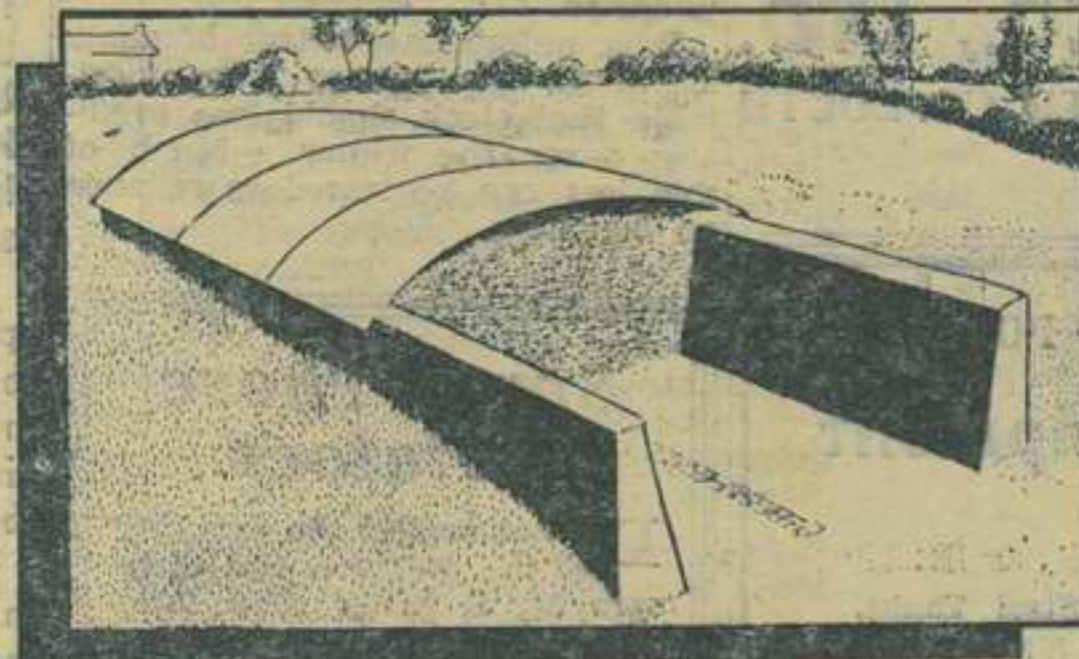
Cutting Tails

Some measure of control of the fly strike was also achieved by cutting the lambs' tails somewhat longer than had been customary.

These methods have been briefly outlined just to show that where sheep are produced in large numbers, the problem is serious, but the same remark applies no matter how big or small the flock may be.

Every maggot infestation means loss of condition in the sheep, loss of wool and loss of the economic return to the farmer.

Dirty, undagged wool on sheep, favours the production of the maggots, so sheep should be kept as clean as is possible with the labour available.



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YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT Silage WHEN WINTER COMES

Silage making is simple if you watch the following points:

1. Leafy grass and clover make the best silage: cut in early flowering stage for good quality.
2. Shake out each forkful—loads dumped in the silo cause mouldy patches.
3. Fill the silo to a depth of 3 to 4 feet the day you begin.
4. Let a day or two pass for this filling to heat up to body heat (98°F).
5. Now fill in and trample well day after day until the silo is filled.
6. Fill the silo slowly if you are dealing with rich young grass in wet weather: molasses will help under these conditions. Fill quickly and pack hard if the grass is stemmy or the weather is warm and dry and temperature rises above 98°F.
7. Finish the silo by sealing off and putting on some type of covering to throw off the rain.

If you are making silage for the first time or if you have any problems, be sure to consult your Instructor in Agriculture or Parish Agent. Read the Department's brochure on Silage.

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Hay Is Still The Chief Food For Winter

By "PLOWMAN"

ALTHOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN DONE TO DISCREDIT IT, HAY IS STILL THE CHIEF WINTER FOOD OF STOCK IN THIS COUNTRY. IT IS THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF PRESERVED GRASS AND FARMERS HAVE LEARNED THE TECHNIQUE OF HAY-MAKING FROM THEIR EARLIEST YEARS.

Good hay-making is not merely a mechanical process of cutting, turning and gathering the grass. It starts long before the fields ever feel the pressure of the moving machine's wheels. It starts with the treatment of old grass or the sowing of new leys. It is as dependant on fertility as the wheat, or any other crop on the farm. In fact, hay must be regarded as a crop just as any of these.

Poor grass will not make good hay. The deficiencies of the grass are increased after it has been made into hay.

'Good Enough'

Yet we often say about certain fields: "They are only good enough for hay". Under these conditions the hay is usually useful for nothing more than bedding, but in spite of this, cows are expected to produce milk on it, and store beasts are expected to maintain condition through the winter on it.

An animal can only take in a certain amount of hay. It is bulky food and so its intake is limited by physical factors. If the amount possible for the animal to eat does not contain enough food value, then the animal is being underfed.

It is, unfortunately, true of many of us that we accept it as inevitable that stock should lose condition over the winter. Much of this loss can be traced to reliance on bad hay.

Spray Those Potatoes

DO not neglect the spraying of the potatoes, and early spraying is better than late, provided that the rain does not come to wash the spray off.

Blight is encouraged by damp weather, so the first opportunity should be taken in June to get the spraying done for the first time, so that the blight will be anticipated.

A second spraying is needed two weeks later, and if the weather is warm and damp, a third spraying will be worth giving.

Make the spray carefully. A Department leaflet describes the best method, and can be had free.

But even if the grass that is to be made into hay has all the necessary nutrients in the right proportions, it still can be spoiled by wrong treatment.

The growing grass plant reaches a point at which its nutrient value, taking into consideration the fact that the grass has to be dried and stored, is at the most advantageous point.

If it is too soft and luscious, carrying too much moisture in leaf and stem, it cannot be dried well enough and may go bad.

Too Tough

If it is, on the other hand, too fibrous and tough it will be less valuable as food, and if it has gone to seed all the feeding value will have been absorbed into the seed head, where nature stores it for the next generation of plants. The right time to cut grass for hay has been the study of farmers and scientists for years.

The scientist tries to work out a system of deciding on cutting time,

which will give what he calls the optimum condition of hay, which is the most advantageous condition of the plant referred to earlier in this article.

Agreed

It is now generally agreed that this optimum time is when the grass plant has just flowered. At this time the plant has produced as much food in its stem and leaves as it is likely to produce, and at the same time it has not yet started to lay down seeds and to pump the food from stem and leaves into those seeds.

There is also a good proportion of fibre in the plant, which means that it is not too soft and mushy for hay-making. So we have at this flowering stage a plant in the condition giving a high proportion of its possible food value and also offering a very good chance of being saved

in good condition, provided the weather is right.

You often hear nowadays a farmer saying that he likes to see a bit of green in his hay. This means that he likes to cut it before it has been bleached while growing, which is a sound principle.

If the grass is cut for hay earlier than the flowering stage, its food value will probably be higher, but it will give a smaller yield to the acre and will give trouble at hay-making time, unless the weather is exceptionally kind.

Important

The bulk is important in feeding cattle, which need a certain fairly high proportion of fibre in their food. This is seen at the spring of the year when cattle first go out on grass and begin to scour and sometimes get bloated out. If they are induced to take some fibrous material such as hay or straw, or even silage, these troubles are prevented.

MANURING IS NECESSARY

ONE of the things which farmers in many places have learned from the operations of the Lime and Fertiliser Scheme section of the Land Rehabilitation Project is that their land can grow very much more grass than it had ever done before.

It is common experience nowadays to walk over a farm which has been manured under the scheme and find that the grass is not being kept back, even though the land is far more heavily stocked than ever in the past.

The grass, particularly this spring has grown away from the stock, and we probably will find a lot more of it preserved, either as hay or silage during the summer.

There is, however, the danger that farmers may not realise that this initial dressing of fertilisers and lime cannot last forever in its effects, and that the grass needs to be treated properly if this growth is to be maintained in later years.

The leaf of the grass plant is the important part, from the feeding point of view. If seeds are allowed to form, or the plant allowed to become too stemmy, a great deal of the nutritive value is lost and stock will not do so well on it as on young leafy pastures.

Leaves may contain up to three times as much protein as the stems of the grass plant, and the aim of all good grass management is to get the maximum use of leafy pastures.

Gross Feeder

Another thing that may be forgotten about grass is that it is a gross feeder and takes up large quantities of nutritive materials from the land. It is therefore, advisable to keep up the balance of the fertility in a pasture, as any disturbance of the balance will be reflected in yields or feeding quality.

All three of the main nutritive elements—phosphate, potash and nitrogen—are essential, and the lime content must be right if the best is to be got out of these three. Under the Fertiliser Scheme the amounts of lime and fertilisers applied are worked out according to the analysis of samples of the land, so that the application leaves the fields in a balanced state, as far as is possible. Maintenance of balance once achieved, is up to the farmer, and if the rate of stocking has been increased it can be maintained only

by looking after this question.

Phosphates can be applied either in small lots at different times according to convenience, or all at one go—about 3 or 4 cwt. per statute acre per year.

The little-and-often application is found to give better results in some fields. Basic slag is a good form of this manure for heavy land and it can be applied in winter to give it time to act. It contains a percentage of lime, and is good on land a little short of this element. On light well-drained soils superphosphate is preferred.

Disappointed

Potash is often found to limit production of grass, and many farmers have been disappointed to find that a heavy dressing of nitrogen did not give the results they expected. This is usually because the potash is low. Potash can also be applied in the winter or autumn as it is not affected by rain to any great extent, but some experts prefer to use it in the spring.

If, however, it has not already been applied this year, it still will come in useful if applied later on for the following spring.

Nitrogen can be taken out of the soil by rain, so it has to be used in such a way that its action is availed of fairly soon after it has been spread. Sometimes, however, it is found that an application in September will give a thick high stand of grass which will keep until the following spring and give a bulky food which is quite nutritious.

At the moment the first nitrogen dressings will have been given by farmers who wished to get early grass, but further dressings can be given for providing later grazing or a cut for silage or hay. Nitrogen is as it were, the raw material of protein in grass, and if a field is to be cut for hay or silage, a dressing 10 days before cutting will increase the protein content enough to make it worth while to buy the fertiliser.

Dry Summer

As well as providing protein for the harvested grass, the nitrogen gives a better aftergrass for further grazing. Autumn grass used for silage may be low in food value, and nitrogen can be used in this way to improve the feed.

A dry summer often means that grass in August is in a poor state, and an application of nitrogenous fertiliser—2 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia, or 3 cwt. of nitro chalk—will give it a lift for late grazing, provided the land is suitable and will not suffer from poaching.

- A Glamorous Bride
- Make Preparations and Look Beautiful
- Our Neighbour Dan
- What The Future Holds
- What's Your Problem
- Your Crowning Glory
- Are We Really The World's Worst Cooks?
- Ulster For Holidays
- Sewing Is Easy With Modern Aids
- Hints On Holiday Packing

Woman's News

Sewing Is Easy With Modern Aids

BACHELORS, slow to marry before the budget, may put it off altogether now, particularly if the lady in mind has thumbs where her fingers should be.

The future wife, who can make for herself, make for her kids, make her own curtains, in short, make anything that calls for a needle and thread, has gold in her fingertips.

So the wise girl will think of her sewing machine, not as a plaything, but as an investment. And believe you me there is nothing today's machines cannot do.

Take buttonholes for example, these are always the give-away between the home-made and the professional look.

No Trouble

Well SINGERS can get us over that. They are now offering a **BUTTON-HOLE ATTACHMENT**, and it can work on the old family model, provided there is a side fitting to your machine.

It produces as neat, and skilful looking a button-hole as I ever saw. And the time it saves! This attachment on your machine and you will immediately tackle those wonderful button-through frocks, which are so handy, for the beach, and the fine Summer days.

Singers have come to the aid of all the budget-minded, and the do-it-

says
Terry Delargy

yourself people. Few can afford, unless they intend to make it a business, the elaborate modern machines that can do almost everything, bar of course cutting-out.

Here Singers have compromised, they have met us half way, by putting on the market a variety of attachments, and all we have to do is pick and choose.

Anyone who has made a dance frock, or put four yards or more into a circular skirt, will know that most of the making time went on hand-stitching that tedious hem.

But there are hems and hems. In some of the finer materials like nylon and silk, the stitching must be neat, almost invisible if it's to pass at all, so this is where the **Singer Blind Stitching Attachment**, comes in. It does just that type of stitch perfectly, on any material you use.

Always something about the house that requires attention, so it is well worth while bringing your machine up to date. Without attachments you are certainly restricted.

Singers have them all when it comes to sewing, even one that can do a **Zig-Zag** stitch, which gives that embroidered look to children's clothes.

But go and see for yourself. They have a variety of equipment that will catch the home-dress-maker's eye.



A stylish fez in two-tone felt with watching grosgrain ribbon band.



Mimi O'Halloran photographed at the Irish Actors' Association Garden Party.

MADE TO ORDER

Six years ago musician turned furniture designer Brendan Dunne started a small factory in Dorset St., Dublin making high-class contemporary furniture. He had twelve workers when he began, but he now employs thirty-seven and his turnover has increased 700 per cent since then.

He now has extensive showrooms in Dawson St., Dublin, where a wonderful selection of furniture and floor coverings can be seen through an enormous floor to ceiling plate glass window.

ACCIDENT

Brendan told me that he entered the furniture business by accident. Always useful with his hands, he made some furniture for a friend who was so delighted with the result that he persuaded Brendan to try his luck at this work on a commercial scale.

"I make to order only" Brendan said "this means every item is designed to suit the client, thus ensuring complete satisfaction".

His method of keeping prices reasonable is simple—he charges cash, although he has revised this policy slightly in recent months and furniture may now be obtained on payment of a substantial deposit, 50 per cent approximately of the purchase price.



SUSAN is ready for the party, as pretty as a picture, wearing the frock Mummy made on her Singer 306. Just look at the dainty smocked bodice with its variety of fashion stitching set off by a lace-edged underskirt. Mummy makes her own clothes too: the blouse is very professional from monogrammed pocket and scallop-edged collar and sleeves to the neat button-holes; and the skirt is tastefully decorated with flowers in appliqué. The smart home has mother's personal touch everywhere. The dressing table and stool are quilted, corded, and their drapes relieved by twin needle two colour stitching. She patterned the self-coloured curtains with appliqué leaves and then neatened the edges with blind stitch hemming. All of these techniques, taking hours of laborious hand sewing, are yours automatically with a Singer 306 Swing-Needle Machine. You just put on the appropriate fashion disc... and the Singer 306 does the rest automatically! Ask the Singer girl for a demonstration, and also to show you the range of lightweight sewing machines at your local Singer Sewing Centre at:

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THE TAM O SHANTER: Also part of the Aran islander's tradition-

nal dress, and ideal for outdoor wear. These can be bought in the gayest of colours, and all are handknit in the popular fisherman stitches.

ST. BRIGID'S CROSS: Made from rushes, or wheaten straw, or made in silver to form a brooch, the design of four arms interlocked at the centre, is very beautiful. Design apart, the lovely age-old Gaelic ritual attached to St. Brigid's Cross will have a special value for the discerning tourist.

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Look for our exciting range of French perfumes, Gloves and Cravats, Swiss Laces and Blouses, Italian and Scottish Knitwear; examine the superb craftsmanship of a Rayne Shoe, admire the beauty of Giro Jewellery and marvel at the potter's art in the Wedgwood Room.

At your service, too, is the Jaeger Shop, Man's Shop, Elizabeth Arden Beauty Salon and the Restaurant famous for its wide view of the Belfast skyline.

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Are We Really The World's worst Cooks?

"POOR COOKING DRIVES MEN TO DRINK AND KEEPS TOURISTS AWAY." NO, THAT QUOTATION ISN'T MINE—IT'S A SUB-HEADING FROM AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED SOME YEARS AGO ON A SERMON DELIVERED BY VERY REV. CANON DAVIS, P.P., AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GALWAY.

The women were to blame, Canon Davis said, because they just did not know how to cook. I'd go farther by stating that, from my travelling experience in many countries, Irish women are the world's worst cooks.

Canon Davis regretted to have to say that Irish girls were not very well fitted to make the best use of God's gift's in the way of food.

