

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKKEY of Castleconnell

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

TALL, loosely built John "Tyler" Mackey was, in his day, one of Ireland's best-known hurlers and a great favourite with Gaelic fans everywhere.

Son of one of the great figures of the early Gaelic days—Michael Mackey, of Castleconnell—a pioneer in the introduction of the modern game of hurling to almost an entire countryside, "Tyler" first caught the eye of old hurling enthusiasts when, at a very young age, he stood head and shoulders above his schoolfellows in the little local games organised by the youths of the Castleconnell school.

There were, of course, no organised school competitions at this period of the Association's existence. The G.A.A. in fact, was only emerging from one of its most difficult periods—the occasion of the "Parnell Split," which threatened its very existence and for a time looked as if it might sound the death knell of the then infant organisation.

## ONLY ONE GRADE THEN

Prowess in the small games of the locality, then a famous tourist centre and a favourite evening rendezvous for Limerick City folk, made the name of the "young boy of the Mackeys" fairly widely known by the hurling fraternity long before he turned out with Castleconnell in their senior colours. It might be added that there was only one grade at this period of G.A.A. organisation and it took an outstanding youth to get his place "with the men," particularly with a team that could boast the talent and the tradition behind old Castleconnell.

Castleconnell and Young Ireland—already old rivals, although the latter were only a short time in existence—were invited to participate in a big tournament at Cratloe, organised to aid the dependents of a promising Clare hurler named O'Dea, who had won the Croke Cup with O'Callaghan's Mills, but who died at a tragically early age.

Foremost on a strong Castleconnell team at the period, the then very young "Tyler" remembers the Galligans, whilst Jim O'Riordan is the figure he recalls as outstanding in the Young Ireland colours. The mentors from the banks of the Shannon were regarded as taking a very big chance in introducing a player so young to the rough and tumble, the excitement and the hard-hitting that was part and parcel of the clashes between the leading teams of an arena that was then stern and severe in its man to man contacts, but lined with a love and comradeship that survived the searching years and provided only the happiest of memories that just deepened with the passage of time—golden remembrances that lighten the weight of the fast moving years.

## A VERITABLE TORDADO

A veritable tornado on the playing field, "Tyler's" methods were direct and to the point. He is credited with establishing a new style in Limerick. The Shannonsiders are recognised the hardest pullers in the game and it was from "Tyler's" successful efforts the tradition started.

Legends grew around his name, whilst yet he was young in hurling years, and the crowds flocked to the venues where Limerick were engaged just to see him play.

One of the most fearless of hurlers, this tough, reckless, devil-may-care midfielder was both a powerful man and a great natural hurler.

Old timers still speak with glowing eyes of his sweeping double-handed thrusts into enemy territory, his fierce tackling, his whirlwind raids, with strokes swift as lightning that cut through all opposition as a knife through butter, the great rallies he led when the tide was often flowing strongly against his side.

## THE SOLO RUN

Mick Mackey's solo runs became famous, but it was his father, "Tyler" Mackey, that originated this spectacular method of breaking through for a score. Both had the fiery dash, the strength, the courage and the fierce determination that are the essential adjuncts to success in this regard.

Dare-devilry and dash were the outstanding characteristics of the wiry and fearless midfielder whose personal courage was never questioned, as he collected the ball somewhere around scurial mark,

danced through a few opponents, cut another from his path with a turn of his shoulder, put the most venturesome over the sideline with a power packed charge and slipped the leather into the goal-mouth for a spectacular score, oftentimes when defeat seemed inevitable for his team.

