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GAA

# Gaelic Sport

1½

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VOL. 3.

NO. 2

JUNE-AUGUST

Published Quarterly

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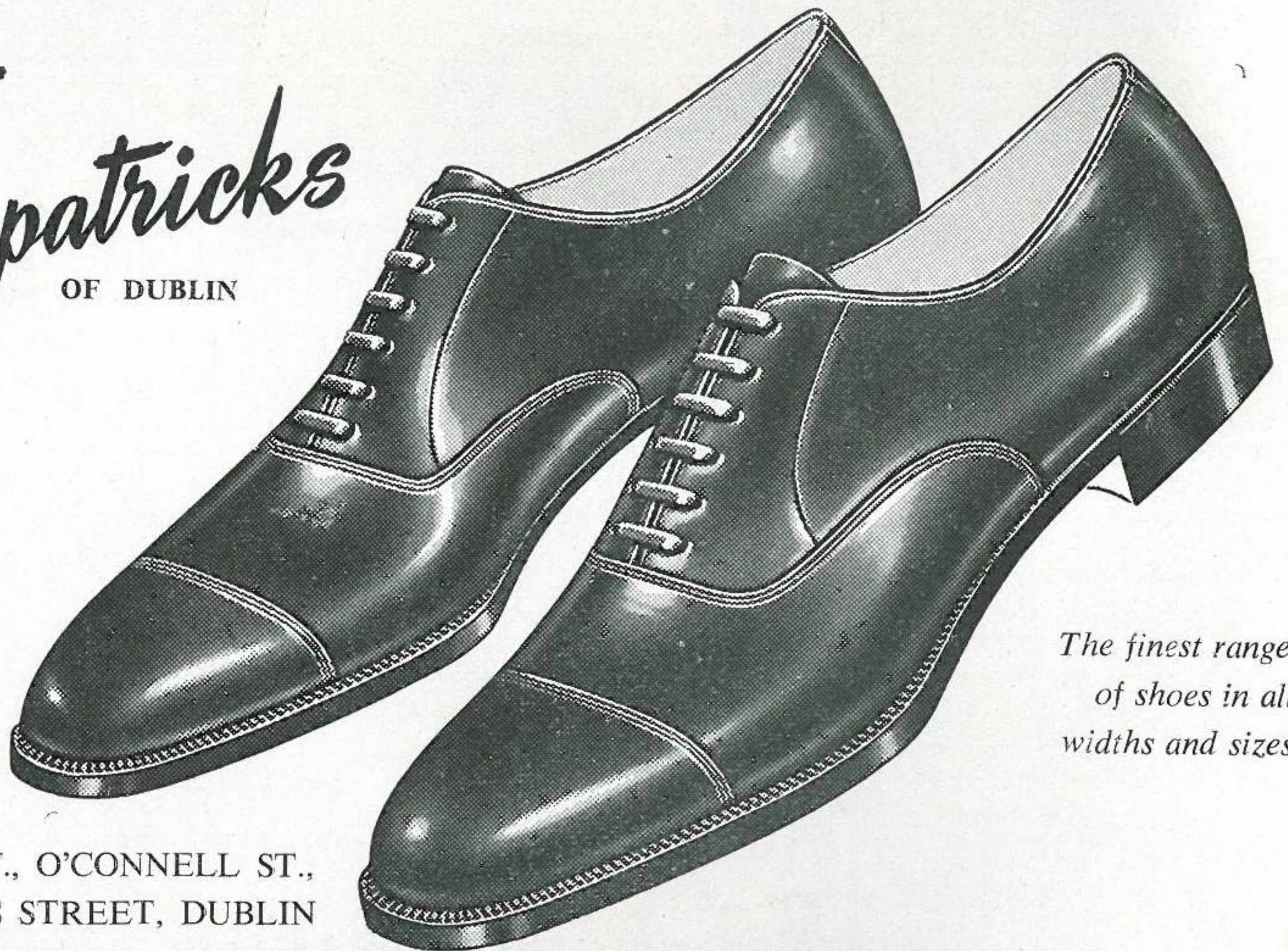
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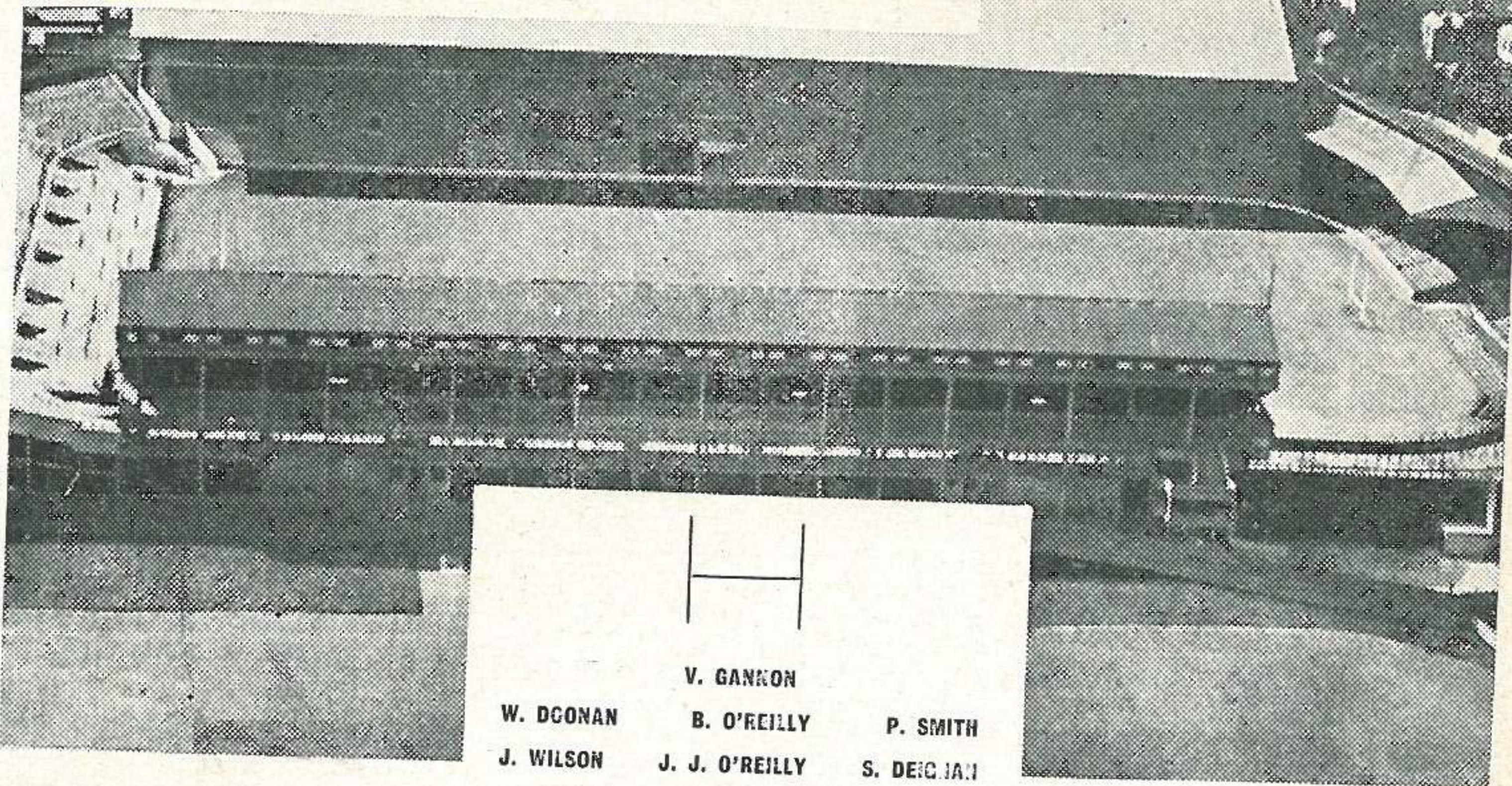
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# Remember the team?



## CAVAN 1947

Of the five All-Ireland titles which Cavan senior footballers have won, the county's proudest memory is surely of a victory which few followers of the Breffni blue were privileged to see, but which was all the more acceptable because it was won far away on the other side of the Atlantic.

In 1947 the annual G.A.A. Congress agreed to a request from New York to have the All-Ireland senior football final played in America. No wonder, then, that the provincial championships of that year were particularly keenly fought, and excitement was intense when Cavan, Roscommon, Kerry and Meath qualified for the semi-finals.

In the first of these record-breaking games Cavan conquered Roscommon, the 1946 All-Ireland Finalists, by a score of 2-4 to 0-6, while reigning champions Kerry had little difficulty in disposing of Meath on the following Sunday, 1-11 to 0-6.

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J. STAFFORD	P. DONOHOE	T. P. O'REILLY

And so the respective winners set out for New York with Kerry firm favourites to retain their title, and what must have been the greatest and keenest Irish Radio audience ever, crowded round the loudspeakers on the night of Sunday, September 14, 1947, to hear Micheál O hEithir describe that historic game from the Polo Grounds, then the home of that famed baseball team, the New York Giants. 34,941 Irish and Irish-Americans, who had paid \$153,877 for the privilege, cheered themselves hoarse as the teams took the field. Holders Kerry had no fewer than 13 of their 1946 champion side on duty.

Not a man of the Cavan fifteen had ever won a senior medal, the county had not housed the Sam Maguire Cup since 1935, while their youthful forward star, Edwin Carolan, had to cry off at the last moment, due to inoculation illness.

Kerry seemed on the way to certain victory when they raced into an early and substantial lead. But with P. J. Duke, Phil Brady, Simon

Deignan, Tony Tighe, Mick Higgins, sharp-shooting full-forward Peter Donohoe and their great captain John Joe O'Reilly particularly outstanding on a side that reached the heights of football brilliance, Cavan not alone wiped out that lead but forged ahead to unexpected but completely convincing victory.

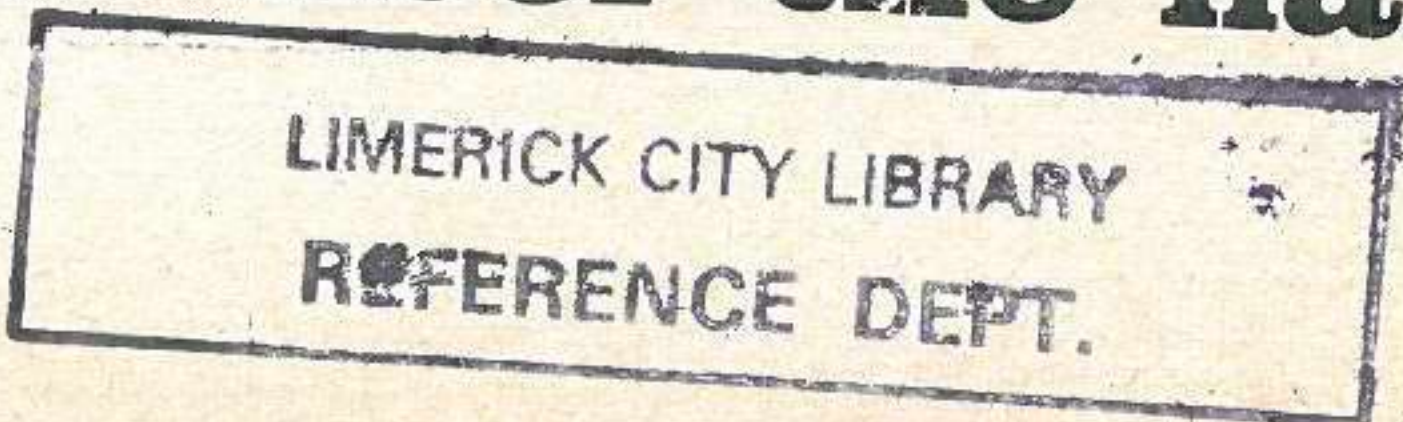
That Polo Grounds crowd cheered Cavan's victory to the echo, cheers that echoed and re-echoed through Dublin when John Joe O'Reilly arrived back with the Sam Maguire Cup, but that rang loudest of all through the length and breadth of County Cavan when, with bonfires blazing at every cross-roads, fifteen grand footballers proudly bore home to Breffni the trophy they had so gloriously won 3,000 miles away.

The Kerry team was:— D. O'KEEFFE, D. LYNE, J. KEOHANE, P. BROSAN, J. LYNE, W. CASEY, E. WALSH, E. DOWLING, E. O'CONNOR, E. O'SULLIVAN, D. KAVANAGH, B. GARVEY, F. O'KEEFFE, T. O'CONNOR, P. KENNEDY.