Thanks be to God, no female makes a hash of my food. I'm a man alone: I live alone, and I foarge and fend for myself, stoke my own boiler with my own excellently processed fuel — and look at me now in the height of my years: the very picture of health, if not of handsomeness! That's what probably saved my life so far — if I were handsome, I'd probably have struck up with some Irish girl and formed a merger, and years ago I'd surely have died of slow poison from the awful stuff I'd have to eat. Of course, it is admitted by authoritative culinary experts that womenfolk, generally, aren't nearly as good cooks as men; but from the cookery of Irish femininity, O Lord, deliver us!

Periwinkles

Canon Davis, in the course of his sermon, said he met a Frenchman, with two of his children, gathering periwinkles in Salthill. When he asked what they intended doing with the periwinkles, he was told they would make excellent soup.

"Where were the Irish girls who could make soup that way?" Canon Davis asked — not expecting an answer, I suppose.

And where, I ask, are the Irish girls who could make soup any way at all, but the same old way, out of the same old stuff—the stuff that comes out of a can? What is the chief weapon of the average Irish girl nowadays against famine but the can-opener. It is the very first thing you see on entry into every urban flat—that, and a frying pan. In America it is a national slogan that "the Frying Pan is Public Enemy No. 1 of the Nation. All over Ireland most cooking is done on a frying pan. Stock pots are as rare as Belleek chinaware.

How often at the table of the plain ordinary Irish do you find soup served—how often, either in the homes of farmers or those of the upper crust, unless it should happen to be the day on which a visit is expected from the Parish Priest or the Minister (with Portfolio). The chances are 100 to 1 that the soup comes out of a can on that occasion, anyway.

Easy To Prepare

Yet, as anyone with even the most rudimentary experience of culinary matters knows, Soup, besides being one of the most nourishing and appetising of foods, is one of the easiest to prepare, whether the cook has readily to hand the wide variety of the choice vituals of Ireland's excellent city butchers, or the very limited, very senile slaughterings of the kind of butchers they have to put up with down in the Ballyanywheres. But even if the ingredients available in the country butcher shops are limited, that is no excuse for Irish women being so shy of Soup, except the canned stuff (which, to my delicate palate is nothing more than just a lot of unappetising goo).

Every Effort

The Irish Countrywomen's Association are exerting every effort to introduce some form of palatable sophistication into the kitchens of our bucolic hinterlands; the culin-

"Man Alone" spotlights this burning topic —Cooking

ary artistes of the Women's Pages of our dailies (especially Monica Sheridan) are giving grand advice and our Technical Schools are everywhere trying to spread the light of Domestic Economy; but they might as well be hoping to disintegrate the Cliffs of Moher with a bombardment of powder puffs as to hammer the idea of civilized cuisine into the minds of those females on whose primitive cookery so many of their menfolk are ruined—driven to drink, as Canon Davis said.

In every corner of this food-producing nation the raw materials for glorious soups abound—hares, for instance. And where would you get hare soup here, except in a restaurant, and then the question arises—Is it a hare, at all?

Our country is an island with 2,000 miles of coastline, entirely surrounded by fish, shell and finny, and so there is readily available a superabundance of material for the variety of fish soups envisaged in the priest's aforementioned sermon; but when or where did you ever get Fish Soup of any sort here in Ireland? Did you ever hear tell of Oyster Stew, for instance?

One of the most powerful and nectarious Soups I ever tasted was the Clam Chowder that powers the Yanks all over their coastlines—simply the shellfish of that name cooked with some chopped spuds, onions and some seasoning. On return, I searched our shores for clams or something approximate; but though that piscatorial genius, Dr. Went, told me a species was to be found somewhere along our seaboard—where I can't recall at the moment—I've so far been unable to track them down. But if ever I do find those Irish clams, my favourite butcher, will miss me for almost a month. But even without the clams, I have been able to concoct quite brilliant Fish Soups simply by experimenting — plaice and other fishes cooked in milk with a dash of seasoning yielded luscious and most sustaining results.

Day of Mourning

Fish—Oh, fish! I could eat fish three times per day, every day—as long as I could cook it myself. Friday—Oh, Friday! What a Day of National Mourning it is here in Ireland! Eggs, nothing but eggs, always cooked in the same uninspired way—greasily fried. One day, in a county home I rebelled upon a Friday and, remembering bits (only bits, unfortunately) of a recipe given to me of an Eastern dish by the Chinese chef of a Hollywood restaurant, I went to work with crab meat, eggs, cheese and other ingredients. When the servant girl looked into the oven, she ran out and told her mistress—"Lord save us, he'll pison himself entirely, this time!" But when after much wheedling, I persuaded both to try a mouthful they were delighted.

Friday—Oh, Friday! Even with the immensity of all the fish-abounding Atlantic right in front of the table, the only fish that comes to it upon that hungry day is the variety that comes all the way from Japan or Canada—in a can.

Our Fishing industry, which easily should be our second industry, is about our last and most woeful. Don't blame Bord Iascaigh Mhara—balm the Irish housewives! It's they who have turned the people against fish and who have made Friday a veritable day of penance. They say they can't get fish. Even if baskets of all sorts of fish were brought into their kitchen they wouldn't know what to do with them but to ruin them. I've seen fish, in prime condition, ruined—absolutely ruined — by cooking them in the one and only way, in which these, the world's worst cooks, dish them up. They plaster flour all over them, shove them into a pan thinly spread with barely melted grease and slowly fry them until the result is a soggy, grease-soaked mess that would give the cast-iron stomach of a tinker acute indigestion. How many of them ever knew the workings of deep fat frying that instantly seals in all the goodness and comes up so quickly with a crisp deliciousness that would be the answer to a husband's or a boy friend's prayer? (I don't use suet; I use vegetable oil. I buy a bottle of it for about 2/6d. and, as it keeps well, if not burned, it lasts for about a month of occasional fish and chips.

"Yerra, that sort of thing's too much bother, watching till the smoke's blue" they'd probably tell their husband or their boy friend, as they reach for the can-opener to boost Japan's or Canada's fish exports.

And, if there's nothing much but the same old feed of eggs for Fridays, what is the main intake for other days in this primarily food-producing country? Nothing usually but bacon, spuds and cabbage—in all our farm communities, anyway.

Wives To Blame

For a long, long time now, there has been national wailing about the woeful need for more Agricultural production, and the farmers have come in for quite a bit of roasting for their laziness. They are not to blame. Their wives are. About the middle of the day (which for all productive purposes is about the end of the working day, the husband clomps into the kitchen for his dinner and sits down to a huge feed of bacon, spuds and cabbage—same stuff every day excepting Fridays. By the time he's downed that very heavy and indigestible meal, he's ready to flop down on the floor and sleep with that lethargic feeling; and, really, he might as well do so; for he's so woozy for the rest of the afternoon with that sort of diet that about all he can do for the rest of the daylight is to go through the motions of farming. I don't blame him. His diet is altogether wrong—altogether lacking in variety. If, instead of this sort of feeding, he got something tasty, light exhilarating and more energizing in the varied diet readily available in his food factory of a farm, he'd be full of productive gizz instead of moping around his fields bellyaching against the politicians for not mothering him more than he has already been mothered.

Ah, yes, once in a while his diet is varied. Delia comes home from the fine boarding school and, maybe, some of the neighbours are invited in to see the results of the grand ideas she's picked up in the cookery line. Delia bakes a pound-cake. Oh, they're great at baking pound-cakes, our Delias—devil a better, anywhere.

I could go on for columns and columns with good constructive material along the lines suggested in Canon Davis's sermon; but just now I've got to partake of a lovely repast I've had cooking in the kitchenette outside while I'm writing this. More anon? Maybe!



Let Gadgets Help, Not Hinder

WHETHER you call it a "yoke" or a "thing"; whether it cost a few pence or a small fortune, is unimportant. The fact is, if you collect, without thought, openers, cutters, slicers, peelers, in short, miracle workers under any disguise—then you are gadget-minded.

Nothing wrong with that. Nothing wrong with having a kink, or a sharp eye for something new. Provided of course, you see the red light and know where to draw the line between a real labour saving idea, and a dressed up "gimmick."

You see, the trouble about gadgets, lies not in themselves, but in the kind of people who collect them. I am as gadget proud as the next, my trouble is, I just keep on collecting.

The result, when I open the kitchen drawer, I find gadgets, to fix gadgets, and modern improvements on earlier designs, which I can never throw away.

THIS, OF COURSE, DEFEATS THE VERY PURPOSE FOR WHICH GADGETS WERE DESIGNED—TO MAKE THINGS EASY FOR US.

The trouble with me is, I have a real kink, but one of these days I am going to sort out that kitchen drawer, and though it goes against me, rid myself of gadgets, I am not actually using.

For The Dustbin

I shall keep the one that I know, from experience, have saved me time and labour. The others (I must not weaken) will go into the dustbin.

I will have order too. No more confusion. I am putting up one of those handy little racks which can be fixed on the wall in five minutes. Ones I rarely use can be put aside

in a special drawer, until needed. And another thing, I am going to give thought to the next gadget I buy. I am going to stop, and say to myself: have you had it before? have you anything like it? have you an actual need for it?

USEFUL GADGETS—I saw just the thing for irons . . . a stand that screws on to the wall. I have never had it before. I have nothing like it. I never know what to do with an iron until it is cool enough to put in a press. So I honestly say I have a need for it. Perhaps you could do with it too!

A RHUBARB DISH . . .

Now that rhubarb is here and welcome, what about a rhubarb whip. It is a little extra trouble, but could be made the Sunday sweet while the rhubarb is still young and juicy.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. of Rhubarb,
- 1 lb. Sugar,
- Half a breakfast cup of cream,
- 1 Cup of Water,
- 1 Slab of Jelly—Strawberry for preference.

METHOD

Stew the rhubarb in a little water until soft. Add sugar and rub through a sieve.

2 Dissolve the jelly, add the pulped rhubarb and when thoroughly cold whip it till frothy.

3 Whip the cream and add about half of it to whipped rhubarb. Continue whipping till mixture begins to set.

4 Leave to set, or pour into individual glasses and decorate with a spot of whipped cream.

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Our Neighbour Dan

A New Interest For Nell And Dan

WITH NELL'S FIRST BABY, CAME A CHANGE OF OUT-LOOK, BUT NOT OF HEART. HE WAS A BONNY BOY, LIKE HER SIDE OF THE FAMILY—IF ANYBODY CAN EVER SAY WHO A BABY LOOKS LIKE, FOR BABIES CHANGE WITH THE MOON. BUT SHE LOVED HIM DEARLY, WONDERING AT HIS PERFECT LITTLE FINGER NAILS AND WORRYING WHATEVER SHE WOULD DO IF SHE SAW ONE OF THE CHUBBY PINK KNEES BLEEDING; IMAGINING TO HERSELF HOW SHE WOULD REAR HIM AND GETTING NEARER TO DAN BECAUSE OF HIM.

The dainty delph pieces in the old cabinet were viewed less often though losing nothing of their lustre and appeal. They belonged to the carefree lovely past, but now there was something wonderful and beautiful—her very own that would grow and become more interesting with the days.

It would be all right to visit the china cabinet on a free evening, but the little scrap of humanity lying in the cot, coloured all her evenings a golden hue and the special china piece would be his first cup. I am quite sure she knew he'd break it into many fragments but she didn't care.

WATCHED ME

Many a time she let me jog the little fellow to sleep while she hummed softly as she went about the house, and kept watch on my behaviour as she had good need to, because I was prepared to stick my finger in his eye or pull the little dark top-knot that Nell managed to arrange on his head, by many twists of silken baby hair around her finger.

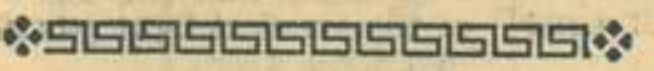
I regarded him as another doll sent to our next door neighbour for my benefit, and if Nell weren't the angel that she was she'd have sent me home long ago with instructions to stay there till I'd be sent for... But that wouldn't be like Nell.

THE LIST

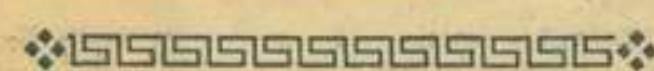
Money never troubled Nell. What good was it? It couldn't buy you happiness. If you had your wants, what else did you need?

Dan provided for all the wants of the place: he had a list in his pocket when he went to town, but never confined himself to the items. There was always something extra for Nell herself, even to an old-fashioned lotion guaranteed to curl the hair. Those were the far-off, credulous days before the perm and the cold wave brought all heads to the same level.

Once in a blue moon, Nell herself went shopping and I'm sure as they say here, that "the shopkeepers saw her coming". She was no bargain-hunter, took what was offered, if it were the right shade for her own personal needs, but fingered and felt everything she bought for the baby at home. That nothing but the best should ever clothe him, she was determined from the beginning. Dan didn't mind: he knew nothing of infants wants, anyway. Nell herself was a bit of a puzzle to him—a puzzle he never set about solving till almost too late.



Charming Visitor Mrs. Frank Kearney, on holiday with her Irish husband from Hong Kong



Towards An Easier Life



An exotic coolie straw creation.

LET'S CAST OFF THAT INFERIORITY COMPLEX

CALL it by any other name. But I still say we have an inferiority complex when it comes to buying Irish made goods. Think back. Admit it, you had very little regard for tweed before Sybil Connolly gave it that new and exciting look.

If the Irish Leather Trade Fair, held in Dublin last month, did nothing else, it succeeded in putting Irish made shoes in the front line of fashion, where they belong.

In design, style, and range of colour they can compete in top European markets. And to prove it buyers were interested enough to come from Holland, France, West Germany, even Italy, Belgium, and Britain to see our display.

Top Quality

So it's time we threw off that complex. Time we woke up to the fact that our shoes are as good as any being sold abroad. Time to forget that fault which goes back a quarter of a century to the time when Irish made shoes were burning the feet.

As a people we are the most conservative of shoe-buyers, though we are not always wise about what we buy. The Miriam Woodbyrne Agency mannequin parades, which were held during the Fair, gave a good display of a right and wrong shoe-sense, and I felt quite guilty over many points.

You know how it is, when you like walking on a certain height of heel, you are inclined to hold on to it until the arches of your feet give way.

Mine haven't yet, but if I continue the way I do, there's a worse fate in

What The Future Holds

SATURN AND URANUS (Dec. 21-Jan. 19; Jan 20-Feb. 18)—This month will start off well. Unexpected letter may bring news that will better you financially. Advisable to have no fixed plans. Exciting invitation indicated, could be you will holiday as result of invitation from old friend. Guard against jealousy and gossip. Heed the advice of married trusted friend.
Lucky colour—yellow Lucky birthday—Dec. 26.

JUPITER (Feb. 19-Mar. 20; Nov. 23-Dec. 20)—Something you have planned and hoped for is certain to come off. This venture has meant a lot to you, so be careful, take no unnecessary risks. Coming changes will provide opportunities for new friendship that could lead to go well.

romance. Be prudent, and all will be well.
Lucky colour—purple. Lucky birthday—Nov. 25.

MARS (Mar. 21-April 20; Oct. 23-Nov. 22)—Take care how you spend money this month. A re-union with old friend may force you to make hasty decision. Prepare yourself for the unexpected and exciting. Opportunities are coming your way, and don't be afraid to come out of the rut when you get a chance.
Lucky colour—pink. Lucky birthday—Oct. 25.

VENUS (April 21-May 20; Sept. 23-Oct. 22)—There will be a slight are making, but things will right hold up with the holiday plans you yourselves by end of month. You may be forced to stand firm in face of opposition from unexpected quarter. Be patient with others and all will go well. Last week of June will prove a very happy time for those near you. Romance indicated for those who are heart free.
Lucky colour—blue. Lucky birthday—Oct. 19.

MERCURY (May 21-June 20; Aug. 23-Sept. 22)—Fortune favours those in business, and in the home. This is your month. You almost can't go wrong. Good time for beginning new enterprise, for there are many good breaks coming up. This will be a month full of excitement, so be ready when opportunity knocks.
Lucky colour—yellow. Lucky birthday—Aug. 25.

MOON (June 21-July 21)—This month will begin slowly but it is likely you will be in a tail-spin by the end of the month. Don't be surprised if you are offered promotion, or win in a lottery. Things are likely to happen that never happened before. A word of warning. Don't god impulsively into something with cosndering the pro's and cons. Something, could mean business venture or marriage. So watch out.
Lucky colour—white. Lucky birthday—July 16.

