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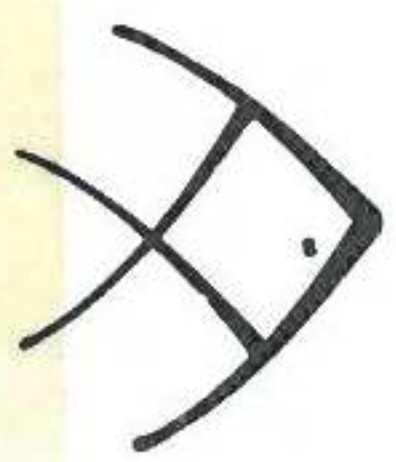
Gaelic Sport

GAA



JUNE, 1966. Vol. 9. No. 6.

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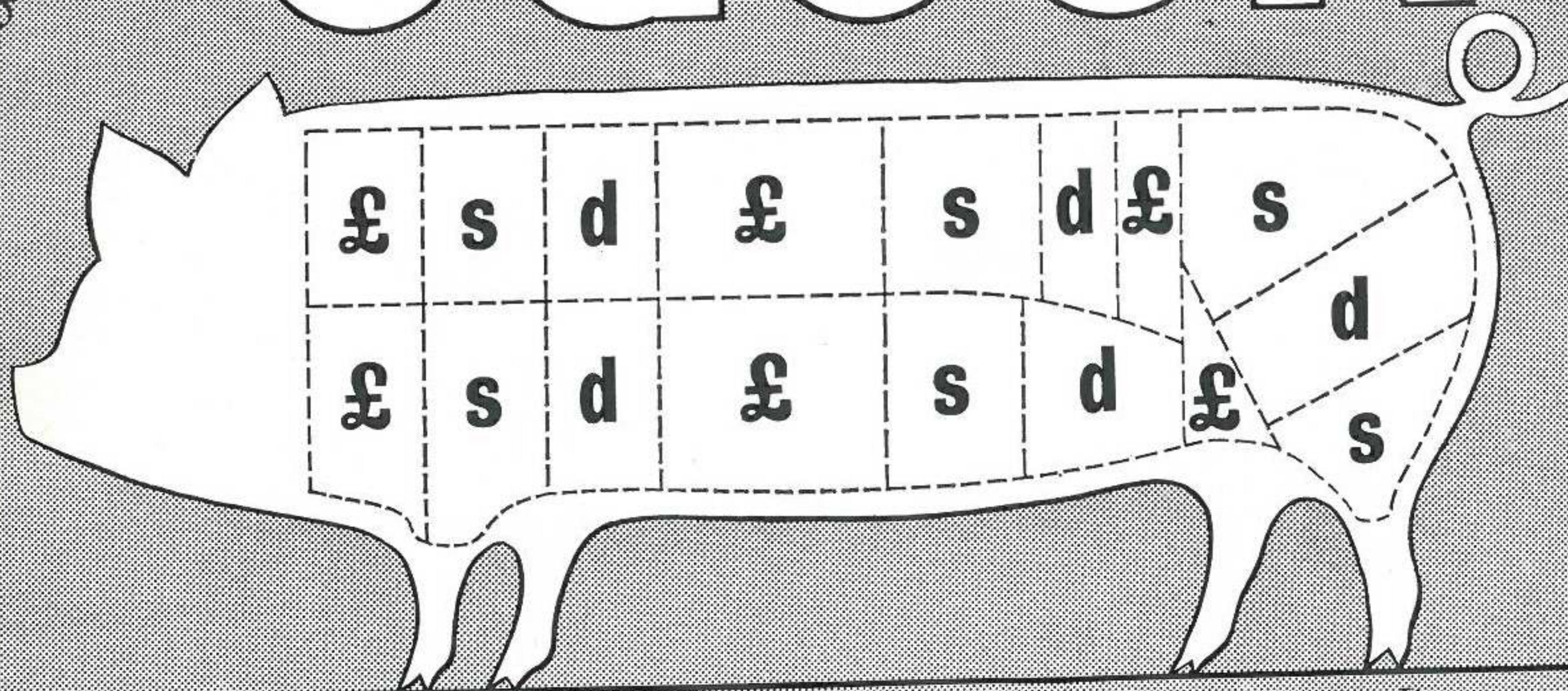
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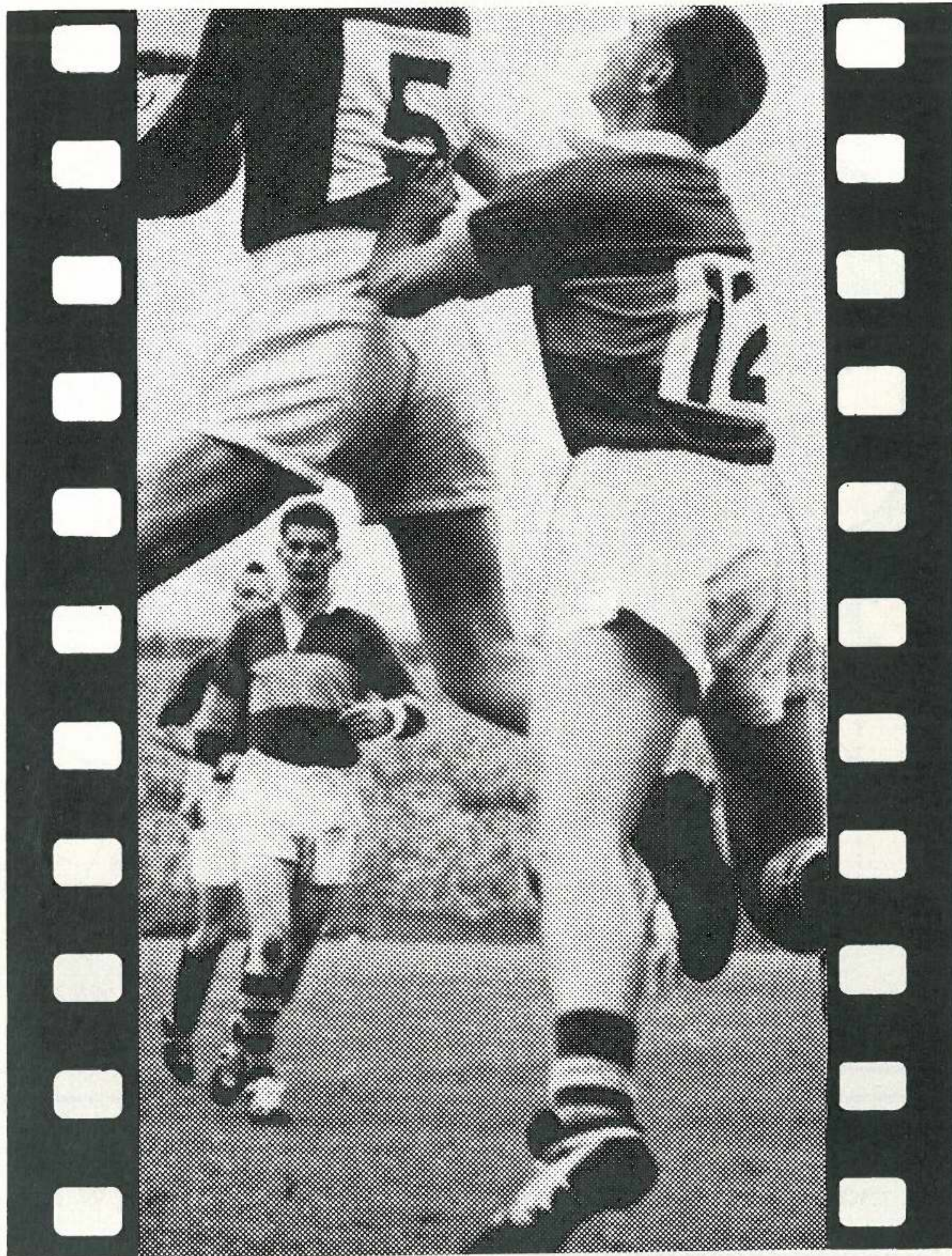
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 9. No. 6. June, 1966

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INDEX

	Page
<i>Jubilee Authors</i>	
—by the Editor	4
<i>Startling Figures</i>	
—by Eamonn Young	5
<i>Presidents of the G.A.A.</i>	
—by Terence Roynane	7
<i>Must Galway Bully the Rest?</i>	
—asks Brian Doherty	9
<i>Moondharrig's Diary</i>	13
<i>Championship Preview</i>	
—by "Observer"	15
<i>Looking Around</i>	
—by Brian Doherty	16
<i>Johnny Geraghty: An Interview</i> —by Sean O'Donnell	19
<i>Men at the Top in Ulster</i>	
—by John O. Grant	20
<i>Fóirne Trír Deug</i>	
— <i>Moladh ag Seán Ó Dúnagáin</i>	23
<i>Let's Liberate the Referee</i>	
—says Dan McAreavey	24
<i>Northern Spotlight</i>	
—by Conallach	31
<i>Munster Medley</i>	
—by Séamus Ó Ceallagh	33
<i>Connacht Comment</i>	
—by Chris Murray	34
<i>Burns a Clear Leader</i>	
—by Owen McCann	35
<i>Get the Right Kit</i>	
—by Eamonn Young	37
<i>Camogie</i> —by Agnes Hourigan	39
<i>Top Ten and Letters</i>	40
<i>Leinster Round-up</i>	
—by Frank Hughes	42
<i>Advice on Training</i>	
by Eamonn Young	43
<i>Not so Fantastic!</i>	
—by Owen McCann	46
<i>Handball</i> —by Alleyman	47

COVER PICTURE

OUR colourful cover picture this month shows Lar Foley (Dublin) and Vincent Lucey (Kerry) battling for a high ball as two of the Kerryman's colleagues, Joe Barrett (left) and Pat Griffen, look on.

COMMENT

POPULAR MOVE

THERE appear to be mixed views on the recent decision to place seating under the Cusack Stand at Croke Park, thereby reducing the overall capacity of the ground by 9,000.

The most formidable argument against the scheme is that there will now be no covered standing-room and that this is a hardship which will have to be borne by the loyal band of 'regulars' who turn up at the national stadium Sunday after Sunday.

Secondly, it is suggested that the move is a concession of defeat as to the effect of television on attendance—an admission that never again will 90,000 people want to enter Croke Park on a September afternoon.

Reasonable though these points may be, we still believe that the move is a popular one. Why? Because you and I and Fr. Pat, who is home from the Phillipines, now have a 30 per cent. better chance of getting an All-Ireland ticket.

And human nature being what it is . . .

By THE EDITOR

The Jubilee authors

I AM on the subject of books once again but this time it is not in praise. I don't suppose you have read Tim Pat Coogan's IRELAND SINCE THE RISING. Hardly since it costs 42/-.

Mr. Coogan I know only from television. The first time I saw him was about two years ago. He was interviewing and "crucifying" a young Trinity student who held views in favour of the revival of the Irish language. Mr. Coogan obviously had little time for the language.

I remembered this a few days ago while leafing through a copy of his recently published book. The thought struck me that he might have something to say about the G.A.A. A look at the index showed that he had—pages 202-205. As might be expected it was not complimentary.

I have not got the book in front of me as I write so I therefore cannot quote—but I can still recall most of what he wrote. His main concern was the Ban and he did not like it. He found it odd that more time should have been devoted to the Ban at the 1965 Congress than in praise of the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh. He also noted that there was a big decrease in the pro-Ban support at the 1965 Congress—and he had it on good

authority that the Rule was due for deletion at Congress 1968.

I wonder if I need comment. It would be superfluous.

He also had some vague point about the attendance at Croke Park on All-Ireland final day being equal to the entire population of the Gaeltacht; and he further noted that Down won an All-Ireland title in 1960.

It strikes me that Mr. Coogan's knowledge of the G.A.A. is very limited and his search for simple facts concerning it appear to have been anything but exhaustive.

Not having read the rest of his book, I cannot comment on it, but I do hope—purely for the sake of Irish penmanship—that he is a little more on the ball when he discusses other aspects of Irish life.

And then there was that other book, REBELLION by W. A. Ballinger. Last month a campaign was started to have this book banned and among those who signed a request, asking the Minister for Justice to do so, was Alf Ó Muirí, the President of the G.A.A.

This got a surprising amount of publicity and the usual letter writers crawled out of wherever it is they hang out to avail of the entire affair to cast further aspersion on the President of the

G.A.A. The book or what it contained obviously did not concern them. They simply saw another chance to throw mud. The same letter-writers are familiar for their anti-Ban epistles.

But what is this book REBELLION all about? Why does Alf Ó Muirí and other prominent people feel that it should be removed from circulation? There was only one way of finding out and that was to procure a copy.

REBELLION is a novel. It was published in London in March of this year. Its author, W. A. Ballinger, is, I understand, an Englishman.

The story concerns a raucous, hard-drinking, stage-Irish, young man named Declan O'Donovan who takes part in the Rising. The author weaves O'Donovan's adventures in and out through a somewhat factual account of the Rising.

The scene opens in O'Connell Street at noon on Easter Monday. The G.P.O. is about to be taken over. I quote from paragraph three:

Dark-green, hand - stitched uniforms and civilian clothes with a yellow brassard about the arm; rifles and shotguns, pikes and clubs, bayonets and aged swords. Weapons stabbed the air and com-

● TO PAGE 41

AS much as £20,000 a year Telefís Éireann is costing the G.A.A. That's the startling statement made by the Editor in the May issue. Even, as he suggests, if the definite loss is only half of that, it's enough to put one sitting up.

Having examined the case, a process I would recommend to any follower of the games, I find no reason to disagree. The Editor gives the figures for Railway Cup matches, All-Ireland semi-finals, and finals for some years before the television arrived and for the games since then. By a simple process of multiplication and addition taking average admission fees he goes on to show that in the games televised the Association is losing £10,000 every year (and if one is to consider the natural increase in attendances which could be expected in recent years, he figures that the loss could be up to £20,000.

The fee paid by Telefís Éireann is £10 per annum and it should be said that, as far as I know, this was regarded as satisfactory by the Association.

Are we then content to suffer an annual loss of £10,000 at least, for the privilege of televising the game? Think of what the money could do for twenty country clubs by way of dressing-rooms. No, it's not reasonable to suggest we should and there's the obvious remedy.

Firstly let us realise the merit of the televised games. Think of the joy they give to old people and to those who need a little uplift when stricken down by illness. I won't forget the Saturday when Ned Roche and I called in to see four old men waiting for death in the incurable hospital on our way to the football final. The parting words of the man I loved best was: "I wonder will we live

STARTLING FIGURES

till the day the finals will be on the television." One of the four nearly did.

For old-timers like them we would do a lot to show the games; for the men and women who for other reasons, some of them financial do not attend, we must also televise, and the players themselves we mustn't forget either.

But if the programme is valuable to the Association, it's general appeal and morale, so also is it to the televising authority.

The first and most obvious solution is to demand a sensible fee from that body to offset at least in part the loss of which I remain convinced while the editor's figures stand uncontradicted.

Failing that the alternative is to refuse the televising of the Railway Cup finals and All-Ireland semi-finals. The finals do not suffer a great drop in receipts due to their unique attraction and in any case it seems that American television compensates financially for these.

For the reasons already stated this second solution is not one that appeals to me. To depart from the financial aspect for the moment I want to repeat an experience of last year.

One summer Sunday I called on an ex-player friend—a man who had driven, walked, cycled, and run to games, not all of them in good weather.

"Are you going down to the game?" I asked.

"No", he said, "I'll see the match on television. Will you stay?" I left him.

Up the road I met an elderly woman.

"I suppose Jack is going down to the game," I said.

"Indeed he's not," she snapped. "We were to go for a walk but he's stuck inside now with his nose to the television for fear Kerry will be beaten without him."

The last call was to a spacious and well-furnished club-room. Inside there were ten young men, all players of one type or another. The windows were darkened to keep out the light of God's day. There was no sound: the minor game was on. I didn't make a fool of myself by asking was anyone going to the game.

The game which I attended was a senior hurling club championship which always drew a good gate. You should see it. Lonely? The biggest crowd was in togs.