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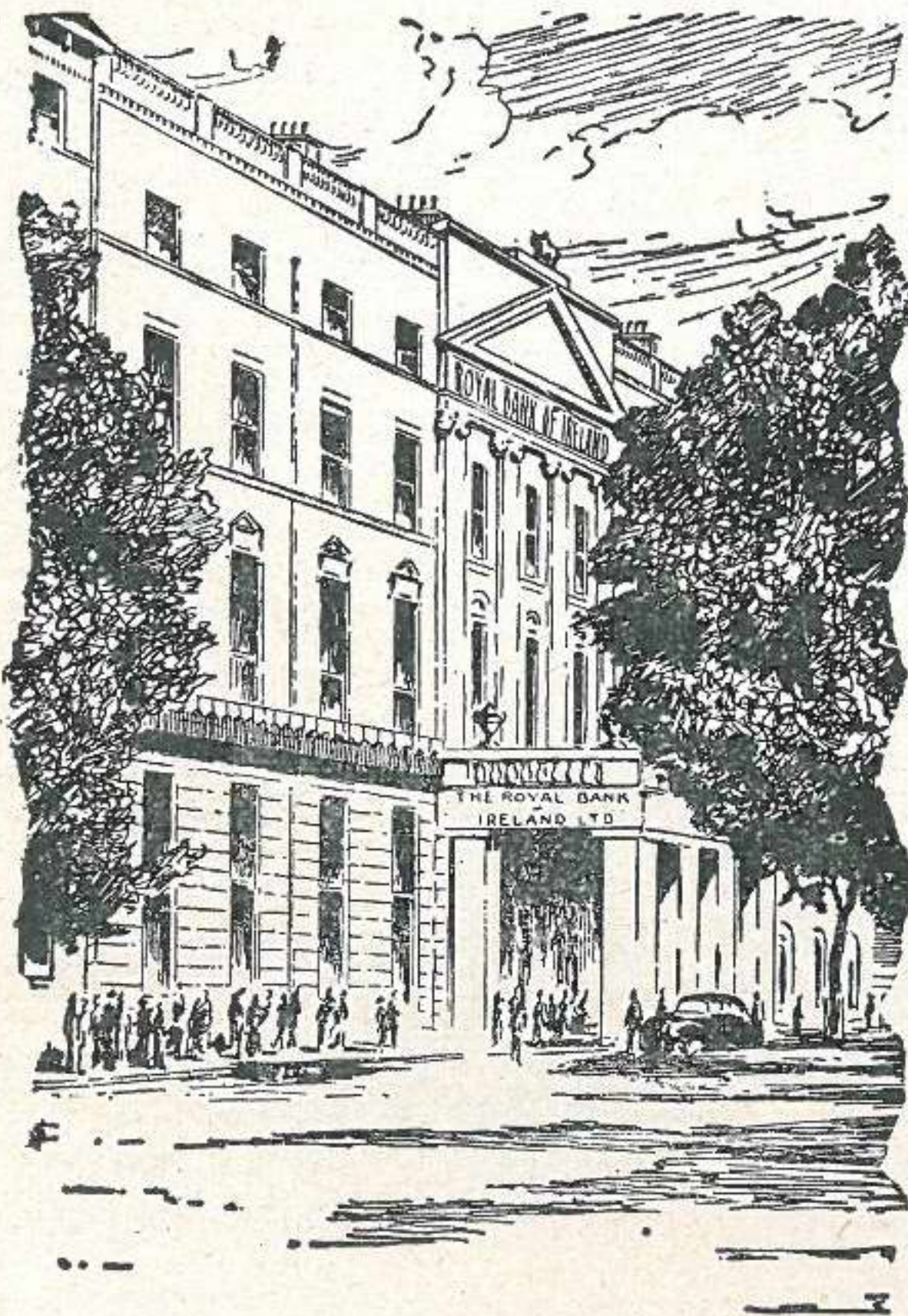
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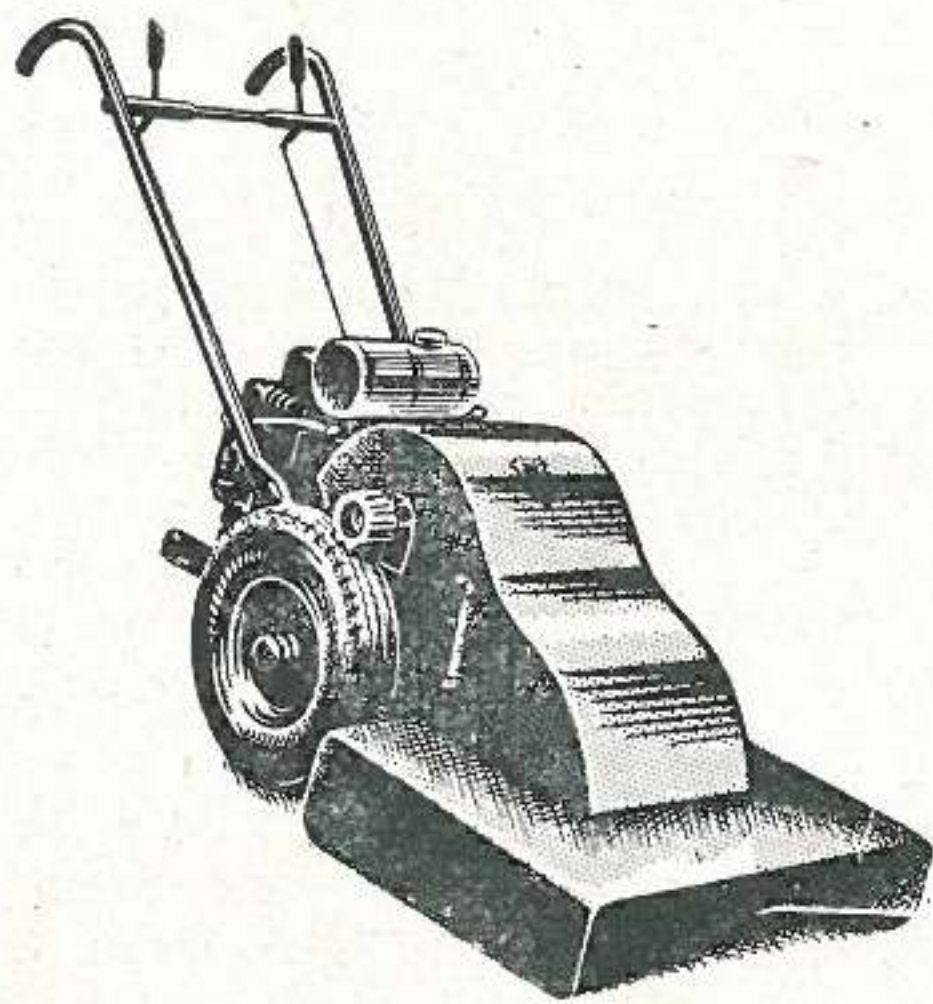
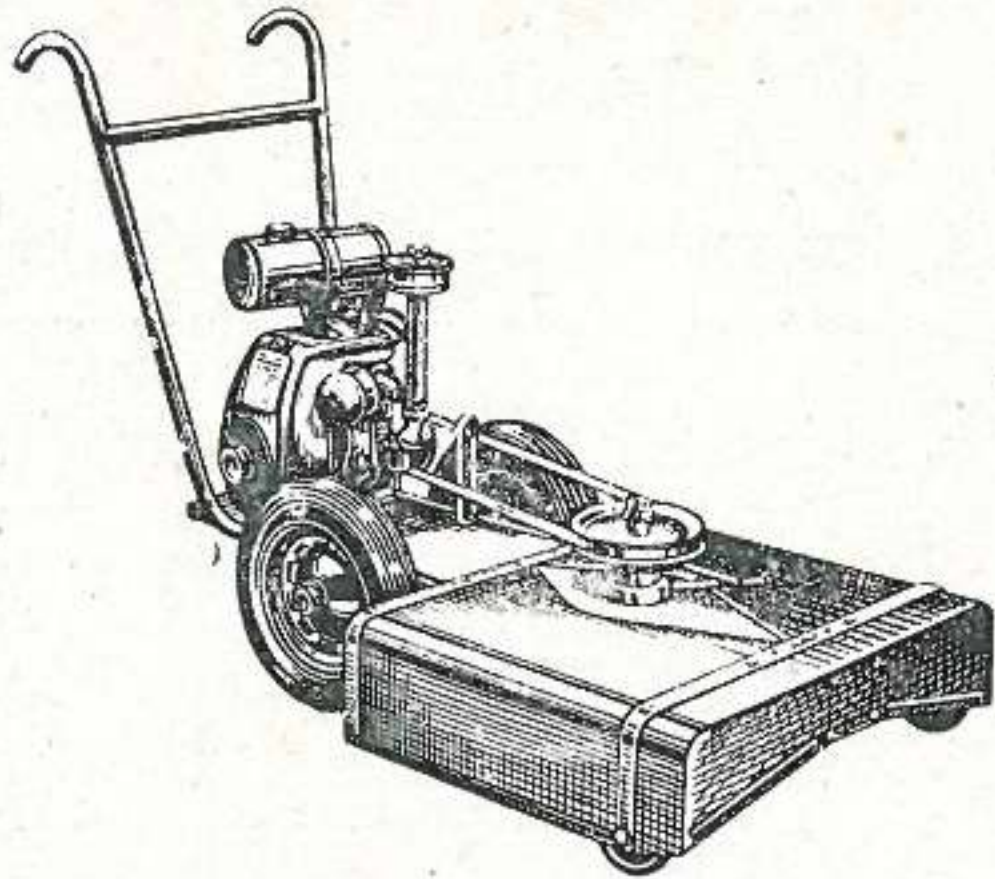
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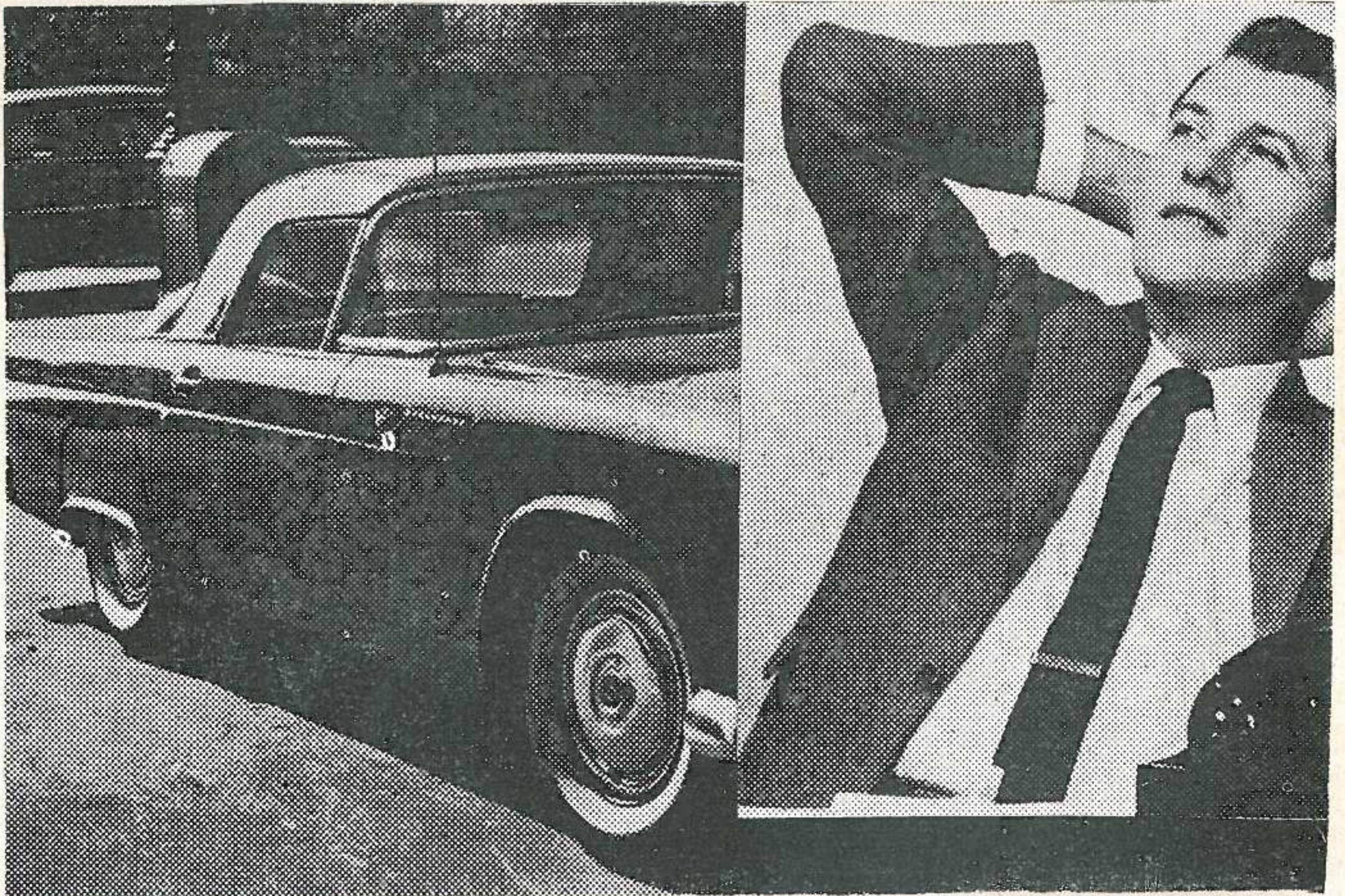
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## Northward Ho!

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### Cover picture

OUR front cover for this mid-summer issue of GAELIC SPORT is a tribute to the great Down football team which won the National League on May 8. But in choosing an action-portrait of star forward Paddy Doherty we are not spotlighting one man for special praise; rather are we using him as a symbol of the combined zeal, ability and determination of the side which has taken Down to the topmost rung of the football ladder. Nevertheless, the Doherty symbol is, perhaps, the most appropriate choice; for he has been one of the most prominent architects of Down's remarkable resurgence, which may yet reach the summit of All-Ireland glory.

WITH six months of 1960 gone we have only now come to realise that this could be one of the most momentous years in the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

At the beginning of the playing season this possibility had not yet taken definite shape; no concrete reason had yet emerged to convince us that the all-Ireland football championship would not run, more or less, on the old, familiar lines of the past decade.

Until May 8. And then, under the impact of the National Football League final result, we all realised that we were standing on the threshold of a great historical event—the Sam Maguire Cup, most coveted prize in Gaelic football, could cross into our politically severed six counties next September, for the first time in 74 years of championship football.

And the team to do it? Down. The Mourne men's league victory over Cavan on the second Sunday in May shot them up to the front line of contenders for the all-Ireland this year.

And the fact that they flopped to Kerry—whom they had conquered in the semi-final of the league—in a challenge game at Listowel on May 15 and to Derry in the McKenna Cup on May 22 does little or nothing to alter their hard-won place in the 1960 all-Ireland honours queue.

For those defeats can be attributed, in the main, to the fact that the natural reaction of relaxation had set in after the sustained efforts of the previous months.

And that, perhaps, is a good thing from the Down point of view. The dreaded "staleness" of July is an ever-present threat to teams who put in a good run in the league; for fifteen men cannot, in normal circumstances, maintain peak or near-peak fitness, and the razor-edged keenness that is necessary to win titles, over a gruelling period of eight or nine months. Great Dublin teams tried it in the mid-'fifties with disastrous results in their bid for all-Ireland honours.

Down cannot afford to take that risk. We feel that they won't take it. And, indeed, those post-league defeats could be clues to the existence of an official policy of relaxation and low-gear football until they hit the rough championship road in a few weeks time.

It would be ridiculous to assume, of course, that Down have the 1960 all-Ireland title already "cut and dried." Cavan are going to be their big stumbling-block in Ulster and, after that, they still face the hoodoo of defeat that has dogged so many Six County teams in their quest for the Sam Maguire Cup for the past fifteen years.

Naturally, there are varying opinions on their prospects (one of our correspondents discusses the question in detail elsewhere in this issue of "Gaelic Sport"), but that notwithstanding, there can be no denying the fact that Down at the moment stand hip to hip with reigning champions, Kerry, in the race for football's biggest prize this year.

**T**HE recommendations of the Special Hurling Committee, as adopted by the recent Annual Congress of the G.A.A., provided the biggest news for the caman-craft game in my memory.