SUN (July 22-Aug. 21)—Not a money making time. If you don't spend wisely you could, by end of month, have a slight overdraft, or be in debt. An opportunity will arise for mending a broken friendship. Don't keep on licking your wounds. Go and shake hands, and swallow your pride. Excitement indicated for those under thirty. Quite and uneventful for everyone else.
Lucky colour—brown. Lucky birthday—July 15.

Release From A Silent World

By TERRY DELARGY

SOME words have a magical effect. For instance, whenever I see the word "Free" printed in large bold lettering, I invariably stop, and read whatever the rest of the notice has to say.

This time it read, "Exhibition of Hearing Aids." I thought of my friend, who can never answer a telephone, or go to a dance, or a social gathering without enduring agonies of self-consciousness. So I decided to have a look.

I was never so surprised. My idea of a hearing aid was a trumpet. Surprise gave way to amazement, as I walked as one does in an art gallery, from one exhibit to the next.

Resting on stands were plaster models and all were wearing hearing aids, disguised in a variety of ways.

To me, spectacles mean one thing and the person wearing them has some weakness of the eyes. But these were spectacles with a difference and they were designed to aid hearing, not sight.

I examined them carefully, believing that there must be some obvious snag, like a connection from the spectacle frames, to the ear. I

found no wire, no fittings, nothing apart from the spectacles, for the entire equipment was concealed in the frames.

Well Disguised

As I walked around the exhibition, I found to my amazement, tie-pins, hair-slides, even pearls used in the cleverest of ways to disguise hearing aids. What impressed me most, was not the actual invention, but the thought behind these novel ideas.

At last, men, women and children, afflicted by deafness, need no longer feel embarrassed and obliged to acknowledge their handicap. The girl, like my friend, who had previously avoided gatherings and social events of every kind, can now walk in as confident as the next.

I made enquiries about the cost of these aids, and found they vary from £37 up. Expensive, you say? Well consider a world with laughter, music and the sound of familiar voices.

Worth Cost

Imagine living for one day in a silent world, and if you are imaginative, you are certain to agree that a modern hearing aid is worth the cost.

Apart from restoring sound, it gives back to the man, woman or child, afflicted by deafness, a confidence in themselves.

FLOWERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

IF only men really understood the joy a woman gets from receiving a bouquet of flowers! American men quick sense the feminine weakness give flowers to their women-folk, as naturally as an Irishman raises his hat.

A number of men I know would prefer to lead an elephant down O'Connell Street rather than be seen carrying a bunch of flowers.

They cannot be accused of cowardice. It is the fear of ridicule; of what the lads might say if they wanted to meet him. This "I don't want to look a fool" attitude has prohibited the import of cellophane boxes into Ireland.

What a pity, having copied much that is American, our menfolk cannot take a lead from their gallantry with flowers.

There are so many occasions when flowers can be the most eloquent way of speaking. They can give life and colour to a room. They can say "Thanks," "Welcome," and "Goodbye" and how beautifully they say "Get Well."

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Joan Kelly tells how her friend became— A Glamorous Bride For A Modest £55

WHY ELLEN WAS WISE

ELLEN was never a looker. In fact, were it not for her charming and unaffected manner which endeared her to all, Ellen would have moved through the fair and dance hall, without causing a comment, or a whisper.

That's what surprised me about Ellen—on the morning of her wedding I mean. I heard the admiring and astonished voices say: "Isn't Ellen looking beautiful?". Beauty was something new for Ellen, for we were all seeing her for the first time, in the prettiest of clothes, looking utterly feminine and attractive.

When Ellen came to town to buy her wedding dress and trousseau, she invited me along to help her. Fifty five pounds was her limit, so we began to plan and balance her budget.

"Before we start trying for clothes and hats the first thing you need is a good foundation garment, and bra, and after that a new hair-do", I said, trying not to sound too sensible.

No Glamour Girl

Though she had a neat trim figure, Ellen never gave the impression that she had a line in her whole body. As for her hair, well it was thick, black, and curly, after that it just grew!

I shall never forget the transformed Ellen that stood waiting for me outside the hairdressers. Styled, set and shampooed, that hair once so unruly was now restored to what it should be—a crowning glory. Ellen was pleased too, because she kept glancing shyly at herself in every shop window.

Foundation garment proved little bother, because she was slim and easily fitted, so she settled for a nylon elastic waisted girdle, with just enough bone insertions to prevent the waist from curling.

On my advice she bought a nylon taffeta bra, trimmed with lace and flower motif. This gave just the right lift. So she took two of them.

The new Ellen, was now ready to begin fitting on frocks, and suits, and though she had planned to marry in something blue, she was easily won over when I pointed out that her brown eyes would be flattered in a primrose, or buttercup colour.

Striking

Besides, it was different. The bridesmaid could wear a midnight blue, and the contrast would be excellent. Her choice was a sheath fitting dress with the high Empire line, and a matching jacket, coolie style, which had the added advantage of being reversible.

We were lucky too, to get a matching shoe, which had the new stiletto heel, with narrow pointed toe, and as she was keen on wearing a floral headdress, with short shoulder-length veil, we had no problem about introducing a third colour.

Now that the bride was dressed, we had quite a bit of money still before the shopping was over. Ellen was keen on having a good black suit, as she was honeymooning in London. It was a little expensive, but it had good classic lines, the material was firm, and it fitted excellently. So it was worth it.

No trousseau would be complete without a nice coat, and she was lucky to get a delightful tweed, loose-fitting; and the colour—well, it is hard to describe, but imagine a cloth that looked like a mixture of honey and heather.

Of course she teamed it up easily with a corn coloured hat, that had a wonderful upsweeping brown pheasant's feather.

This she removed, and no words of mine could convince her that the feather was really the hat. But things were going well and after all she was the one to wear it.

Our money was now running low, so we concentrated on underwear and

Ellen's £55 Budget

KAYSER BONDER

Underwear: 2 Nighties—Cost £3-19-10; 2 Bras—Cost 17/10; 2 Slips—Cost £2-2-0; 2 Pants—Cost 19/10; 2 Vests—Cost 11/10; 1 Girdle—Cost £1-9-11

TOTAL—£10-1-3.

Coat (Bolgers)—Cost £9-19-6; Suit (Collette's) £13-13-0; Two-Piece (Alan Gay Model, Todd Burns)—Cost £9-19-6; Hat (Menzies)—Cost £1-15-6; Gloves (Lorna's)—Cost £1-3-0; Shoes (Fitzpatrick's)—Cost £6-9-11; Hair-do (Dennis of Dublin)—£1-1-0; Perfume (McGrath Chemist) (Coty L'Aimant—Cost 12/9;

GRAND TOTAL—£54-15-5.

accessories. Because black teamed up with her suit and coat, she chose a medium-heeled court, and got a matching envelope bag in black pigskin.

Two pairs of gloves; one black unlined leather pair, and one brown nylon stretch shortie pair to wear with her wedding two-piece.

With a little over nine pounds left in the kitty, Ellen bought two nylon nighties, two nylon slips and matching pants, two vests, and before I could head her off she

● She chose one basic colour (buttercup-yellow), and built her trousseau around it.

● She chose a wedding frock that she can wear again. With a jacket it will be ideal, when she visits town on a sunny day to do some shopping.

● She chose nylon underwear, which is well cut, and easily washed.

● She chose a good hard-wearing coat, which can be worn over her suit, or over thick sweaters.

● She chose a suit that will not date, which will take her smartly through every occasion.

● She chose accessories that can be teamed up with all she bought, and these will give an extensive look to her wardrobe.

had dashed into a chemist's, where she indulged in her one and only bit of extravagance... a bottle of Coty perfume. That emptied the kitty.

I considered we did well, and Ellen was very pleased with all her purchases. Of course she broke her resolution about the fifty five pounds limit, for when I inspected the entire trousseau on the eve of her wedding, I found that she had shopped too in her own home town and bought some exciting additions.

Make Preparations and Look Beautiful

"BEAUTIFUL," "Radiant," "Charming," Golden words like these are for brides. For you, they will come whispering on a June breeze, and fill your heart to overflowing with happiness on your wedding morning.

Though happiness will lend a special radiance to you, yet you will want your hair, your eyes, your skin, your smile, to look their prettiest.

Your attitude of mind will have much to do with how you look, and the wise bride will see to it that she is not harrassed by last-minute details.

Must Relax

For days, your nerves have been gearing themselves to meet the climax of all your plans and preparations, so now is your time relax.

If you are strung-up and taut, you can easily panic, and no amount of camouflaging make-up will give you that calm, serene and glowing look that befits a bride on her wedding morning.

A day before the wedding is no time to begin experimenting with a new hair do. You are the best judge of what suits you, so be sure and try on your veil or headdress at least a week before you intend to wear it. This gives you a chance for minor adjustments and spares you from discovering at the last minute, that the headdress doesn't suit you.

Make up is another detail that you should attend to well in advance of the day of your wedding. That fragile, translucent look, is not obtained by slapping on paint and powder from every old jar on your dressing table.

If you are wearing white, remember that it tends to to dramatise and exaggerate, so be sure and use pink glowing

tints, if you wish to avoid looking like a spectre.

Give your hands exactly the same beauty care as you give your face during those last few weeks. Remember, they will play an important role and it is essential, if they are to look their best, that they are properly manicured.

Brides should aim at looking as fresh and feminine as possible. This year's styles which are soft and delicately flattering, come in a variety of lines from the popular Empire, to the figure hugging Princess.

Be practical about the dress you pick. See that it can be worn again, or converted into afternoon style, or a frock for dancing.

If you choose to be married in a suit, or in the fashionable dress-and-jacket ensemble, then have the very best you can afford. It pays to have a good line and a good cut, and there is a variety of the loveliest light pastel shades to choose from.

On the not-so-slim, navy can be very chic, particularly if it is matched-up with colourful accessories. Never before have I seen such a choice of colourful shoes, handbags and gloves; so matching up should present few problems.

Should you wear jewellery? Again it is a personal matter, but good taste dictates, that if you do, it should be kept at a minimum.

Pearls or a good brooch are, however, permissible and so is a cross and chain. Earrings that are tiny and unobtrusive can pass. The golden rule is, never over-do it.

One last word. Spare a few moments, please, in these last busy weeks, to think how you will stand and walk, on that great occasion.

That habit of hunching-up your shoulders will spoil whatever you intend to wear. Walk tall; stand tall; if you remember these phrases you can't fail to look graceful and lovely on the most important occasion in your life.

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YOUR CROWNING GLORY

By DENIS of DUBLIN

ASK yourself this question. Do I have my hair styled (a) to please men, (b) to keep up with the other girls or maybe outpace them, (c) to keep up with the fashion, (d) just to please my own sweet self.

I can hear some of you snort at the very idea of you having your hair done to suit men. If you do snort I would say, at a rough guess, that you're unmarried and probably not even going steady.

Enjoy your hair freedom while you may because it can happen that maybe when that strong, handsome, conservative young Irishman comes along he will have a few ideas of his own on how you should wear your hair. They usually have one big idea in common—they like it long. Long and hanging. I won't say all of them go for that but seemingly quite a few do. I expect it strikes them as being more feminine. I wonder would they still go for it if they had to carry about that weight in the hot weather or had to clip it up at night? Well, everyone is entitled to their own opinion but I don't think they should force it on other people.

Up To Scratch

Having your hair styled to be as good as the next at least keeps you up to scratch. One influences the other. We tend more or less to be children of our environment, that is why the preachers hold forth so so much on example, good or bad. What makes a city fashionable? Surely, it's not one or two smartly dressed women. No, I would say it's when quite a number either copy or compete against one another, with dress designers, hair stylists, and all those connected with fashion, trying out the latest line and all jockeying for position.

And so to keep up with the fashion would be a very good reason to have your hair styled and I WON'T say, provided it suits you. You see fashion often sees you through with a style just because it happens to be top fashion at the time. But I WILL put it in the negative and say if it definitely does not suit you, don't wear it, fashion or no fashion. One thing about keeping up with the fashion is this, that it makes for a change and so keeps you out of the rut. It is all too easy to get into a hair rut particularly when you have to get it into place in thirty seconds flat in the morning.

Well, that brings us round to our last point of having your hair done to please your own sweet self. That's all very well, you have to wear it and, after all, it's your hair. If you are happy about it why should anyone else worry. I will for one. Your hair is there as a frame for your face, a foil for your features. Are you getting the most out of your hair in this respect. If you are well and good but if you're not, do something about it. Don't feel complacent just because you are happy about it.

Remember this. Hair is very important; it can, almost, make or mar you. Surely we can make the most out of what the good God has given us without becoming unnatural and precocious. Why not try a new hair style for yourself and see if it will really crown your glory.

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Someone you loved maybe, or trusted, had let you down. Perhaps it was a worry about health or money, or some family matter. Whatever it was, your peace of mind had vanished, until the problem was solved.

Now I do not hold to be all wise and all powerful, someone betwixt a magician and a fixer-up of everyone else. But what I can do is help. That is what I am here for.

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New Front

Biggest talking point of the decade in the drapery business is, of course, the new shopfront of Macey's Ltd., George's St., Dublin.

The original collection of shopfronts of different sizes has been replaced by a single front, encompassing the entire street elevation of Macey's premises. Two only of the original four entrance have been retained—the main entrance to the shop and an entrance to the gowns department.

What Men Admire About Us Girls

GIRLS! If you think men's eyes always travel downwards, you have a surprise coming. What do they notice first about women? You're wrong; not one mentioned ankles or legs!

PAUL SAID: "As a travel agent, I answer thousands of enquiries from ladies who visit our office. Maybe I am prejudiced, but I am always attracted by a woman's voice. Give me a soft, unaffected musical Irish one anytime." But he confessed a weakness for a lilting Cork accent.

JACK SAID: "My job takes me throughout the country, so I have a fair chance of meeting many types. I like the country girls best. They are usually friendly and unaffected, and a girl's manner is something I notice first. I like a girl to offer her hand when she is introduced and not to say in a 'hoity-toity' voice, 'How do you do.'"

FERGUS SAID: "Can't say anything strikes me immediately. Yet I do like a woman to have beautiful eyes. Preferably, green or brown. In the hospital (Fergus is a doctor) I usually see women at their very worst—when they are ill—so I am a poor judge. No, I don't like glamour, or too much make-up."

PADDY SAID: "When I go to a dance I usually look around for a girl who is tall. So I suppose height counts with me. At least it's the first thing I notice. But I like a woman to have good sound teeth and a good smile to match. Yes, I like a woman to be smart. No I don't mind if she wears make-up or jewellery.

CON SAID: "Give me the woman who has a sense of humour. I have no time for these painted dolls. On a long bus route I have plenty of time to size up people and you would be surprised to know the number who have always something to grumble and grouse about. A woman who can laugh off troubles will go through life with a light heart. So I think a sense of

Calm, Elegant, Beautiful



humour is important."

PEADAR SAID: "If I couldn't talk to a woman I'd go mad. So many don't know how to hold a conversation. All they are good for are catty remarks, and small talk are catty remarks and small talk about nothing. I don't care how a woman looks. I don't care if she's smart, or plain old-fashioned. If she can't talk or hold an interesting conversation she's not for me. And that's for certain.

CORMAC MAC AIRT (A.D.227-266), famous High King of Ireland, must have been a woman-hater. Listen to the advice he gave his son, Cairbre, about women.

"They are crabbed as constant companions. They have tell-tale faces. They are quarrelsome in company. Streadfast in hate. Forgetful in love. Not to be trusted with a secret. Vegaros in strife. Niggardly with good food. Sulky on a journey. Exceeding all bounds in keeping others waiting. Tedious talkers. Dumb on useful matters and eloquent of trifles".

So now you know!

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*At Evans Ltd., 51 Dawson St., Dublin.

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fix the joint and not have it jumping off the plate. Made of aluminium, the centre is spiked like a golfer's shoe, and grips the meat. PRICE—13/6.

At Evans Ltd., 51, Dawson St., Dublin.

• Ask your grocer about the new miracle food wrap, which is now fast becoming indispensable to every housewife. MIRAP, which is like silver-paper rolled, is grease, and moisture proof. It can mould to any shape.

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Ulster For

THERE IS A WELCOME SIGN THAT THE MAD RUSH TO THE CONTINENT FOR HOLIDAYS IS NOT SO WIDESPREAD NOW AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, AND THAT THE IRISH PEOPLE ARE GRADUALLY BEGINNING TO REALISE THERE IS A WEALTH OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND FIRST - CLASS RESORTS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY THAT WILL WELL REPAY A VISIT.