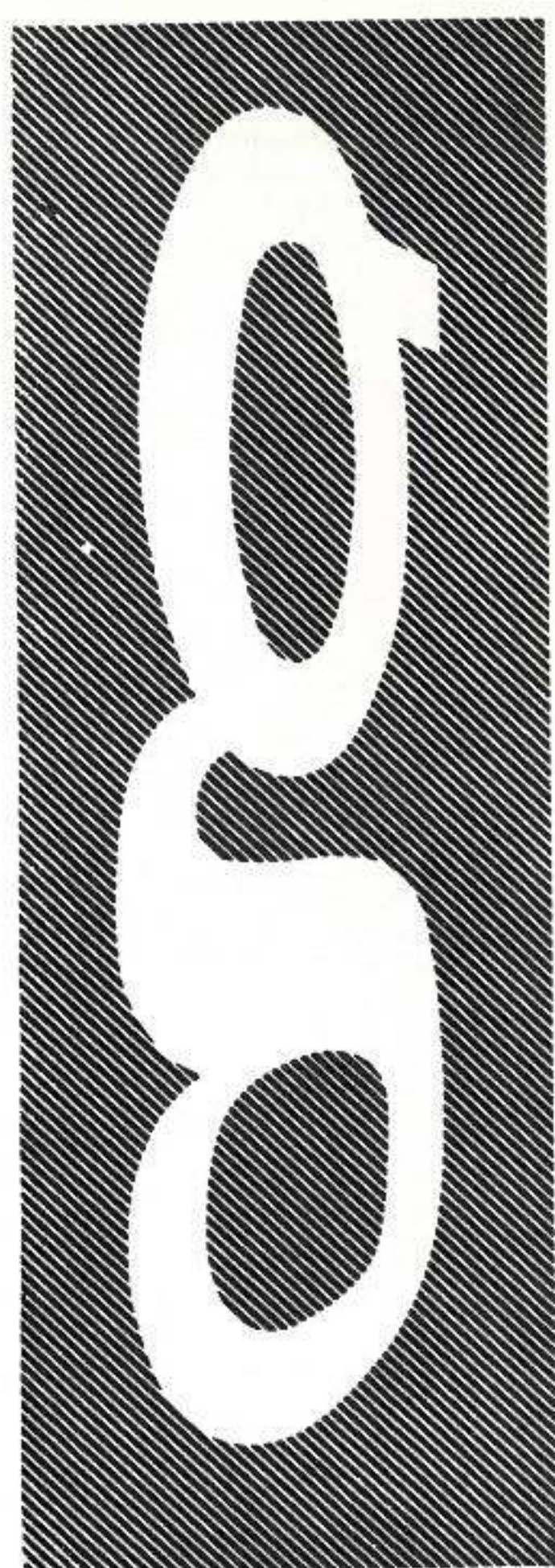
The day after, people asked what I thought of the match. Foolish to the last, I thought they were talking about the senior club game.

Are we going to allow Telefís Éireann to turn us into a nation of armchair sportsmen?

Is there anything more strange than the sporting organisation which helps to provide an attraction so efficiently hostile to the objects of sport?

We simply cannot allow the

● TO PAGE 41



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Presidents of the G.A.A.—2 & 3

E. M. BENNETT

AND

PETER J. KELLY

By
TERENCE ROYNANE

THE second and third Presidents of the G.A.A. are men whose names are rarely recalled nowadays, yet each of them, E. M. Bennett of Ennis and Peter J. Kelly of Loughrea, was significant in his own way.

E. M. Bennett was a noted Nationalist of his time, but he was a man of whom comparatively little had been heard in G.A.A. ranks before the stormy Convention of 1887.

Bennett, a man well known in Clare for being more in the Fenian tradition of Nationalism than an admirer of Mr. Parnell's Parliamentary Party, was the nominee of the outgoing Executive for Presidency of the Association at the 1887 Convention.

Maurice Davin, who had been President of the Association since its foundation in 1884, had withdrawn from the Executive in the Spring of 1887, but his resignation was never formally accepted. When Convention time came round there were two causes of dissension. In the first place the Executive was at loggerheads with the Dublin County Board and a number of clubs, following the 'proclamation' of the Freeman's Journal Sports.

In addition, Gaels who were members of the Parliamentary Party feared that the Fenians and the physical force men were gaining control of the Association.

The result was a very stormy Convention at Thurles in 1887, at the end of which E. M. Bennett

was elected President by a substantial majority over Maurice Davin, who was not present.

A number of delegates, however, led by some well-known clergymen from Tipperary and Clare, left the Convention, and held a meeting of their own, electing Davin President of their section.

A rather bitter controversy followed for some few weeks but it was eventually agreed that new county conventions be held, the delegates to attend a new All Ireland Convention of a re-united Association.

E. M. Bennett was beaten for the chairmanship in Clare, and though he was president at the subsequent Convention was not a candidate for the Presidency which was resumed by Maurice Davin.

Although he was a well-known public figure for many years afterwards, being in turn Clerk and Chairman of Ennis Board of Guardians, Mr. Bennett never again took any prominent part in G.A.A. affairs. He died in 1910.

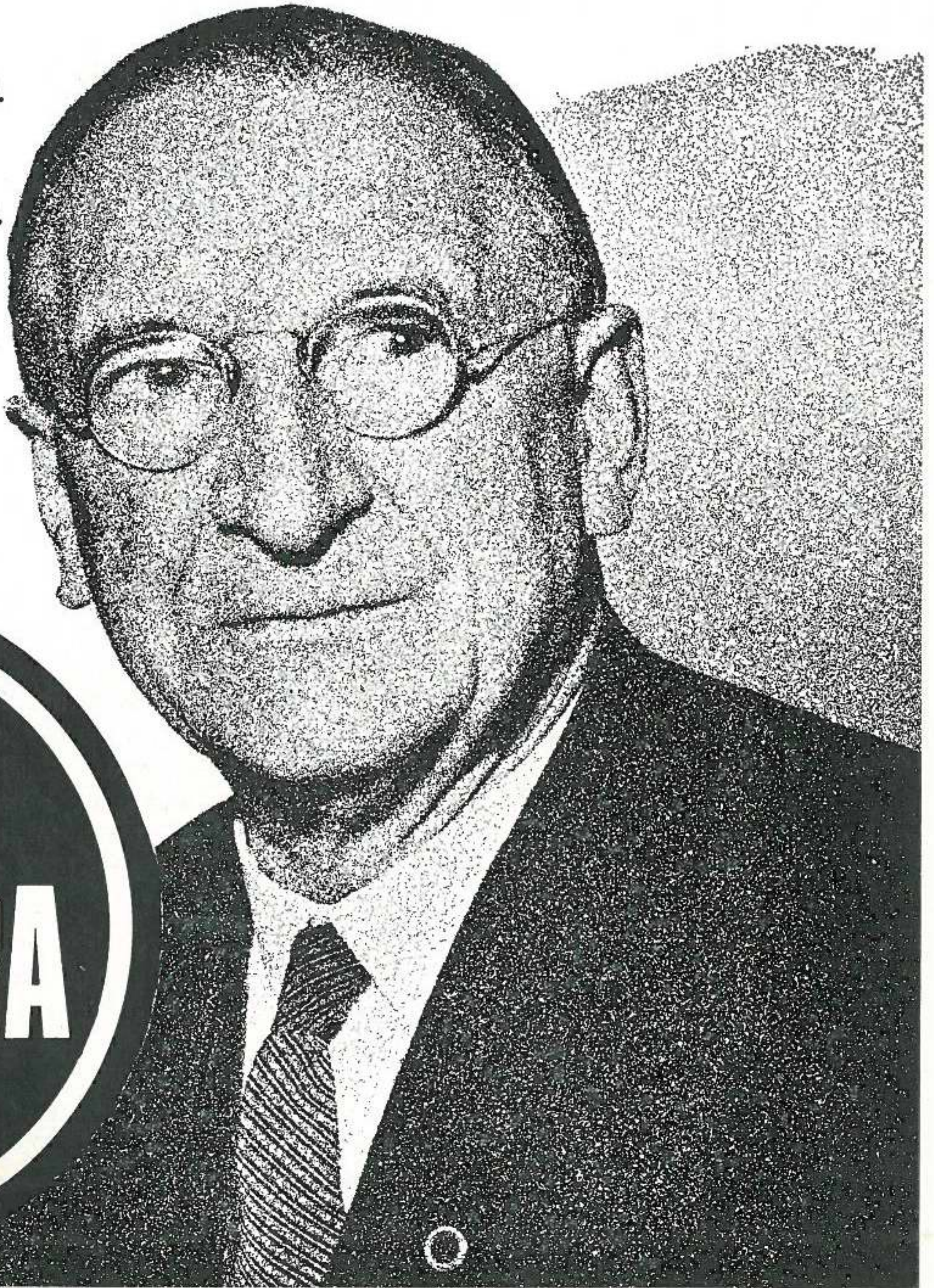
PETER J. KELLY

A native of Killeenadeema, near Loughrea, Peter J. Kelly was closely connected with the G.A.A. in the West from the very earliest days of the Association. A firm friend and constant associate of such Gaelic pioneers in County Galway as Pat Larkin of Kiltormer and Willie Duffy of Loughrea, Peter Kelly was elected Secretary of the very first Galway County Board in 1887.

● TO PAGE 48

PRESIDENT OF THE NATION

*Ireland still needs
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dedicated his life to the
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His re-election as our President
will serve our country well.*



**VOTE
DeVALÉRA**

MUST GALWAY BULLY THE REST?

I MUST take issue with my fellow-scribe, Eamonn Young, who in last month's issue suggested sending the Galway hurlers back to "Connacht—or to Hell". A fine headline that but the ideas behind it show little regard for the hurling revival—or indeed I believe for Galway hurling either.

Yes, I know that the Galway County Convention voted in favour of a return to Connacht but it was a close vote and a selfish and defeatist one.

Defeatist? What else. The Tribesmen have been given a fair deal in Munster—everybody admits that. They get the same hurling grants from the provincial council as does every other Munster county. They also get the same chance of coming out of Munster in the championship.

Galway have not been good enough to come out of Munster and so qualify for a place in an All-Ireland final. Neither have Clare or Limerick during those same years. Clare, in fact, have not won a Munster senior hurling title in 34 years—yet they don't cry about it. They simply keep on. Now they have a fine young team which one

of these days is going to win its way into an All-Ireland final—and more power to them.

But seemingly a good section of the Galway hurling public have not got the grit to take defeat on the chin and keep coming back. They want to run away from the contest and go back into safe little Connacht and so get a free ticket to the All-Ireland semi-final every year — or maybe to the final as they did in 1958.

It is defeatism pure and simple. Why don't they face up to their responsibility and be men. They opted for Munster and were welcomed. Let them stand up like men and do something about the fact that they are getting defeated year after year.

This year for example Galway have but to beat Waterford to qualify for the Munster final. Seeing as Waterford are far removed from the power they were, this is a gift offering for the Tribesmen. What are they doing about it?

On top of all that there is the fact that those in charge of Galway juvenile hurling at present are

doing a great job. Since the hurling revival plan was launched last year the Galway juvenile committee has given a lead to all other counties in the manner which they have gone about their work.

If my memory serves me rightly, I read some months ago in the hurling statistics issued from Croke Park that there were now more juvenile hurlers in Galway than in either Tipperary or Cork. This being the case surely Galway are simply bound to enjoy a breakthrough in a few years time—provided, of course, the defeatist attitude of the back-to-Connacht brigade does not demoralise the youngsters.

And I also said that it was a selfish approach. It is selfish because if Galway are allowed back into Connacht it will destroy the fine hurling revival work which is being done in the other Western counties.

With Galway out of Connacht, Leitrim, Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo are fairly well matched. They can battle it out for the provincial minor, junior and under-21 titles. Last year, for example, Leitrim won the provincial minor hurling title—the first hurling honours ever to come to that county. The year before Mayo won the minor title and in 1963 it was Roscommon.

Gradually the other four Connacht counties are bringing hurling forward but they have years to go before they can hope to match even a poor Galway team.

When Galway were in Connacht there was no point in the other counties fielding teams against them. It would be a laugh. But as soon as Galway went out of the province the other counties began to rally to hurling and the current happy position is the result.

If Galway return to Connacht during the next ten years it will, as sure as night follows day, ruin

● TO PAGE 11

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● FROM PAGE 9

all of the good work that has been done.

Eamonn Young attempted to draw a comparison between the position of weak hurling counties in Leinster and those in Connacht. He suggested that Laois, Offaly and Carlow were confronted with strong counties in Leinster as would Roscommon, Mayo and Co. in a Connacht championship which would include Galway.

This is nonsense. There is no comparison between the state of hurling in Laois, Offaly or Carlow and that of say Mayo, Leitrim and Sligo (Roscommon I leave out for the moment).

Laois, for example, were in the 1949 All-Ireland senior final. Two years ago they qualified for the minor final. Offaly have just won Division II of the National hurling League, while Carlow were intermediate champions three or four years back.

In other words these counties may be "weak" when compared with Tipperary, Kilkenny or Wexford but being weak is one thing and being a complete beginner is something else altogether. It will be years before Leitrim, Sligo or Mayo come up to the "weak" stage. Whether or not they reach even that point depends entirely on Galway staying out of Connacht hurling.

As a final thought and compro-



Tom Boland . . . Galway's great hurling goalkeeper of the 1950's.

mise solution, Eamonn suggested keeping the Galway seniors out and letting the Galway minors, under-21, etc., back.

This again is nonsense. In fact, as far as the other Connacht counties are concerned the Galway seniors can come back any day provided the other grades are kept out.

The seniors would do no harm as it will be a long long time before Sligo, Leitrim and Co. have a senior team to enter in a Connacht championship. But it is the minors and under-21 teams which would ruin the day.

And before Eamonn Young starts talking about Galway minor teams raising the standard in Con-

nacht and "hardening" the lads from the other Western counties, I would ask him to stop and think for a minute.

Most of the youngsters who are now playing hurling in the other Connacht counties took hurleys into their hands for the first time last year. They are not like the youngsters in Laois or Carlow or anywhere else (except, of course, some of the Ulster counties). They are only starting to learn how to swing the sticks. A handy Galway juvenile parish team would run rings around any parish minor team in Sligo, Leitrim or Mayo—and probably Roscommon too.

The latter county is the slight exception. It has a small pocket area where there is a hurling tradition and as a result the county won the All-Ireland junior title last year. But outside of that area the rest of the Roscommon youngsters are also beginners.

So Galway let's give these young hurlers in the rest of Connacht a chance. They need a few years at least to get a grip of the game. Don't be the big bully going back and taking the ball off them.

Yes, stand up Galway and play your match in Munster. Take your beating as Clare and Limerick have done for years—yes Eamonn Young—and as Laois and Carlow and Offaly have been doing for years in Leinster.

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- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5/6/66 : Tulach Mór—Laois v. Iar-Mhí. Senior Football 3.30 p.m. | 12/6/66 : Ceathárloch—Loch Garmán v. Ceathárloch. 3.30 p.m. (Football fé 21 bld.). |
| 5/6/66 : Longport—Cill Dara v. Longport. Junior Football 3.30 p.m. | 19/6/66 : Cill Choinnigh — Loch Garmán v. Áth Cliath. 3.30 p.m. Senior Hurling. |
| 5/6/66 : Inis Córtaidh — Ceathárlóch v. Loch Garmán. Junior Football 2.30 p.m. O'Byrne Cup. Senior Football 3.45 p.m. | 19/6/66 : Tulach Mór—Longport v. Laois. 3.30 p.m. (Football fé 21 bld.). |
| 12/6/66 : An Uaimh—Lugháí v. Áth Cliath. Junior Football. Senior Football. Times later. | 26/6/66 : Páirc an Chrocaigh nó Portlaoise—Laois nó Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí. 3.30 p.m. Senior Football. |
| 12/6/66 : Tulach Mór nó Portlaoise—Iar-Mhí nó Ua bhFáilí v. Laois. Senior Hurling 3.30 p.m. | 3/7/66 : Páirc an Chrocaigh nó Portlaoise nó An Uaimh—Luíhaí nó Áth Cliath v. Cill Dara nó Ua bhFailí. 3.30 p.m. Senior Football. |

Páirc an Chrocaigh : Senior Hurling Final. 17/7/66
Senior Football Final. 24/7/66.

LESSON FROM LONGFORD

THE victory of Longford in the National football League home final was hailed with delight by thousands of their faithful followers at Croke Park on the afternoon of their historic victory. The more recent championship defeat by Louth in no way diminishes the achievement.

This was a victory that must have aroused at least an equal delight in the hearts of all those players and followers in 'weaker' counties which have not thus far succeeded in winning a national title in the senior grade.

After all, as far as numbers and facilities are concerned, few counties can be rated as 'weaker' than Longford. True there is in the county a great centre of the game, St. Mel's, but the diocese for which St. Mel's caters extends far beyond county Longford, and adjacent counties also benefit from the football tuition provided in the College.