It has surely been obvious for many a year past that, in all but the "top" counties, hurling has been experiencing a decline, a decline in position and prestige as well as in popularity; a decline really caused by indifference rather than by any hostility to the greatest ball-game on earth.

And the cause of this ever-growing indifference, especially amongst those "football" counties where hurling has, for generations past, been very much the "poor relation" is not far to seek. Whenever a spark of hurling enthusiasm did take fire in those football counties, it was almost invariably extinguished by crushing championship defeats at the hands, or rather at the hurleys, of more powerful neighbours.

Now, everybody is agreed, in theory, that any game should be played for the sake of the game itself, and not for the sake of victory. But I have yet to discover an enthusiasm strong enough to survive perpetual and often humiliating defeat.

About the senior and intermediate competitions agreed upon by Congress and the Special Committee I do not intend to concern myself at length here. These newly set up or revised competitions are wholly admirable, and I approve of them 100 per cent.; but they are obviously designed for the counties where hurling is still very much "in the blood". (And in that category I include Meath and Kerry where the stick game has always retained its popularity in certain areas). I have no fears at all for the future of the game in the counties that will comprise those two grades in the new championships. All those counties are well able to look after themselves as far as hurling is concerned.

Neither have I any doubts as to the success of the new-style senior and intermediate championships, although it does seem peculiar to call the zonal arrangements "provincial" championships, since Munster and Connacht are to form one area and Leinster and Ulster another.

But it is from the new championships in the

## A SURVEY OF THE NEW HURLING COMPETITIONS

# SHOT IN THE ARM FOR THE WEAK ONES

**By**  
**MOONDHARRIG**

junior grade that I expect most benefit to accrue to the spreading of the hurling game on a permanent basis to every county of the 32.

And the most important factor of all to my mind is this, that in this revised competition, everybody concerned will be more or less starting from scratch. The "big" hurling counties are now outside the junior pale, and this will be a competition for the novice counties only. It is tremendously important that this fact be realised from the very start by the hurling enthusiasts in these weaker counties.

Indeed, now is the time for the hurlers in those weak counties to start gathering their forces for next season's fray and training their would-be hurling champions for the exhilarating battles ahead.



That progress to hurling competence can be astoundingly fast was proved, oddly enough, by the findings of the Hurling Committee itself, for, when its recommendations were drawn up, Carlow was unhesitatingly placed amongst the weaker counties. But, by the time those same recommendations came before Congress some 12 or 18 months later, Carlow had advanced so much both in performance and prestige, that nobody was quite sure as to what category was best suited to their abilities.

Indeed, the steady and speedy rise of the Carlow hurlers has certainly set a very welcome and very timely headline to hurling enthusiasts in every other county where football has traditionally flourished almost exclusively, and particularly to those small counties whose hurling ambitions, if they existed, were almost always smothered by the might of powerful neighbours.

Seven or eight years ago I first heard of the establishment of street hurling leagues in Carlow, and of the enthusiasm with which the game was being taken up by the youngsters, especially in Carlow town.

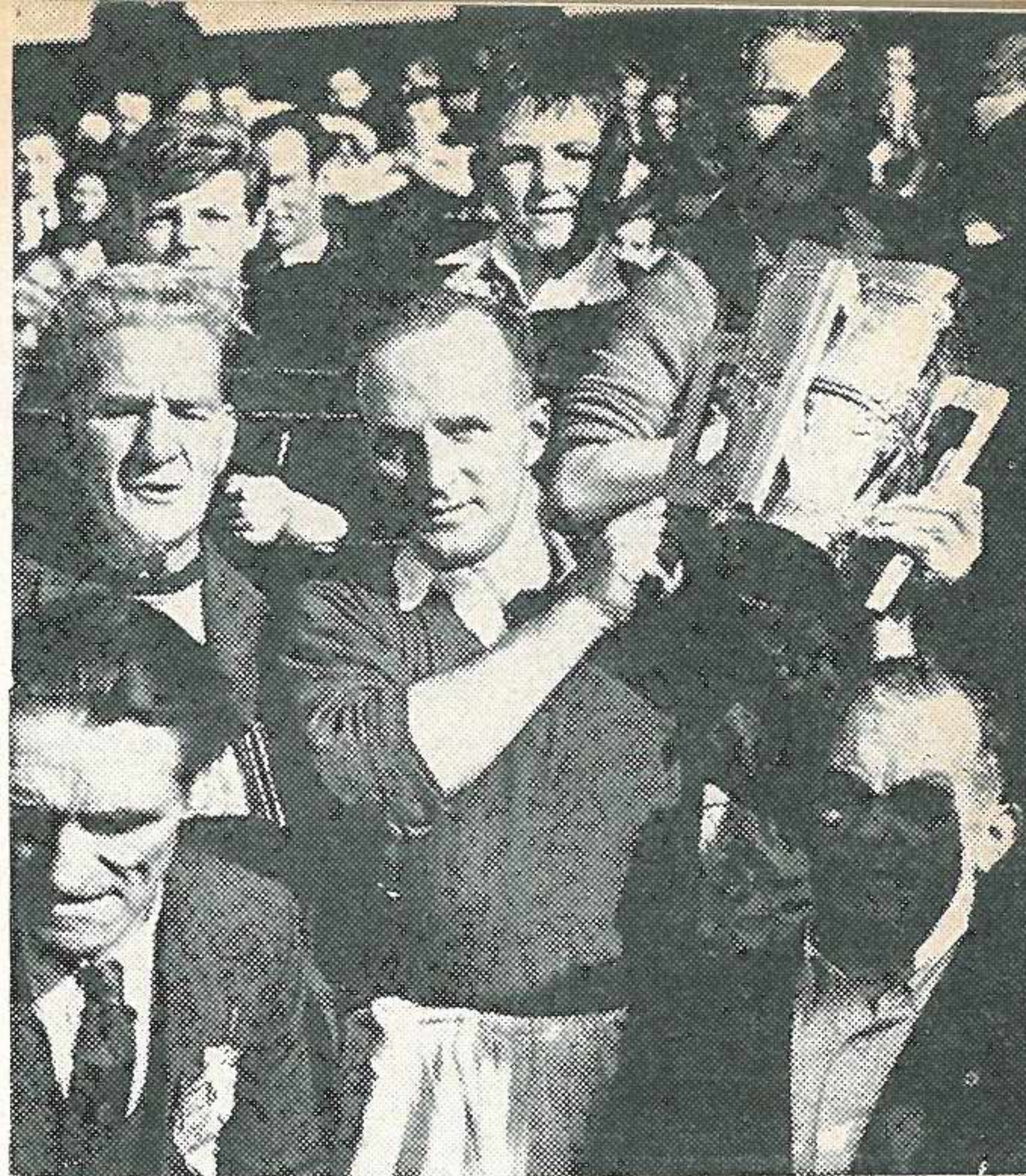
Keen competition between the lads themselves, together with the interest that such competition aroused, led to a steady improvement in their hurling standard, and I saw some lively Carlow minor county teams in action on the hurling fields within a surprisingly short space of time.

Not that they achieved any sensational run of victories, but the improvement in their hurling abilities was constant and they showed their determination by learning from every game they played, win or lose.

When, in time, and a very short time it seemed, they graduated from minor to junior ranks, they still continued to learn, but their real march towards the top grade of hurling began when they joined the National League.

After twice winning through in the Second Division, they attained First Division status in the season just past, and were by no means disgraced in such exalted company, even chalking up a good win over Galway in the course of their engagements.

But as though to emphasise the difficulties that



*MOMENT OF TRIUMPH . . . Christy Ring holds the All-Ireland Hurling Cup aloft after captaining Cork to victory at Croke Park. Could this not be the proud achievement of a Carlow, Wicklow, Roscommon, Westmeath, Offaly or Antrim skipper within the next ten or fifteen years? Certainly. And the new hurling competitions which MOONDHARRIG writes about here could be the stepping-stone to the "moment of triumph" for any of the underdeveloped counties.*

beset the weaker counties under the old system, even so outstanding a team as Carlow had proved themselves to be in League competition failed to win a Leinster title under the old "junior" rules, although they might well hall-mark their own achievements by doing so this year.

Under the new dispensation there will, however, be new hope even for the weakest, and I know of no reason at all why the headline set by a few enthusiasts in Carlow cannot be followed by the other weak counties.

And here is a final point for the consideration of certain officials in certain "football" counties who may fear that their favourite game may suffer if hurling is encouraged. Many of those young lads who have grown up to be Carlow's hurling stars, are starring also in the county's football sides.

# THEY SERVE AND SHINE IN THE SHADOW OF FAILURE

**A**LL-IRELAND day! What magic the very mention of the word conjures up in the minds of G.A.A. fans throughout Ireland and exiles scattered across the five continents of the world.

And rightly so. For there is nothing quite to match the hurly-burly, the unyielding "make it or bust" efforts of these, the greatest events of the Irish sporting calendar.

Roll back the years and recap on some of the great men who have strode the scene on all-Ireland day.

Mick Mackey, Paddy Kennedy, Paul Russell, Christy Ring . . . storied heroes like these have all sampled the white-hot fervour of all-Ireland day en route to collecting that coveted medal.

But there were others. And it is about these luckless ones, men who never won an all-Ireland award, that I propose to occupy your attentions now.

And the first name I put forward for your consideration is that of one of the finest defenders Gaelic football has ever known—Willie Goodison of Wexford.

Fast around the field, sure in the tackle, deadly in the air — Goodison was the complete centre-half. What a pity he had so few to support his genius!

Ask any Corkman who was the greatest footballer never to win an all-Ireland medal and you'll get but one answer—Nealy Duggan.

And rightly so; for over the years it is doubtful if there has ever been a more unlucky footballer than this great mid-fielder-cum-forward. Forced to miss Cork's all-Ireland triumph in 1945, Nealy's cup of sorrow was filled to the brim when the Leesiders fell at the last hurdle in successive years, '56 and '57.

**By**

**BERNARD**

**CAMPION**

## *The luckless men of Gaelic games*

Consider, too, the members of the peerless St. Vincent's team who went out before Dublin finally got their hands on the Sam Maguire Cup in 1958?

Men like "Danno" Mahony, Nicky Maher and Norman Allen—all three of whom rendered yeoman service to both club and county alike.

In the "Wee Six," too, there are many hard-luck stories to be heard whenever the subject of all-Ireland title-holders gets an airing.

And surely three of the greatest—and unluckiest—footballers of all time were Armagh's Alf Murray, Antrim's Kevin Armstrong and Derry's Jim McKeever.

And what of that prince of full-backs, Eddie Boyle (Louth), or Roscommon's Gerry O'Malley, or that great mid-fielder Jim Morris (Carlow)?

Yet, for my money, the greatest footballer who NEVER won an all-Ireland medal first saw the light of day in Stradbally, Co. Laois. His name? Tommy Murphy.

What a player! At the tender age of 16, while still a mere schoolboy, Murphy matched strides with the greatest in a manner which suggested that here, at last, was the perfect footballer.

And while he never got an all-Ireland souvenir to crown his efforts, the majesty of his football in later years bore out the truth of that early conviction.

Yes, indeed, Tommy Murphy WAS the greatest footballer never to win an all-Ireland.

In hurling the list of "unfortunates" is just as great, with men of the calibre of Jim Smyth (Clare), Jim Prior (Dublin) and Cork's Bernie Murphy looming high in the list.

Then, there was that great Dublin goalkeeper of a few years back, Kevin Matthews—as fine a man as ever stood between the posts—while for sheer courage in face of overwhelming odds, it would be hard to exclude Westmeath's "Jobber" McGrath from any list.

In the final analysis, however, I feel that, wherever the ill-luck stories of hurling are trotted out, the name Galway must inevitably loom large to the fore.

Theirs is the unenviable record of being the unluckiest team in hurling. Over the years, they

(Next page.)



## *A Man Apart*

have put some truly great teams in the field, but lack of match-play invariably brought their best efforts to nought.

Famous Galway hurlers that spring instantly to mind are Fr. Gantley, Sean Duggan and Josie Gallagher, all three of whom figured in many a memorable battle in the maroon jersey.

But it is doubtful if even this famed trio could match the splendour of Joe Salmon—to my mind the greatest hurler still without an all-Ireland trophy.

A wonderful striker on or off

the ground, Joe Salmon has that “something” which makes him a man apart on the hurling field.

Maybe it's that flair for popping up in the most unexpected places; or those flashing “cuts” which send the sliothar winging its way on a 60 yards journey. Whatever it is, it stamps Joe Salmon as one of the greatest men ever to have adorned the hurling arena.

So there they are, the two greatest men never to have won an all-Ireland medal in their respective codes—Tommy Murphy and Joe Salmon.

“Better not go in there.” That's what Wicklow full-back Pat Roche (second from left) seems to say as he lays a restraining hand on Louth full-forward Jackie Reynolds (extreme left). And they both watch anxiously as Wicklow goalkeeper Andy Phillips comes out to clear a dangerous ball. Occasion? The Leinster senior football championship first round tie at Croke Park on May 22, when the Wee County advanced to the semi-final by 1-10 to 1-5.

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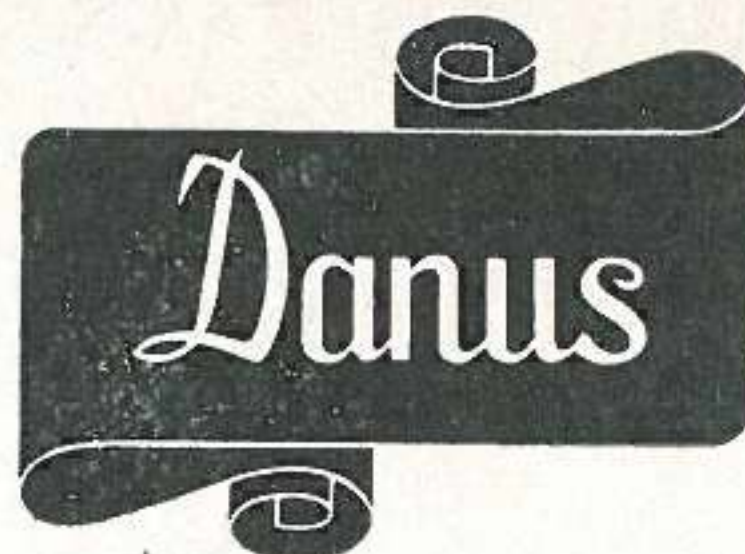
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WHY ARE KERRY 'COCKS OF THE WALK'  
FOR HALF A CENTURY?