It is certainly rather silly to contemplate an expensive Continental holiday, with its attendant high travelling costs, when there are so many places worthy of a visit close at hand.

This spirit of 'See Ireland First' has meant that in the last few years many more people from the South have visited Ulster and have discovered the manifold wonders of this, our most historic province.

Belfast tourist chiefs estimate that more than 100,000 people from South of the Border visited the province last year, and they hope that this number will be substantially increased this year.

Wonderful Resorts

No matter what type of holiday you desire, it may be had in Ulster. Whether you want to get away from it all by relaxing in some quiet spot and forgetting your cares, or whether you are the social type that likes company and looks on dancing and entertainments as an essential part of a holiday, Ulster can satisfy you.

With so many wonderful resorts to describe it is hard to know where to begin, but as it is just across the Border, we will start with County Down—"The Mourne County." The largest and most famous of the Co. Down resorts is Bangor, on the southern shores of Belfast Lough. Here you will find a well blended combination of beauty and gaiety, only half an hour's journey from Belfast.

Experience

Years of experience in handling large holiday crowds backs up Bangor's claims that it caters for all tastes. An added attraction of Bangor is, of course, its proximity to Belfast, where the womenfolk will no doubt be lured by the wonderful variety of goods displayed in the fine stores of the Northern Capital.

Other famous County Down resorts are Warrenpoint and Rostrevor, nestling by the side of Carlingford

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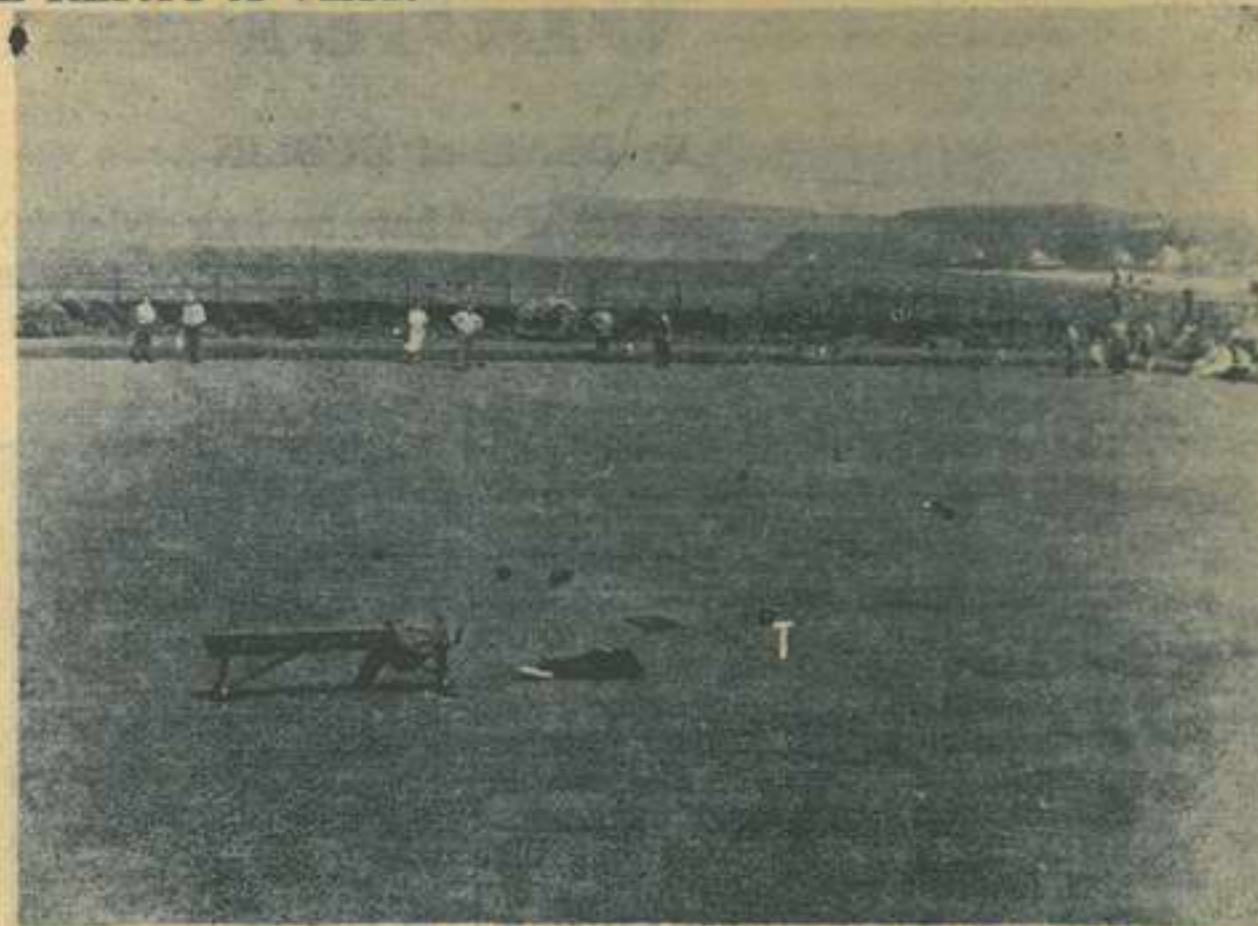
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Holidays

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Famous Place

Another famous holiday resort in County Down is Newcastle. This beautiful town nestles at the foot of Slieve Donard, Ulster's highest mountain, and it is justly famous for the amenities it can offer.

Further north along the coast of Co. Down is Donaghadee, which can boast of a fine harbour and promenade, giving delightful views of the nearby Copeland Isles. Donaghadee caters for all tastes, and we can guarantee that visitors will find it a healthy, carefree holiday centre.

The Antrim Coast Road, built, they say, as a famine relief scheme in the hungry forties of the last century, is still a source of wonder to visitors. It hugs the water's edge for over thirty miles and passes through some of the most breathtaking scenery imaginable—towering cliffs, quaint towns and rolling grasslands.

Antrim

Along the Antrim Coast Road we find delightful little towns where discerning visitors spend their holidays—Cushendun, Cushendall, Carnlough, their very names are enough to make us want to visit them. Here, too, is Larne, a charming town that makes an ideal centre for tours of the beautiful glens of Antrim. It is a region of cascading waterfalls, gently rising hills, neat farms, and tidy cottages.

Ballycastle, wedged right up in the north-eastern corner of the County, achieved world-wide fame in the song "The Oul' Lammis Fair," and this fame is reflected in the number of visitors that spend their vacations here every year. Nearby is Rathlin Island, which is well worth a visit.

Travelling westwards from Ballycastle we come to one of Ulster's

most famous holiday spots—Portrush. This is a gay town, appealing to both young and old, with its Blue Pool, Dunluce Castle, the Giant's Causeway, its famous golf course and its many amusements. It is indeed a place whose merits cannot be overlooked by anyone contemplating a holiday in Ulster.

Historical Interest

Just over the Antrim border, in County Derry, lies Portstewart. Quieter than Portrush, but just as popular, this North Atlantic resort can offer an exquisite strand, with first-class bathing.

A place of great historical interest is Derry, the "Maiden City,"

situated on the shores of Lough Foyle. As well as having many attractions within its famous walls, Derry has the added advantage of being the gateway to Donegal, and a starting point for numerous bus tours of this county.

Bus Tours

Talking of bus tours, the Ulster Transport Authority run numerous interesting tours from various centres and the charges are most reasonable. These include day trips to the Mountains of Mourne, the Giant's Causeway and the Antrim Coast Road. U.T.A. also run extended motor coach tours lasting four to ten days, taking in the most interesting holiday spots and stopping at first-class hotels.

FAIR MORNING

By K. O'BRIEN

'TIS a quiet, lonesome morning. The children in robust style have tramped down the breen to school, leaving me alone. Even the cat has deserted the house and gone off to seek in the hedges the prey, I hope, he misses. The dog, like a warrior brooding in his tent, sits on his tail in the garage, awaiting to-day, as always, the sound of the returning car . . . His master is gone to the fair.

With the dawn, the cattle were driven, puffing and heaving, on to the road and faced for town. I'm glad I didn't see them go; there's many of these ambling long-horned whitefaces now that I fed from the day they were born to the morning

in Spring when they were shooed out into the fields to fend for themselves.

But I heard the mooing and a knew how they would push their way, with mighty chests, through the gate, little knowing that they were walking out for the last time. They have left empty fields behind them and an empty feeling in our hearts.

There's a saying here, that a man's share is his courage, and those cattle represented our share of the world's goods. Other people may juggle with stocks and shares, cash the monthly cheque, or live on their money, but we staked all on the four-footed animals that were born on the golden straw of the cow-byre, were infants in the small, cosy paddocks and graduated as they grew, from field to bigger field. Often we looked forward to the day when we could translate their hundred-weights into pounds sterling, but now that they have gone, there's that vacant feeling and the money doesn't seem as important as it did when we planned how we'd satisfy the various demands, against which in theory we had placed the cattle cheque.

Trade by barter must have been a heart-rending business. I'm thankful that whatever the faults of the world of our finding that I was spared that much. I'd hate to be at the bartering away of the meek-faced, gentle cow that put milk and butter on the table for years, whose tail the children often curled and folded on her back, whose foot was never raised in protest as we drained her dry of the foaming milk that afterwards lay in shallow pans like cool ivory sheets.

I can hear the old clock ticking out the seconds and I know that the day is passing, but I have no heart to start all the jobs I had planned for to-day, when I'd have the house to myself.

Later on, I'll put on a spurt and have everything ready for him who stood the burden of the day and the bargaining, and who saw the curtain drop on the last act of our three years' working and waiting, as he loaded the cattle on the railway wagons.

But 'tis so very lonesome when he's gone . . . Even within doors, I can hear the agitated flurry of the birds in the bushes. Reluctantly I go to the pump for water, hoping my passing by won't hush them even for a moment. Their trumpet calls and shivering string replies have kept me company on many a lonely fair morning. I wouldn't wish to be the disturber of their all-too-short love duet. But they take no heed of me. I can hear the strong repeated chords above the tapping of the strings. They are in merry mood. I walk away envious of their abandon . . . For them, there is no fair morning.

A.M.D.G.

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Hints On Holiday Packing

HOLIDAY packing presents no problems, provided you give your clothes a little time and attention, and not leave everything until the last minute before going away. It is a good plan to think of your holiday as beginning a week ahead of the actual departure date.

Then if you suddenly find that you have to send your summer coat, or light tweed suit to the cleaners, there will be no need for the usual last-minute rush which often spoils a holiday. Also you can get down to washing, mending, and ironing, and have everything ready; not tackling it all like a woman possessed, on the eve of departure date.

Staggering your preparations, and having your clothes fresh and ready to pack, will give you that precious last-minute breathing space, to attend details of grooming, like washing your hair, manicuring your hands and your feet.

It is important to begin with the little things, for these are the things we're inclined to forget. But first, let's see are you properly equipped—that travelling case, for instance.

If you are still hanging on to that wonderful hard-wearing leather suitcase, which has been in the family for years, well it's time you realised, that you are probably carrying around about ten extra pounds weight.

This is important for those who intend travelling by air. An additional pound may mean the difference between a meal ticket, and no meal, in some other part of the world.

So watch your baggage. See it is light and easy to carry. Check for faulty handles and locks, these are important, with customs to contend with if you intend going abroad.

Avoid securing a case or bag with straps—worse still, depending on them. These can slow you up completely, especially when you find you have to open and close them for inspection, perhaps several times.

Now for packing. First collect all those personal toilet articles such as nail, tooth, hair and clothes brushes, the smaller they are the better; then talc, nail file, scissors, toothpaste.

If you have a favourite lotion or perfume, a good idea is to buy small plastic containers (Woolworths have them in every shape) which will hold a fortnight's supply safely.

All these small indispensable articles need not be packed at the beginning. Those that cannot be pushed into shoes, can be tucked neatly into odd spaces among your clothes.

The type of holiday you have planned will help you decide the clothes to bring. So packing is really a personal problem, but I can give a few hints on small points which make a difference.

If you are going to:

ACHILL AND ARAN—Bring strong-soled walking shoes. Plastic mac, unless heat wave is definitely guaranteed!

LONDON—Tailored suit. Indispensable, serves every occasion. Bring several changes of blouse.

PARIS—Flat comfortable shoes essential, particularly as you will be sightseeing and doing much walking about.

ROME—Nylon is unsuitable for Rome, particularly if you go in the warm months of July and August. Cool cottons are preferable. Don't forget to bring a generous supply of talc. Remember when visiting churches, arms should be covered.

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CLEAN WOOL IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

says "Plowman"

THIS year it is hoped that the sheep-shearing season will produce wool clip which as far as possible will be free from tar, pitch, paint, dirt and daggings. A clean clip by its superior quality will secure better prices for Irish wool, both at home and abroad, with consequent benefits to all sections of the industry. The Department of Agriculture, the National Farmers Association, Macra na Feirme, the Irish Wool Federation, Coras Trachtala (Irish Export Promotion Board) and various other organisations and individuals have been co-operating for a number of years in the Clean Wool Campaign. Progress to date has been great and all credit is due to the farmers, who have wholeheartedly lent the campaign their support.

Irish raw wool production has averaged a steady 17 to 18 million pounds over the past three years, but wool exports have expanded substantially over the last six years. In 1951 total exports were only 6.1 million pounds, but by 1956 they had risen to 17.8 million pounds.

In monetary terms, exports for 1956 totalled £4,171,908, an increase of 8½ per cent. over 1955. These figures give an indication of the value of wool exports to the Irish economy. Increasing exports depend to a great extent on price fluctuations in world markets, but the clean wool campaign has, nevertheless, played a major part in boosting Irish wool exports.

The Curse

The marking of sheep with tar or pitch was for many years the curse of the Irish wool trade as these substances ruin the fleece and render wool dirty and unacceptable for marketing purposes. Due to the Clean Wool Campaign this practice is on the way out, but unfortunately other practices equally damaging to the fleece have crept in. Paint, marking fluids diluted with linseed or other oils, or marking fluids too heavily applied are just as injurious as tar. Complaints about the quality of Irish wool still come in and it must be remembered that to a foreign buyer, one farmer who tars his sheep, tars the Irish wool industry with the same brush. One or two careless exporters with sub-standard goods can sour the market abroad for Irish wool.

A great responsibility is thus thrust on our sheep-farmers. So far, the majority have responded admirably to the Clean Wool Campaign, but we nearly lost our valuable export trade in wool a few years back because of tar, paint and dirt, and we must never slip back into that position through lack of vigilance.

For those farmers too hard-headed and practical to be swayed by idealistic motives alone, there is a financial incentive. Dirty wool commands low prices, clean wool commands high prices. If the wool merchants could be assured of a completely clean clip, sorting would be minimised, the merchants could get top prices and pay farmers the maximum. The National Farmers'

Shear On Clean Ground

WHEN planning the shearing, make sure that the place you select is clean and dry. A well-swept board or a concrete floor is the best of all.

Get somebody to clean off droppings or other matter from time to time during the shearing so that these will not get mixed up with the wool. A rick cover spread on the grass if no floor is available will help.

Association operates a premium scheme for the purchase of wool on a graded basis.

Intending participants in the scheme must sign a certificate incorporating the following wording: "I guarantee that the wool I offer for sale is free from tar, paint, daggings, stuffings, vegetable matter, and is properly presented for marketing." Wool must be free from all other deleterious matter as well, and if not will not be accepted under the Scheme. The wool will bear the N.F.A. official brand as a guarantee of its standard. During 1956 close on one million pounds of wool were sold through the Scheme and it is expected that in 1957 up to two million pounds will be dealt with.

Championship

This year's National Sheep Shearing Championship will be held on June 10 at Tinahely, Co. Wicklow and Coras Trachtala will present their perpetual challenge cup to the championship winner.

Most farmers and sheep shearers know what is required of them but a repetition of the salient points will be useful:

1. Remove daggings and brand marks before washing.
2. Wash in a clean, slow-flowing stream or river, preferably with stony bed, deep enough to allow the sheep to swim comfortably against the flow.
3. Fast for two hours before shearing. Keep all pens clean and have a liberal supply of

sawdust or peat mould.