Longford, however, has refused to be daunted by the seemingly impossible task of reaching top class with only a very limited pool of players on which to draw. In beating all the leading football teams in the land over the past few months they have won themselves a whole host of friends, but they surpassed all previous achievements when so deservedly defeating the holders and All-Ireland champions, Galway, in the decider.

Whether Longford can remain very long at the top remains to be seen. They do face a very obvious difficulty in having such a relatively

small pool of man-power in the county on which to draw.

The regular players have proved themselves equal to the best, but the teams that have long winning sequences are usually those whose reserves are little if anything less effective than the first fifteen.

Longford does not seem to have the power in depth that the bigger counties can boast of, and this means that the same small group of men have to keep on bearing the weight Sunday after Sunday.

However, these Longford lads have shown a most remarkable capacity for taking that weight thus far, and if they are fortunate enough to avoid being unduly hit by injuries, they must be a leading football team over the next couple of seasons, but whether or not they can succeed in bringing the Sam Maguire Cup back to the county to which they have already brought honours hitherto unknown remains to be seen.

I certainly expect them to return to the winning trail as soon as the League gets underway in October. Then too they face two meetings with New York. The Louth defeat was, no doubt, a major disappointment to Longford's loyal fans but it is by no means the end of the road.

Personally I have a feeling that the Sam Maguire Cup will this year travel not to a new county but to territory that has been pretty familiar to it during the past few seasons—Galway, Down or possibly Kerry, even though so many people had written off the boys from the

Kingdom before ever the championship campaign started.

I, for one, do not think the Galwegians are a spent force, and I expect to see them back in there right through the summer.

Down have shown by their McKenna Cup victory over Donegal that they are swinging back towards the form they showed towards the end of last season, while they seem to be developing that great safeguard to greatness I mentioned earlier, the strength on the reserves' bench that can make all the difference between victory and defeat during a long and strenuous campaign.

As for Kerry—well, even though the boys from the Kingdom had not an impressive outing in Croke Park in the last twelve months, they are still a side of tremendous potential and I will be surprised if they do not make the best of them travel in 1966.

Cork will be a big stumbling-block to them in the South, of course, but still I rather expect to see Kerry and Galway meet once more in the All-Ireland semi-final next August.

Down should be one of the teams in the other All-Ireland semi-final. But who will their Leinster opponents be? Well, I will tell you that around the second last Sunday in July. No one ever knows what exactly is going to happen in the Leinster senior football series and this year the issue there looks even more open than ever before.



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The Championship

A look in the crystal ball

By "Observer"

BY the time next month's issue of GAEILIC SPORT appears the Munster senior hurling championship will have narrowed down to four counties. Waterford and Galway will still have to play their semi-final game but two of either Clare or Cork, Tipperary or Limerick will have gone.

On June 5, Tipperary begin the defence of their crown when they meet Limerick. On face value the champions appear a safe choice—with probably something to spare. But how much they will have to spare depends largely on Limerick who are the most temperamental team of our time.

These Limerick lads have plenty of hurling ability and there is no shortage of young talent in the county, yet they just cannot stay air-borne. Every now and then they rise and give promise of soaring into the clouds, but it is short lived and down they crash once more.

I cannot see them beating Tipperary but I do hope that they will give it all they have got and at least make the champions earn their passage to the provincial semi-final.

Then on June 19, we have Clare and Cork and here is a somewhat more open game—although Clare must certainly start favourites.

These counties met twice in the League. Clare won the first one and lost the second. However, there was a margin of luck attached to Cork's win in that second game

and following the fillip received by Clare in their fine performance against Tipperary in the League semi-final at Croke Park, I think we can look to a very determined bid by them in the championship.

As I see it then, it will be Tipperary and Clare again in the Munster semi-final and it could be the decisive game of the Southern championship.

In the Connacht football championship, Roscommon are at home to Leitrim on June 12 and it is a toss-up with maybe the home venue swinging it, while the following Sunday Sligo play Mayo at Sligo in the provincial semi-final.

This latter game is an important one, for if Galway are to be stopped in Connacht this year it will be by either Sligo or Mayo.

Mayo have talent but have failed in recent years to blend it together successfully. They are the sort of team which could click some day without warning and then, on the otherhand, they may never slip into gear.



MICK REYNOLDS
Galway

For dependability, I take Sligo to advance.

Up North, Monaghan play Fermanagh at Clones and Antrim are hosts to Derry—both on June 5. I fancy Fermanagh and Antrim to come through. Derry could, of course, cause an up-set but I feel that their time is still to come.

The following Sunday, Tyrone play Down at Dungannon and here it must be Down, while on June 19 Cavan and Donegal will be at it again at Cavan.

Form points to Donegal and while the venue may trouble them, I still stick by the form-book.

On the last Sunday of the month, Armagh play the winners of Fermanagh-Monaghan and it must be Armagh to qualify for the semi-final against either Donegal or Cavan.

In the Leinster hurling championship, I expect Wexford to beat Dublin on June 19 and so qualify for what will surely be another provincial final between themselves and Kilkenny.

All in all though it could be quite an interesting series of championship games. The old stagers will naturally start favourites but there could be a surprise or two.

Louth have already caused one and are now the dark horse of the Leinster football race. Could Armagh prove another such runner in Ulster—or Clare in Munster hurling?

There will be some right good games before we know for sure.



LOOKING AROUND

By BRIAN DOHERTY

"THEY should have brought back Ring," said I to a veteran Corkman as we left Croke Park

after the National Hurling League semi-final.

"They should have," said he,

"and Jack Lynch, Jim Young, John Quirke, Paddy Donovan and any other old-timer that is still able to walk a bit."

I got his point. No doubt you do too.

Ring would certainly have got a few scores. He is still as good as any two of the present Cork forwards. However, I do agree that those who insist it would not be fair to the man himself to bring him back, have some logic behind them too.

What is wrong with Cork hurling takes some explaining. Against Kilkenny, the vast majority of the Leesiders appeared no better than average-type intermediate players. Their hurling simply was not of senior Munster standard.

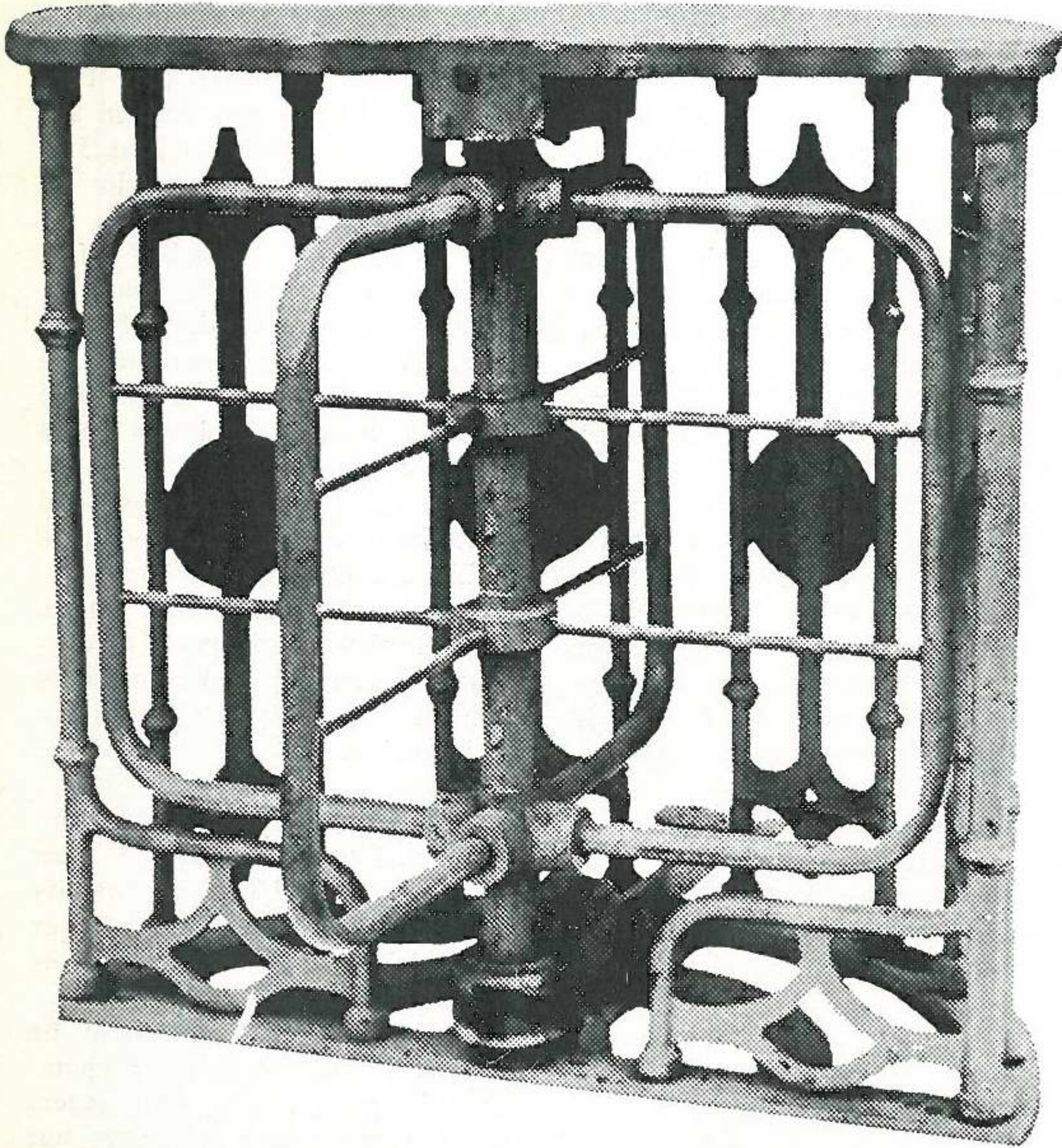
Why this should be only God knows. There has been more juvenile and minor hurling in Cork during the past ten years than at any time in the county's history. All of these lads came up through the ranks and should be good—but they are not.

Was it an off-day? I don't think so.

What of Clare, though, who the previous Sunday gave such a fine performance against Tipperary?

Here we have a very promising side with plenty of hurling ability and speed and determination to burn. I reckon that there is an All-Ireland title in that Clare team—in 1967. It is up to the county mentors to keep them together and see to it that the morale and spirit is maintained. Provided this is done, this young

● TO PAGE 48



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ANOTHER WINNER

BOOK REVIEW

THE overall impression given by Raymond Smith's recently published book, *DECADES OF GLORY*, is that a colossal amount of work went into the writing of it. This 382-page work tells the story of hurling and in doing so captures all of the colour and majesty of the oldest and most traditional of our native games.

Here one finds all of the great teams and all of the great players who have adorned the hurling scene during the past eighty years. One is given a remarkably clear insight into every era.

To do this author Smith does not simply rely on his own research or interpretation. Instead he draws continuously on the recollections of the men who were there—ranging from Jer O'Leary of Killarney who remembered the Kerry hurlers of 1891 winning the All-Ireland title in their bare-feet, to John Doyle who won his 8th All-Ireland medal in 1965.

Right through we have the views of the men who made the history which fills this lavish book—Sim Walton, Mick Gill, the late Jim Hurley, Tull Considine, Mick Mackey, Jim Young, Mickey Byrne, Paddy Kenny, Jimmy Doyle, Bobby Rackard, Eddie Keher, and a host of others.

We get not alone Raymond Smith's views but their views as well. Together they combine to give this book authority of a kind rarely found in such a work.

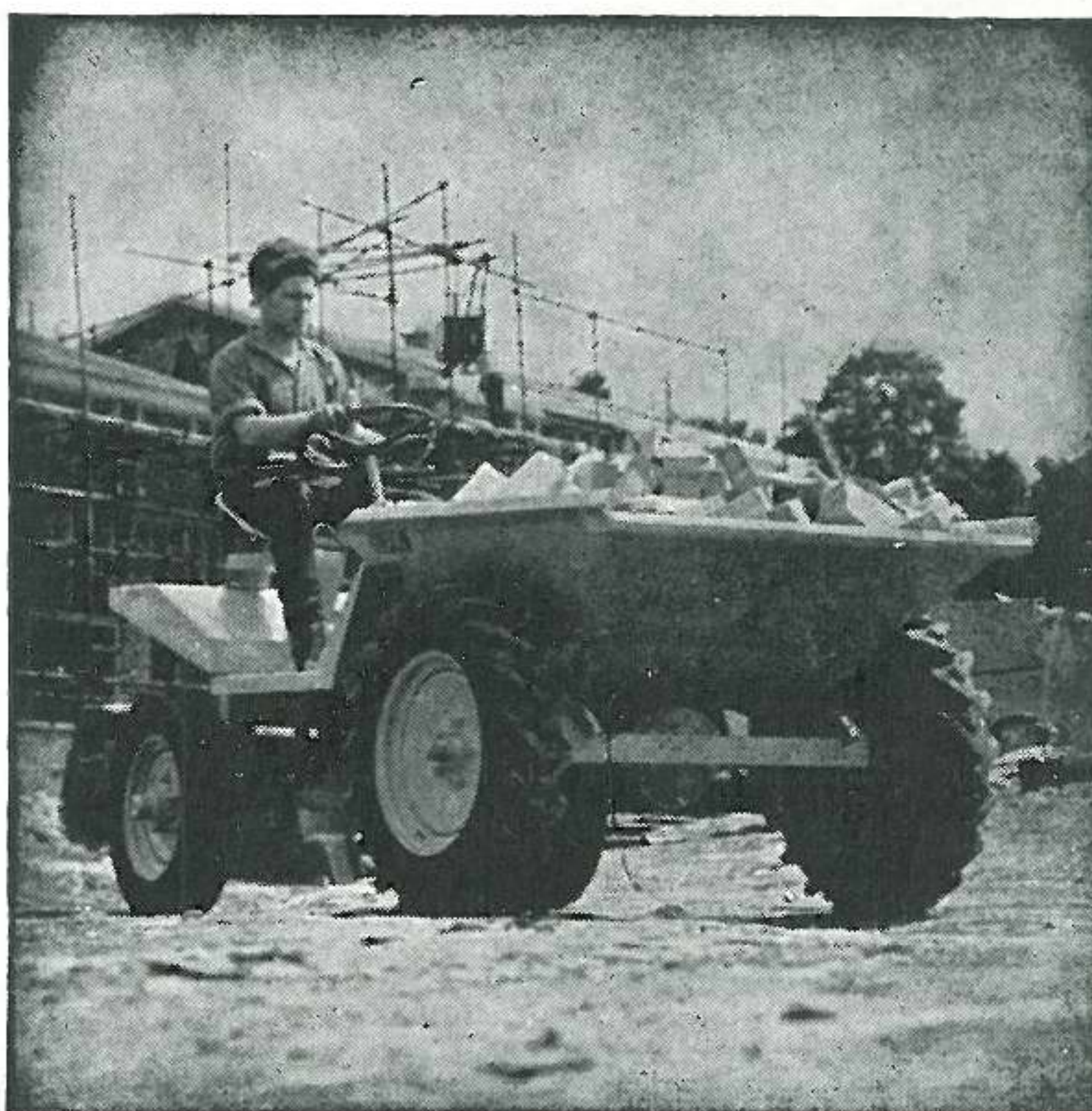
Certainly there is no hurling follower in any county who will not relish *DECADES OF GLORY*. It is a feast of hurling lore and it will take many a night to read.

Sincere congratulations are due Raymond Smith on carrying through this mammoth undertaking—also to W.D. & H.O. Wills and the G.A.A. who backed the book financially.

Finally, praise too to the printers—Cityview Press Ltd., Dublin, who once again have produced a work which is a credit to Irish typography. Last year they did it with Tony Wall's book *HURLING* and have, of course, for years been displaying similar workmanship with *GAELIC SPORT*.

At 8/6 *DECADES OF GLORY* is very good value. We recommend it without reservation to every follower of our native games.