# SUPERMEN?



EAMONN YOUNG supplies the answer

THE 'phone buzzed. It was the Editor. "Look here, Youngy," he said, "I have a question that has been troubling me for some time." "Glad to help," said I. "Shoot."

"Why," said the Editor, "are Kerry cocks of the Munster football walk for half a century?"

"I'll tell you," said I. "But give me your number, in case we're cut off. 'Twill take a while." "Don't tell me," shouted the Editor. "Write about it—for the readers of *Gaelic Sport*." And he banged down the 'phone.

There is no trouble in answering the question. Yet, my answer applies to the present day, so we must go back to the start—to the early years of the century.

In 1903 Kerry got down to this matter of winning football games. They had good men, many of whose sons played for the Kingdom in later years. They trained hard, and collectively, and they beat Kildare after some great games. At the same time the rest of Munster was getting fonder than ever of hurling; Tipperary and Limerick were trying hard to beat the ears off some pretty good Cork sides.

Cork, indeed, had some great football teams, too, and, in 1910 and 1911, beat Kerry. But as the Kingdom continued to improve the rest stayed static right up to the years of the first war and the subsequent national revolution.

By the time this was over the pattern was firmly set, for Clare had made the grade in

hurling, and the Cork-Tipperary-Limerick trio had become recognised hurling powers in the land.

Thus, it was likely that the Kingdom footballers would each year move outside Munster in the fight to win an All-Ireland, and as this put them in opposition to the best sides in the country Kerry football simply had to stay in the top grade.

There's nothing like good opposition to raise one's own standard, and I'd say with conviction that unless one is a super athlete the chances of becoming great in second-class opposition are nil.

After the Civil War the present-day mould of Munster G.A.A. games was set. They played hard football daily in the internment camp on the Curragh; the army, then rather big, exercised its men intensively, and I still hear tales of the way Captain Con Brosnan trained.

At home in Kerry, the football games went on, and when all three groups were put on the one field, there emerged a team led by John Joe Sheehy, Joe Barrett and the rest that wrote the Kingdom's name in glorious gold on the deep green of Croke Park.

Munster seemed quite content to have it so, and in the other counties they revelled in their hurling, with Kerrymen, good sports as always, admiring from the sideline.

But there were good footballers in these hurling counties too. Tommy O'Keeffe of Tipp,

(Continued on Page 13)

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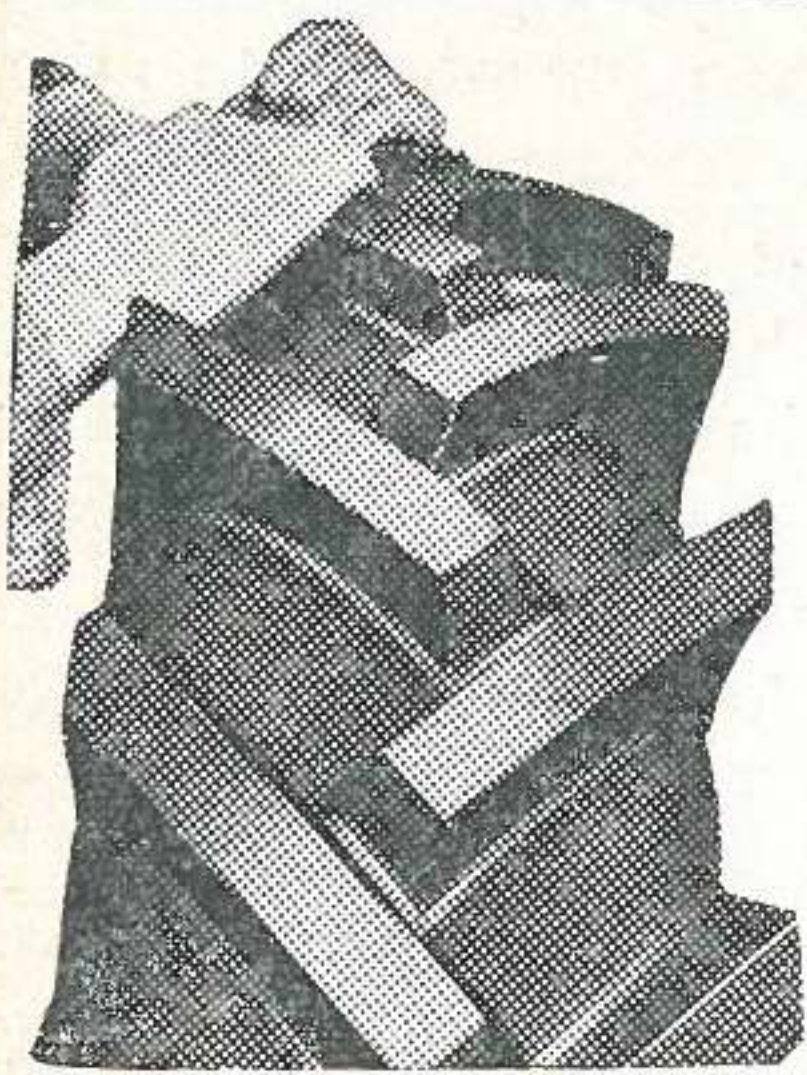
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(From Page 11)

and George Comerford of Clare are examples. In Cork I knew a dozen very good men in the 'thirties—Dick Harnedy was one—who were fit for any team. But a team is a unit, which combines in its own ruthless, relentless way to put numbers on a board, and the Kerry men were well ahead of us all in that, for they were used to doing it while we were reading about it.

Then, in the early 'forties the other counties organised a little, and the great number of games played in the Army at the time helped to raise the standard in Cork and Tipperary. Both counties shone for a while but the fundamental merit of Kerry football brought the Kingdom back, and since they have remained, except for a few years, right on top.

In the mid-fifties we worked hard at the football in Cork and had some success; but we didn't have the craft to go all the way.

One day at Croke Park, a few months after we had lost our second successive All-Ireland, Frank Sheehy said to me: "It's a shame for ye to be keeping Kerry out of All-Irelands." We both laughed at the joke, but, to be serious, who am I to say that if the Kingdom had been in the finals of 1956 and '57, their all-round ability would not have pulled them through.

That's what has kept Kerry on top: all-round football ability. The Kerry man is a trained footballer, and just as the soldier who has exercised hard for months and knows his weapons is ahead of the recruit in ability and self-confidence, so the Kerry player is at least the equal of his Munster opponent. In most cases he is a shade more polished, but when one multiplies that shade by fifteen the writing is on the wall.

What is a trained footballer? He's a strong fellow who strips at 11 st. at least. He can kick a fifty-yard ball accurately with either foot, and leap off the ground to fetch it firmly out of the air. He knows where a better-placed comrade stands and he won't do a stupid solo.

Kerry has plenty of these, because they learned it from boyhood, as did their fathers before them back for 60 years.

A friend tells me this story (often to pull my

leg): Kerry were playing Cork in a Munster final. A car-load of players failed to arrive. The Kerry secretary ran down to the station to meet the Kerry train. As the men came off with their cloth caps over their eyes and their lunches in their pockets, he tapped half a dozen of them on the shoulders and said: "You're playing for Kerry to-day." And no more bother to them.

So, when a district understands football and success has come, there are other factors which help. Kerry has its trainers, its selectors, and advisers, all steeped in football lore. With some of the people it's almost a religion, and the lads who play it are admired.

So, to summarise, the Kerry footballer is a chap who got off to a quick start and had the interest to keep working at his task. To-day, he's a skilled artisan. To prove it, name half a dozen Kerry men who played in several places on the field in first-class football. Versatility is based on a sound knowledge of the fundamental skills.

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# AMAZING!

“Tipperary’s G.A.A. Story”

By Canon Fogarty

Reviewed by

EAMONN MONGEY

IT is impossible to measure Gaelic Athletic Ireland’s debt to Tipperary and her literary men. A hundred-odd years ago, Kickham produced his “Knocknagow” which, as a tale of great athletic deeds, excitement and humanity, is in a class by itself. A year ago, Joseph Brady produced “The Big Sycamore,” a book steeped in G.A.A. lore, which immediately became a best-seller. Now Canon Fogarty of Templemore bridges the gap between the two with his “Tipperary’s G.A.A. Story.”

Let me say at once that, though the book is called Tipp’s G.A.A. Story, it is also very much the full story of the G.A.A. And so well it might be, for Tipperary has been rightly called the cradle of the G.A.A.

Thurles was the scene of the first G.A.A. meeting. Four out of the seven men who attended it were Tipperary men. One of them, Maurice Davin, became first president of the association; and the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr. Croke, whose letter of acceptance has been called the Charter of the G.A.A., was its first patron.

On the field of play, too, Tipp. has a proud record. It has won more National Hurling Leagues than any other county, is second only to Cork in the matter of senior All-Ireland hurling championships and has more senior football championships to its credit than even Mayo!

That record gave the author plenty of material to work on—and right well he has worked on it.

Delving back deeply into Irish history, he tells us first of the time when, under the Brehon Laws, the sons of kings and chieftains had their hurleys hooped with

bronze or brass—and compensation was granted for injuries either to players or spectators!

He brings us up to the Norman times when you could get two hours in the stocks for playing hurling. He tells us of the private team of hurlers kept by one of the Purcell Barons of Loughmore, and their star player Lonergan, who could hit a ball over the

## APPEAL

**H**ERE is an appeal which we hope will receive ready replies. The employees of Antigen Ltd., of Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, are all members of their Factory Social Club. Two of the most important units within the Social Club are the Antigen Hurling and Camogie teams—and this is where the appeal comes in.

These teams are anxious to get in touch with similar organisations around the country to arrange hurling and camogie fixtures this season. Interested parties should get in touch with the secretary of the Social Club, Antigen Ltd., Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Factory hurling teams ready to answer this call will be interested to hear that Tipperary right full-back Kieran Carey is a member of the Antigen staff.

And their camogie team can boast three Tipperary inter-county stars — Anna Carroll, Peggy Maloney and Mary Maloney.

castle, run around the other side, meet it coming down, hit it back again—and do that nine times in all.

And so, on to the early years of the G.A.A., with Tipperary dominating the scene in a newly-awakened Athletic Ireland. “If you want to see the new Ireland that has arisen,” wrote Michael Cusack, “go and look up Tipperary.” And again talking of the early games in Tipperary, he wrote: “You should see a Tipperary crowd to know what excitement it.”

And what excitement there must have been when Clonoulty met Boherlahan, or Moycarkey crossed hurleys with Thurles or Toom Greyhounds! In one famous game the losing team got so excited that they took up the goalposts and carried them away so that the match couldn’t be finished!

Then, too, there was the famous game when Moycarkey beat Toom and the vanquished, after failing to win an objection, wrote to the local press: “We lost the match through a hostile council and a weather-cock referee.”

Many of the inter-county games in which Tipp. participated produced even greater excitement, and with Canon Fogarty we re-live vividly some of the famous Cork-Tipperary clashes.

There was, for instance, the game in Cork in 1926 when the crowd was so great that the players had eventually no room to hurl in: the game had to be called off and the replay was fixed for Thurles. It was the first G.A.A. match ever broadcast and it ended in a thrilling draw, Cork winning the replay.

Canon Fogarty parades all the stars of the great Tipperary teams before our eyes—Tom Semple,



"Hawk" O'Brien, "Wedge" Meagher, Johnny Leahy, Martin Kennedy, Phil Purcell. Due credit is also paid to that incomparable team which gave Tipp. its colours of blue and gold—Tubberadora, a team unbeaten in three years of championship hurling.

But it's not all hurling and football that's contained in this volume. No county in Ireland produced more track and field athletes than Tipperary. There was Mitchell of Emly, Pat and Maurice Davin, Tom Kiely, Jack Ryan, Tim Crowe (who ran an extra mile in the world marathon championship in London and still finished sixth—at the age of 40!), Bob Tisdall and Ned Tobin—world beaters all of them.

One little anecdote I liked about Maurice Davin tells of the occasion in which he trounced all British opposition over in London. When he was presented afterwards to Queen Victoria, Her Majesty remarked: "You must be the best athlete in Ireland, Mr. Davin." "Well, I might not be, Ma'am," said Davin, "but I'm certainly the best in England."

There is a host of anecdotes such as this and they all help to relieve what otherwise might have been a dull procession of facts and figures. Facts and figures there certainly are in abundance in the book (sometimes, perhaps, too much) and it will always be a reliable reference book as such, but in his wisdom Canon Fogarty has also added numerous interesting and amusing historical sidelights.

Altogether, this is a truly amazing compilation which obviously cost the author many weary hours of research; but, from the finished result, it must have been indeed rewarding work.

Somewhere in the book there is a phrase that Ireland always had voices to speak for her, hearts to love her and hands to help her. Reading through this, one comes clearly to realise that these voices, hearts and hands were often Tipperary ones.

One man who must now take his rightful place with all these is the author of his splendid and dedicated work—Canon Fogarty of Templemore.

A bulky volume, durably bound

in hardboard covers, "Tipperary's G.A.A. Story" is not only excellent value at 10/—it is an indispensable reference book for every serious student of the history and development of Gae'ic games.

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But for two counties in particular, the 1959/60 National Leagues are more than a memory. To the footballers of Down and the storied hurlers of Tipperary, they represent a momentous occasion when they proved the masters of all comers in these, the hardest of all titles to win.

For Tipperary, of course, the title of National Hurling League champions is nothing new. But success in this year's event was all the more gratifying, for it silenced, in certain terms, all those critics who maintained that Tipp were due for a spell in the wilderness.

What a different story for Down! "Out in the cold" as far as honours

were concerned, their biggest victory prior to their National Football League success, came in last year's Ulster Championship where they whipped Cavan to take their first-ever provincial crown.

But how they grabbed their chance this time! The pent-up hunger for honours burst in torrents over the unfortunate

Cavan men in the final, and if the margin of victory was small, there was no mistaking the all-round superiority of the red-and-black jerseyed brigade.

Elsewhere in this issue we analyse Down's prospects in this year's All-Ireland race, so we'll content ourselves here by running the rule over the capabilities of

*Tipp. can  
do it  
this year*

says **PETER BYRNE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GREAT  
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the Hurling League champions, Tipperary.

Straight away let me say that I expect the Premier County to make a very lively bid to annex yet another All-Ireland title this year.

Admittedly, there is little new "blood" in this Tipp side, but the fact remains that the old hands are now playing as well, if not better, than at any time in the past.

Left full back Kieran Carey has been turning in some tremendous displays and has settled down into one of the best men playing in that berth in present-day hurling.