4. Shear five to eight days after washing, making sure the fleece is absolutely dry. Do not shear when fleeces are wet.
5. The site for shearing should be a dry one on a wooden platform, a concrete floor, or a tarpaulin.
6. Remove all foreign matter, including any daggings that may have formed since washing.
7. Roll and tie fleeces securely and use no twine or cord. The standard of wrapping is very poor. Remember that a fleece has to be handled at least six times before it reaches the manufacturer.
8. Keep all loose or broken wool clean, and pack it separately from the fleece wool.
9. Above all cut out any tar marks that appear when shearing. Use special branding fluids after shearing. Do not use tar, pitch, paint or any marking fluids thinned with oil for branding.

All are agreed on the necessity of eliminating the branding of sheep with substances which stubbornly remain in the wool after scouring. Irish blackface wool is used mainly in carpet and rug manufacture, and tar and other stains show up in the finished product. It is manifestly obvious that foreign manufacturers cannot be expected to continue to purchase such dirty Irish wool if guaranteed tar-free wool can be obtained elsewhere.

Point of View

On the other hand, the Irish farmer's point of view must not be lost sight of. He does require to mark his sheep with something which will stand all weathers, remain visible in growing wool and can be readily identifiable. Marking fluids are readily available which will pour out of the wool, and which will give adequate service to farmers.

Coras Trachtala keeps in constant touch with the market situation for wool abroad, particularly in the U.S.A. and Canada. These hard-headed businessmen are agreed that the quality of clean Irish wool makes it a good buy, but emphasise that proper care must be taken at shearing time to present the wool in the manner warranted by its importance as a valuable commercial commodity.

Don'ts For Shearing Time

THE Department of Agriculture leaflet on The Care and Marketing of Wool lists the following factors which adversely affect the reputation and price of Irish wool on the market:

- (1) The use of tar as a branding medium, which is incapable of removal by scouring.
- (2) The use of colouring substances in dippings.
- (3) Careless washing before clipping.
- (4) Delaying too long to clip sheep after washing.
- (5) The inclusion with the whole fleeces, or broken wool clippings or wool on which tar, paint, pitch, daggings or dirt of any sort is present.
- (6) Improper rolling of the fleeces, or winding of fleeces on dirty ground.
- (7) Tying of fleeces with twine or cordage.
- (8) The mixing of fleeces of different description of wool.

Sheep Owners!

CLEAN WOOL
means
BETTER PRICES

★ The branding of sheep with tar pitch or paint

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The Story Of Cork's

IT SEEMS OBVIOUS, BECAUSE OF THE CHANGING PATTERN OF WORLD TRADE AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW EUROPEAN FREE MARKET, THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR IRISH INDUSTRIALISTS TO PLAN AHEAD SO AS TO BE IN A POSITION TO MEET THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT ARE LIKELY TO ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

Whether Ireland becomes deeply involved in the new European Free Trade Area or not, business in Cork as well as in other parts of the country will have to adapt itself to a different type of trade and a new type of competition.

ADAPTABILITY

Adaptability never troubled trading interests in Cork, however. The history of Cork's industries is one of continual adjustment to new conditions and new ideas.

During Ireland's industrial advance in the '30's, Cork's business interests took advantage of the new opportunities that arose and a rapid expansion of older industries, coupled with the establishment of many new ones, was the result.

Cork can muster an impressive list of products which are

manufactured in or near the City, among them textiles, hosiery, furniture, cosmetics, margarine, woollens, tweeds, rubber goods, steel, paints, flour, fertilisers, whiskey, chemicals, stout, shoes, boots, bacon and motor cars.

One of the principal reasons why Cork is one of our principal industrial centres is that its harbour and port facilities are superior to any in the country.

This factor influences industrialists to open new factories in Cork and also encourages the expansion of old-established businesses.

UNRIVALLED FACILITIES

Despite Cork's unrivalled harbour facilities, continuous improvements are being carried out among the port installations to meet modern requirements, and with this object in view a comprehensive scheme of harbour development was started by the Cork Harbour Commissioners in 1947, and by now most of the project has been completed.

The reconstruction of the South Deep Water Quay, of Anderson's Quay and of the North House Quay have been completed and the ambitious changes at the North Deep Water Quay should be finished next year.

The total cost of this ambitious waterside project is £1,124,000, of which £633,000 was provided out of State funds. The remaining £491,000 will be paid by the Cork Harbour Commissioners.

In sharp contrast to the first-class facilities for shipping in Cork, the lack of a scheduled air passenger service is a matter for regret.

Although the Government announced four years ago that an airport should be built, unfortunately no practical steps have been taken to initiate this project.

A group of Cork business men have sponsored the Cork Airways Company, however, which is endeavouring to provide the services that the State should, by right, be providing. Cork Airways Company operate charter services from the Airfield at Farmers Cross, four miles from the City centre.

The Farmers Cross Airfield is ideally situated, being virtually free from fog all the year round, with the added advantage that, because of the fields' height above sea-level, planes immediately they take off are flying at an altitude of 500 feet.

POWER

Power is the number one requirement of industry, and Cork's expanding industrial potential is assured of a plentiful supply of electricity from the E.S.B.'s hydro-electric scheme at Inniscarra and Carrigadrohid.

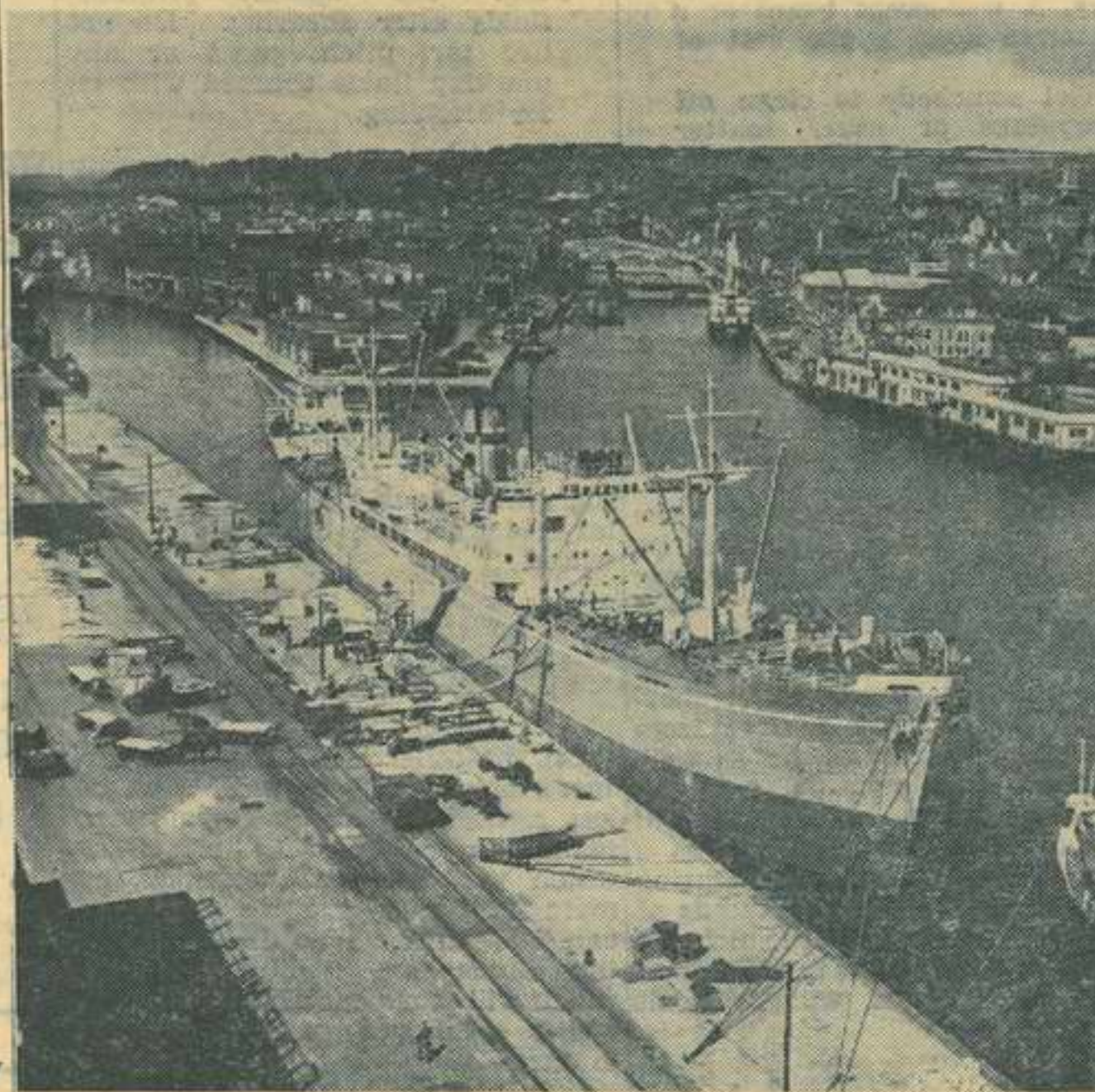
The new power stations will be able to produce 68 million units and this will gradually lead to a lessening in the imports of coal and oil for industrial purposes from foreign countries.

SITE

A site of 2,500 acres has been acquired and a bright future is assured for this project when we realise that our oil imports last year amounted to 300,000,000 gallons. Cork's imports during the same period were 227,000 tons—four times more than 1950. It is obvious from this that oil will continue to play an ever-increasing part in our industrial life as the years go by.

It is hoped that the output of the Refinery will be 2,000,000 tons of motor spirit, industrial fuels and diesel oils per year, and this will partly aid us in the vexed question of balance of payments.

Undoubtedly the new Refinery will get more industries to the



The "Irish Cedar" unloading a cargo at Cork.
(Courtesy Bord Failte)

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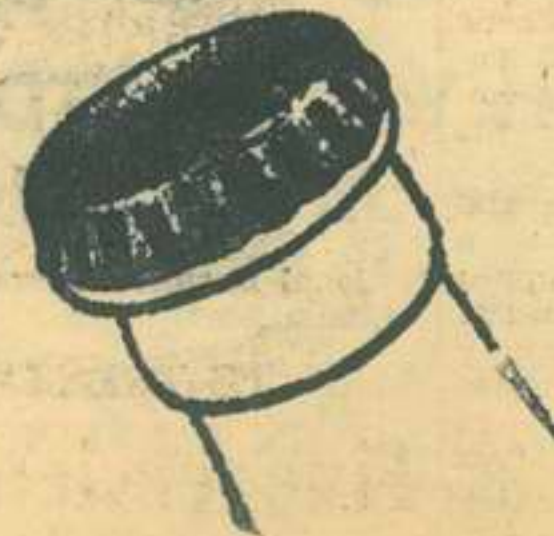
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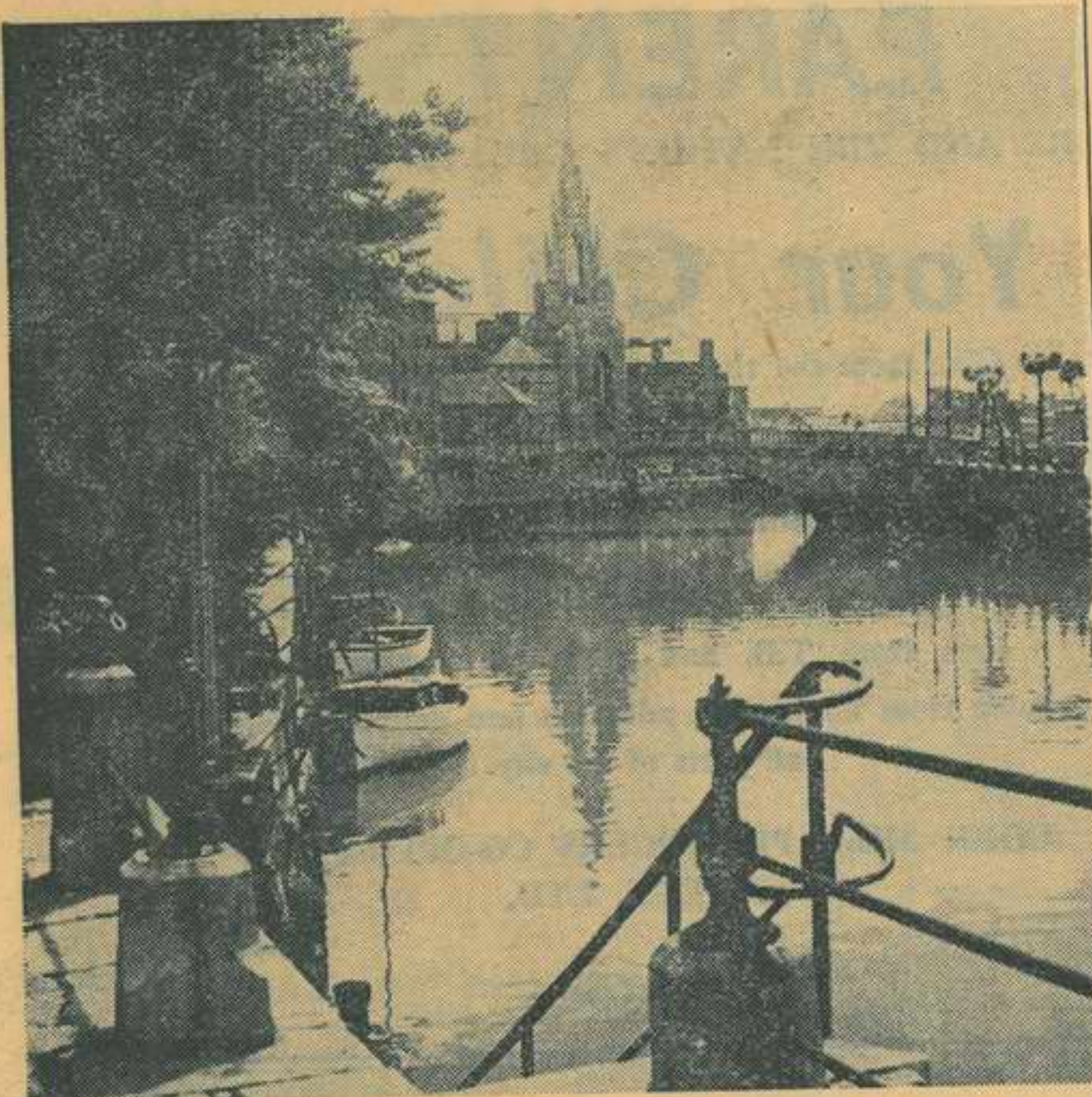
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WEED KILLERS NEED VERY CAREFUL STUDY

Says "AGRICOLA"

MODERN weed-killers give farmers the chance of dealing with practically every weed that infests farmland, but they need careful study if they are to be used properly. The makers in all cases issue specific instructions as to the way in which their products should be used, but very often they are not followed.

The result is that the weed-killers sometimes give poor results, and the user says that the preparations are no good. Other people hear them, act on their experience and so the spiral of discredit is started until somebody else in the neighbourhood has a go and finds that if he does the right thing the results are well worth the trouble.

Conflict

Occasionally there is conflict of interests in regard to weedkiller use. For instance, there is sometimes a danger that undersown clovers will be killed by a weed-killer, and at the same time it may be imperative to get some sort of dressing on to the field to prevent heavy growth of weeds.

Weeds rob plants of their food, smother the under-sown grass, and cause a thick heavy butt to the crop and herbage which gives ideal conditions for the spread of eyespot.

Apart from this, there are big weeds like corn marigold, thistle and dock which are a nuisance at harvest time, interfering with the working of combine harvesters or reaper-and-binders, as well as the discomfort of meeting prickles when handling sheaves later on.

Some of the most effective modern weed-killers were discovered more or less accidentally, like so many other substances beneficial to mankind.

Scientists were experimenting with growth-promoting substances for certain plants, and it was discovered that some of these were so successful in promoting growth that they actually made some plants grow to the point where they killed themselves.

Curl Up

For instance, if a substance were sprayed on a leaf it caused the cells on the sprayed side to grow so rapidly that the leaf was caused to curl up by the expansion on the cells on one side while those on the other remained normal in size.

The leaf was thus shut off from half its normal amount of light and breathing and died after a time.

It was found after further experimentation that many of these substances were selective in their action, in other words they would work on certain kinds of plants but not on others. From the study of this selectivity has come a tremendous range of substances which are specific cures for all our worst weeds, indeed almost every weed can be killed

Grants For Hay Barns

THE Department of Agriculture offers grants towards the cost of erecting hay barns or improving or extending existing hay barns on farms. Send an application to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Dublin. Loans for hay barns can also be obtained from the Agricultural Credit Corporation, 11 Kildare Street, Dublin, by suitable applications.

off without harming the crop in which it grows.

