

NARROW DEFEAT OF LIMERICK HURLERS

LIMERICK'S junior hurlers narrowly failed in the home final of the All-Ireland Junior Championship at Croke Park yesterday. Their conquerors were Dublin, who won by 1-14 to 1-11. Both teams produced hurling of a classical order, but if Limerick had their two stalwarts, O'Grady and J. Stokes, in their line out it is probable that they would have won. The loss of Dr. Dick Stokes's younger brother was keenly felt, following an injury sustained in training.

It was in the late stages of the match that the Limerick forwards began to move with the smoothness that was characteristic of their display in the Munster final against Cork. The entire team played so well in the second half against Dublin, that similar form in the first half would have ensured victory.

Dublin deserve praise for their win, as it was gained by a team that showed good balance both in defence and attack.

THE SCORING.

Limerick's marksmen in the first half were M. Potter (1 point) and J. Morrissey (4 points), while M. Ryan (4 points), L. Fletcher (2 points), S. Griffin (1 goal) and S. Daly (2 points) were Dublin's scorers. Thus Dublin led by 1-8 to 0-5 at half-time. Dublin scores in the second half were got by M. Ryan (3 points), S. Daly (1 point), L. Fletcher (1 point) and T. Ryan (1 point), and Limerick replies came from J. Morrissey (point), M. McNamara (point), M. Potter (point), B. Mullane (1 goal 1 point) and J. Barry (1 point).

Dublin—S. Murphy; S. Duggan, L. Holmes, S. Young; S. Manton, C. Hayes, D. Kelly; L. Harding (captain) and L. Skelly; S. Rogers, T. Ryan, M. Ryan; S. Daly, S. Griffin, L. Fletcher.

Limerick—J. Murray; J. Burke, M. Mullane (captain), N. Sheehan; S. Murphy, J. J. O'Brien, D. O'Brien; M. Potter, J. Morrissey; T. Boland, T. Casey, J. Barry, B. Mullane, G. Simcox, T. Clifford. Subs.—M. MacNamara for T. Casey; T. Moloney for T. Clifford.

Mr. J. Gallagher (Galway) refereed.

TENNIS.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

A BIG gathering witnessed over the week-end, at Young Men's and Shelbourne Grounds, the finals of the Limerick Junior Championships (writes our tennis correspondent, "M.P.R."). The Mayor, Mr. Kevin Bradshaw, presented the prizes. A full report will appear in our week-end issue.

The results are as follows:

Men's Singles Championship—Sean Byrne (Shelbourne) beat Michael Ryan (Rathbane) 14-12, 6-1.

Ladies' Singles Championship—Mrs. Frazer (Catholic Institute) beat Eva O'Donnell (Catholic Institute) 6-1, 6-1.

Men's Doubles—Sean Byrne and Stephen Fitzgerald (Shelbourne) beat Christy Deegan and Pat Rowlands (Shelbourne) 6-1, 6-2.

Mixed Doubles—Sean Byrne and Helen Roche (Shelbourne) beat L. A. Steepe and Kathleen Bishop (Young Men's) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Ladies' Doubles—Mrs. Hardinge and Helen Roche

LIMERICK AND THE RISING OF 1916

(To the Editor, "Limerick Leader")

DEAR Sir—Having in the course of a number of articles published in the "Limerick Leader," "Limerick Chronicle," and in "Limerick's Fighting Story" (Kerryman Publishing Company, Tralee), covered the period dealt with in the Paper by Mr. J. Gubbins, which appeared in recent issues of your journal, I read it with more than usual interest, and having done so consider that it calls for comment and correction, not in a spirit of carping criticism, but in the interests of historical accuracy.

Personally, I would deem it a mistake to assume the role of apologist for Limerick not having gone into action in 1916. To my mind future historians will not try to puzzle out why the Limerick Volunteers did not go into insurrection, but why the country generally did not rise in support of the men of Dublin. In his report to I. V. Headquarters in 1917, Colonel Colivet stated in terse and soldier-like terms the facts relative to his Command. Limerick must stand or fall with this.

When all is said and done, the loss of the "Aud" was the governing factor. Had her cargo of arms (indifferent as they were) been landed, then automatically Kerry, Cork, Limerick and Clare would have fought. Eoin McNeill's countermand would never have been issued, and it might be presumed that the rest of the country would have joined in the fight.