*JIMMY DOYLE . . . one of Tipperary's key men in their forthcoming bid for All-Ireland hurling honours.*

Together with Michael Maher, he forms a power-house full-back line which is capable of holding its own even in the most exalted company.

I doubt if there is any other county in Ireland which could suffer the loss of such a great half-back as Jimmy Finn and still battle their way to a League title.

But that they did, and it speaks volumes for the work of those two great-hearted warriors, John Doyle and Tony Wall, that the half-back

line continued to function with its usual efficiency even after the departure of the great Borrisoleigh man.

After appearing to be on the way out, Wall has come back with a vengeance, and if he can manage to maintain this devastating form, there isn't a centre-forward that will "live" with him.

So to midfield and one of the suspect departments of the side. True, ex-minor Tom Ryan hit a purple patch in this department in the League final against Cork, but it remains to be seen whether this was just one of those fleeting hours of glory which some men are wont to produce from time to time.

(Continued on page 21.)

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"NO, I don't play anything now," he said. It was easy to see he didn't, for flesh bulged over his collar and the buttons on his waistcoat were feeling the strain. Yet, not five years ago, he had streaked along the wing at Croke Park.

We love to talk about fitness, and spend hours reading how to prepare teams for big games; but what a pity we seldom give a thought to the physical condition of the man who has passed his best as a player.

Games—and particularly Gaelic games I hope—are meant not to gather large crowds, and present cups, but to provide healthy exercise. That the G.A.A. does so in an Irish way is another commendation. But the emphasis is on good health-giving exercise.

Yet, the boys whose fitness we are always ready to debate are of an age when they will be reasonably fit in any case; for before his thirties the average man leads a fairly active life, and hasn't in most cases, begun to go to seed.

How different the case of the man who has, let's say, married, and retired from active hurling and football. If he is working on the land his muscles will remain hard and his waistline lean. But heaven help him if he is in a job that demands more use of his head than his hands. One where the air is heated and the food is good.

Some are naturally lean but for the average, obesity, mild or serious, is only round the corner.

And it's a serious thing that so many thousands of strong, active men whose bodies have been strengthened to ten years of Gaelic games must slip into premature old-age because there isn't a suitable means of recreation.

For, make no mistake, that's what's happening. The English have their cricket which a man can play mildly or heartily as

rounders. Our support of it is strictly academic. We put the rules carefully into the Official Guide and ensure that the pages are never opened.

Sound G.A.A. men make periodic sorties into the open and state that we are becoming a nation of spectators, and we retort that we are aware of the danger and are ready to combat it. How?

## EAMONN YOUNG discusses FITNESS

# We've forgotten the 'has-beens'

befits his age. The whole world has the healthy games of tennis and golf, but the number of our G.A.A. men who take up these healthy pastimes is small.

Handball, a wonderful game, has never got the support it deserves, though I'm glad to see that a well-known writer is advocating the three-wall court as in Spain. This may spread the game which, up to now, has been successfully played—and hidden—behind four walls.

Then there's the great game of

What game is there for the man who no longer likes the hot stuff of club championships? If he follows the dogs he is lucky. but there are so many who don't. And bowl-playing is confined to a few spots in the country.

The truth is that when we Irishmen talk of fitness we refer only to the lads under thirty who are reasonably fit anyway, and we are quite content to let the rest slip down the hill — their speed accelerated by the weight of

(Next page.)

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*The Roscommon defence have this situation well under control as the Mayo forwards thunder through in the "Irish Press" Shield semi-final at Castlebar on May 22. Mayo won, 1-9 to 1-4.*



## FITNESS

potato-sack stomachs—to premature old age.

Sport, games and physical fitness aren't everything. Some of the best men this nation had never followed a ball; but for those who do, it is a pity, and indeed very harmful, to stop playing suddenly at an age when, as the fathers of families, and improving in their jobs, it is vital that their health and general well-being should be safeguarded.

When we spare a moment to provide exercise for the veterans we may, in turn, be spared some of the hectic games played by mouldy old-young men drooling over pints of porter in a less-than-regulation size snug, where the main hazard is that enough fresh air may penetrate to dilute the smoke.

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## MUST THIS WEMBLEY SET-UP CONTINUE?

*Tony Hadden (No. 9) and Paddy Doherty (in background), two men who could play a big part in Down's march through the 1960 championship.*

(From page 17.)

In any event, however, I feel that Tipperary need only a 50-50 midfield break to ensure a match-winning tally from their quick-silver half-forward line, no matter what the opposition.

Here Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney and Donie Nealon link up in a punch-packed, score-laden line which, given half a chance, can wreck any team's hopes with those sniping, pin-point accurate drives from long range.

Candidly, I am not over-enthusiastic about the full-forward line of Liam Connolly and the Moloughney brothers, Bill and Tom, for while they work with a will, they lack the "cut" of famous Tipperary front lines of the past.

As I said at the outset, this is by no means a super fifteen. But, then again, the opposition is no great shakes either, and, at least, I confidently expect them to relieve Waterford of the Munster title this year.

WHIT SATURDAY is an important anniversary for the Down football team. For it was on Whit Saturday, 1959, the day on which they beat a fancied Galway side in the London Board Tournament final at Wembley Stadium, that they really started their climb to the football renown that they have since achieved.

To celebrate this anniversary, Down make the trip to Wembley again this year; and, to add to the piquancy of the affair, their opponents are once again Galway (who, by the way, are making their third successive Wembley appearance).

The Wembley programme also includes a highly attractive hurling clash between All-Ireland champions Waterford and runners-up Kilkenny (who failed to Cork in the corresponding event last year). Keen rivalry could make this match a top-notch thriller, although the shortish Wembley pitch and the closely-cut grass is not altogether suitable for hurling.

These annual Wembley exhibitions have now assumed top-ranking status. But one

*Let's have  
new faces*

says **PAUL DUDLEY**

must query the wisdom of the arrangement (devised, no doubt, to ensure that each province will be represented) which rigidly carves up the programme so that Connacht meets Ulster in football and Leinster clashes with Munster in hurling, each year.

True, All-Ireland champions Kerry were invited to compete in the tournament this year, but were unable to accept owing to an annual Whit Sunday commitment in Killarney.

But, apart from this abortive attempt to include the Kerry-men, there is no indication that the organisers will not allow these competitions to develop along stereotyped lines.

This would, indeed, be unfortunate, for variety is certainly the spice of sport, and we feel that the London Board might, with profitable results, extend invitations to, say, the Galway hurlers and the Leinster or Munster football finalists, occasionally.

Let's hope that they will consider this proposal next year.

CONALLACH puts the spotlight on

# HURLING IN ULSTER

THE present rise to football fame of the speedy Down combination and the winning of the Railway Cup by the Ulster footballers has helped in no small way to stimulate more interest in the big ball code in the North. The standard of football is high and this year's Ulster final should be a thriller.

But what about the premier pastime of hurling which has a tradition going back into history—back to the time when members of the Red Branch Knights were said to have wielded the caman on the plains of Eamhain Macha.

With the exception of Antrim, the Ards district of Down and places like Burt in Donegal, where hurling has a great tradition, the standard is generally very low.

Antrim undoubtedly has been the predominant county in the use of the caman, and on a few occasions gave creditable displays at headquarters. Last year, they won the All-Ireland junior title, only to be beaten in the final by London who had a galaxy of former southern stars such as Billy Dargan, Des Dillon and Billy Duffy.

When Antrim contested the All-Ireland senior final in 1943 they

went down heavily to Cork, and that defeat showed up clearly the great gulf between the Southern and Northern standards.

The continuous defeat of Ulster in the Railway Cup competitions has given many Northern counties an inferiority complex about hurling, although I believe that the Ulster hurlers gain much experience from playing in Croke Park in such competitions. Entering an All-Ireland has brought considerable improvement to Antrim hurling, but the selectors make too many switches to reap any just rewards.

It is often said that Ulster has no hurling tradition, but hurling is the main game, and always was, in the Glens of Antrim.

And at the present time a clash between Loughgiel (who have a lovely field) and Cushendall or Glenarm is as good and as tough an encounter as a fight between two Cork club teams. In the Ards peninsula of County Down, near Strangford Lough, they have no time for football, but clubs like Ballygalgate, Ballycran, Portaferry and Kilclief form the nucleus of a good hurling team. Players like Dorrian, O'Prey and Moreland can hold their own with any player, and at times they run Antrim very close.

In Belfast, where there are quite a few clubs, an effort is made by each football club to have a hurling club as well. Here we had accomplished hurlers such as "Stout" McDonald, Dessie Cormican, Pat Morgan, and that evergreen Kevin Armstrong, who was as good a hurler as a foot-

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baller, and I would rate him as one of the best forwards Ulster ever had.

Down through the years, the Ulster Council have made many efforts to foster hurling, but with little success. A sub-committee composed of men like Liam Harvey (Antrim), Hugh Diver (Donegal), and Hugh McGuirk (Derry) was set up to examine the position of hurling in the province; an Ulster Schools' Committee was formed, and a scheme was brought into operation where hurling sticks were supplied to schools throughout the province.

Some schools (especially in Antrim) benefited from this scheme, but in others, hurling was an "unorthodox" game and they returned to Gaelic football.

The Mid-Ulster Hurling League was started and subsidised by the Ulster Council. This was a good effort to help the weaker counties. Teams from five counties compete in the Mid-Ulster League — from Derry (Lavey), Monaghan (Castleblayney, Emyvale), Tyrone (Dungannon), Cavan (Kingscourt, Belturbet), and Armagh (Armagh, Keady).

There is no hurling team in Fermanagh, although a good few years back we had a famous side in the Enniskillen O'Neills. A few efforts to foster hurling in the county have failed, for club officials have to be careful not to ruin their football team by starting a hurling team.

Most County Boards, at some time during the year, draw clubs' attention to hurling, and here an organiser who would be a star hurler himself should be of help.

Many Gaels in the North would like to see hurling revived. In Donegal, men like Tom Farren, Carndonagh; Hugh Diver, Lifford, and Hugh Daly, Co. Secretary, have made every attempt to get more clubs affiliated. The Burt team—the home of hurling in

(Continued on page 45.)

## *Holiday Travel*

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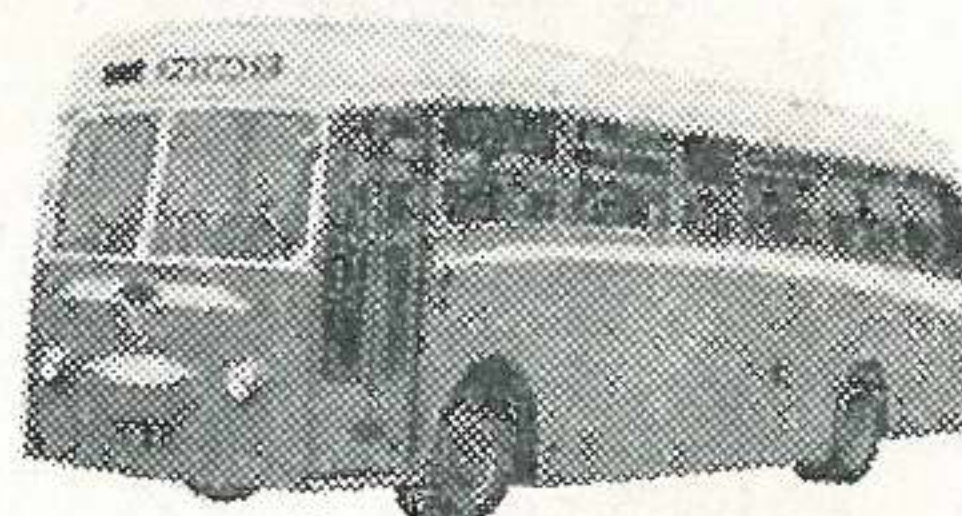
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## THE IMMORTAL HOUR

# Epic Tussle Amidst

SUNDAY, September 3, 1939, marked the end of an era. That morning the sad voice of Great Britain's Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, proclaiming a state of war with Germany, had closed the quiet, peaceful days of the carefree 1930s. Ahead lay the bitter years of war.

And in Dublin it seemed as though Nature herself was in gloomy sympathy with the grave forebodings of the day.

An early morning cloudless blue sky had given rich promise of a glorious day, but at noon, shortly after the grim words of war had burst upon the world, lowering clouds stalked darkly across the sky and by 1 o'clock the golden sun of the morning had disappeared.

Two hours later, a threatening darkness hung ominously over Croke Park, casting long shadows across the green in-field of the stadium and across the packed stands and terraces.

But there were no shadows in the hearts of the 40,000 odd spectators gathered in the stadium. For this was All-Ireland Day . . . and, war or no war, they were there from all parts of the country to watch one of the greatest spectacles of the Irish sporting year — the de-

cidating battle for the Blue Riband of hurling.

Between the traditional rivals, Cork and Kilkenny, whose historic final appearance eight years previously had provided one of the most colourful chapters in the history of the G.A.A.

The rumbling murmur of thousands of voices cascaded into a mighty roar, as first Cork, in their blood-red jerseys, and then Kilkenny, in the familiar black and amber, raced on to the pitch.

Ten minutes later, the preliminary ceremonies were over and the teams were lined up in the centre of the field. A shrill blast on the whistle . . . the ball was thrown in . . . and the 1939 final was on, with thirty of Ireland's fittest young men in grim combat.

With a whipping breeze at their backs, Kilkenny tore into attack, but their supporters' cheers of anticipation faded into sighs of disappointment as Jimmy Kelly's flying shot dropped wide of the posts.

Again and again the Kilkenny forwards swarmed back into the Cork half. A long drive by Paddy Phelan dropped out towards the corner and was pounced on by his namesake, Jimmy Phelan.

A flash of his hurley and the ball sped straight and true for the Cork net. Jim Buttimer dived in vain . . . and with three minutes gone, Kilkenny were three points up.

"The Immortal Hour", special Sport" from ace feature writer blow-by-blow description of the hurling final between Kilkenny Roderick's pen recaptures the storm-enshrouded hurling game a peaceful era, and the beginning —the first day of World War II new series in which "Gaelic Sport" memorable hours in Gaelic ga Immortal Hour" in our next issue

Jimmy O'Brien stretched the lead with a point, Jack Lynch struck back with another for Cork, but within minutes, Kilkenny were four ahead again with a point from a free by Jimmy Langton. Black and amber flags waved triumphantly all over the ground.