## MET THE GREATEST HURLERS

A man must be judged by his company and none can doubt that "Tyler" alone, playing with and against some of the greatest men hurling has known. To recall them reads almost like the litany of champion caman wielders: Jim Kelleher of Duncannon, still rated by hundreds of Cork old timers as the all-time great of hurling; "Rooker" Keefe, "Daw" McGrath, Tim Neagle, Andy Fitzgerald, Conny Sheehan, "Billix" Moloney, "Bachus" Leahy, Christy Nolan, Gerry Beckett, Sean Og Murphy, Willie Mackenney, "Doorick" Buckley, all of Leeside; Hughie Skelly, "Hawk" O'Brien, "Toss" Mockler, Paddy Brohan, Frank McGrath, Tom Semple, Johnny Leahy (Tipperary), "Drug" Walsh, the DoYLES, Matt Gargan, Dan Kennedy, Sim Walton, Jack Rochford (Kilkenny), Amby Power, Tom McGrath, "Fowler" McInerney, Jack Spellisey (Clare), Mick Cummins, Paddy Mackey, Sean Kennedy (Wexford), Bob O'Keefe (Laois), Jack Grace (Dublin) and the home contingent, Mick Feely, Con Scanlan, Tom Hayes, Paddy Flaherty, Dave Conway and "Egan" Clancy.

## THE GAME AND CONDITIONS OF "TYLER'S" HEYDAY

It is difficult to compare present day hurling with the game of "Tyler's" heyday. The ball is smaller now, hurleys lighter and better shaped, the number of players on a team reduced and pitches very much improved.

"Tyler" often walked a dozen miles or more to play a championship game, "logged off" at the side of a ditch, even for a Munster final, as often did such noted players as Austin Stack, Tom Semple and Jim Kelleher; many times played in his bare feet and afterwards walked the wearisome journey home, his legs tied in a bundle on his hurley.

It is hard for present day players visualise the conditions then obtaining. Grounds of their own for the G.A.A. was a dream of the future; fields were rough and uncut; motor cars unheard of; bicycles a luxury. There were no "tatchy" cases in them days, nor pavilions either. Two crooked poles, with a rope for "crossbar," was the best most venues boasted for goal posts. These, with the crude, heavy, unsmoothed hurleys, the huge "sitter," the bare feet, they are all part of the past—the glamour and romance of the old days.

## HE LIVED FOR THE GAME

The Castleconnell man had everything a great hurler needs. He lived for the game and put his heart and soul into the playing of it. I remember a grand old veteran once telling how he judged a good hurler: "I always look first for heart." 'Tis old heart that really counts in every game. All the other things follow—guts, stamina, will power, knowledge and ability."

I doubt if ever a hurling hero had more "heart" than the redoubtable "Tyler." In his day he could rove endlessly all over the field, go into the thick of everything and invariably come out with a smile on his face—every line in which is fixed forever in the memory of many who were his ardent admirers all through the glamour and romance of his long hurling day.

## A BORN LEADER

A powerful man and a great natural hurler, he was a born leader. He captained Limerick through many stirring campaigns. His team mates respected "Tyler" as no other man was respected and a word from him was usually more effective than a speech from another. In Limerick hurling councils his command was law and the service he rendered on the field, as a member of the county team from 1901 to 1917, an amazing length of time, in itself sure-proof of his greatness, was only surpassed by the public good he accomplished in after years as a member of Limerick County Council and on many public boards.

The central figure in many hurling encounters, his robust style and directness in attack

often gave the impression of roughness, but those that hurled with end against him in some of the greatest games of the time bear testimony to a gentle and generous nature.

"Tyler" got more hard knocks than he gave and it is characteristic of him that he was able to take them with a smile. Or an impetuous nature, "Tyler" revelled in the hard going and, I believe, if the knocks were missing the hurling game wouldn't have held the same attraction for this honest son of old Castleconnell.

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

AFTER some years out of action, Castleconnell returned to the hurling limelight in 1901 and were soon hitting the local headlines with some fine performances in county championship titles.

After a match played at the Markets Field, in which they beat Ferrybridge, then a thriving hurling side, 2-9 to 2-5, hurling-lovers were loud in their praise of the display of a quartette—Tyler Mackey, Sean Carroll, Joe Herbert and Denay Dillane.