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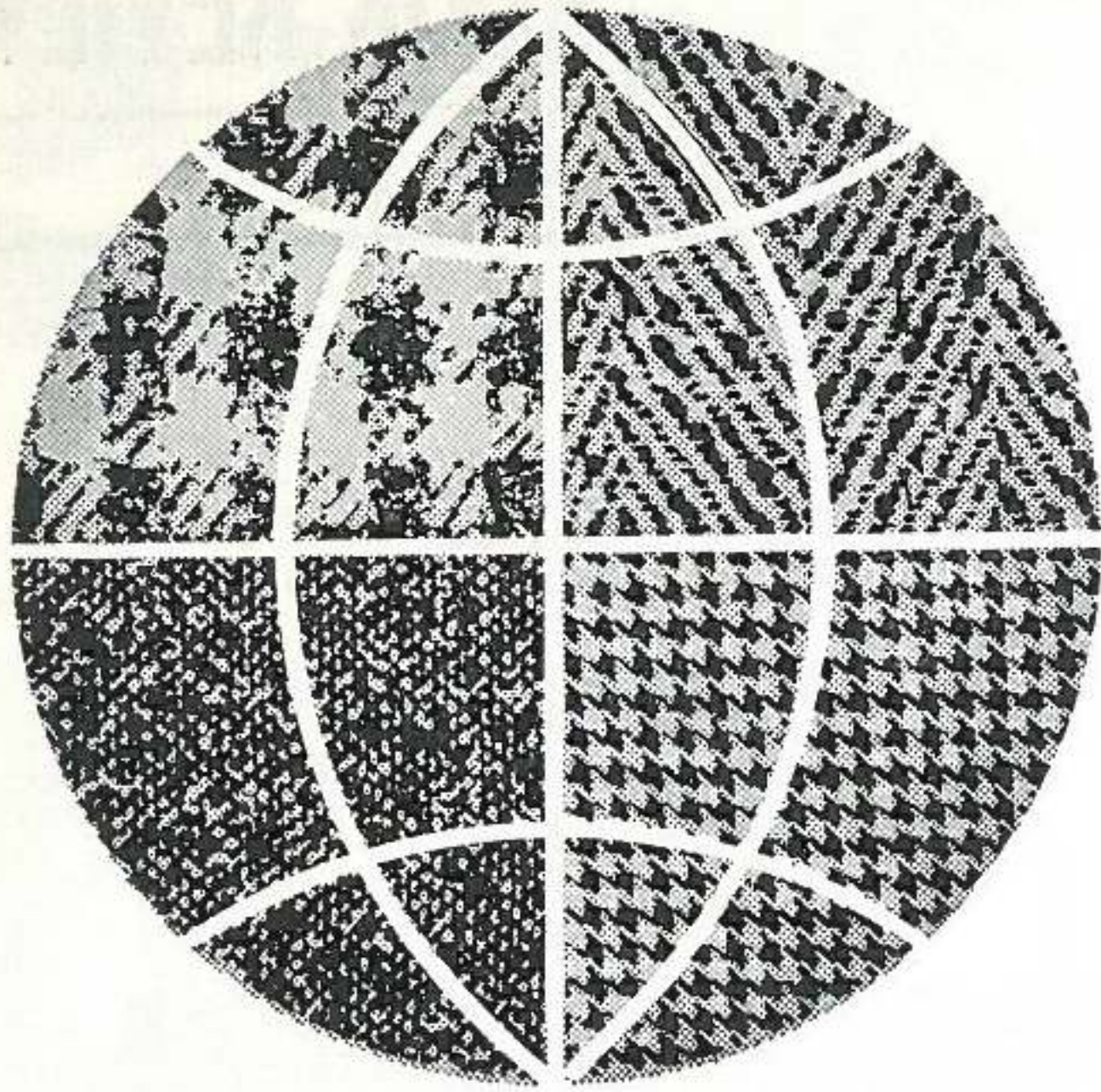
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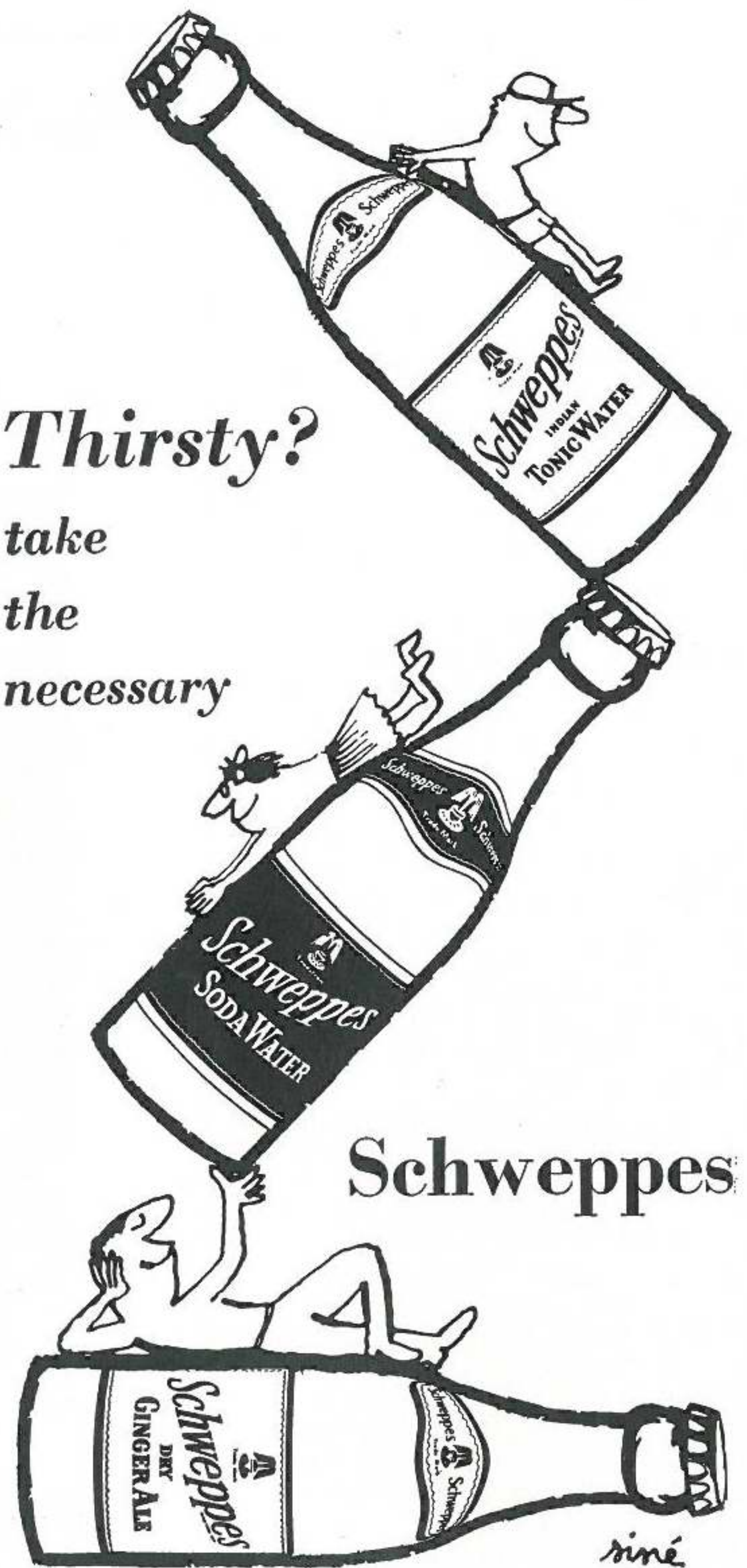
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FACE TO FACE

OF all current players, Johnny Geraghty, needs little by way of introduction—and the extraordinary thing about it all is that the youthful Galway net-minder is but two years in senior intercounty competition.

Normally it takes the most part of a full playing career to win fame and rating such as that now enjoyed by Geraghty. Men like Dan O'Keeffe, Jack Mangan, Kevin Smith and Aidan Brady were veterans before they began to bring forth the sort of public acclaim which has been Geraghty's for some time now.

I recently had the following interview with the young man from Mountbellew.

O'Donnell—Galway appear to have slipped considerably. Do you agree?

Geraghty—I agree that Galway appear to have slipped but I don't agree that they have. The position as I see it is that a team simply cannot keep winning every game. Galway have been at the top now for three years and in action Sunday after Sunday. A few games simply had to be lost—and in the long run this may just be what the doctor ordered. We now have a few weeks break and I expect to see Galway back to their best form by June 26 when we play the winners of Leitrim and Roscommon in the Connacht semi-final.

O'D.—If Galway are to be beaten in the 1966 championship who do you think will beat them?

G.—If it happens, I believe that it will happen in the Connacht final. If we survive the semi-final, we will meet either Sligo or Mayo both of which are capable of rising to the occasion.

O'D.—To what do you attribute your ability as a goalkeeper?

G.—I think you will find that all players who have made the grade can attribute it to practice. There



JOHNNY GERAGHTY talks to Sean O'Donnell

is no other way of succeeding. I am no different from anybody else. I practice a lot and when I make a mistake I note it and try and figure out what went wrong and what should be done the next time a similar situation presents itself.

O'D.—As a youth was there any particular goalkeeper whom you looked up to and hoped to emulate?

G.—Yes, Jack Mangan. He was certainly the greatest I have ever seen. I have modelled my style on his and have always had the ambition to one day be as good—perhaps some day I will be if I can stay around long enough.

O'D.—What forward do you

least like to see in possession of a ball and facing you?

G.—An easy question to answer—Paddy Doherty, of course. I have Paddy at the top of my danger-list since the day—and it is a few years back—when he was in possession on the fourteen yards line. I knew it was going to be a hard one to stop but at least I was all set to try. But instead of kicking it, Paddy slipped the ball across to Brian Morgan and I was caught all ends up. Brian slammed it to the net.

O'D.—What game gave you most satisfaction?

G.—Last year's National League "home" final against Kerry.

GEORGE TINNELLY

of Down

FOR thousands of Downmen their county's rise to fame in the 60's has been a source of pride and joy. Allied to these sentiments must be one of deep satisfaction in the case of George Tinnelly, Chairman of the Down Co. Board. Unlike the majority of his fellow-countymen, he was no mere on-looker at Down's climb from obscurity to greatness. Instead he played a significant role in the Mournemen's success story.

Perhaps the events of 1946, the year he first became Co. Chairman, were an omen of greater things to follow. In that season Down won the All-Ireland Junior title—the county's first ever national victory. Fourteen years later when Down thundered through to an All-Ireland senior title, George Tinnelly was again in command.

But let us return to the beginning. Like many other prominent administrators his first ties with the G.A.A. were as a player. After leaving school he joined the local Rostrevor club in the early 1920's.

His playing career continued until the late 1930's, and his most cherished memento of those distant days is the Senior Co. League medal he won in 1933.

Whilst still a player, George became interested in the official side of G.A.A. affairs. The years 1928 to 1931 were disastrous ones for Gaelic football in and around the Rostrevor area. During that time wholesale emigration caused the disbandment of many clubs, with the result that little or no organised football took place. In October, 1931 George, along with the late Canon McGinn and Willie Fearon, decided to try and remedy this situation by reviving the South Down and Mourne League. He became Secretary of the League which achieved amazing success, with eight teams affiliating straight away.

In 1933 he was elected to the Co. Board. Then in 1946 he became Co. Chairman, but his term in office was of short duration. He was ousted the following year. In

1949, however, he was re-elected and he has been Down Chairman ever since.

Many theories have been expounded for Down's historic triumphs. I asked George therefore what factors he believed were responsible for the fantastic upsurge in the county's fortunes. "As I see it there were three outstanding ones", he replied. "Firstly we were fortunate to have such fine nurseries for future football stars as the Abbey C.B.S. and St. Colman's College, Newry, and De La Salle College, Downpatrick. Our debt to these schools is indeed great. Secondly, we possessed a Co. Secretary of tremendous enthusiasm, determination and ability in Maurice Hayes. Thirdly, we had a wonderful team-spirit amongst our players. They trusted each other implicitly, and seemed to inspire one another to greater deeds".

He also stressed the necessity of affording the players proper care and attention. The Down Board's exemplary record in this respect is well known. "A contented player is a better player", he commented. "We have always endeavoured to provide the best in travel, accommodation and training facilities for our players. We have also been extremely fortunate in having the voluntary services of a doctor who attends to any injuries the players sustain. This knowledge, that if injured he will receive immediate medical attention, brings great peace of mind to any player".

Down's successes at county level have led to domestic problems. For instance the 1965 Senior League had not been completed by April



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of this year. In an attempt to overcome this delay in fulfilment of fixtures, clubs now play League matches on week evenings.

"Our clubs are the most loyal and helpful in the country", stated Mr. Tinnelly. "Without their help and co-operation Down would never have reached the eminent position it now holds in the football world". He quoted a typical example of the clubs' generosity. "When a player in any grade is selected for a county trial, it is his own club which defrays all travelling expenses".

One group of Down people who have received more criticism than praise in recent times, are the Down supporters. Does the Co. Chairman feel this criticism is justified? "Generally speaking our supporters are no better nor no worse than those of other counties," he replied. "Undoubtedly there are some whose behaviour is not what it should be, but they are in the minority.

The main issue under discussion in Down at present is the coming championship. Can Down capture another All-Ireland title this year? At the end of last season hopes were high that this feat would be accomplished. But opinions have been revised and confidence undermined by that disastrous defeat at the hands of Donegal in the Lagan Cup final.

George Tinnelly refuses to become pessimistic despite that setback. He still believes Down can do well in the championship. "Our form at Dungannon was too bad to be true", he remarked. "If we can come out of Ulster, where Donegal or Cavan seem likely to provide the main opposition, then I feel we are in with a big chance".

He is also optimistic about the county's ability to maintain its present high standard in the future. "We have a wealth of young talent at our disposal", he said cheerfully. "All it needs is careful handling".

To most people, Down is synonymous with football. But hurling in the county is progress-

ing with giant strides. Two years ago, almost unnoticed in the aftermath of football glories, Down hurlers carved their own niche of fame when winning the All-Ireland J.H.C. "The most outstanding feat ever by a Down team", was how the Co. Chairman described it. This indeed is no exaggeration, for the team was drawn from only two or three clubs.

He also spoke eloquently in praise of the Hurling Revival Scheme. "This Scheme", he said, "is worthy of our wholehearted support. For too long we heard nothing but talk; now at last action has been taken. If the Scheme fails we have only ourselves to blame".

The abolition of automatic suspension is something George would welcome. "The present system throws too much responsibility on referees", he stated. "Some people favour its retention on the grounds that players might get off too lightly, and that committees might be hesitant in imposing proper penalties. Surely it's about time committees faced up to their responsibilities in this regard, instead of passing the buck to the already much maligned referees".

Many people have been acclaimed in connection with Down's emergence as a football power. No one is more deserving of praise than George Tinnelly.

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Fóirne Trír Deug

Moladh ag Seán Ó Dúnaigín.

INS na laethe atá inniu ann tá áiseanna agus deiseanna tréineála ag lucht spóirt is lútha ná raibh ag a seanaithreacha nó fiú ag a naithreacha. Dá thoradh sin, tá fir óga (is mná óga) an domhain ag léimt níos airde agus níos fuide, ag rith níos taipiúla agus ag raid-eadh uatha na meachain níos sia ná ariamh. Tá ceird nua-aimseartha ann ar a dtugtar “Coaching”; is daoine mór-le-rá iad na teagascóirí seo agus is annamh a thagann foireann chun tosaigh gan cabhair uatha. ‘Siad is fearr a thuigeann conus an feidhm is mó a bhaint as na módhanna is na háiseanna nua.

Chomh maith de dreamanna eile lúchleasa, tá an Cumann Lúchleas Gael ag baint feidhm as na teagascóirí seo. Tugann na fóirne contae fé threineál speisialta anois roimh céad chluiche na bliana d’imirt, ní hionann is roinnt bliain ó shin nuair nár tugadh fé’n gcéanna go dtí bh’fhéidir, an cluiche leathcheannais. Seachas árdú caighdeána ‘sna reamh-chluichí agus cluichí an chéadbhabhta tagann pointe eile chun chuimhne.

Is minic a thugas fé ndeara, ach go háirithe i mbliana sa chluiche cheannais peile na Sraithe Náis-

iúnta idir Gaillimh agus Longphort, go bhfuil na himreoirí chomh haicillí sin, de thoradh tréineála, go mbíonn ochtar nó deichniúr in iomaíocht don liathróid is cuma cén céard den bpáirc a mbíonn sé. Uaireannta, fiú, bíonn an dá fhoirinn bailithe i leath na páirce; agus má tharlaíonn sé i bpáirc an Chrócaigh cad fé páirceanna níos lú ná sin?

Ceapaim go bhfuil an iomarca daoine ar fhóirne an lae inniu. Measaim gur leor triúr deug ar fhoirinn. Tás agam go bhfuil daoine ann a dhéarfadh gur seafóideach an moladh é agus go loitfí na cluichí dá gcuirtí a leithéid i gcrích. Ach, bíodh na daoine seo foighdeach agus éiseidís leis na buntáistí.