But now the Corkmen steadied themselves and fought back. Jim Young of Glen Rovers cut a sideline ball up-field and the swarthy "Mick"

# t Storm and War

Brennan smashed in a screaming shot that flashed inches wide of the posts.

Tremendous centrefield hurling by John Barrett and Jack Lynch sent Cork away again

ally commissioned by "Gaelic  
er Philip Roderick. is a vivid,  
he dramatic 1939 All-Ireland  
y and Cork. In this article,  
e electrifying tension of the  
ne which marked the end of  
ing of a new and bloody one  
II. This is the first of a great  
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ssue.

and this time the burly Ted Sullivan crashed past Paddy Grace and Peter Blanchfield to score a great goal. Only a point between the sides.

But not for long. Jimmy Langton broke away on the right and sent a beautiful shot soaring high between the posts. Four minutes later, after a dazzling move by young Bobbie Hinks had spreadeagled the Cork back-line, Jimmy Phelan slammed a powerful drive past

Jim Buttimer to stretch Kilkenny's lead to five points.

And so to the second half . . . and to one of the most dramatic endings in the long history of all-Ireland hurling finals.

For the first fifteen minutes the Kilkenny men strode on confidently towards victory . . . and then the heavens opened.

A sudden, frightening flash of lightning was followed by a shattering peal of thunder that seemed almost to rock the towering Cusack stand. Raindrops spattered down, gradually increasing to a steady downpour and finally to a deluge.

The light began to fail, but in the gathering darkness and under the rolling thunder and vivid flashes of lightning, the Corkmen seemed to gather courage for greater deeds from the terrifying conditions.

Slowly but surely they gained the upper hand in the titanic struggle. The Kilkenny lead was whittled away and as the game moved into the closing minutes they closed the gap to three points.

A Kilkenny man fouled in the centre of the field and up from the darkness of the half-way line came Billy Campbell

to take the free. A flash of lightning lighted his face as he lifted and struck a long ball into the Kilkenny goalmouth.

The tired, rain-soaked heroes of the Kilkenny back line bunched to stop it . . . but the ball dropped clear and trickled over the goal-line . . . past goal-keeper Jim O'Connell and into the back of the net. Level scoring!

The seconds ticked remorselessly away. Time was almost up when Kilkenny were awarded a "70". The ball dropped short of the Cork goalmouth and Alan Lotty, Batt Thornhill and Billy Murphy moved forward to block it down.

But, out of the mist and the driving rain came the flying figure of Terry Leahy in a bedraggled black and amber jersey. The Corkmen raced vainly to shut him off, but they were just that second too late. In the twinkling of an eye he was through and the ball was sailing over the bar for the winning point . . . to a mighty Kilkenny roar that almost challenged the thunder itself in volume.

And so it ended . . . an unforgettable, immortal hour of sport on the last day of peace and the first day of war.

By PHILIP RODERICK

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# A big step

"THE biggest step forward in the history of the game" was how one enthusiast described to me the recent decision of the Annual Camogie Congress to set about organising a Schools and Colleges Championship in all four provinces.

In Ulster, such a championship has been run successfully for some years past, and it is possible that the success of this venture has proved an inspiration both to the other provinces and to the Central Council.

But while the Colleges Championship is to be welcomed, it is essential that a deal of careful planning be devoted to it in advance so that it can be run in such a way and on such a scale as to bring credit to the whole Association.

And the chief reason why I feel that it is essential that these championships should be a success from the start is this: It is from the girls who take part in these competitions that we must look for the future officials and legislators of the game.

It is imperative from the very start that we face facts, and the glaring facts of the matter are these, that whereas 20 years ago the vast majority of our Convent Schools and Colleges were active exponents of the game, and in many cases its greatest propagandists, such has not been the case for many a year past.

For that change of front we, ourselves, are entirely to blame; for the long series of often pointless wrangles which split the Association for more than a decade reduced the prestige of our game almost to vanishing point in the very places where prestige was most badly needed. And the goodwill that was then thrown to the winds has not been at all easy to win back.

For more than a decade past the Association has been battling slowly but surely back towards the nation-wide position it once held, but how

hard that uphill battle has been is instanced by the slow regrowth of the game in every province.

Now that camogie is again taking the place it should in the life of the nation, it is high time that we set Schools and Colleges competitions on a firm footing; but it will be no easy task, and it is one that requires a deal of careful thought and planning.

It is essential that no province, for a start, seek to achieve more than it can directly accomplish. It is better to start small and build up rather than plan at the beginning grandiose schemes that may prove impossible to put into practice.

The G.A.A. Colleges competitions, which to-

(Continued on page 31.)

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# MATCHLESS O'MALLEY!

TO Roscommon people and the men of the West, his name has been a by-word for more than a decade. And still he goes on, yet a giant on the football and hurling fields of Ireland . . . the great-hearted, indefatigable GERRY O'MALLEY. The red-haired Kiltoom man has won almost all the honours of Gaelic games, but one—an All-Ireland senior football medal. Many men of far less merit have achieved the ambition of being on the winning team on All-Ireland final day at Croke Park.

But, always, when the decider of the football championship for the coveted Sam Maguire Cup has been played, Gerry O'Malley has been on the sideline—a spectator.

He might not have been. In his job as an agricultural instructor he has been most of his life out of Roscommon. Other counties would have been delighted to have him. But Gerry has stayed loyal, through good times and lean times, to his home club and Roscommon.

Gerry O'Malley has never wavered in that loyalty. His home club, St. Bridget's, built up by him through sheer guts and perseverance, has won the Roscommon senior football title for the past two years.

He has been their inspiration . . . in team-building and on the field. And, for nearly a dozen years, he has been the brightest star of the Roscommon senior football team, urging them on and on to still greater efforts.

Gerry, now about 30, first came to prominence with U.C.G. in the Sigerson Cup series back in 1947. In that year, too, he made his first appearance with Roscommon—in a challenge against Kerry.

Profile of a  
Football giant  
By  
FRANK O'FARRELL

Since 1949, he has been a regular member of Roscommon senior football teams, never failing to turn out when called upon. He has, too, been an automatic choice on all Roscommon hurling teams.

Medals he has stacks of . . . Connacht senior football, provincial junior hurling, Sigerson Cup, Railway Cup (he has been on the Connacht football team ever since 1950), and county football and hurling.

Nearest he ever came to the coveted All-Ireland medal was in 1953 when Roscommon  
(Continued on page 31.)

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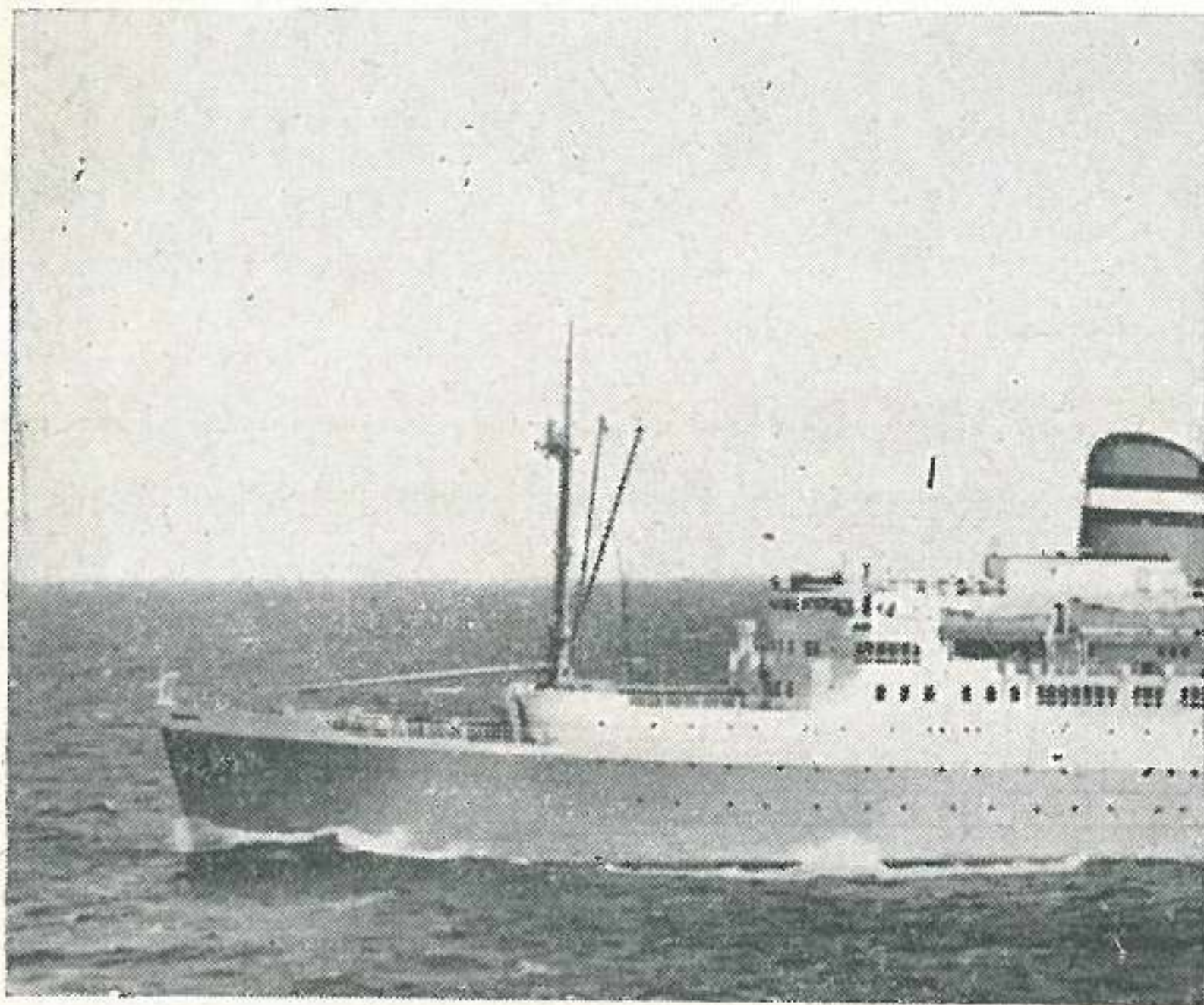
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A sad spectacle indeed; as, once Mohammedan, they will never become Catholic.

Boys and girls who desire information or advice as to how to become a Missionary Priest or Sister will receive any assistance they need by writing to:

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(From page 29.)

went down by a single point to Armagh in the semi-final. The previous year Meath beat them by two points at the same stage.

But Gerry has never despaired. He plays the games for the sheer love of them—he often played two in one day—and loses with the grace of the wonderful sport that he is.

His style, in football and hurling, is far from being pure orthodox. But he has a shrewd brain, safe hands, a wonderful kick or puck, and a fierce energy that seems to be endless. With all these, too, go a matchless courage and will-to-win.

When all seems lost and other hearts begin to flag, Gerry O'Malley is the rallying point . . . the light that can inflame again. From his best position, centre half-back, his fierce solo sallies right into attacking position have often brought a team from near-defeat to resounding victory.

He has played, too, at centre-field and pivot of the attack. And, always, when things go wrong somewhere else on the field, Gerry is there to save the situation.

Bigger and heavier men he has met—he is 5ft. 11ins. and 13st.—but never has he played second fiddle to any man on a football field. Even at the end of the most gruelling hour, O'Malley is still vital and full of go.

Never off form—he keeps training all the time—Gerry is a teetotaller and smokes only an occasional cigarette. Gaelic games absorb almost all his spare time and thoughts.

Sporting and clean? Even in the toughest encounter and in the most provocative circumstances, he has never raised a hand in anger. It's the ball, not the man, for him . . . the game for the love of the game and the thrill of winning it or taking in friendship the hands of the men who have conquered.

Dr. Donal Keenan, chairman of Roscommon County Board, pays this tribute: "For years, all our teams have been built around this wonderful Gael. And, in spite of many reverses, he continues to remain loyal to his club, his county and his province.

"He has done the most magnificent work for the games in the county, both as a player and as

an organiser. We, and Gaeldom in general, owe him a very deep debt of gratitude."

Gerry, shy and unassuming, will not talk of his achievements . . . "I love the games and enjoy playing them, win or lose. I am glad if I have done something to promote them," he says.

If Gerry O'Malley, hero of so many encounters, does not win an All-Ireland football medal—he may, of course, because he is still playing—here's a suggestion for the Gaels of Roscommon: Have struck, in the purest gold, a special medal in his honour and inscribe it: "To Gerry O'Malley, for matchless loyalty to Roscommon and the G.A.A. . . . and for all the All-Ireland medals you merited but did not gain."

If any player ever deserved the honour, Gerry O'Malley is the man.

---

# CAMOGIE

(From page 27.)

day are nation-wide, began on a comparatively small scale, and it would be better perhaps to follow that early example than to try to imitate all at once the present system of Colleges G.A.A. administration.

Besides, the problem of finance will be a crucial one. The only way to offset it may be the establishment of a kind of regional championship in each province, the winners to meet in the semi-finals or finals.

But, despite the difficulties, these College championships must be established, and must be established on a firm basis if camogie is to recover its prestige and build for the future. And to make the scheme a success only one thing is needed—the co-operation of present and past players and officials in every county.

It will, I think, call for at least three years of concentrated effort to make the venture a permanent success. I do not think three years' effort is too much to call for from those who have the best interests of camogie at heart.

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Football

RULE CHANGES says:

# Congress forgot the forwards

WELL, Congress has come and gone—and as regards playing rule amendments it has gone for another five years; so it's as well to examine now what it achieved, after a great number of hours spent on a great number of motions.

Perhaps it might be a better idea first to see what it did not achieve, and in this connection it certainly did not achieve one thing—an intelligent understanding of a very important motion from Donegal which sought to extend the parallelogram.

When this motion came up for discussion at Congress all those who spoke on it said that, from a previously-passed motion which allowed him to pick the ball off the ground, the goalkeeper had already got enough of a concession and sufficient protection.

But, surely, the extension of the parallelogram was aimed to benefit the forwards. At least any time I've heard this proposal discussed in recent years, the general idea was to give any forward fouled inside the fourteen-yard line a penalty, in the hope that this would stop all the dragging and pulling down of forwards just outside the parallelogram.

Yet, when the Donegal motion came to be discussed not a single delegate out of over 200 raised a voice on behalf of the forwards. All the discussion hinged around the goalkeeper's advantage, and the motion was lost.