The county selectors took due notice and Tyler Mackey was a member of the team that beat Kerry, 2-5 to 2-4, in the opening round of the Munster Championship, only to lose later to Clare, 2-7 to 1-7.

Castleconnell advanced to the Co. Final, played at the Markets Field on December 8th, 1901, but lost to Rathkeale 2-4 to 2-3. This result was disputed, and the Co. Board, on considering the matter, ordered a replay which Castleconnell won, 7-1 to 2-4, giving Tyler his first championship medal. It was also the first county title won by Castleconnell and there was great rejoicing in the parish.

With Sean Carroll as captain, the Castleconnell selection reversed the previous year's result in the Munster Championship campaign which followed, by defeating Clare, 2-9 to 1-1, but lost to Cork in the provincial final, at Tralee, 4-1 to 2-1.

## MEMBERS OF THE TEAM.

It is interesting to note that the Limerick team on this occasion included four players who had been in the defeat of Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final of 1897—J. Cahrell (Ballingarry), P. Butler (Cappamore), T. Flynn and T. Brazill (Kilfinane). The other members of the side were: S. Carroll, J. Mackey, J. Herbert (Castleconnell), E. Quinlan (Bruff), M. Feely (Croom), M. Clifford, E. Gibbons (Ballynagrán), M. Keely (Caherline), John O'Rourke (Kilfinane), J. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. O'Connell, J. O'Brien, J. Creamer (Young Ireland), M. Creed (Elton), A. Hartigan (Kilfinane).

The Shannonsiders again contested the 1902 southern decider, Cork once more proving their masters, the score this time, 3-9 to 1-2.

One of the first Whit tours was that of 1904, when a team of Limerick hurlers and athletes visited London, arriving there on Sunday morning and remaining until the following Tuesday night. They were lavishly entertained during their stay by the Chairman of London County Board—Mr. Liam McCarthy, afterwards donor of the cup, now the trophy for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

On Whit Monday, at Kilm Park Grounds, Lea Bridge, before five thousand spectators, the Shannonsiders lads beat the London Irish (All-Ireland champions) 3-4 to 0-3. Tyler did not play on the Limerick team, which was:

Tim Lloyd (captain), W. Ryan, M. Creamer (Caherline), J. Herbert, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell), M. Danaher (Murroe), M. Quinlan (Bruff), W. Sheehan (Rathkeale), P. J. Keely, D. Coll (Bruree), M. Clifford, M. Barry, E. Gibbons (Ballynagrán), P. J. Leahy, L. Roche (Cragane), T. Flynn (goal), J. W. O'Brien (Kilfinane).

Limerick successes at the athletic meeting on the same occasion were—

50 Yards Flat—J. O'Regan (Martinstown), won.

Relay Race—D. Coll, J. O'Regan, P. J. Leahy, J. J. Leahy, won.

Running High Jump—P. J. Leahy (6ft. 11ins.), won; J. J. Leahy, second.

Hurling Long Puck—James Herbert, second.

## VISIT RETURNED.

The London-Irish returned the visit on September 24th, being met at the Railway Station by thousands of citizens, accompanied by two bands. They were entertained to dinner at Geary's Hotel, where Mr. L. Roche presided. An address of welcome was presented. Amongst the attendance were AM, Michael Joyce, M.P., and Ald. John Daly.

The following day, at the Markets Field, Limerick crossed camans with them, and proved victorious by 4-11 to 2-4. The winners were—

T. Lloyd (captain), W. Ryan, P. Creamer (Caherline), M. Flynn (goal), (Kilfinane), M. Feely (Croom), M. Whelan (Bruff), J. Mackey, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell), M. Shinnors (Kilteely), T. O'Brien, J. Flanagan (Young Ireland), M. Danaher, M. Horan (Murroe), W. Sheehan, P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. Butler (Cappamore), T. Sheehan (Moneyg).