The benefit this confers on the farmer is not easy to calculate, but in every agricultural country it must run into many millions of pounds in value each year. Apart from the resulting better yields got by the use of weed-killers there is the saving in time and trouble which the old methods of dealing with weeds involved.

The earliest method of cleaning fields was to have a year of fallow in the rotation, a year which nothing was grown in the field and the weeds were killed off by harrowing as soon as they had made some growth. The fallowed field produced nothing for that year, though it may have gained some little in fertility as the weeds were allowed to die on the surface and their organic matter was added to the soil.

The method meant, of course, that the farmer had a certain proportion of land each year from which nothing was earned, and which used up a certain amount of time and labour without positive result. Such a state of affairs would not be tolerated on any modern farm, where the aim is to have each field producing as much as it can for as much of the year as possible.

Leafy Growth

The root crop, giving a luxuriant cover of leafy growth, also helped to keep down weeds by smothering them out, and similarly with potatoes. These crops are still used with that end in view, along with other reason, of course. But roots are being discredited for the amount of time and trouble they involve, the continual handling at all stages of use, as well as the fact that they are not really very high feeding for stock.

Early weed-killers were usually

Interesting

THE British Milk Marketing Board has found in a survey of recorded herds that 37.2 per cent of the farmers concerned in England and Wales have dishorned their cows. More than half of the Ayrshire breeders among them are using hornless cows only.

Horns Are A Dead Loss!

A PROMINENT English cattle salesman in Dublin recently said that buyers at his market in England were always on the look-out for hornless cattle and would give two or three pounds more for them than for those with horns.

That sum is worth the trouble of dehorning a calf, isn't it?

If you have your cattle without horns and free of tuberculosis, as well as in good condition and reaching the right weight at an early age, you can make up to £10 per head more for them than for other stock.

very drastic in their action, and in fact most of them were total enemies of growth of any kind. After using such things as sodium chlorate or any of the arsenates, which were in vogue for years, the ground was unusable for at least six months. It is only in the most drastic circumstances that they are used nowadays.

Sulphuric acid is coming back into use, but has its disadvantages. It is selective against certain weeds such as charlock, but it needs certain equipment, special metal in the spraying machine pipes, and it is also a source of risk to the operators of the spraying equipment.

It is, understandably, not a great favourite with farmers and is only used under very careful supervision and in special circumstances.

Selective weed-killers have been evolved which will affect one class of plant and not another. Thus a preparation having no effect on cereals will kill off weeds in the crop. Most of the killers affect plants not of the cereal type, but new ones are being evolved which will clean up crops of peas, beans, lucerne and other plants which are not related to cereals. Even scutch grass (related to wheat) can now be controlled.

The most important thing to remember about using any of these modern preparations is to follow the makers' instructions to the letter. This cannot be repeated too often.

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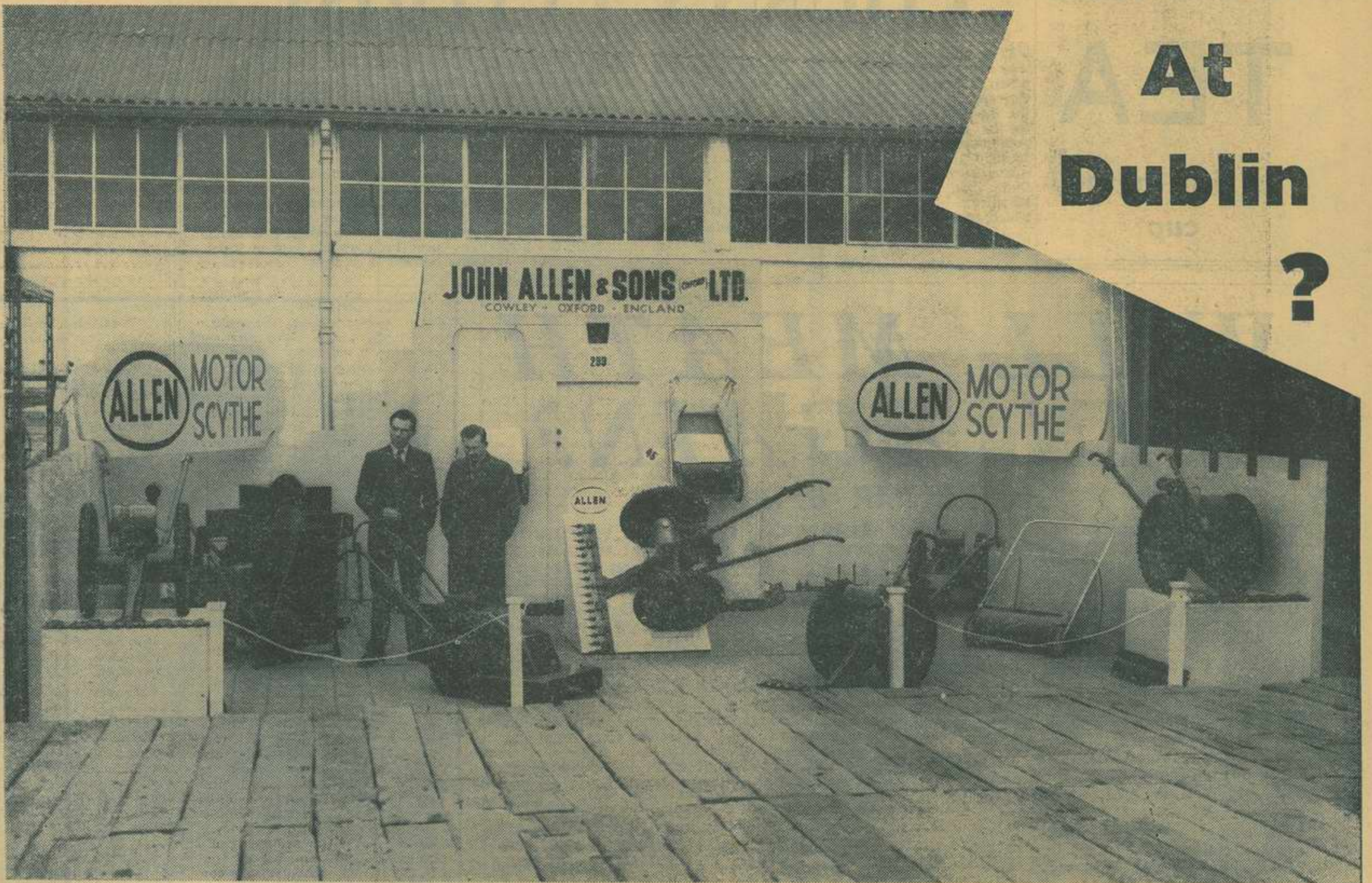
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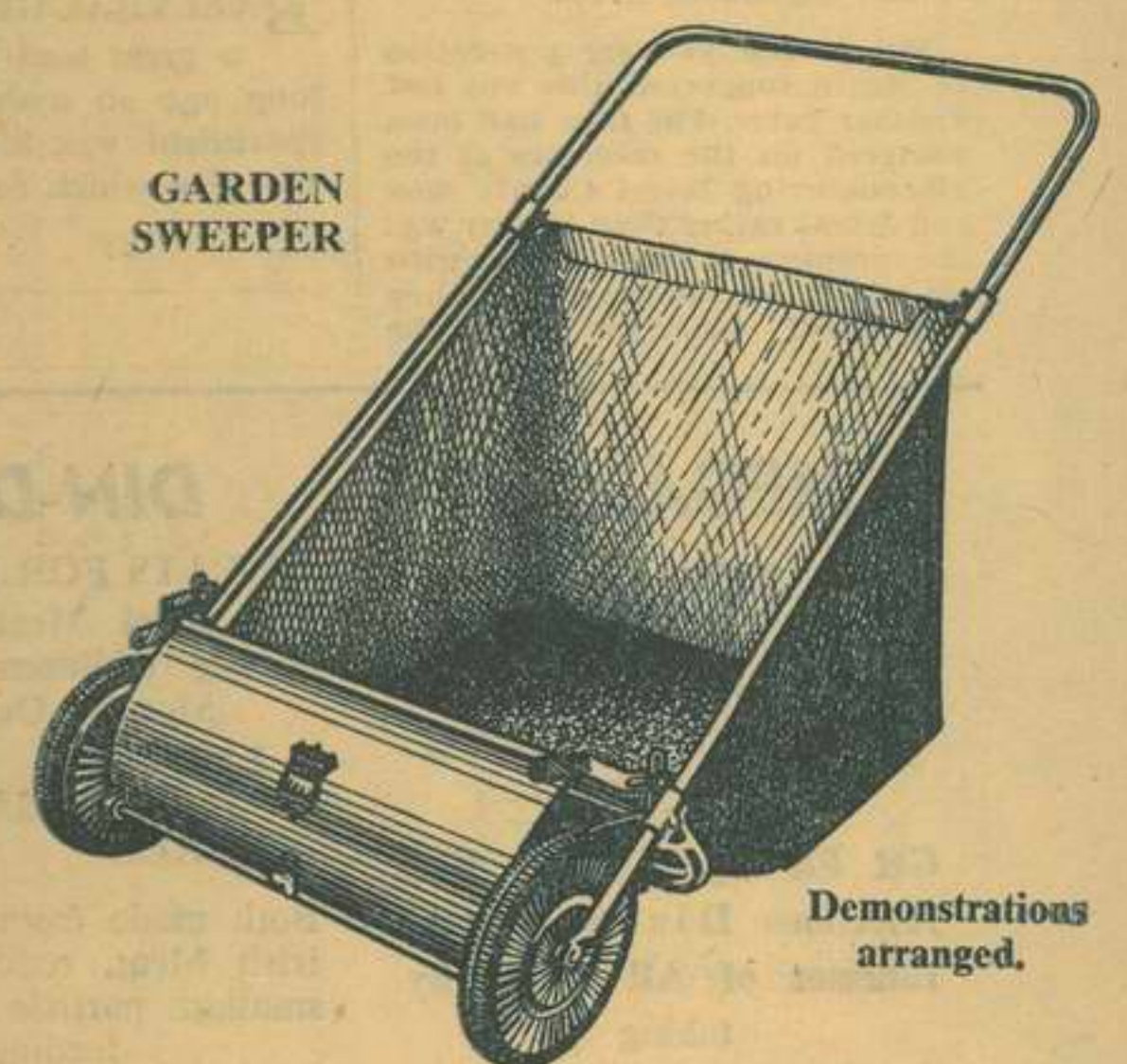
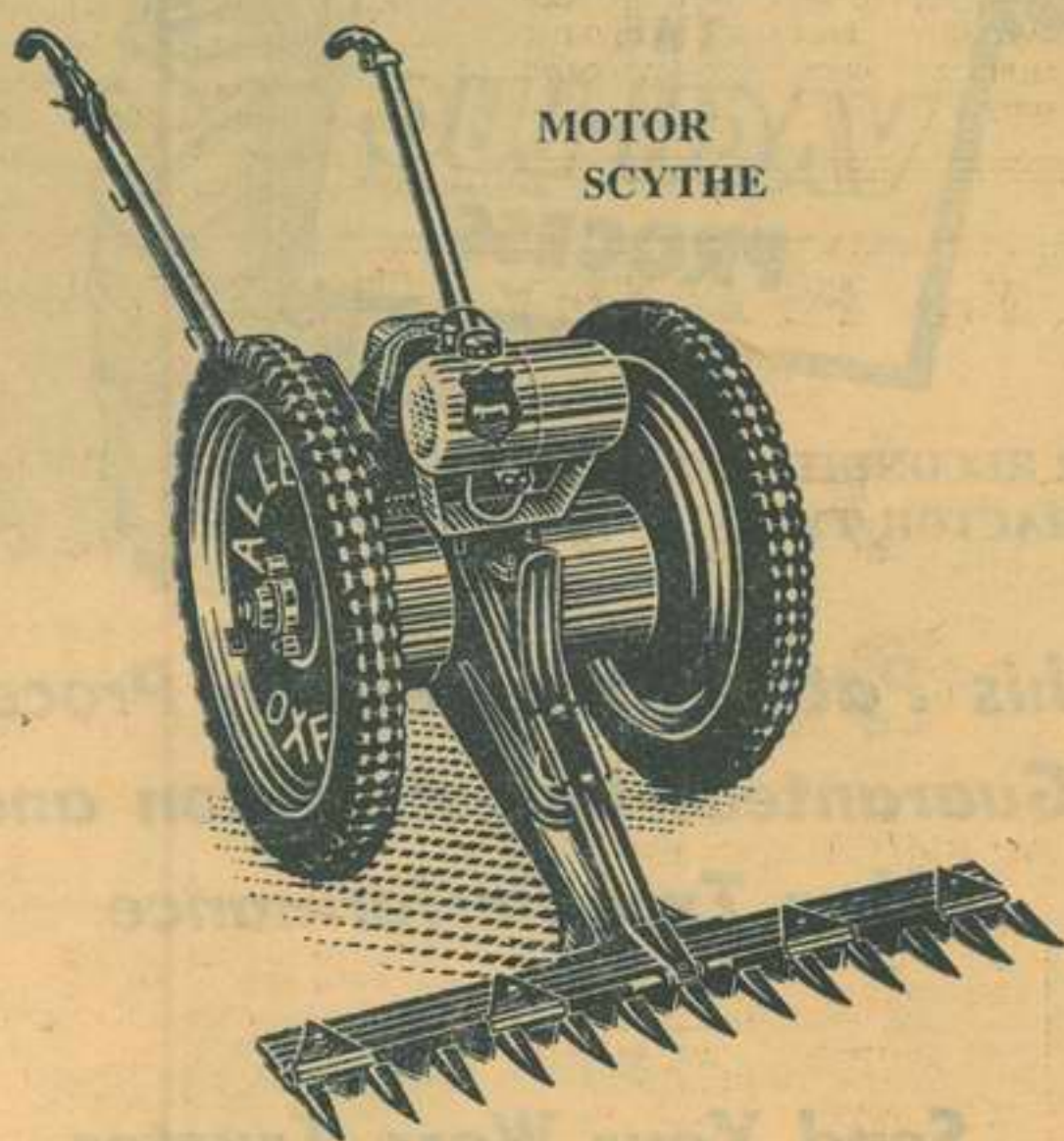
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is rich in the
cup

HERE AND THERE IN COUNTY LEITRIM

It is with deep regret that news was received in the district of the death in the U.S.A. of Mr. Anthony Curran, formerly of Corriga P.O., Co. Leitrim. Before his departure to the land of his adoption this young man played many games of football for his native Aughavas. Aughavas (Co. Leitrim) G.A.A. Club held a Ceili recently in Maguire's Ballroom, Aughavas, which proved a great success. The proceeds were in aid of the club's funds.

The Department of Agriculture have appointed Mr. Albert Feeney as a Parish Agent for the Parishes of Aughavas, Cloone and Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. The Carrigallen branch Muintir na Tire at its meeting welcomed Mr. Feeney who said he hoped to be of great assistance to the farmers of the district. Mr. Feeney has taken up residence at Carrigallen. Another Agent has been appointed for the parishes of Drumard and Columcille, Co. Long-

ford and is residing in Arva, Co. Cavan.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Tommy Mollaghan, a member of Aughavas (Co. Leitrim) football team on the death of his father, Mr. Tom Mollaghan, Cornamuckla, Co. Leitrim.

Work is about to commence on the building of a new Parochial Hall in Main St., Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. The site for same having been cleared by voluntary labour. The new Technical School at the same village is nearing completion.

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WILL MEATH WIN AGAIN?

Asks PEADAR BYRNE

WHEN MEATH BEAT KERRY IN THE 1954 ALL-IRELAND FINAL, THE VICTORIOUS CAPTAIN, PETER McDERMOTT, IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID "TO BEAT KERRY IN AN ALL-IRELAND DECIDER IS LIKE HAVING WON TWO TITLES." PETER COULD HAVE GONE FURTHER AND SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT HIS OWN COUNTY, FOR THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WHEN IT COMES TO CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLES, THE ROYAL COUNTY MEN ARE TOPS. THE ALL-IRELAND CONTEST IS THE SUPREME CALL TO ARMS FOR MEATH MEN, AND JUST HOW LOYALLY DO THEY RALLY TO THAT CALL?