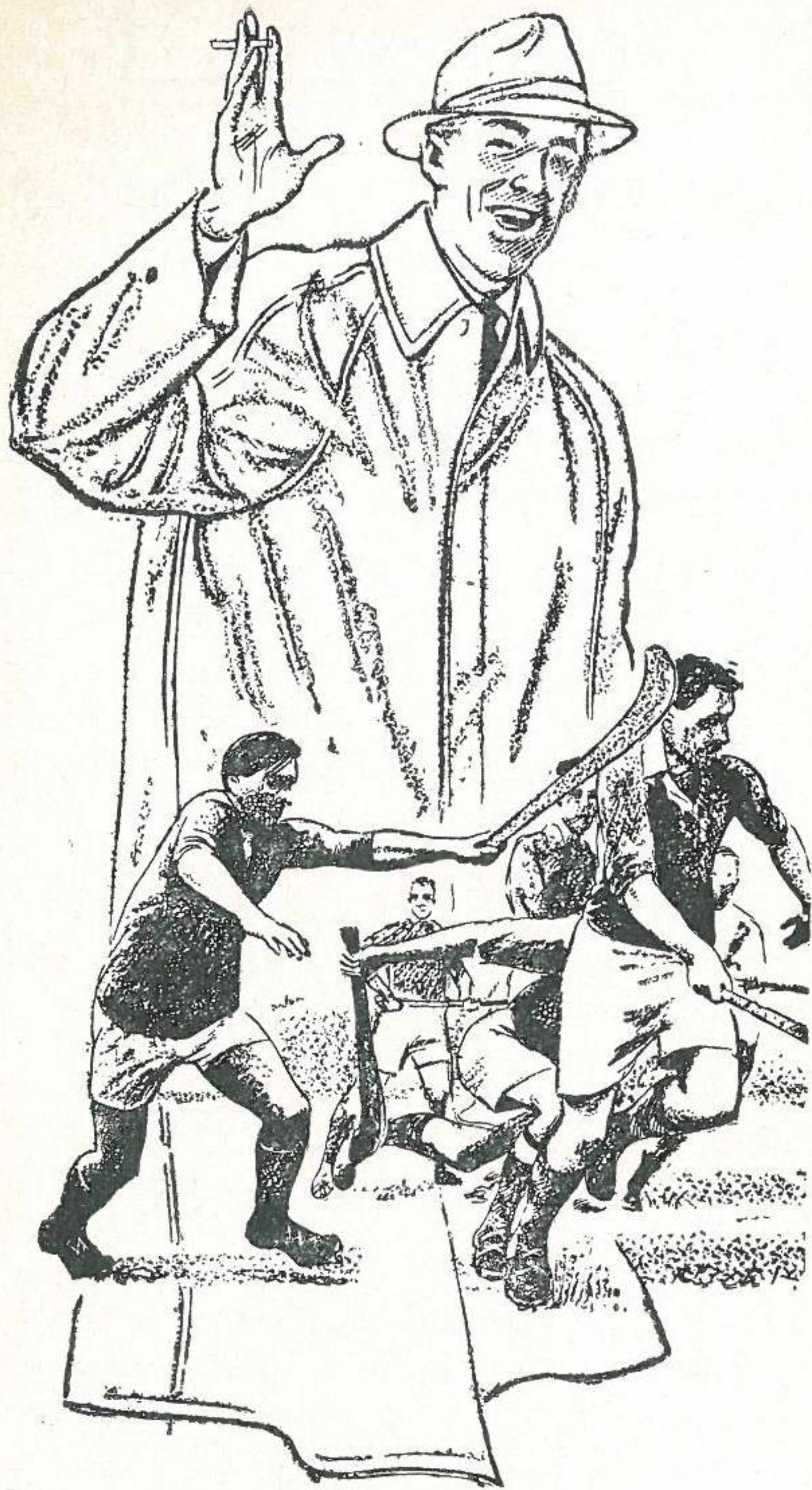
As regards that particular concession given to the goalkeeper to pick the ball off the ground, this was something long overdue and got the best support at Congress. But I can only deplore the fact that Congress didn't go all the way and insist that the goalie wear a distinctive jersey.

The main reason advanced against this addition to the rule was that it savoured too much of foreign games. No notice at all was taken of whether or not it would be good for the game; whether it would help the referee, the players, or spectators, or whether it was in fact being done by some counties (my own among them) for a number of years. The move was condemned simply and solely because it might contaminate our games or our players. To those who advanced that as a serious view I give the charity of my silence.

I thought the efforts made at Congress to amend the rule about placing the ball for frees particularly confusing, and the result even more so. Up to this year, the player had the exclusive right to place the ball, and numerous motions sought to take this from him.

The appropriate rule as amended by Congress now reads: "*The referee shall place the ball for a free or indicate the place from where the free is to be taken.*" But if the referee only indicates the place, who is going to place the ball? The player, of course—and we'll be right back again where we started. As a matter of fact, all Con-

(Continued on Page 35)



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(From Page 33)

gress succeeded in doing here was to create confusion.

The new rule imposing a penalty for exceeding three substitutions and allowing a player to play the ball again after it rebounds off the cross-bar were really only remedying obvious defects in the previous rules.

The only other important amendment made was to permit players to "sell a dummy". I couldn't help feeling that this was a kind of sop to those counties which had already failed to have the hand-pass reintroduced.

This latter motion was debated very ably and at some length; it got a majority but not the necessary two-thirds majority, and so was declared lost.

It did show one thing, though—that opinion on the merits of the punched pass has changed radically in the last ten years. In 1950 over two-thirds of Congress were in favour of the punched pass. This year it hadn't the support of even half of the members present.

All this leads one to regret the defeat of a Cavan motion which suggested a trial period of a year before any playing rule amendments be finally ratified. It was a most intelligent approach to a fairly real problem, especially in the matter of any radical rule amendment, and it did, I feel, deserve success.

One final comment. Has it struck anybody that practically all the motions to amend the playing rules at this year's Congress concerned

football only? Further, of all the motions passed only one concerned hurling (players to stand 14 yards from a sideline ball), and this was to bring it in line with football!

This seems to indicate that hurling has at last reached its peak of development.

Having seen some great hurling games in the past year, I certainly hope so. At least there's very, very little I'd like to see changed now.

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By  
**SEAN  
O'NEILL**

# CLARE MEN REMEMBER

**N**INETEEN THIRTY-TWO—it's a long time ago, well over a quarter of a century, but down in Clare they still remember. It was a fine summer, ideal for long journeys and for many thousands of Clare men and women, 1932 meant travel. First to Thurles, then Limerick, and finally Croke Park. Clare hurling was on the march in those days, not like now. Claremen had every reason to feel proud then, even boisterous, as the saffron and blue marched triumphantly from venue to venue.

Most Claremen knew it was coming. In 1927 Clare had been level with Cork at half-time. A season later they drew with Cork and then lost in the re-play while the Leesiders went ahead to annex the all-Ireland title. In 1930 Clare beat Cork only to lose to Tipperary in a thriller. Tipperary won the title that year. 1931 saw Cork edge Clare by four points and again Cork won the title.

Then came 1932. On July 3 Clare had little difficulty in qualifying for the Munster final with a one-sided win over Kerry.

A fortnight's rigorous training at Mountshannon under the tutorship of national teacher Stephen Clune—who had trained the vic-

torious 1914 Clare side—and the Banner County men were ready.

Twenty-five thousand spectators packed the Thurles ground and only the old and the very young failed to cross the Shanon and travel South.

Clare won the toss and John Joe Doyle decided to play with the breeze. Referee Willie Gleeson blew the whistle and the Munster final was on. Clare attacked, but the experienced Cork defence held out. Five minutes gone and then the first score—a point for Clare by "Tull" Considine. Then it was all Clare, with Houlihan scoring two goals and a point before Cork goaled near half-time.

It rained during the interval and when play resumed the breeze blew the rain into the faces of the Clare defenders. Cork came fighting back. A 40 yards free by Hurley was finished to the net and a few minutes later Cork added another goal. Clare's lead had been cut to two points and Cork were still pressing; but try as they did they could not raise another flag during the quarter of an hour which followed. Like Cuchulainn of old, the mighty Pat "Fowler" McInerney defended the

ford and behind him the immortal Tommy Daly was unbeatable.

Could Clare hold out? Six minutes to go, and then came glorious relief. "Tull" Considine broke away to score a great goal. Clare had broken Cork's spell of supremacy. Cork added a point, but Clare goaled again and in the dying seconds of the game Cork had the final score — a goal by Hurley.

The whistle blew and Clare were Munster champions by 5-2 to 4-1. Cork had lost their all-Ireland title.

On Sunday, August 14, the Limerick grounds were packed well beyond capacity. The trees outside swayed as the more nimble late-comers scrambled for vantage points. Referee Flaherty of Tullamore appeared the only relaxed human in the whole arena as he calmly checked his watch, then some papers, and finally his watch again. At last he took three steps forward, threw in the ball and the all-Ireland semi-final was on.

A quick pass from Mick Gill to King and Galway were a goal ahead. From the puck-out it was evident that Galway were the faster side and before five minutes had passed they had clearly

demonstrated their speed with three well-taken points. On the twelfth minute Burnell goaled for Clare, but before the Banner County spectators ceased their cheering, Galway goaled again, and again, and by half-time the Tribesmen led 4-7 to 2-0.

Part of the crowd left the grounds. In the middle of the field a small group of die-hard Clare supporters mingled with their fallen heroes and it was with compassion rather than hope that they listened to team mentor Fr. Murphy call for three quick goals on resumption. Cork trainer Jim Barry was at hand to give a brief rub-down and a few words of encouragement.

Hardly had play begun when Galway were away again to add three further points. They now led by 16 points.

Then out of the blue came a Clare goal and seconds later another followed. A group of spectators who had been about to leave the grounds hurried back into view, and when Houlihan added another Clare point they began to try to retrieve their abandoned positions.

However, it all seemed a waste of effort when King and Gill added a point each for Galway to leave them thirteen points ahead. Exactly the same amount of minutes remained. A flow of spectators began to move towards the exits.

On the 49th minute Mullane placed "Tull" Considine for a goal and a minute later Conroy had a point for Clare. Galway rallied and the "Fowler" cleared. Further exchanges and eight minutes remained, with Galway eight points ahead.

Then, the genius that was "Tull" Considine struck again when he goaled from a Gleeson touch. O'Rourke had a Clare point and King had a similar score for Galway. Four minutes

(Overleaf.)



*GEORGE KANE scores Westmeath's first goal in their Leinster first-round senior football championship match against Laois. Westmeath qualified for the semi-final, in which they meet Kildare.*

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# 'Tull' makes it safe

(From page 37.)

to go and Galway five points ahead.

Then Considine was through again and only two points remained. And then the impossible . . . "Tull" beat them again for another goal and Clare were ahead!

The tide had been turned back, and with extra time ticking away the amazing "Tull" Considine beat the Galway defence again to score his sixth goal and clinch the issue. On the stroke of time Houlihan had a Clare point, to leave them winners by five points, 9-4 to 4-14.

A car-load of Galway supporters who had left the grounds early in the second half were coming back out from Limerick city as the crowd swarmed from the front exits. A joyous Galway lad put his head out of the window of the car and shouted sarcastically: "Who won the match?" "Clare," said the man on the road, and the Galway men in the car laughed and went home discussing their prospects in the final.

Exactly one month later Clare were in Croke Park. It had been a long wait as "Fowler" McInerney could have told . . . 18 years since the day, in 1914, when he won his first all-Ireland medal. But he was back, and so was "Tull" Considine, who played in the 1917 football final when Clare lost to Wexford. And, of course, there was Tommy Daly; he had been there on many occasions before, having won all-Ireland medals with Dublin in 1917, '20, '24 and '27.

The critics said that this final could not come up to the standard of the previous year, when Cork and Kilkenny took two replays to decide the issue. However, few believed them and a new

record gate of over 33,000 was established. Not since Brian Boru led the Dalcassians to Clontarf was Clare so deserted

Clare were first to settle down. Taking a grip at mid-field, they laid siege on the Kilkenny goal.

Eventually, Gleeson pointed. Ned Byrne was back some minutes later to level for Kilkenny, but quickly Connery put Clare ahead again with a point. Houlihan had a further Clare minor from a "70," and nearing half-time Kilkenny had a like score by Eddie

Doyle. The score stood Clare 0-3, Kilkenny 0-2.

A determined Kilkenny fifteen took the field for the second half and, within a matter of minutes, Martin White had two goals and Matty Power a third. Kilkenny were eight points ahead.

The Leinster men's fast, open play, sweeping from wing to wing, had the dour Clare defence in trouble. However, John Joe Doyle and his men slowly regained their grip. Gleeson was again supreme against Lory Meagher at mid-field.



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Tom Burnell broke through and crossed to "Tull" Considine. It was a goal. Again Burnell was through to beat Dermody in the Kilkenny goal. Only two points remained.

Victory was now in sight. Clare men threw every ounce of their remaining strength into the fray. Time and time again they attacked, but Kilkenny held out. Time was ticking away; Clare supporters stirred restlessly.

Then Gleeson had the ball at mid-field. Shaking off two Kilkenny men, his stroke had the ball sailing towards the Kilkenny goal. The crowd held their breath as the ball dropped.

Then a hand grabbed the sliotar from mid-air and "Tull" Considine was in possession. He weaved and turned, leaving Paddy O'Reilly, the Kilkenny full-back, three clear steps behind. Only fifteen yards between "Tull" and the goal with its lone defender. Fifteen yards between Clare and an all-Ireland title. "Tull" steadied himself . . . swung . . . and missed.

Yes, the fabulous "Tull" Considine, the greatest forward of his era, had missed the ball and the chance of a lifetime. Paddy O'Reilly was on him and hooked his second attempt. Dermody cleared and it was all over.

Yes, they can still recall that fine summer of 1932 down in Clare, and they still like to talk about it. The past has its glory . . . the future, little promise.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# Men of Many 'Colours'

By SEAN FEELEY

**I**N the olden days it was not uncommon for players, especially good players, to travel far afield and play with clubs, and at times counties, to which they had no allegiance.

I remember Tom Gardiner, that great Clare and Tailteann Games player of the 'twenties, God be good to him, once telling me of how he and Dr. Atkins, now president of U.C.C., once had it hot and heavy in a Dublin club game. The following Sunday Tom was "drafted" to play for Lees in the Cork County Final and as soon as he had lined-up in the middle of the field he saw, to his amazement and horror, that it was his "foe" of the previous Sunday who was acting as referee.

Lees won the game and there was nothing in the referee's report to give the opposition grounds for an objection.