Limerick were strongly fancied for Munster honours following the double defeat of the All-Ireland title holders, but lost to Cork a short time later, at Tralee, the team on this occasion being: Tim Lloyd (captain), W. Ryan (Caherline), T. O'Brien, Joe

O'Connell, P. O'Dea (Young Ireland), J. Cahrell (Kilfinane), J. Carroll, M. McCarthy, J. Mackey, (Castleconnell), P. Goss (Bruree), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), M. Feely (Croom), P. Butler (Cappamore), T. Flynn, T. Brazill (Kilfinane), M. Quinlan, W. Gammel, M. Whelan (Bruff), M. Clifford (Ballynagrán).

One of the best games witnessed at the Markets Field for many a day was that between Young Ireland and Castleconnell in the Senior Hurling Championship, and played on March 12th, 1905, which the city lads won by the narrowest of margins, 3-5 to 1-10.

Tyler Mackey played in his third Munster Final on February 10th, 1907, at Tipperary, for the 1906 championship, and the Leaders won, 7-12 to 1-4. Mr. Bob Quane refereed.

It was a great Cork team, captained by Jim Kelleher of Dunganey, whom Tyler considers the best hurler of his day.

A small dapper man, wide shouldered and well built, Kelleher could, and did play in every position on the field, although his liking was for defence.

A believer in the use of brain rather than brawn, he was the cleverest defender ever to appear on Munster fields, whilst his judgment was unranny. He could "course" a ball through half a dozen opponents, before working clear in some extraordinary way, to rise and drive half the length of the pitch.

## WAS GREAT HORSEMAN, TOO!

A great horseman, too, he bred some splendid hunters, and won dozens of trophies riding across country. Many veteran Cork hurling fans maintain to this day that Jim Kelleher was the greatest hurler ever to draw on a jersey.

Another noted member of those fine Cork teams that beat Limerick in three Munster Finals from 1902 to 1905 was Andrew ("Doorick") Buckley, a hurler with more scores to his name off free pucks than any other player of his time. In the 1903 All-Ireland Final, played in 1906, at Dan Fagher's Field in Dunganey, "Doorick," from the extreme forward position, scored the almost incredible total of 7 goals and 4 points of the Cork total of 8 goals and 9 points, against Kilkenny's 8 points. This remarkable scoring performance has not been approached in an All-Ireland Final and probably never shall be beaten.

A dispute at the 1907 County Convention resulted in some 20 of the leading Limerick clubs, including Castleconnell, breaking away from the existing Board and forming a new county committee. Efforts made locally to settle matters were unsuccessful until the Munster Council intervened and the difficulties were eventually satisfactorily bridged.

As a result of the unsettled conditions Limerick teams suffered a set back and it was near the end of 1908 before Tyler Mackey again figured in the hurling news, when he led Castleconnell to victory against Croom in the county final. The teams on that occasion were—

Castleconnell—J. Mackey, M. Rainford, P. Herbert, J. Leonard, M. McCarthy, M. Danaher, K. Fenton, M. Carroll, C. O'Connor, M. Sweeney, T. Benn, B. Carroll, J. Conway, J. Ryan, T. Brennan, J. Herbert, P. Vaughan, W. Gallagher.

Croom—P. Mangan, T. Mangan, J. Mangan, T. Griffin, J. Kennedy, M. Kennedy, G. Lyons, E. Halvey, M. Lyons, P. Huskin, T. Hayes, J. Mullane, M. Burns, T. Bourke, M. Feely, J. Lane, B. Hayes.

Early in 1910, Captain the Hon. Ottway Cuffe of Kilkenny presented a beautiful silver shield weighing 56 lbs. to be competed for in aid of Ring Irish College. At Tipperary on July 20th, Limerick (Castleconnell selection) met Tipperary in the first round of the competition before a large attendance, and were narrowly beaten, 2-14 to 2-12. Tyler giving an outstanding display on that occasion.