Forget their insipid displays in League and challenge games. For the form book is merely a thing of shreds and tatters when one comes to analyse the Leinster men's championship prospects. Cast your minds back a few years and recall some of the glorious championship battles the Royal County have fought.

Who can ever forget their titanic tilts with Louth around the 1950 period; remember that pulsating triple decker encounter with the Wee County men before the latter finally got through to the 1955 All-Ireland semi-final.

FINEST TEAMS

That was vintage football played by two of the finest teams ever to trot on to Croke Park. Thrills, excitement, craft—it had the lot and if Louth captured the winning honours the losers claimed their share of the bouquets by their never-say-die, unyielding spirit.

But to the younger generation of Meath supporters this was just another game. For they had been nurtured on the successes of the all-conquering Royal County men and defeat rather than victory was the exception to them. Not so with the older folk, however, for they remembered only too well the

torturous period that Meath football underwent before Dame Fortune finally smiled on their efforts. They had the talent in those days alright but somehow they never blossomed forth into the honours list.

This was until 1949, the start of the most glorious ear in the history of the county's football fortunes. In that year a team captained by Brian Smyth and backboned by such all-time 'greats' as Paddy O'Brien, Kevin McConnell and Paddy Meagan rocked all Gaeldom by beating Mayo in the All-Ireland decider and thus brought the Sam McGuire trophy to Tara for the first time ever.

ENCOURAGED

Thus encouraged, the Meathmen loomed larger than ever on the

football scene now. Another triumphant march through Leinster followed in 1952 and it was only after a replay that the Royal County men went under to Cavan in that year's All-Ireland final.

Came 1954 and that epic, victory over a gallant Kerry team. That was a great Meath team and hard as the Kingdom representatives tried there was no denying Peter McDermott and his fighting men.

However, the Meath team went under to a brilliant Wicklow combination at Croke Park on May 27, thus being knocked out of the running for All-Ireland honours at a very early stage. It was not an easily won victory for Wicklow, however, and Meath fought with all their usual determination.

Ballyragget Sportsfield

BALLYRAGGET, a small town in North Kilkenny, has given a great lead to G.A.A. clubs throughout the country. Not long ago an ambitious plan for the development of the local sportsfield was blue-printed. Now, a bare twelve months later, the plan which for many was a dream too, is complete.

Here we have a playing field second to none—perfectly level, efficiently drained and of dimensions worthy of inter-county games of premier class.

An energetic local committee undertook the development of this field, and as a result of the excellent co-operation received from all sections of the local community, this work has proceeded apace, and the result is a fitting tribute to all who have had a part in this great achievement.

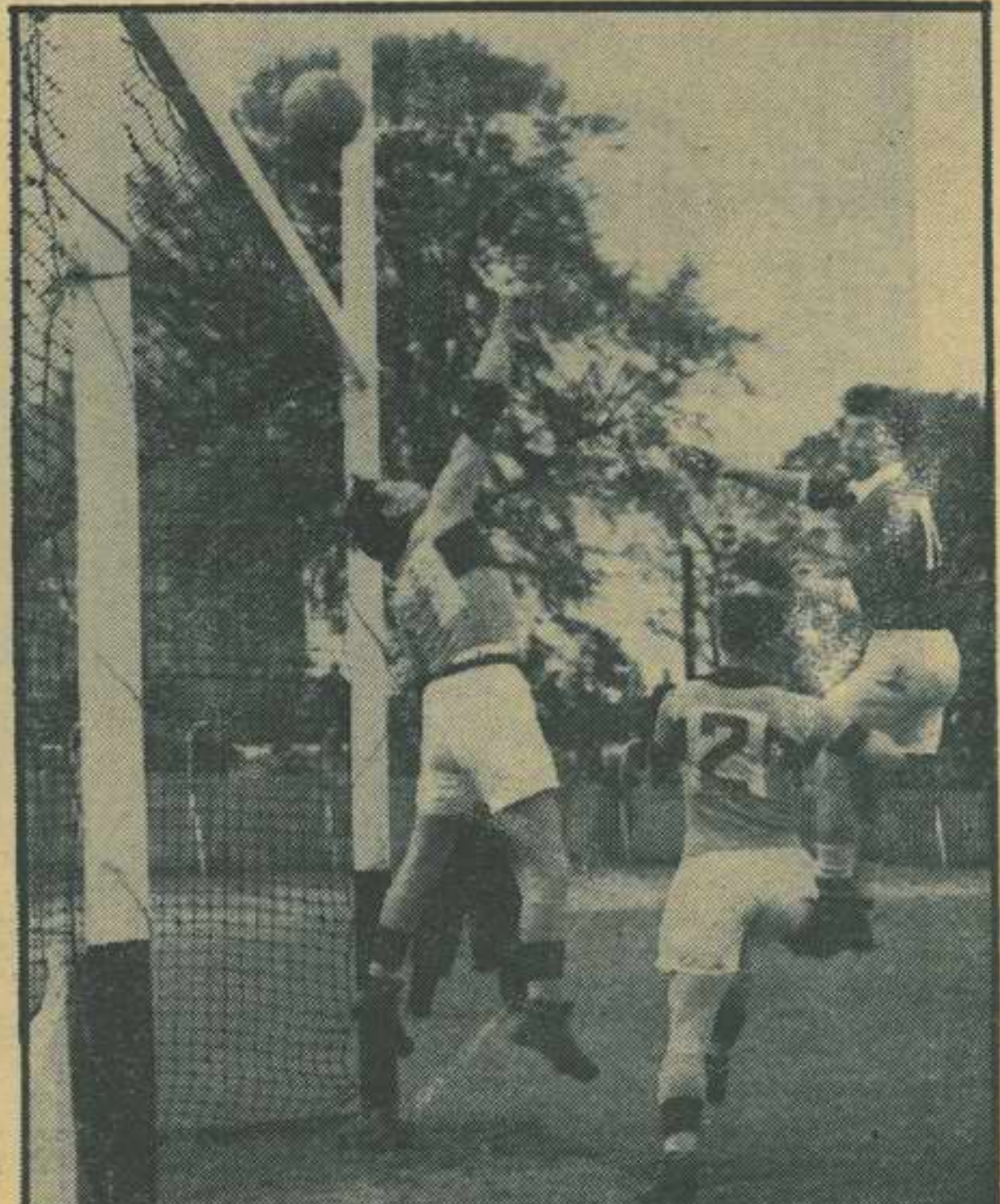
The pitch was levelled and laid out by Mahon and McPhillips, Kilkenny. This work entailed removing all the top-soil first and then levelling the pitch.

Afterwards all the top soil was re-spread evenly and the pitch left ready to be sown with grass seeds. Mahon and McPhillips are to be congratulated for the efficiency and thoroughness with which they carried out the work. It is indeed an excellent job.

The local committee then decided that this pitch should be properly walled and the work was placed in the hands of local contractor Mr. E. Purcell.

The wall right around the pitch was topped with angle irons and three rows of wire. Entrance gates and admission wickets were placed so as to give greatest ease of entry and exit.

There are 2,500 sideline seats, and bank accommodation for 8,000 approximately. Dressing rooms are provided with proper facilities for a good wash and clean-up for the teams after the game. Proper



OVER THE BAR . . . Paddy Duffy, Carlow's goalkeeper, gets his fist to a lobbing ball and saves a goal at the expense of a point. Liam Murphy (No. 2), one of the full backs, keeps his eye on Louth forward, B. Dullaghan, during the recent match between these two Leinster counties.

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JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE



WEXFORD SUCCESS STORY

By "SLANEYMAN"

WHEN in 1949, the Christian Brothers in Wexford town started a Street Hurling League, they little thought that from that same league a hurling club would emerge that would sweep all before them in Wexford competitions.

The Club is the Faythe Harriers. They began by winning the Wexford street league in 1949, and went on to win the Wexford County Juvenile Championship, 1950, in their first County win.

Here are their other achievements:

1951.—Won the County Juvenile and Minor hurling championships and Wexford Town Minor hurling championship.

1952.—Won County Juvenile and Minor and reached the final of the County Junior hurling championship. Won Wexford Town Minor hurling and Minor football league.

1953.—Won Juvenile, Minor and Junior County championships to record their first county hurling treble. They also won the Wexford Town Junior Hurling League Cup and Minor Hurling Town League.

1954.—Minor and juvenile Co. championship winners.

1955.—Minor and Juvenile Co. Championship winners.

1956.—Minor, Juvenile and Intermediate hurling Co. Championship winners. Also runners-up to Ennis-corthy St. Aidans in County Senior Hurling Cup (Halls Cup).

On the way to the senior final, they defeated Cloughbawn and Rathnure—no mean feat for an Intermediate team.

Three of the side, Jack Cullen, Seamus Walsh and Frank Morris, have honours in all grades of hurling (except senior).

J. Cullen and F. Morris also hold minor, junior and senior football medals with Wexford Volunteers Football Club.

Leo Goodwin has won all trophies with Harriers except juvenile hurling. Bobby O'Leary and Lawrence Murphy have the distinction of winning three juvenile and three minor titles to date, while they are still



A tussle during the recent Colleges final between St. Flannan's, Ennis, and St. Kieran's, Kilkenny.

eligible for the current year's Minor championships.

O'Leary and Oliver (Hopper) McGrath have played on Wexford's Senior, Junior and Minor hurling and Minor football teams in same year.

Foundation members of the club who are still active in the management of the club are: Alderman J. Sinnott, M.C.C.; Rev. T. Murphy, R.C.A.; John Murphy and Patrick Cullen, the present live-wire Hon.

Secretary.

Five members of the club, S. Walsh, B. O'Leary, J. Cullen, F. Morris and O. McGrath have been selected to do duty on the County Junior hurling team in the current championship.

Two other members of the club are well-known to football followers. John Morris and Willie Goodison, having appeared with the Wexford Senior football team over a long period.

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WEST SAYS "DO IT YOURSELF"
 An average of eight men per day have given voluntary labour over the past four months to provide Tully, enterprising West Connemara village, with its own sports-field. The result of their highly commendable efforts will be seen at the official opening, planned for July. The programme includes athletics, cycling events, tug-of-war and football matches. How heartening, in this age of material seeking and dependence on State or other assistance, to find this unselfish spirit of self-reliance and self-endeavour in an area so heavily hit by emigration! Such an undertaking in such an area shows a community that has faith in its own future, a future that does not, apparently, cater for the Vanishing Irish, because of emigration or other causes.

CLONMEL CLUB'S SILVER JUBILEE
 Over 50 members and guests attended the Clonmel Commercials silver jubilee dinner and presentation of medals held in Slievenamon Hotel, Clonmel. Some 60 medals were presented to the playing members of the club by the President, Mr. Sam King. Nineteen-year-old Gerry King, son of the President, has already won 19 medals. This year he played in goal for the Tipperary team which was defeated by Kerry in the Munster junior football championship.

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For years now, it has been well-known and well-loved by many in this country; it has made considerable strides in the army camps and in some counties.

Altogether, the basketball question is one of constant disappointment to the many who have its interests close to their hearts.

The curious and inexplicable thing is that the progress in the spread and growth of basketball appeal has been so stunted, because I have yet to introduce the subject to any games-lover, or player, for that matter, without provoking eulogies.

"Oh, a wonderful game, wonderful, wonderful . . . what a pity we haven't more facilities for it," is the standard comment. But results, I fear, make one quite disillusioned and cause one to doubt the sincerity of many of those self-confessed basketball addicts.

It is an elementary principle of conduct, not only human but even animal, that we pursue what we want, desire, and like. What is the explanation for so much liking, so much wanting and desiring basketball, and so little corresponding result in the shape of achievement? As in many other fields, and aspects of sport, I lay a great deal of the blame at the feet of the powerful daily and evening newspapers, and the important magazines and journals; for they, to my mind, have come to dictate more and more the formation of public opinion.

Sad But True

It is a fact, sad but true, that more and more Irish people have ceased to bother to think for themselves; they are allowing themselves to be led, and allowing their thoughts to be formed and inspired by the newspapers and the men who write for them.

This is scarcely an exclusively sporting problem but it does infringe on the domain of sport, and there, perhaps, more than in other subjects.

People seem to forget that many of the articles in newspapers are simply the opinions of individuals just like themselves.

The only advantage they can have in many instances, is a knowledge of statistics or facts in connection with the topic. Otherwise everybody has an equal right and ability to express their own opinion as has any columnist.

Regular contributions on basketball would undoubtedly aid the cause of the game. To my mind, there is no question of whether basketball is a desirable game in this country. The fact is quite self-evident.

If it doesn't seem so to you, re-read the opening paragraph of this article; if you are still in doubt, consider further that it will fill the long-felt-want of a winter game for the player and spectator; and further still, it will keep a good many people away from cinemas

Words Of Wisdom
 "THERE is no outside force capable of enforcing slavery upon a people really resolved to be free and valuing freedom more than life."
 —James Connolly.

and street corners for it is usually played at night. In fact, therefore, there can be little objection of any validity or justification to the introduction and speed of the game in this country. Besides, of course, it is a game which does not come within the scope of the foreign games rule, and has been used as a means means towards fitness by many eminent game-players.

Main Difficulty

A few weeks ago we saw Kerry play Cork in the City Hall, Cork in all three grades; on that occasion Sean Moore, the Cork midfielder, Tadgh Lyne, the Kerry winger—as deadly a shot on the court as on the field—and Joe Twomey, the massive Glen Rovers and Cork midfielder, all took part with varying distinction and success.

The main difficulty about the game here is the lack of facilities, for the modern game of 'American' basketball, as it is called, is not any longer suited to outdoor or concrete courts. The whole emphasis is on speed and the only surface which is really suitable is the boards.

Now, it is easier said than done to find a floor large enough and a hall spacious enough to house the game.

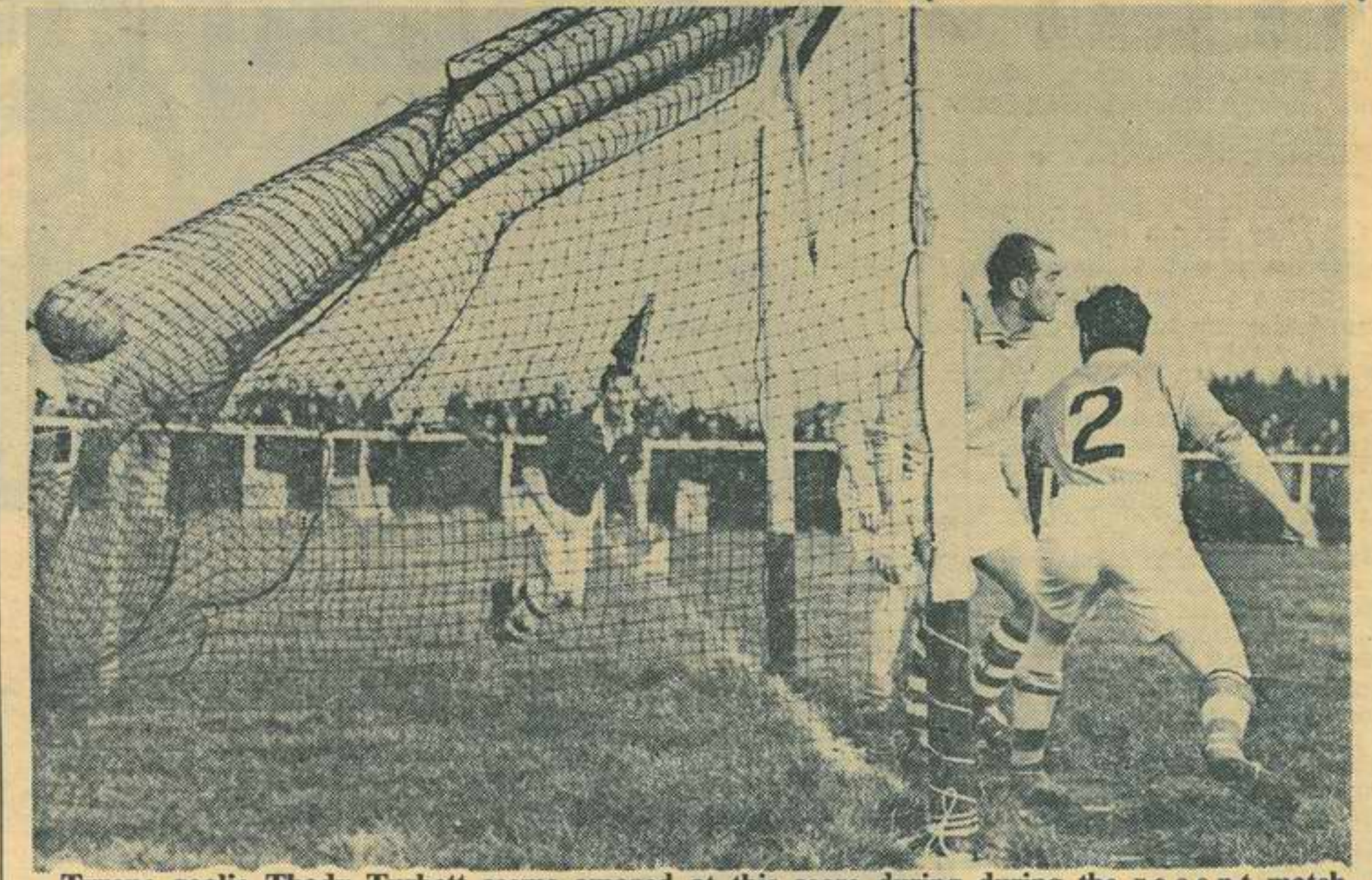
The remainder of the equipment for the game is negligible and inexpensive; the backboard and its supports are the simplest jobs to any handyman, the ball, the standard-size ring which forms the target through which the ball has to be shot, the floor measured and lined, and you are ready to begin.