This style of illegal travelling does, of course, still exist, but to a much lesser degree and we don't wish to embarrass anybody by telling tales; so we will confine ourselves to players of recent years who travelled, but who did so legally.

One of the most travelled players of recent years was, undoubtedly, Columba McDyer. A native of Donegal, he represented his home county for a period and was chosen for Ulster. He then moved to Sligo, and as a result of his displays with that county he was chosen for Connacht. Finally, Columba moved to Cavan, and in 1947 he won an all-Ireland medal in the Polo Grounds, New York.

In more recent years still, two Kerry men succeeded in playing with three counties, they were M. J. Palmer and Tom Moriarty.

Palmer played with Cork before he declared for his native county and finally he had a short spell in the Waterford colours. Tom Moriarty won an All-Ireland with Meath in 1954, then

played with Wexford and last year he was in action with the Kerry junior and senior teams

The only player that I know of who succeeded in playing with four counties is Lieut. Vincent Blythe. In 1952 he was on the Cavan minor side which lost to Galway in the All-Ireland final and the following year he was back with Mayo to win a minor All-Ireland medal. Having played with the Mayo seniors for a brief spell, Vincent then went on to play for Leitrim, and finally Tipperary.

Numerous players have played club football in three or four counties, but Brendan Lynch's record takes some beating. The great Roscommon half-back of the 'forties played with clubs in no less than eight counties.

I have not got the exact figures for Paul Russell or Eamonn Boland, but both of these men must have given their talented services to clubs in at least six counties.

Frank Meaney of Clare must hold a record for Munster football in that he won county championship medals in half the counties of the province. Together with his native county, Frank holds senior championship medals for Tipperary and Kerry.

In the old days, when there was no declaration rule, numerous players found themselves in the Dublin colours by circumstance rather than choice.

The most unusual of these cases was that of Mick Gill. With his native Galway in 1923, he played a big part in helping the county win the All-Ireland hurling title. However, the 1923 final was not played until September 14, 1924, and exactly three months later Mick starred for Dublin against Galway in the 1924 final! Dublin won by 5-3 to 2-6 and that meant that Mick had won two All-Ireland medals in one year—a record which is unlikely ever to be equalled.

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**N**EVER before in the entire footballing history of Down have we experienced such a harvest of achievement. During the county's run from November, 1958, the representative fifteen have claimed the Lagan and McKenna cups, taken the provincial championship, defeated Galway at Wembley, opposed again this excellent footballing machine at Croke Park in the semi-final of the 1959 all-Ireland, but were beaten on that occasion by a more experienced team.

Bravely they faced up to the might of Kerry in the battle for the Cuchulainn Cup. However, it takes more than stout hearts alone to pin down any side from the Kingdom, and the men from the Mourne again tasted defeat. But they came back and now they have captured their first really big prize—the National Football League.

The present team will, no doubt, be recalled in the years to come for their wonderful performances; for they have, by trial and tribulation, perfected a class of football that is clearly marked — OUR OWN. Looking at this county fifteen as they troop out on to the field, the first thing that I notice is their immaculate appearance; then, by comparison to all other teams they have met, they appear to be much lighter and smaller.

Whether this is an actual fact or not in so far as the inches are concerned, it does not in any way effect their performances—as they have proved in no uncertain manner.

The most outstanding feature about their play is its obvious intelligence; away for all time is the rush, grab-and-kick-full-of-hope football; it has been replaced by precision, determination, allied to a sharp awareness of teamwork.

No matter where football is discussed to-day in Ulster, it is almost certain that the name of Down will be mentioned, consequently Gaelic football is being talked about, not only in pubs, at street corners, or in the fields, but

in circles where not long ago it was classed as nothing more than a bogman's pastime, or was taboo altogether.

Riding then, on the crest of the wave as the county is at the moment, those who were lacking, or at least lukewarm, in their interest have risen again on their elbows and begun to stir themselves. Protestant people make no bones about their enthusiasm; when the Railway Cup was brought back to Ballykinlar by Pat Doherty last March, the first person to tell me about it was a Protestant housewife, who also admitted that she listened to many of the games broadcast from Radio

recognise any weakness. But the main thing, I am convinced, is that our national games are being discussed by all creeds and classes.

Weekly publications and more especially the recognised Unionist press are devoting columns and columns to Gaelic sport, realising full well that they have a reading public who are interested in the game and its personalities. True, these papers are criticised for their lack of taste and backsliding, but perhaps owners and editors are businessmen first in this twentieth century.

In and around Down it is realised by those who ardently support the team that they owe

# Down Converts the Scoffers

By P. J. LENNON

Eireann, especially those featuring the home county or Down players.

Only a matter of weeks ago I received the first of a series of letters from a young Down lad who had joined the R.A.F. and who now was taking his final examinations, and for his written thesis he had chosen "Gaelic Games in County Down." Needless to add, I gave this courageous boy all the help I could.

Admittedly, this fresh awareness of Gaelic activity is good and generates many heated arguments about the merit, style, skill and the ability required to play the game.

Should you be a sideline spectator to such vocal exercises you would most likely come to the conclusion that more harm is being done than good. I do not agree, despite the fact that the protagonists now and then are those who refuse to see any good in Gaelic, and those who fail to

the players a double round of applause, and a vote of confidence is certainly due to the county board. These backroom men have doggedly stuck to their guns against criticism which sometimes, on the face of it, looked fair enough, but resolutely the policy was maintained and subsequent results have proved that they were right on top of their responsibilities.

Under the guidance of George Tinnelly, Maurice Hayes, Brian Denvir and Barney Carr, to-day's team has been welded into a sharp, hard-hitting force, capable of producing a class of football which is a sheer delight to watch.

Who can tell, when the wheel finally makes its full turn we may yet learn that our sporting sons and their mentors have gained a victory by their steadfast example where the politicians failed.

# BID FOR GLORY

by LEO KENNEDY

**K**INGS of Gaelic football! Yes, that's the latest title for Gaeldom's latest "big-time" football force—the fifteen red-and-black jerseyed heroes from Co. Down.

True, they're not all-Ireland champions. But all who watched their triumphant march in the recent National League will readily agree that the Mourne men have, for the time being at any rate, supplanted Kerry as the greatest force in football.

And, make no mistake about it, that's mighty fast travelling for a county that, no later than four years ago, languished dangerously near the bottom of the ratings.

But then came that punch-packed five-year plan when the county board officials, troubled by the county's dismal record, set about the job of giving Down her rightful place in the football sun.

Success came none too easily at first, but gradually the team took shape and, by 1959, they were ready, willing and able to match strides with the greatest.

And just how splendidly Down took their place with the elite can be gauged from a glance

at the record-book which shows that, since February, 1959, they have suffered defeat only four times—against Galway in the all-Ireland semi-final, against Kerry in the Cuchulainn Cup, and again in the recent Listowel tournament and against Derry in the McKenna Cup a couple of weeks ago.

A dazzling record certainly. Yet, the greatest prize of all is missing—the Sam Maguire Cup.

Will 1960 see the Down men achieve their big ambition and bring the "big pot" across the Border for the first time in history?

Right now their prospects must be very bright. After all, they have met and mastered the best in the country, the same opposition as they will encounter in the all-Ireland series.

But can they hold that form right through the summer months and still have that little extra in reserve for that gripping occasion on the last Sunday in September?

Mind you, it's going to take quite a lot of doing. The road to all-Ireland honours is strewn with pitfalls for any team, but in the case of league champions it's even more difficult still.

(Continued on page 47.)

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(Continued from page 23.)

Donegal—have given many good players to the county such as Dradden and Burke, and so have Letterkenny, Lifford, Carndonagh, Donegal and others, but the youth of the county are very seldom seen with the caman.

Therefore, progress has been made in certain places, but in other areas difficulties such as expenses, injuries and emigration have wiped out whole teams.

The chances at present of a complete revival in Ulster are small, but if Donegal and Down and some other county came up to the same standard as Antrim, I believe that success would be in sight.

Antrim's junior success last year didn't get the necessary results and, knowing the difficulties, I would suggest the following as a help to improve the standard of our native game.

(1) Start in the schools; appoint a coach—a former All-Ireland hurler such as Ring, Mackey, Tommy Doyle—to train the boys in the art of hurling.

(2) Bring more first-class hurling teams to Ulster so that the ordinary people who never leave their own districts will see the brilliance of the game.

(3) More films such as those made by the National Film Institute—and a better coverage of hurling in Northern papers. We see very little in the press of the

great hurling clashes in the Glens of Antrim, in the Ards Peninsula or in Burt in Donegal.

(4) Hurling and camogie should be organised jointly.

(5) Develop the Mid-Ulster League on a county basis within the weaker counties.

It is to the youth of the province that we look for a revival. If every college in Ulster had a hurling team, with continuous practice and a sincere effort by administrators and players, we might see the game develop rapidly.

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**M. O MEISCILL,**

Priomh Oifigeach Gnothach.

Scoil Ceard-Oideachais, Roscomain.



(From page 44.)

Theirs is the unenviable job of having to maintain peak fitness right through from April to September—an almost impossible task as any member of the Dublin senior football team will tell you.

Yet, for all that, I expect these fifteen superbly-trained Down men to make a king-sized effort to bring the Sam Maguire Cup into the “Wee Six” this season.

From goal-keeper Eddie McKay right down to Brian Morgan in the No. 15 spot, the team packs power in plenty and now that they have become seasoned in the “big-time” stuff they will prove a hot handful for the best.

If you doubt me, just take a look at that sturdy, water-tight full-back line. I rate Pat Rice as the best left-full in the game just now and, with high-fielding Leo Murphy in the centre and the leech-like George Lavery on the right, this outfit will take a deal of rounding—even from the best.

And, then again, the Mourne men have one of the greatest “generals” in the game in dapper, long-serving Kevin Mussen.

Mussen—the man the Ulster selectors said was finished no later than three months ago—has come storming back to the form which made him one of the best wing-halves in the country a few years ago.

Another “veteran” who has played a major role in the Northerners’ climb to the top is mid-fielder P. J. McElroy. Written off as a “has-been” three years ago, this burly ex-college star has grabbed his chance with open arms to become one of the key men of the team.

With Joe Lennon, now fully recovered from injury, I expect big things from Down’s mid-fielders in the coming months.

Throw in the deadly accuracy of forwards

Paddy Doherty and Brian Morgan; the shrewd, calculating brain of Sean O’Neill; the whole-hearted work of James MacCartan and Tony Hadden, and you have a solid, workmanlike fifteen that can hold its own in any company.

Can they do it? I think so—particularly if Lennon and McElroy can work up a good understanding in the vital mid-field area.

But they must adhere to a judicious training schedule, not to over-do it in the early stages of the Ulster tests but to gradually work up to peak fitness for the crucial all-Ireland games.

If they can manage this, then Down must be a good bet for the Sam Maguire Cup next September!

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## RAILWAY CUPS

Sir, — In the March issue of "Gaelic Sport" you stated that inter-provincial Railway Cup games were established in 1927. I think you have made a mistake in dates.

I think it was in 1902 that my father, William Foley, of New Bawn, Co. Wexford, together with Tom McGrath and Paddy Breëen, also of Wexford, were selected to play for Leinster and helped the province to win the first Railway Cup.

William Foley, I believe, won two medals with Leinster. In 1923, Free State soldiers took over and made headquarters of his licensed premises at New Bawn. While they were there his medals were "lifted" and he never saw them again.

It was in 1902, too, that Mr. Michael Cusack presented my father with his blackthorn walking stick. It was at a meeting in New Ross, and Mr. Cusack was acting as chairman.

Just as he was about to sit down some blackguards pulled the chair from under him and the old man fell heavily to the ground. Immediately, William Foley and Sean Etchingham chased and caught the culprits and took them back to Mr. Cusack to apologise.

Mr. Cusack then presented his walking stick to William Foley and his watch to Sean Etchingham, and complimented them both for their quick action.

I now have the blackthorn stick in my possession at my home in Dublin.

**Michael Foley.**

Ballyfermot, Dublin.

Many thanks for your very interesting letter. 1927 was definitely the year of the first Railway Cup finals. You are probably confusing these competitions with the old Railway

Shields, which, according to our records, commenced in 1905.—Ed.

## DOWN TOUR?

A Chara,—Now that Down have won the National Football League I think they have earned a trip to America. Yes, I know they are playing New York here in October in the St. Brendan Cup final; but couldn't they make the visit after that?

It is just unfortunate for Down that they won the League in the year in which the New Yorkers come to Ireland. Otherwise they would be now getting ready for an American tour on the League champions' official ticket.

Anyway, wouldn't late October or November do? And maybe they'll have the Sam Maguire Cup wrapped up then as well!

Let's hope that there will be an invitation forthcoming to Down from America. And if it does, I can't see any reason why they shouldn't be allowed to go. After all, all sorts of teams have been trotting out there for the past five or six years. Even a club team, Castlebar, are going this summer.

**"Red and Black."**

Newry.

## SCRAP THE LOT

A Chara, — I think Congress acted very childishly on Easter Sunday when dealing with the motion which proposed that the goalkeeper in Gaelic football be obliged to wear a distinctive jersey. This motion was thrown out because too many delegates thought that it would be "aping" a foreign game.

And they gave the goalie permission to pick the ball off the ground. Isn't that "aping" soccer, too?

If the G.A.A. want to be dif-

ferent, they had better scrap ball, goalposts, field, jerseys, boots, stockings, referees — the lot. Because soccer uses similar equipment!

As Barney Carr of Down said, they should try to invent a square ball.

**"Disgusted."**

Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

## IRISH TELEVISION

Sir,—I would like through the medium of your fine magazine to call on the G.A.A. to make every effort to ensure that the National games get proper treatment from the new Irish Television Service.

If the television crowd adopt the same attitude as Radio Eireann has done, I fear that the G.A.A. will get very little time on the screen. It will be all foreign games again, and tiddlywinks.

The G.A.A. must make sure— if only for the sake of their followers throughout the country who are sick listening to all the sports, even the most insignificant minority ones, which get the time that should be devoted to the nationally popular Gaelic games—that Irish Television will give hurling and football a fair deal.

**Felix Maguire.**

Belfast.

## AMAZING FEAT

A Chara, — Perhaps you could help a couple of pals and myself by answering a query. Did some player win three All-Irelands— minor, junior and senior—in one year. We have been arguing a lot about it, but we can't find anyone who can give us the answer around here.

**Three Minors.**

Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Yes, the great "Sweeper" Ryan won minor, junior and senior All-Ireland hurling medals with Tipperary in 1920. Ed.

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