Fadó bhíodh duine is fiche ar fhoirinn agus, ar ndóigh, ba laghdú mór é sin ó na laethe a mbíodh an paróiste ar fad sa choimhlint. Níos déanaí in 1892 laghaoidh an uimhir go dtí seachtar deug. Ach is ón bhliain 1913, nuair a cinneadh ar chúigear deug don bhfoirinn, gur tháinig cluichí na nGael chun cinn. Bhí spás níos mó ar na páirceanna agus ní raibh béim chomh mór ar an dteamghmáil chorpordha—bhí ré na bhfathach láidir caite.

Anois, leis an bhéim ar thréineál choirp, ar luas, ar ghliocas agus ar chomhimirt táimid ag an bpointe nach féidir an leas is mó a bhaint as na cáilithe sin de dheasca an iomarca imreoir ar an bpáirc. Glacaimís an cluiche is tabhachtaí mar shompla — eadhon, Craobh-Chluiche Sinnsear Uile-Éireann. Ins na trí cluiche cheannais 1963-65 níor fritheadh ach cúl amháin — ar an fáth go raibh na hionaid ós chomhair na gcúl plódaithe le daoine.

Baineadh triail as fóirne trír deug cheana féin; reachtaítear comórtaisí áirithe choláistí i gCúige Uladh leis an gcóras seo agus tá sé lánásúil. Fághtar an lántaca agus an lántosach ar lár agus an chuid eile den bhfoireann fé mar atá le cúigear deug.

Is mór an chabhair é do na coláistí bheaga nach bhfuil ar a gcumas cúigear deug, den chaighdeán riachtanach, fháil go héasca. Mar an gcéanna ba mhór an buntáiste é don don chlub tuatach, go háirithe sna ceanntracha áirdimirce, gan ach triúr deug a bheith ar an bhfoireann. Im’ thuairim sé an buntáiste is mó atá leis an smaoineamh ná go gcabhródh sé go mór leis an ngluaiseacht aithbheochana iomána.

Let's liberate the

IN any discussion on the G.A.A. the question of referees and refereeing is almost certain to be raised. Who has not heard the expression "Something will have to be done about our referees"? Alternatively who has ever heard, what would indeed be blessed words, "At least the refereeing problem has been solved"? The constant recurrence to this theme is, in my opinion, a frank admission that all is not well in this most vital sector of our Association's life.

One becomes weary of hearing pious platitudes being trotted out at convention after convention about the great plans that will be undertaken to remedy the refereeing problem, when the results are so negative. And it has always struck me as totally incomprehensible that we refuse to apply the one remedy which I am convinced will cure the malady overnight. I refer to the milestone of automatic suspension which we continue to hang around the necks of our referees. It is this intolerable burden which is handicapping all progress. We treat the patient for a broken limb when he is only suffering from a common cold.

But hope springs eternal and the attitude of Congress over the past three years gives the abolitionists

a great deal of encouragement when the following decisions are noted:—

Congress 1964: Motion to abolish Automatic Suspension—Defeated.

Congress 1965: Motion to abolish Automatic Suspension—Majority in favour.

Congress 1966—Majority again in favour.

Congress 1967 — Time for change?

These facts make me wonder how Brian Doherty in the May issue of GAEILIC SPORT came to the conclusion that when Cork and Laois had finished with the Armagh Motion seeking abolition—"the case was shattered" and "there was no case at all".

Probing more deeply into these figures it is interesting to note that the Motion was debated last year at the end of Congress when it is alleged that only "the stonewallers" and "the real conservatives" remained. Be that as it may, there is a disappointing exodus from lunch onwards and last year 167 delegates were present when the vote was called. Of these 92 voted in favour of abolition giving a clear majority of seventeen, but of course falling short (by 20 votes) of the necessary two thirds required. A quick check

also revealed that the 92 delegates voting in favour were mainly composed of the smaller delegations whilst the counties with the biggest representations went against. Therefore it is fair to say that of the counties represented at that stage the vast majority were in favour of abolition. If the motion were to appear early on the clár the vote would be very interesting!

Those opposing the removal of Automatic Suspension may be divided into two main schools:—

(a) Those who believe that such a change would give the referee too much power, and

(b) Those who believe that no player would, in effect, be ever suspended at all because his case would only come up at "rigged" meetings, i.e., when the player would not be required for his club or more especially for his county.

Concerning (a), i.e., those who believe that the change would give the referee too much power, I say that the referee **has** too much power at the moment. He has a power that he doesn't want and which is making his task intolerable. The referee wants less power to deal with those petty and trivial offences which by no stretch of the imagination merit a month's suspension. If these 'venial sins' were punished by dismissal then the

about automatic suspension

referee

more serious aggressor would think twice before striking an opponent or abusing an official. But the trifling misdemeanours go totally unpunished at the moment and this leads to more serious breaches of the laws. I am not one who believes that the conduct at our games is bad—far from it—but neither am I one to exclaim—with my head stuck ostrich-like in the sand—that all is perfect. It is no disservice to the Association to criticise just as it is no benefit to the Association to gloss over faults because our own national games are being played.

At the moment the referee is prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner. He doesn't want these roles which clearly are the responsibility of the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture. Nor does the request for abolition make any concession to the real trouble-maker. His penalty remains as before but the petty offender who is put out of the game, if only to the end of it, will become a liability to his team and will be "talked to" by his own club officials.

I have heard the referee's position at the moment compared with that of a teacher who was only allowed by law to administer a thrashing which would have to

last ten minutes for any offence. How often would this punishment be handed out? Would that teacher not be giving cautions to all and sundry until real control was lost. And at the end of it all some unfortunate victim would be an example. It may not be a great parallel but can a comparison not be drawn with some of our games.

And of course automatic suspension goes contrary to one of our proudest principles and that is fear of a miscarriage of justice. Mistakes have been made in the past and the hands of the legislators were tied.

Concerning (b), i.e., those who fear the 'rigged' meetings. Surely here the danger lies in those who would operate the system rather than in the system itself. Those who have not the courage to carry out the law in their respective areas should at least have the courage to leave. A forward step should not be prejudiced because of cowardice on the part of those asked to operate it.

But I wonder (making full allowances for human weakness) which is preferable, to see the "star" getting away with a serious offence as happens quite often now (particularly in the height of a championship campaign) or to see

*Mr. McAreavey's article
is a reply to Brian
Doherty who discussed
the Congress debate on
this topic in the May
issue of Gaelic Sport.*

him "lined" and dealt with even at a "rigged" meeting? Generalisations are dangerous but it seems to me that the "county" men can do as they please in club matches. Automatic suspension is the trouble. Spectators would be satisfied to see culprits nailed at the moment of an offence. They are not particularly worried what becomes of him afterwards.

Brian Doherty also saw great danger in the possibility of a player taking part in a match a week or two after being sent off because the Board had not met to deal with his case. What of it? Surely that player would be on his guard in case he had to meet two charges instead of one.

And finally the abolition of automatic suspension would bring us into line with a basic tenet of justice that a person is free until he is proved guilty. I will be honest and say that I believe the removal of this rule would revolutionise our games but if the change is proved a failure I will be the first to propose that we revert to the status quo.

Meanwhile, I intend to make a case at the Armagh Co. Convention as to why we should submit the motion for abolition once again next Easter Sunday.

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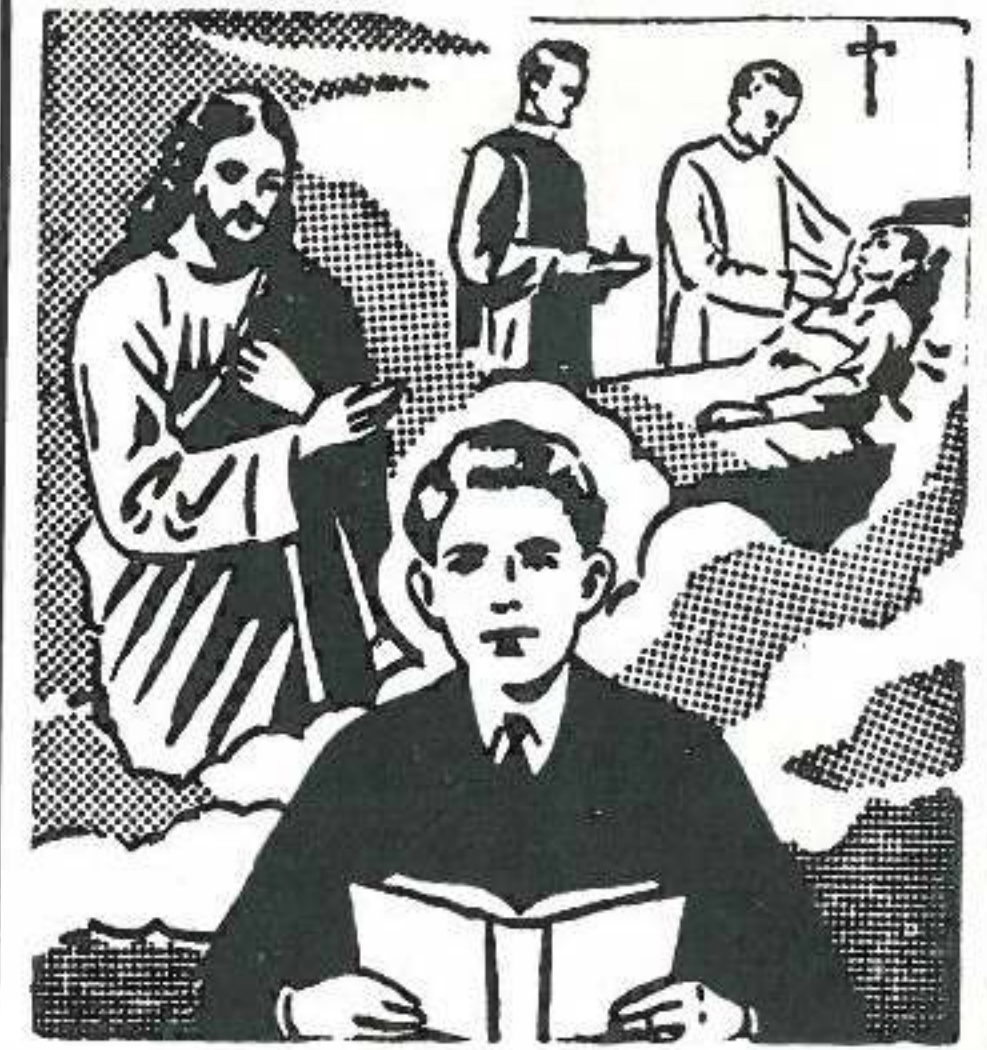
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Fateful date for Donegal

IT must be 1966 or not at all for the current Donegal team. On Sunday, June 19, they step out on the familiar, but venturous championship road and face Cavan at the first hurdle.

Two months ago, following their dramatic and ever-so-convincing win over Down in the Lagan Cup final, Donegal's chances were rated brighter than ever in their bid to capture that illusive first Ulster senior title.

Then came the National League semi-final defeat by Longford—a

disappointment surely but when Longford went on to beat Galway things brightened up again. But it was a short-lived brightening.

A 2-12 to 1-4 defeat by Down in the McKenna Cup at Newry set it all at naught and this was followed by a football lesson from a skeleton Kerry team at Croke Park.

The final scoreline in that latter game did not look bad—3-11 to 2-11—but it gave a much inflated idea of Donegal's worth.

Donegal were generally outplayed from beginning to end and one, furthermore, had the impression that Kerry, scrap-team though they were, were only at half-trot.

And still, despite it all, I cannot shake off the belief that this Donegal team has what it takes to at least come out of Ulster. If only they would hit a consistent patch.

A win over Cavan places them in the provincial semi-final against either Armagh, Monaghan or Fermanagh and this, by no means, appears a particularly difficult hurdle.

In short, if Cavan can be cleared, Donegal should reach the Ulster final—where their opponents will probably be Down. And then anything—and I mean anything—could happen.

From a psychological point of view the current Donegal team must not fail to Cavan. If they do, I believe that the morale which has been built-up in these latter years of hope will crack and another slump will be inevitable.

So it is Cavan or nothing on June 19.

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CROSSWORD

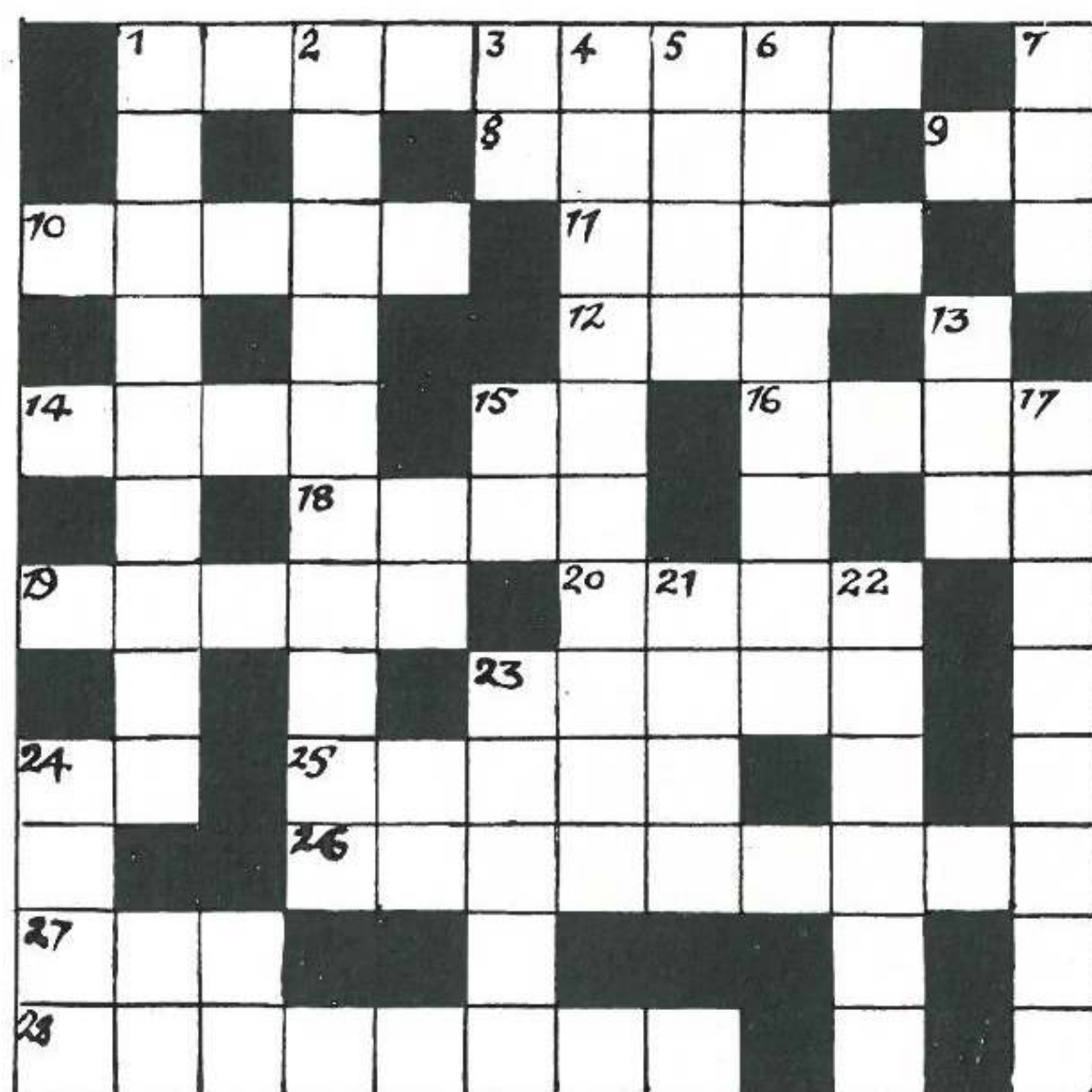
By PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS

1. English born Galway player, who played an important part in the rise of the present team. (1, 8)
8. This is not the shape of a football—at least not a Gaelic ball. (4)
9. Kerry centre-back of the fifties. Initials. (2)
10. The winners of the National Hurling League on its resumption in 1945-46. (5)
11. A somewhat exaggerated description applied sometimes to great games. It would be more at home in the world of literature. (4)
12. Regular State Navy, perhaps? (3)
14. A shout develops; it is racy. (1, 3)
15. Initials of All-Ireland winning Louth full-back, in reverse. (2)
16. What a crazy mixed-up game! (4)
18. A form of jersey stripe which was once quite popular, but now hardly even seen. (4).
19. Every club member is entitled to one when the A.G.M. comes round. (1, 4)
20. Galway hurling forward of speed and accuracy, later a New York star. (4)
24. Belonging to me. (2)
25. Formed a great midfield pairing with the late Jim Hurley. (5)
26. Left half forward mostly in his playing days, now chairman of his county board (Cavan). (1, 1, 7)
27. A tiny player, but mischievous. (3)
28. A Power in Kilkenny hurling, or the elder Rackard brother? (8)

CLUES DOWN

1. Armagh and Ulster midfielder. (3, 6)
2. Such a beginning is necessary for games on short winter afternoons. (5, 5)
3. Have Fermanagh won a senior All-Ireland title? (2)
4. Where to kick points—or, indeed, how you buy a drink after the match. (4, 3, 3)
5. Such running plays a large part in the training of players, even in modern times. (4).