Perhaps not as perfectly-appointed as Madison Square Gardens, but at least a beginning and the first step towards producing a challenge to the Harlem Globe-Trotters.

There are few people who have not heard of the famous Globe-Trotters, the all-negro team, whose prowess at the game has been remarkable. Many have seen them on the films, for they have been featured in a number of short-films about sport, and marvelled at their dexterity and skill, and the radar-controlled accuracy of their shooting. In fact they make the game look childishly simple, but it is the art that conceals art, rest assured.

But, as a solution to the problem of accommodation, one wonders why the many dance-halls all over the country cannot be used.

Perhaps the managers of these



Tyrone goalie Thady Turbett seems amazed at this score during during the recent match between these Ulster counties.

establishments are casting their arms to heaven in agony at this suggestion and writhing, for their expensive maple floors, but basketball could hardly do more damage than this rock 'n roll? And if it did, isn't the cause a worthy one. Perhaps, if young men get together and approach dance-hall proprietors, they may be surprised

and get favourable consideration for those nights when the hall is not in use as a dance-hall.

And not alone dance-halls but concert halls and many such places throughout the country must have sufficient floor space (boarded) to enable basketball to be played there.

It is a young man's game; a game of immense physical fitness of lightning-quick reactions, and of mental and physical agility. Even if a young man never becomes anything more than a "hack," as a player of the game he will be immensely fit the pleasant way, and will enjoy the sense of well-being which goes with a well-trained body.

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PROVINCIAL ROUND-UP

Tom McHugh, the Galway and Connacht footballer, has left Mullinahone (where he was employed as a Forestry Supervisor) on transfer to County Donegal. During his stay in Mullinahone, Tom played for St. Patrick's, Drangan, in the Tipperarymen's Cup football competition.

* * *

Mick Kenny, who lined out with Kilkenny in the National League final, is no stranger to Tipperary folk. A Sergeant attached to the 13th Southern Battalion, Clonmel, he is a former Tipperary senior inter-county hurler.

Paddy O'Flynn, the well-known Fethard and Tipperary inter-county footballer has recently taken up residence in Canada. Prior to his departure he was the recipient of a presentation from the Fethard G.A.A. Club. Possessed of a popular

* * *

Jimmy Doyle, who played left half forward for Tipperary in the League personality, Paddy carries with him the good wishes of all Gaels throughout South Tipperary. decider against Kilkenny, must have been the first minor hurler ever to compete in a National Hurling League final. A member of the Thurles Sarsfields Club, he is nep-

hew of the famous Tommy Doyle and has been a regular on the Tipperary minor team for a number of seasons. Although now a star forward, he first made a name for himself as goalkeeper on the Tipperary minor team.

* * *

In the Munster junior football and hurling championship games between Tipperary and Kerry played at Clonmel, Dick Tynan of Thurles Sarsfields played at midfield in both games. Kerry won the football tie, but Tipperary prevented a double by easily accounting for the Kerry hurlers.

SUGGESTIONS WANTED

IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT IMPROVING THE PAPER, WRITE TO THE EDITOR AND MAKE YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

Address: EDITOR, GAELIC ECHO, 13 Parliament Street, Dublin.

Well Spoken, Brendan Nestor!

Says LIAM S. O h-OISTIN

CONGRESS, awaited with such interest by Galway sympathisers and supporters, has come and gone, and Galway must still plough its lone furrow in the hurling field. The high hopes and confident expectations that the supreme authority in the G.A.A. would show its undoubted appreciation of the Tribesmen's heroic struggle against untold odds, crashed to nothing when an astounded Congress heard Brendan Nestor, spokesman for the western county, withdraw the motion for inclusion in Leinster for the 1957 senior championship.

Amazed as listeners were, they could not but admire the forthright statement of the Connachtman, who proud, and rightly so, of his county's contribution to the G.A.A., informed the assembled Gaels that Galway craved favours from no one nor tolerated dictation from any county on how to administer the affairs of the association within their own jurisdiction.

Coming, as it did, from a man who has given his best efforts to the G.A.A. always, and from the representative of one of Ireland's most Gaelic counties, this forceful defence of Galway's proud name gained many more admirers for the western standard bearers and must have given their critics some uncomfortable moments of acute embarrassment, at least. We say: "Well spoken, Brendan, Nestor!"

AS THEY WERE
And, so, Galway are as they were, but the sympathy and support and unstinted admiration of Gaeldom is with them. Let's get down to it now and show our many supporters and our few misguided critics, too, that the county that figured in the first All-Ireland HURLING final will be worthy rivals for the best in the

land, and be a team to be spoken of with pride when their critics have been forgotten in the oblivion from which they sprang, just as the great Galway teams of the past, have been so enshrined in Gaelic memory before these same critics were ever heard of.

Connachtman's Ramblings

By "FEAR SIUIL"

AS forecast in this column some months ago, Tiernaur qualified for the final of the Scanlon Memorial Cup, trophy for the annual competition run by the Mulranny football club, but had to give best to a rampant Lower Achill side, brilliantly served by veteran Mick Lynch and up-and-coming Sean Vesey, the Mac-Namara twins and the Hassett brothers. Incidentally, the "twins" have formed a dance-band recently and their services are much in demand.

West Mayo GAA Board adopted a measure to ensure that teams would give ample notice of inability to fulfill fixtures—"that any team, failing to fulfill a fixture without notice to the other team, will be fined £5". At a recent meeting of the Board, the Chairman, Donchadh O Gallchobhair, O.S., said that the rule would be strictly enforced and fined the first culprits, Westport and Kilmeena, £5 each.

* * *
With the death of Mr. John Clarke, King Street, Ballina, Mayo Gaeldom has lost a true friend and a great supporter. He travelled to America in the thirties to see the Mayo teams in action when on tour there. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

* * *
In two recent outings with the Mayo senior team, James Duffy of Drummin, showed that the promise displayed on last year's junior team is being fulfilled. His brilliant displays at centre field and centre half back gladdened the hearts of team mentors and must have ensured him a place on the team in the forthcoming championships.

Some idea of how emigration can play havoc with clubs in Connacht can be got from the decision of Knockcroghery, famed Roscommon football club, to ask for regrading to junior status this year, due to the depletion of their ranks by emigration. The decision must have been a difficult one to make, especially for a club with such a proud record over the years, the club that gave to Gaelic football the peerless 'Jamesy' Murray, or his brother Phelim stalwarts of the all-conquering Roscommon teams of the forties.

* * *
Although defeated by the exiles in their recent game in Birmingham, the Elphin team, Roscommon senior champions of 1956, and the large band of supporters who accompanied them, enjoyed their trip to Warwickshire and speak in glowing terms of the skill and hospitality of our exiled Gaels.

IT'S IN THE NET!



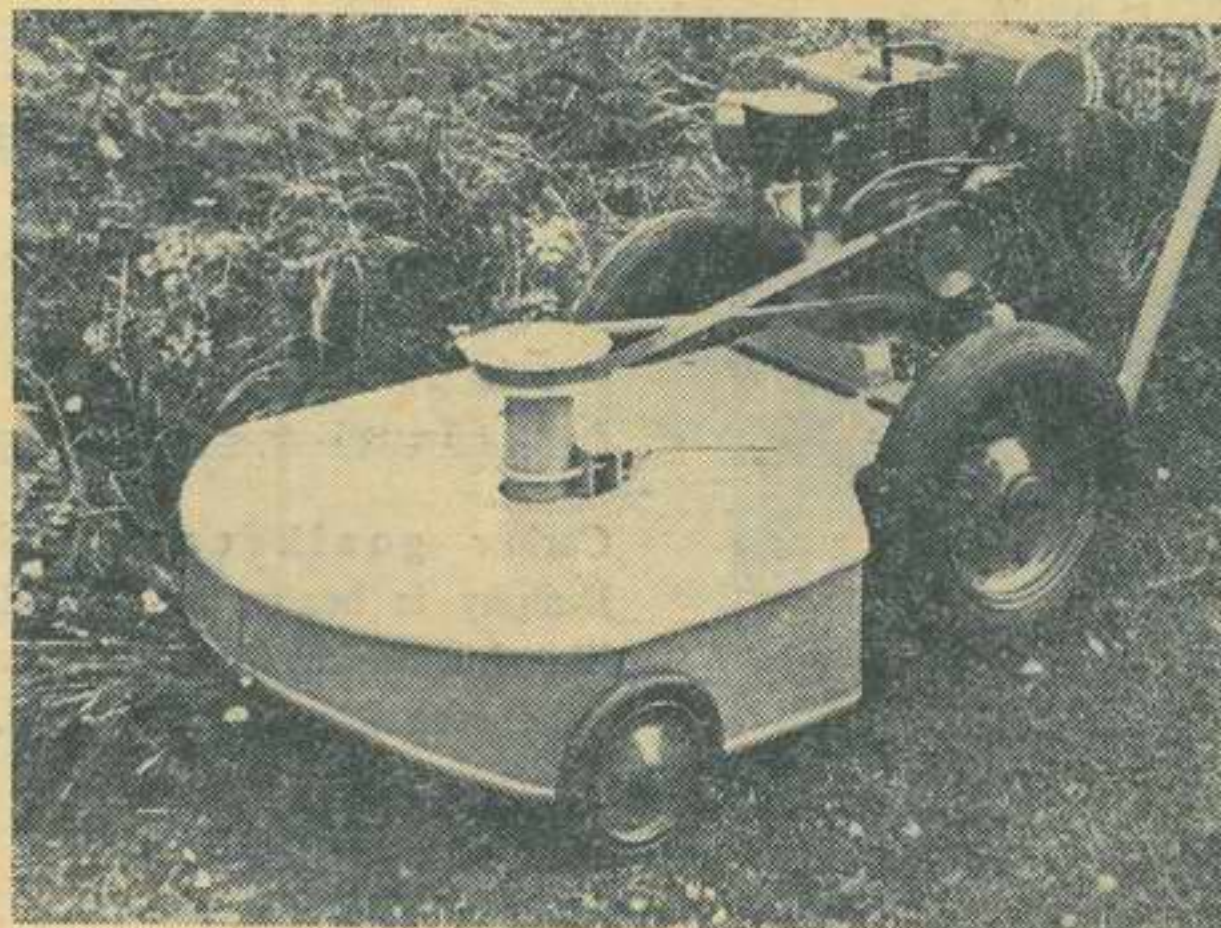
Mayo goalkeeper Mick Corkerry seems astonished to see this Galway shot from P. J. Kyne enter the net in the "Irish Press" Shield semi-final.

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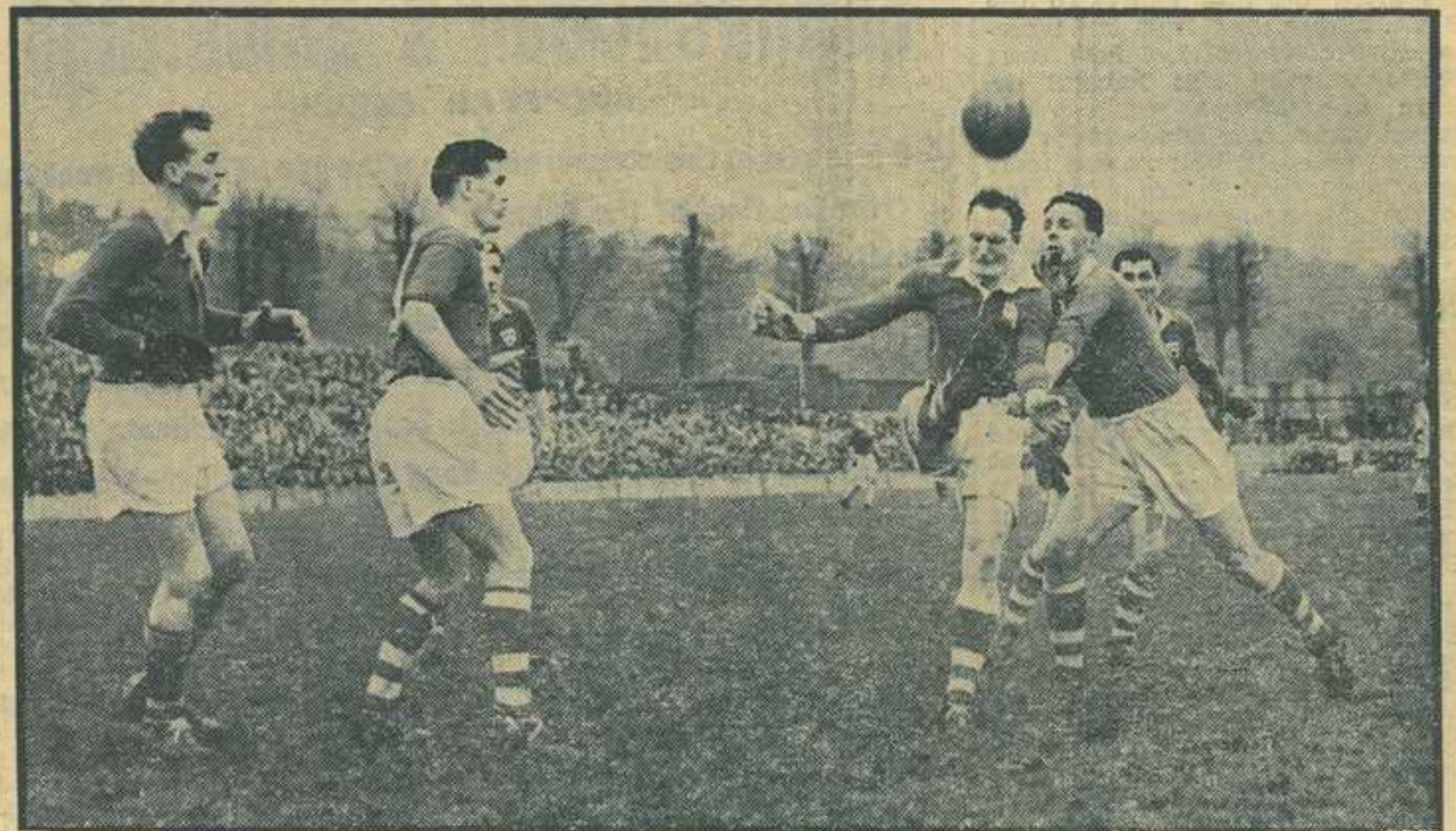
JOHN LYONS IN ACTION DURING THE RAILWAY CUP FINAL.



John Dunne, Westmeath star, goes up to bring down a high ball during the recent Leinster championship game with Longford.



The odds were 3/1 against this Kerry forward (on ground) as Tom Dillon, the Galway defender, gathered to clear during their recent encounter at Croke Park.



Scene from the recent match between Cork and Dublin. Jim Crowley gets his boot to the Ball, while Neily Duggan is undecided what to do.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
All sports photos in the "Gaelic Echo" are by the courtesy of the 'Irish Press.'

Carlow goalkeeper Paddy Dunphy is beaten by a bullet-like shot during the recent tussle between Louth and Carlow.

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