SURRENDER OF ARMS.

Dealing with the surrender of arms by the Limerick City Volunteers, Mr. Gubbins states: "Intense pressure was exerted by the Mayor, by the Bishop, Dr. O'Dwyer, by the clergy and others to have the arms surrendered." No doubt, Mayor Quin did all he could in the matter, but his "pressure" would have very little influence with the Volunteers. In justice, however, to the memory of Bishop O'Dwyer, it must be recorded that, according to Colonel Colivet, although he did send for the leaders of the Volunteers, he made it perfectly plain to them that he would not ask them to surrender their arms, but he did suggest that they should be brought to some secluded spot and destroyed by fire.

Referring to the projected insurrection, Mr. Gubbins states: "It was not entirely unexpected, as the I.R.B. members had known for some time what was going on." This is not correct. It had apparently been decided by the Supreme Council, I.R.B., that until the last moment only those whom it was absolutely essential to acquaint with the details should be taken into confidence. That most of the Limerick Volunteers, I.R.B. or otherwise, realised by simple deduction for months previous to the Rising that something serious was afoot, I have no doubt, but that is quite a different affair.

Mr. Gubbins states: "Michael O'Callaghan was the only city merchant who identified himself with the movement." I take it that he considered it superfluous to refer to John Daly, who, helpless invalid as he was, manifested an intense and practical interest in the Volunteer movement from the moment of its inception. But surely Mr. Gubbins might have remembered Frank Geary, who was proud to be just one of the rank and file, and

shouldered his rifle and marched to Kallonan on Easter Sunday, 1916. There was also Phons Kivlehan, who, I think, held a commission from the very beginning.

As to the guns held by the Battalion, including shot guns, they could not have numbered 150, because on Easter Sunday some of the men were armed with pikes, and there certainly was not that number of Volunteers on parade. Some twenty Lee-Enfields (Mark IV) had been secured, and those willing, or able to do so paid £2 10s. cash for one. The remainder, including Lee-Enfields (Mark I), Martinis, and shot-guns were distributed by lot, with the provision that the recipients would pay a shilling per week, until a certain amount had been paid.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

Mr. Gubbins waxes indignant because the caretaker of the Transport Workers' Hall received less than £10 per annum by way of pension "from a grateful country." I have no idea as to the basis on which the Pension Board evaluate services (apart from participation in an armed engagement), so I cannot express any opinion on the merits of this particular case, but I am sure it will pain Mr. Gubbins to learn that some two score of his old comrades of the 1st Battalion, who have passed away during the last 30 years, went to their graves without having received ten pence per annum, much less ten pounds, or indeed any mark of recognition.

Dealing with arrests locally after Easter Week, Mr. Gubbins states: "A few days later most of the Battalion officers were arrested, but released after 11 or 12 days, a further example of Weldon's magnanimity." That is not correct. Of the Volunteers arrested on the 11th May, three were released the same day, on the following day, the remainder, with the exception of two, on the 15th, and those two on the 16th. Mr. Gubbins attributes the releases to Colonel Weldon's magnanimity. I would rather term it his astuteness, since the fact that there was such a quick and general gaol delivery here created the impression that there was no need for the British authorities to worry about the Limerick Volunteers, thus gaining for them a reputation they did not deserve.

That poor woman who was such a prop and comfort to the Countess was not the lady who carried the stones in her apron on Whit-Sunday, because on that date she was undergoing a term of penal servitude.

The ammunition was removed from Pennywell to the Fianna Hall on Good Friday night, not Holy Thursday.

It was Miss Agnes Daly who delivered the dispatch to Colonel Colivet at Kallonan on Easter Monday.

THAT "INNER HISTORY."

Mr. Gubbins refers to the "inner history" of those days in Limerick. I wonder whether he ever heard that some of the men of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in Limerick, considering that it was that body who were responsible for the insurrection in Dublin, and being that their first allegiance was due to it and not to the Irish Volunteers, tried to organise an outbreak locally? It was, I think, Captain Michael Brennan who led the movement, but he was arrested before it came to a head. I do not know what amount of support he had been promised.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. O'HALLORAN.