6. There was one of the name on Dan Lane's Aghabullogue team which won through. But this one seems to be David or Denis. (1, 7)
7. Most prominent of the university clubs in football over a number of years. (3)
13. A most important consideration in the deterioration of form and strength. (3)
15. A Kerry forward of quarter of a century ago who scored a vital point against Galway in an All-Ireland final. Initials. (2)
17. Member of the Tipperary team which broke the Cork dominance of the early forties. But, in spite of what his name might suggest, he is no fool. (4, 4)
21. Departed. (4)
22. Fine Tipperary hurler effective anywhere from centre-field to corner forward, which position he now holds. (6)
23. A major score. (1, 4)
24. Principal. (4)

Solution: Page 48.

MUNSTER MEDLEY

THE Munster club championship has come to stay. Mind, there was some doubt about it for a while and the trouble packed hurling final at Cashel before Christmas raised further grave misgivings concerning the wisdom of the project.

These were all swept away in a glory filled hour at Limerick's Pairc na nGael, where the second meeting of Glen Rovers and Mount Sion held a very large crowd spell-bound and was voted one of the best games in Munster hurling of the 'sixties. It had everything, and a lot extra, to whet the appetite of the fans and any bad taste left after the Cashel affair was more than adequately wiped away.

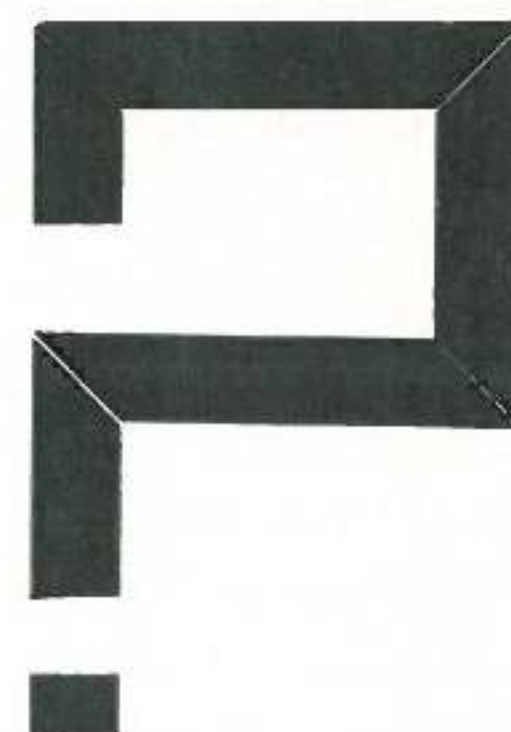
The return of Christy Ring to the scene of some of his greatest triumphs was an event in itself, and his many admirers were delighted to see him add to his huge collection of trophies this first Munster club championship medal.

The only regret many had was that it would probably be the last occasion they would see him in major hurling competition. When a man passes the mid 'forties even the spirit of a Christy Ring must find it hard to match wits with old Father Time. For that reason I feel those who are urging the return of the great Maestro to the red jersey are just letting their hearts run away with their heads. We all want to keep the memories we have of one of Ireland's most magnificent hurlers, and our most colourful player of many a day, and do not wish risking what happened a few other grand figures who attempted a come back. It just does not work out!

G.A.A. MEMBERSHIP

The recent decision of Congress on the question of membership of the G.A.A. must mean a big boost to club membership and raise the

**GOODBYE
FOREVER,
GOODBYE,
GOODBYE**



by **Seamus O Ceallaigh**

status of the club within the Association. All our clubs are not, unfortunately, what we would like them to be as befitting such important units of an Association rated one of the greatest of its kind in the world.

To remedy this situation a very commendable move had been made in Kerry, and recommendations have emerged from a series of meetings that deserve the most careful study everywhere, and which form the basis of a national charter for G.A.A. clubs.

At the outset it is stressed that

the model club should consist of three parts all closely integrated. First of these is the officers and committee; secondly the players, and then the supporters. All three, working hand in hand could provide the ideal combination aimed at revitalizing the clubs, moulding them into efficient working units, thus strengthening the whole structure of the Association.

In an excellent blueprint for the clubs a number of points have been laid down which demand careful thought and implementation. The

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

ST. JARLATH'S, TAKE A BOW

COMMENTARY

By CHRIS MURRAY

CONGRATULATIONS to St. Jarlath's College Tuam on winning her sixth All-Ireland colleges' title. The Hogan Cup has only been competed for thirteen times in all and the Tuam College has reached eight finals. What a fantastic record for any team. St. Mel's College, Longford with three titles in four finals come next on the list—another imposing record.

But St. Jarlaths are surely out on their own. Tremendous credit is due to their present trainer Rev. Fr. Brendan Kavanagh who has coached five winning teams and to his able helpers on the Tuam professorial staff namely Rev. Fr. Paddy Mahon, Chairman Galway Football Board and Dr. M. I. Mooney, the College President, who coached St. Jarlath's to her first success in 1946-'47 when Sean Purcell, Peter Solon and the late Mick Flanagan hit the scene.

Speaking of that first successful side of 1947, I'm inclined to think it was the best St. Jarlath's team of all. Maybe it was Purcell's glorious play which leaves the golden memory but he was the college player supreme. I will never forget his feinting, swerving style at midfield, the controlled kicking, the beautiful style. If any Tuam team surpassed the 1947 outfit it was the Donnellan-Leydon-Geraghty-Colleran one of 1960.

JIMMY DUGGAN

Mark the name Jimmy Duggan. I've written about him here as often as I've written about Purcell almost. Here comes another Purcell. This or any other praise won't spoil him. He may not have the style or the complete football brain that was Purcell's but he is the best college player I've seen

since Seán and will be a Galway senior player very soon. He won his second Hogan Cup medal this year, when captaining the Tuam team at centre-half-forward, and seems set to become a more celebrated figure than his father Joe Duggan the Galway star of the 'forties or uncle Paddy Stephens of Corofin, the President of the Galway Football Board and a Galway player of the 'thirties.

SEAMUS HEALY

But this St. Jarlath's triumph was no one man effort. Other names such as Cribben, Scahill, Glennon, Cosgrove, Davin, Hughes, Meenaghan, Leydon and Healy will always be associated with it. One

of these you will, I'm sure, hear about again is Seamus Healy of Aughamore who is deceptively awkward looking, even cumbersome to behold. But he will make a fine Mayo midfielder in the future.

GALWAY YEARBOOK

The third edition of the Galway G.A.A. Yearbook is on sale. Edited once again by Jack Mahon, the former Galway centre-half back, it is a good buy for three shillings. Among its contributors are Mick Dunne and Padraic Puirseál (Irish Press), Paddy Downey (Irish Times), Pat Donnellan, Alf Murray, Enda Colleran, Jimmy Duggan, Seán Cleary, Brendan O hEithir, Mick Gill and Rev. P. Mahon.

MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 33

importance of an annual general meeting is stressed, as is also the desirability of adequate written notice to members announcing same. The importance of submitting to the newspapers reports of meetings and club matches is mentioned and there is a recommendation that team selectors be composed of non-playing members.

It is laid out that the purchase and development of a playing field should be the ultimate objective of every club, and a number of suggestions are made regarding methods of raising finance. These include an annual parish or church gate collection; a raffle; participation in Ciste na Banban; games with clubs inside and outside their own area; and the organisation of drama groups or concert parties to serve both cultural and financial needs.

Other recommendations include a club meeting before every match; the early selection and announce-

ment of teams and reserves; the encouragement of all players to avail of training sessions — the officers to give good example by regular attendance at the training centre.

The organisation of an annual social is urged and it is suggested that presentations be made to club members on such special occasions as ordination, marriage, etc.

The importance of keeping members working is mentioned, and the necessity of catering for juvenile and minor players is underlined. An interesting suggestion is that clubs should play without their inter-county representatives up to the semi-final stages of competition.

There is certainly plenty of food for thought in the many items listed above, and those who have any experience of club organisation will wholeheartedly agree their implementation on a general scale would bring immense benefit to the entire G.A.A. structure.



Bobby Burns

By
OWEN McCANN

THE SCORING TABLE

Points	Score	Games	Average
38	B. Burns	1-35	7 6.22
33	T. McTeague	1-30	6 5.50
29	P. Doherty	1-26	5 5.80
	B. Hayden	5-14	5 5.80
27	P. McShea	4-15	7 3.85
	T. Whyte	2-21	5 5.40
26	C. Gallagher	0-26	5 5.20
24	C. Dunne	0-24	6 4.00
22	P. T. Treacy	2-16	5 4.40
	M. McLoone	2-16	7 3.14

Burns a clear leader

his name on the scoring sheet in each outing, and his best was that eight minors in the "home" decider.

With an average of 6.22 minors, he is the only player in the panel to get into the six points a match average. Next in line in this respect are Paddy Doherty and Brendan Hayden, who each have a 5.80 points match average.

The Longford full-forward's actual total of points is the same as that which earned Charlie Gallagher the No. 1 spot for football in the 1964-65 League campaign. However, the Breffni sharpshooter took two games fewer to record that total at a much more impressive match average of 7.60 minors. Two other players also achieved better match averages last season—John Timmons, with seven minors in each of his five games for 4-23 (35 pts.) total, and Michael Kearins, who landed 1-31 (34 pts.) in five engagements at 6.80 points an hour. Timmons and Kearins both failed to qualify for the current top ten chart.

Last year I said that Tony McTeague, that brilliant minor of 1964, was likely to top the list on some future occasion — and he made a really spirited bid to do just that in the campaign ended. In six games he recorded 1-30 (33

pts.) for second place with a four points lead over Doherty and Hayden, who are bracketed joint third.

The youthful Offaly player's tally is an improvement of two points on the 1.28 from the same number of games that earned him the fifth place in last season's League chart. His latest 5.50 points an outing average is the third best in the current table. McTeague also boasts the achievement of being the only player in the table to better five points a match two seasons in succession in the League.

Other than McTeague, Paddy Doherty is the only member of last season's top ten scorers to improve his tally. Joint tenth in 1964-65 with 1-20 (23 pts.) from five games, he played the same number of matches in the recently completed campaign, but still boosted his score to 1-26. That works out at over a point extra per match.

The only other links with last season's chart are Charlie Gallagher and Cyril Dunne. Both are well down on their 1964-65 figures. The Cavan score-getter played five games, as he did in the previous campaign, but notched 12 points fewer, a drop of over two points an outing. Dunne is at 0-24 from six

● TO PAGE 40

BOBBY BURNS' eight points in that historic win over Galway put the Longford man well out in front in the list of top scorers for the 1965-66 National Football League, and also clinched for him the added distinction of finishing the series with the best match average of any forward. With a total of 1-35 (38 pts.) he has a lead of five minors over his nearest rival.

Burns, who played seven games, was one of the three busiest players of the top ten — Padraig McShea and Michael McLoone, who also each had seven engagements. The Granard footballer put

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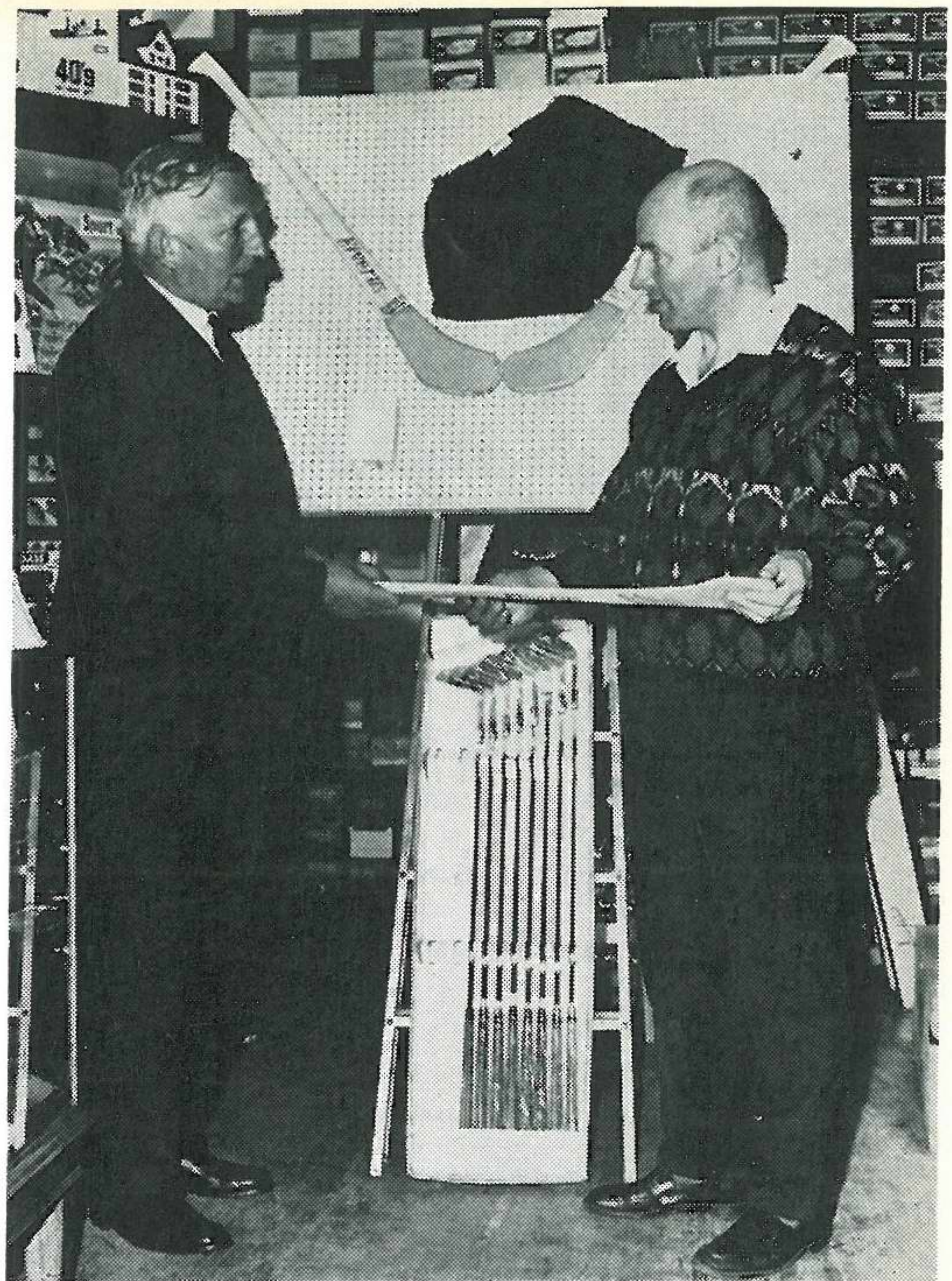
Says Eamonn Young

THE mist of a winter's evening was setting in and still we hurred with all the enthusiasm of the fifteen year old. The teacher blew his whistle and we young madmen knew that another day's play was over. Quickly we togged on, placed the playing jersey on the grass, put the boots, stockings and knicks on top of it, folded over the edges and having wound the sleeves of the jersey around the bundle tied them in a knot making the playing gear a tidy parcel.

Back in the building we threw the damp playing gear into the locker where its stayed until the following evening. Maybe that day was dry; maybe it wasn't. Anyway the togs weren't. You should have heard the coughing in the dormitory at night.

We also used to wear each other's stockings—thus running the risk of athlete's foot. Many years after when I expressed a similar fear, a friend of mine told me not to worry, for I was no athlete.

We wore football boots that had few cogs on them; sometimes the cogs came up almost through the soles. And we went out half naked in the cold and sometimes when we weren't good enough or when



"It's about time we all gave a thought to the purchase of first-class playing gear," says Eamonn Young, seen above with Mr. J. T. Russell, southern area manager of Elvery's.

the ball didn't come we remained cold.

But in case you think I'm painting a personal picture, I hasten to state that such ill-advised recreational methods were seen all over the country and worse still some of them still apply.

Players generally haven't much sense. By nature the man who follows the ball is a hardy enthusiastic fellow who is more devil-may-care than methodical. During this by-gone, unspeakable and unlamented winter I saw young men turn up on rainy nights without a cap, or an overcoat, with their open-necked

shirts. Alright perhaps when coming to training but very very foolish when going away home in the cold and rain.

I have seen—we've all seen—these fine young men, the flower of a nation's manhood go out on the field on cold rainy nights wearing a light knicks and a wafer-thin jersey.

I admire their hardihood though not their intelligence. In 1966 when the average young man has money for a dance, good clothes, cigarettes, a beer, and very often a car, surely he can find something

● CONTINUED PAGE 39

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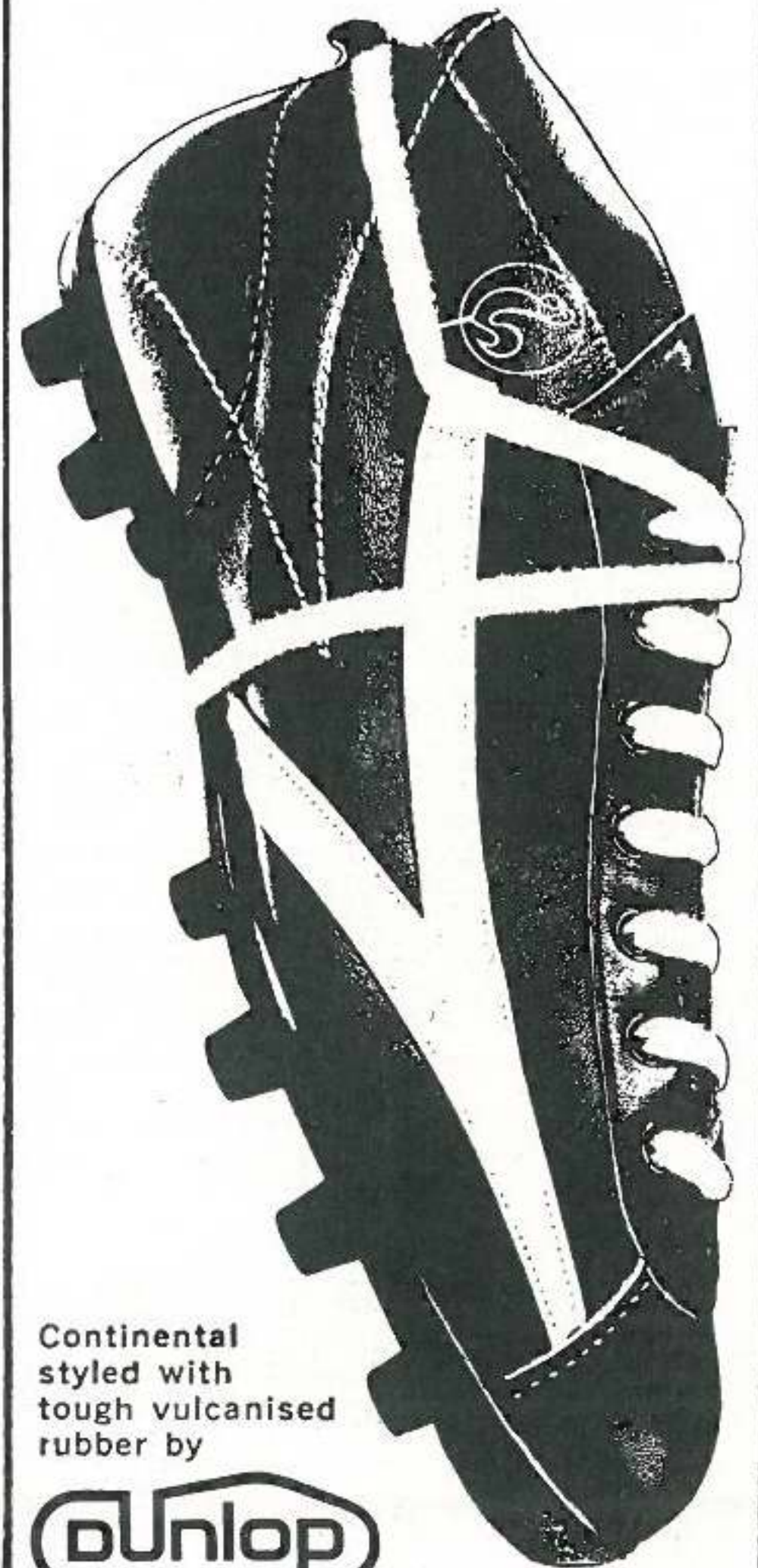


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THE RIGHT KIT

● FROM PAGE 37

to care for his health during the pursuit of his hobby.

The shooting-man buys a gun, ammunition, dogs (and dog-licences), caps, coats, big boots and what-not.

The golfer buys so much (up to and including the nineteenth hole) that he's in danger of domestic ire.

The footballer and hurler usually fails to realise that the days of going out in shoes and long drawers swinging a home-made sliver of ash went out about sixty years ago.

It's about time we all gave a thought to the purchase of first-class playing gear. There's plenty of it on the market and we owe it to the loyal public to turn out neatly clad in clean togs, wearing clothes that will safeguard our health in the cold day.

Not so long ago I expressed surprise when two substitutes were going out for a Croke Park game on a very cold day clad only in togs with a short coat over their shoulders. I told them they would be frozen stiff and to put on the trousers. Rather shyly they pointed out that if they were called in suddenly the narrow pants would not come off over the boots. They weren't called in and I don't know whether or not they got pneumonia.

A track-suit costing something around three pounds would have solved that crisis.

Good boots comfortably studded, clean socks without holes, serviceable knicks, a clean jersey, a cap, woollen gloves (for the footballer), or a hurley, and a track-suit are part of the game in every sense. And everyone should have spare sets of gear.

Five pounds should set the average man right. The gear should last two years. It's not a lot of money is it?

CAMOGIE

By
AGNES HOURIGAN

YOU know, at times I feel that the big national advance in camogie is just at hand. And this is one of those times. Maybe it is because the sun is shining at the moment, and that the summer we have been waiting for these last two or three years may at last be on the way. Anyway there have been many heartening signs and tokens of late that at last the country is waking up to the fact that the camogie Association fills a real want on the Irish sporting scene and on the Irish National scene as well.

It was very encouraging for instance to read a recent article by the President of the G.A.A., Alf Murray, in which he said that every G.A.A. club in future should have a camogie club attached. Maybe he had been reading some of my articles in past issues of GAELIC SPORT!

After all, this is a development I have been advocating for years. Surely the G.A.A. and the Camogie Association, two bodies with exactly similar aims and objects, should long ago have been working far more closely together at an official level than has all too often been the case in the past.

True we have had many good friends in the ranks of the G.A.A. and generally speaking, the G.A.A. has always come to the aid of the Camogie Association whenever such aid was asked for, but I have always felt that the co-operation between the two Associations should be far more constant and fundamental than it has been heretofore.

However, if the G.A.A. clubs start to follow Alf Murray's advice, we are bound, within the next few years, to have a great increase in the number of camogie clubs, to add to the increase that has been so evident recently.

And if the G.A.A. were never to make a move, the revival of

camogie throughout the country is a grand feature of this present early summer. Already Wicklow is reorganising, there is a new county board in Offaly, and Laois and Carlow, out of action for the past couple of seasons, are coming back to active service again.

Down in Munster all six counties are affiliated, there is plenty of activity in the North and the only province that has not yet seemed to be experiencing a camogie resurgence is Connacht.

In the Colleges, there is great activity in Leinster where the Colleges' competitions aroused tremendous interest this year. The victory of Gilson School, Oldcastle, in the final of the provincial junior championship should prove a tremendous fillip to the game, not alone in County Meath but also in all the smaller schools throughout the province.

Indeed, new schools are already making enquiries about their chance of participating in the Colleges championships this year. Even better news is that, at long last, there is a scheme on foot to start a Vocational Schools camogie championship next season.

This is a step that is long overdue here in the Republic, especially when we remember that a successful competition between similar schools has long been run successfully on the other side of the Border by that great Antrim full-back, Moya Forde.

And now here we are well into the championship season and some counties will already have their sights set on the All-Ireland final at Croke Park, which will probably be played on the third Sunday in September.

It is a measure of the distance we have yet to progress that little more than half of the thirty-two counties are competing in the senior All-Ireland championship,

TOP TEN RANKINGS

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on individual inter-county performances during the period from and including Sunday, April 17, to Sunday, May 8.

Eddie Keher tops the hurling list as a result of his splendid performance against Cork in the National League semi-final, while Clare's Vincent Loftus takes second place.

Loftus was somewhat of an 'unknown' when we featured him in the same position last month. Since then he vindicated our high rating of him with a great game against Sean McLoughlin on Sunday, May 1. Not in years had the Tipperary goal-getter been so convincingly held.

Longford's Brendan Gilmore heads the football list despite the fact that his county has already departed from the 1966 championship race. Included in the period

under review is, of course, the National League 'home' final.

HURLING

1. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny).
2. Vincent Loftus (Clare).
3. Liam Devaney (Tipperary).
4. Tony Marsh (Clare).
5. John Doyle (Tipperary).
6. John Teehan (Kilkenny).
7. Pat Cronin (Clare).
8. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
9. Pascal O'Brien (Clare).
10. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary).

FOOTBALL

1. Brendan Gilmore (Longford).
2. Martin Newell (Galway).
3. Liam Leech (Louth).
4. Paddy Doherty (Down).
5. Sean Thornton (Louth).
6. Brendan Barden (Longford).
7. Tony Bennett (Armagh).
8. Pat Bradley (Westmeath).
9. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).
10. John Heneghan (Longford).

LETTERS

A Chara,—Reading your April leading article, the thought has struck me that you are trying to emulate the "Irish Times" whose April 1, 1965 leader had some politicians seeing red instead of the April Fool joke.

Still, I suppose you really did have a point—Telefis Eireann are certainly doing a poor job regarding G.A.A. affairs.

"A CRYPTO-RED"

**Ballsbridge,
Dublin, 4.**

Sir,—As a reader of GAELIC SPORT for some time now, I am taking this opportunity to congratulate you and your writers on a job well done.

It is a pleasure to read the various articles, stories and interviews. My favourites are Sean O'Donnell's interviews, the articles on the various clubs and Eamonn Young's grand stories. Top Ten is also a fine feature and it greatly helps to keep us exiles in touch.

I have been a member of the Boston Galway hurling team since leaving Ireland 18 years ago and, as a Galwayman, I feel that Eamonn Young slipped up in not including Sean Duggan in his hurling team of a few issues back. Duggan was surely the greatest goalkeeper of the past 25 years.

Wishing you and everybody connected with GAELIC SPORT every success. Keep up the good work—if only for our exile's sake, for we depend on you more than those at home.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. LYONS

66, Richards St.,
Dedham,
Mass. 02026,
U.S.A.

Burns A Clear Leader

● FROM PAGE 35

outings eight minors below the 1-29 that earned him the No. 4 spot a season ago, although he played two games fewer. However, he was nothing if not consistent over the two League campaigns, averaging four points a match in each.

Donegal has two representatives in the panel. Ulster men fill five places, Leinster three and Connaught two.

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THE JUBILEE AUTHORS

● FROM PAGE 4

rades were in deadly peril from the frantic enthusiasm of comrades as the charge surged across the pavement . . .

And a brief quote from the second page :

"Everybody out !" roared James Connolly. "Out, out !"

His bandy legs were splendid in highly polished leggings . . .

He begins chapter three with the line :

Not so much a Rising—more a rare show.

Later in the same chapter we have the following reference to Countess Markievicz :

She might have looked like a figure from a Ruritanian musical comedy.

And a few pages later, he has Pearse outside the G.P.O. reading the Proclamation and watched by a small crowd :

"Would you watch yourself, boy", a sharp-faced fish hawkker hissed. "Be ready to run. When he stops talking he'll be taking up a collection."

And so Mr. Ballinger goes on. There is a chapter headed "Pub Crawl" and another "On the Town."

In fairness to the author it must be said that it did not strike me that he purposely set about writing a novel that would be offensive to Irish taste. But this he certainly has done.

The book is offensive from beginning to end in that silly, stupid sort of way in which English and American writers sometimes are when they let loose their pre-conceived stage-Irishism.

Usually we take it from them—passing perhaps a few caustic comments—but where Mr. Ballinger differs from the others is that in the Jubilee Year of 1916 he has applied his stage-Irishism to the Rising itself. Furthermore, it has all obviously been done so as to get his sales on to the Jubilee bandwagon.

But, of course, in getting on to the 1916 Jubilee bandwagon Mr. Ballinger was not alone. We had an awful lot of them much nearer home—and nobody at all bothered to tell them to get off.

EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM PAGE 5

screen to herd the nation into smoky drawing-rooms leaving the playing fields, the roads, and the heathery mountains untenanted. The local games must not be interfered with, so this means that if the Croke Park games must be televised, it will be a recorded version later that evening.

Half-past four will not suit the man who has cows to milk. Six or seven won't suit those who like to thank the Man above in the church on Sunday evening. Maybe we can show these games at half-past seven and ask the television people to compensate us for the loss of gate receipts which even these recorded showings will bring about.

I hear that the Rugby Association gets £1,000 for the screening of it's games which are usually sold out anyway. The soccer people have made it clear they are not interested in television.

I wonder are they more hard-headed than we. The television has long caused me dissatisfaction from the sporting point of view. We can thank the Editor of GAELIC SPORT for revealing the other snag—loss of money.

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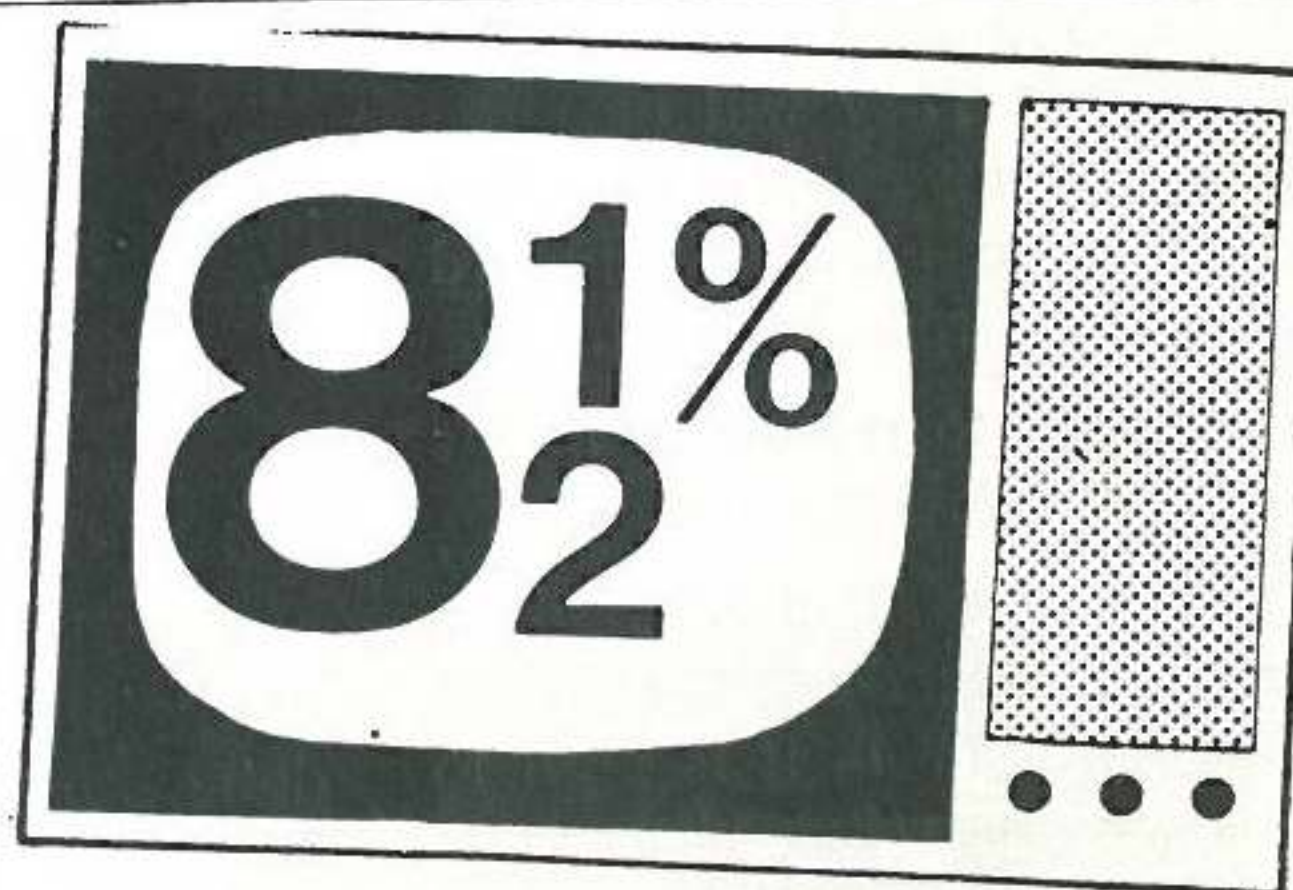
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LOUTH FANCIED TO DISPOSE OF DUBLIN



By Frank Hughes

STAND up Hughes and take a bow—you tipped Longford all the way in the National League and then tipped Louth to beat them in the Championship.

What happens now? Well I'll tell you this, when Louth get moving they are hard to stop. In the championship, Louth have a habit of improving with every match. There was always a fairly obvious reason for this in the past and it stemmed from the fact that the Wee County never trained collectively until they reached the Leinster final. If they did not get that far well there was no training.

This year it was different. They trained for the first round. Still, I expect an improved Louth team against Dublin. They will be more confident and any player who had doubts prior to playing Longford will have none from here on.

I take Louth to march on at the expense of the Metropolitans.

To go back to Longford for a moment — what does the future hold for them? Well, it is hard to tell. Many of their key players are not what you would call young and they are rather weak when it comes to substitutes.

I don't want to sound a pessimist but, as I see it, it will take a very determined effort on Longford's part to stay in big-time football

and come bouncing back again next year.

Mark you, they are capable of doing it—but as I say it will take a great effort. The League final games against New York in October will, of course, help.

As I expected, the League campaign—and it was a hard one—plus a visit to London, left its mark. Come to think of it, Longford have been at it non-stop since this time last year—between championship, challenge and tournament games, the Gaelic Weekly and O'Byrne Cups and then the National League.

Unlike Galway and Down when they were on top, Longford had to fight hard and tough in every game. They lacked the class of Galway and Down who could coast along in many of their games and win without raising a sweat.

For Longford every game of the past twelve months was a battle and battles burn up a team.

Actually I rate Longford's 1967 championship hopes, to rest on **not** doing particularly well in the 1966-'67 League.

Reaching the League final is not good for a Leinster county's championship prospects. This does not apply in other provinces. Take Galway for example. The League "home" final was on Sunday, April 24, and their first championship

outing is not due until June 26—a two months rest.

Longford on the other hand had only a two weeks break.

I think this point of mine is valid. It explains how Dublin failed so often in the Leinster championship in the 'fifties just after winning National League titles.

PADDY FLANAGAN

In the April issue, I made a mention of how Leinster counties could take a lead from the Kerry County Board which had just brought together every club secretary and club chairman in the county for a general airing-out and brushing-up of administration. I felt that it was an excellent idea—and still do.

However, I was wrong when I said that all Leinster counties could take a lead from the Kingdom. Some time later I had a letter from Westmeath's County Secretary, Paddy Flanagan, pointing out that they, in fact, have this scheme in operation and find it of considerable benefit.

Thinking it over this does not surprise me at all. Paddy Flanagan and his fellow-Westmeath Board men have a habit of being first in the field with many innovations—an outstanding example being the holding of a dinner, at which both teams are guests of the County Board, on the evening of county finals.

ADVICE ON TRAINING

by Eamonn Young

IN a recent issue I passed on a few gems of advice about training a club team in response to a letter from a young man up the country. Back home just now, exhausted but happy after a murderous hour of squash with a well-known hurler, I'll finish the advice, realising once again that for physical well-being and content there's nothing better for the average healthy man than hard exercise.

Our players must remember that. They must never tire of getting out there to practice and train. Fitness comes from honest sweat and brings its reward not only in the field of play but in the health it nourishes.

Last month I wrote of the middle-distance running and advocated three-mile, two-mile or one-mile spins at good pace rather than monotonous lapping of the field.

Another invaluable type of running is what they call interval training. The idea is that you run like hell for a short period and then pause to recover the breath before starting off again.

A good way for a team to do this is to run the length of the field flat out and gasp back the breath at the other side. Then repeat the run, and then rest. The fitter the men become the more running they can take and the shorter the interval necessary to recover their breath. Running the length of the field can be alternated with dashing across it.

Sprinting sixty yards is a good exercise to improve one's speed which after all is vital and the short dashes of ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five yards as desired are excellent exercises to test the players' reaction.

During the three weeks of training which I suggested for the game recently, each of these types of running can be done. The longer running, say of three miles, can be done in the first week when the twenty-three minutes necessary would be added to about an hour's football training between the practice of individual skills and the small game.

In the second week the interval training would be best in addition to the ball-play. This would sharpen up the men and if some felt like it and the evening were fine, there's no reason why the trainer wouldn't send them on the longer run instead of the interval training.

In the last week the accent should be on quick-reaction exercises and sprints. There are also some games one can introduce into the training and short relay races are great fun as well as very valuable.

The introduction of fun into training is very useful. It relaxes everybody and combats the inevitable pre-match tension.

This is the time also to get all the advice off one's chest for they just don't listen to the harangue before the game when priceless bits of advice like "get to the ball before your man" and "get rid of

● TO PAGE 45

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● FROM PAGE 43

that ball and stop the fooling" falls on excited but very deaf ears.

One day in Croke Park a teammate ran over. "Did you hear what he said to me?" he gasped. 'He' was a selector.

"No" says I rather unnecessarily.

"He told me to jump into it, to tear into it, and if I got hurt what harm; there were better bloody men on the sideline."

A good way to get the pre-match advice off one's chest is to have a session at the blackboard pretty often after training. Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan, whose capacity for instilling confidence in addition to imparting sound football sense I have always admired, used the blackboard many many years ago.

If the boys aren't fond of the school-room atmosphere — and you'll get them that way you know — a piece of green cloth about three feet by two with the white lines of the pitch taped on, and done to scale, a simple job, is very useful. Fifteen little pieces of chalk to represent your team and a like number of a different colour for the other fellows and you're off in a hack with the boys discussing and disagreeing. Don't stop them too quickly. Remember they're thinking, and that's always a help.

So to sum up: men should be fit three weeks before the game. If they are not they must be trained in different groups and the man who is being run into the ground must get rest to recover his strength.

There should be plenty of footballs with which each man can practice his individual skills and if a man wants to work up any skill very important to his own position

he should get help by way of pressure training which is simply a short way of saying he'll have six footballs and a chap throwing them to him (one at a time) and another lad kicking them back after he has practiced his skill.

Each night there should be a small match to help men relax and shed the cares of the day. Remember these fellows have to work also and all of them don't have pleasant bosses or easy-going females at home.

Running is very important. Choose the type that suits your men best. Some fellows love the jaunt through the country. Others will lap around the field, long after the cows are home, while some just want to run hard.

When discussing this with Christy Ring the other day, he told me he simply couldn't stand running around the field but didn't mind running hard in the sprints. In fact it's no harm to say in

passing that what Christy liked was chasing madly after every ball and hitting it with all his might. Also it's the truth to say that on that Sunday morn he was out in the field with the boys pucking around. That evening he was at it again. The afternoon he filled in by playing a senior game with Glen Rovers.

The trained athlete knows his correct weight. He finds this out only by daily weighing. On the Wednesday night before the game he will probably pack up training, though if he's fit he may like to have a few kicks on any of the days up to Sunday. Ned Roche the Kerry full-back of the mid-fifties, liked a few kicks on the Saturday especially before the big games.

Food is vital and don't forget that the most important part of the training programme starts in bed — each night at ten o'clock.

And now as a friend of mine says — the best of luck in the final.

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IN JULY ISSUE

Matt Fitzpatrick's article on Keady (Co. Armagh) hurling club has been held over until our July issue.

NOT SO FANTASTIC!

by OWEN McCANN

THE high standard of play that marked a number of colleges' championship games I attended in recent months, and my memories of the poor showings earlier this year of both Ulster and Connacht in their Railway Cup hurling semi-finals, set me thinking both about these now annual David and Goliath struggles in the interprovincial hurling semi-finals, and of minor interprovincial championships.

None can really deny that nowadays neither Ulster nor Connacht can entertain any real hope of making really a game of it in their hurling semi-finals with Munster and Leinster, let alone of winning the Railway Cup. In these circumstances I, for one, find it very hard to see how hurling in the North and West really benefits from the participation of the provinces in the Railway Cup. I feel that the money spent on the promotion of these games could be used more profitably on the promotion of hurling among the schoolboys.

As against that, however, I also maintain that, as long as both

Ulster and Connacht want to compete in the Railway Cup, then it is up to the Central Council to facilitate them. That brings me to my first point: Can anything be done to give a new appeal and interest to these hurling semi-finals featuring Ulster and Connacht?

I put forward a suggestion many will regard as revolutionary or fantastic—but it is perfectly workable for all that. It is to allow, for a trial period of a few years, Ulster to start each semi-final with, say, a four goal advantage, and Connacht to go into their semi-final with a three goal lead.

Handicapping is a feature of some other sports, and I am convinced that this could be an instance in hurling where it could profitably be applied. Starting each semi-final with such a lead as I suggest would, remember, be a great stimulus to the hurlers of both Ulster and Connacht—an incentive that would inevitably result in their tackling their tasks with renewed enthusiasm and determination. And, of course, the semi-finals would, as a result,

gain in appeal with spectators.

Now, about those minor interprovincial championships — and there is also a link here with the Railway Cups. Minor interprovincial series could be run off without interfering with the present inter-county senior schedule. Ideal date for the semi-finals would be the second Sunday in October. Thus, the provincial selectors would be able to use the provincial and All-Ireland minor championships as a guide to form when picking their provincial sides. The semi-finals could go on at provincial venues, with the two finals at Croke Park late in October. The great interest in colleges' championships ties nowadays leaves little doubt that minor interprovincial games would pack in the fans both in the provinces, and for a double decker bill on finals day at headquarters.

As in the case of the senior Railway Cup hurling semi-finals, the handicap system I recommend could also operate in the initial years at least in the youths interprovincial hurling ties featuring Ulster and Connacht.

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BROCHURE ON REQUEST

IN the past I have often bemoaned the fact that handball is so badly organised amongst the youth of the country. One finds it very difficult to pin-point the exact location of deficiency, though for my own part I gauge that both the lack of officials and the apathy of some other officials is the most likely explanation.

There are literally thousands of players, as eager as beavers to play the game, and derive the utmost benefit from it, but relatively few ever cast a thought towards organisational matters, and what is worse, do absolutely nothing about it, in many spheres where they have fallen apart.

This applies particularly to the stars of the game, who, having created very favourable images through the different media of publicity in their playing days retire silently from the scene and conveniently forget all the exciting and satisfying hours which handball had given them.

I often wonder does it ever strike them that without the assistance of dedicated officials their qualities as top class players would never have been exploited.

From time to time we are confronted with devious exclamations, that associations should be initiated, or regular functions organised, so that the stars of the past could be encouraged to retain an interest in their old game. I categorically disagree with such suggestions.

Conversely, there is a task in every club and every county board for these ex-players and by any yardstick, they should accept it, without putting anybody under a compliment.

If such a position could be achieved it would eliminate forever

the ominous barrier which appears to separate players from officials.

In handball anyway, our former players could inspire a refreshing upsurge amongst the younger players, for as we all know too well, they appreciate nothing more than a few encouraging words from the one whom they themselves hope to emulate.

In that context it is not out of place to record that the recent decision of the Tailteann Committee to introduce handball into the Games this season has met with widespread approval. There will be a senior competition, which will embrace all the top players in the country, but more gratifying still, is the introduction of the under-14 and 16 competitions.

Presently these are being run on a provincial basis, both singles and doubles, with the winners from each province scheduled to meet in Croke Park for the concluding stages early in June.

From what I have seen of players in these age groups from such counties as Roscommon, Meath and Dublin, both competitions, besides providing the incentive of winning the coveted Tailteann medal, should also be brimful of exhilarating handball.

And now congratulations to Tralee C.B.S. on winning the All-Ireland Colleges title for the second time—the last occasion being in 1955, the second year of the championship itself.

Since Tralee figured in the closing stages last year and were considered a little unlucky not to have taken the honours, this latest victory was more than justified.

Not to suggest though for a moment that it was easily achieved. Indeed the Kerry representatives—Billy Myles, the All-Ireland minor doubles champion

and his partner Mick O'Connor were tested severely by the Kiernan brothers from Mullingar C.B.S. in the semi-final and then had to withstand a tremendous onslaught from Matt O'Gara and John Higgins, the Roscommon C.B.S. players in the final.

Equally important was the magnificent showing of Seán Purdy and Séamus Moore who carried the colours of St. Colman's, Newry.

Rarely have Ulster representatives been seen to better advantage. Purdy and Moore had obviously trained assiduously for the big event as was evidenced from their neat hitting and astute judgment.

If one could mirror their performance as a true reflection of the standard of juvenile handball in Ulster, then one could rightfully assume that it is only a matter of time before adult players in the province can compare favourably, standard-wise, with their counterparts from the other three.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES WINNERS

- 1954—St. Brendan's (Loughrea).
- 1955—Tralee C.B.S.
- 1956—Limerick C.B.S.
- 1957—St. Nathy's (Ballaghadereen).
- 1958—Enniscorthy C.B.S.
- 1959—Enniscorthy C.B.S.
- 1960—Coláiste Iosagán (Ballyvourney).
- 1961—Coláiste Iosagán (Ballyvourney).
- 1962—St. Nathy's (Ballaghadereen).
- 1963—St. Nathy's (Ballaghadereen).
- 1964—St. Nathy's (Ballaghadereen).
- 1965—St. Nathy's (Ballaghadereen).
- 1966—Tralee C.B.S.

PRESIDENTS

● FROM PAGE 7

With the rest of the Galway delegates, he took the side of the Executive in the 1887 Convention and was chosen as a member of the first Central Council when the Association was re-constructed in January, 1888.

At the 1889 Convention, when, following some dissensions, Maurice Davin again withdrew from the Association, Mr. Kelly was elected President when the remainder of the delegates decided to continue the Association which at one stage seemed in some danger of dissolving.

Under P. J. Kelly's leadership the G.A.A. had to face the most difficult days of its history. The dissensions of the immediately preceding years were not easily healed, but Peter Kelly kept the Association in being and in fact, the G.A.A. was just gathering strength again when the fratricidal Parnell 'Split' divided not alone the Gaelic Athletic Association but all Ireland.

Though busied with many other national activities, P. J. Kelly

remained at the helm through those precarious times and kept the G.A.A. in existence even when the Association had to take the step of declaring itself a national but non-political organisation, and this despite the fact that in the bitterest years of the controversy it had stood firmly behind Parnell.

Peter Kelly was rewarded for his faith and perseverance. By 1895, when he resigned from the Presidency, because of pressure of other commitments, the G.A.A. was already well advanced on its way towards becoming both the greatest sporting and the greatest athletic association in the country.

A prominent public figure in his native county, Peter Kelly saw the G.A.A. take its proper and leading place in the national life before he died in 1908.

In another sphere, Peter Kelly's family continued to play a leading part in Irish life. His son, for many years a well-known member of the Land Commission, wrote a very popular play 'Bridgehead' which was an outstanding hit, between the Wars, at the old Abbey Theatre.

Looking Around

● FROM PAGE 16

side will be top of the bunch in a year to eighteen months.

And while on the subject of hurling, it strikes me that very few scribes have given proper mention to two very fine performances by weak counties in recent weeks.

First we had Meath going down to Dublin by a single point—1-10 to 0-12 in intermediate hurling and then Kerry giving Limerick a great game of it in the under-21 competition.

I may be wrong, but I do feel that the fruits of the hurling revival plan are beginning to be seen already—and this despite the fact that the plan applies only to juvenile and minor affairs. However, it would appear that the revival bug has become contagious. Division III of the National hurling League is one obvious result—we have Louth, Monaghan, Armagh, Donegal, Mayo and Leitrim hurling their hearts out.

Then there was the very fine standard displayed by Offaly and Kerry in their Division II final. Add to all this Roscommon's junior win of last year, the performance of the Down Vocational School team in their recent All-Ireland semi-final game against Wexford, recent good showings by Wicklow and Kildare, and I think you will agree that things are looking up on the hurling scene.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 32

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