## ONCE AGAIN IN ACTION.

On August 14th, the Castleconnell selection was again in action and beat Erin's Own of Kilkenny, at Waterford, 5-5 to 1-1. The Limerick players that day were—

J. Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), J. Carroll, D. Conway, J. Leonard, P. Vaughan, P. Danaher, M. Sweeney, B. O'Connor (Castleconnell), C. Scanlan, M. Harrington, E. Treacy, E. Clancy (Fedmone), M. Mangan, T. Mangan (Croom), T. Hayes, T. O'Brien (Young Ireland).

In the semi-final of the Munster Championship Limerick beat Kerry 6-2 to 2-0, and were fixed to meet Cork, at Tralee, on Oct. 16th in the final.

The fine hosting paid 158 to see the game, some contrast to the record takings of £8,708 16s. 4d. at a Cork - Tipperary decider a few years ago at Limerick Gaelic Grounds.

Tyler addressed his men before the game, telling them to "rattle" the Cork players from the start with a view to putting them off their nice stylish game, at which they were then adepts and not allowing them to settle down.

Tyler himself was a doubtful starter, as he suffered from a split thumb, which was very painful, but he decided on playing, and gave one of the best displays of his career.

From the throw-in Limerick swept the Leaders off their feet. They fought with great determination, their hurling was magnificent, their combination excellent, the swiftness in getting possession of the ball and their long and well delivered shots were more than Cork could withstand, and they sprung the surprise of the year by defeating the fancied Corkmen, 5-1 to 4-2.

The Leaders were cocksure of victory, and Willie Mackesay, one of the eight men to win All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football, said after the game: "We left the 'All-Ireland' fall off our hurleys."

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKEY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

THE All-Ireland final of 1910 was probably the most controversial in the long line of hurling championships. Here is the story of it, as told by the Limerick, Captain, "Tyler" Mackey, many years ago: "The game was well up to present standard, and in comparison suffered nothing as regards speed, skill and stamina. Ter and Mick Mangan, Mick Feely (Croom), Con Scanlan, Egan Clancy, Ned Treacy, Mick Harrington (Fedamore), Timmy O'Brien, Tom Hayes (Young Ireland), J. Bourke (Boher), Paddy Ehlhorst (Rathfole), J. Madden (Commercial) and the Castleconnell representatives, Sean Carroll, Mick Danaher, D. Conway and M. Swiney were as good a lot as any captain ever marshalled but we had not the facilities for training then as were later available, nor had we such a grand organisation behind us as exists nowadays.

"It was a splendid game, played in a fine sporting spirit and considered one of the closest and most exciting staged up to that time at the old Jones's Road arena, now Croke Park.

## ATTENDANCE CLOSE ON 10,000

The attendance was estimated at close on ten thousand and the gate receipts totalled £288. (Note: The attendance at the 1954 All-Ireland Senior Hurling final was 84,856 and the gate totalled £10,051). It was the first occasion on which side-line seats were provided at a Gaelic match, and these consisted of some seven hundred chairs placed on the cycle track which then surrounded the pitch. This innovation proved very popular and the accommodation was fully taxed.

The occasion marked Limerick's second entry to the final, the Kilfinane men having accounted for Tullaroan (Kilkenny) in 1897, to bring the first hurling title to the Shannonside.

Limerick had qualified by defeating in turn Kerry and Cork, after the latter had disposed of Tipperary.

Wexford won out in Leinster by gaining the verdict over Offaly and defeating Dublin in the provincial final.

The nature of the opposition may be gauged from the fact that Wexford had succeeded against Cork in a great tournament final, organised by that great Gael, Dan Fraher, at Dungarvan.

With both finalists boasting victories over the fancied Rebel County lads it was a matter for conjecture as to whether Limerick or Wexford were superior.

"The element of luck in games prevailed at that time as it does now, and I am of opinion that my team had more than its share of ill-luck in that memorable final."

## SCORES DISALLOWED

"We had scores disallowed, and Wexford had a score when the Limerick men were standing up, under the false impression that the whistle had gone. Wexford, playing on, sent to the net for a goal, which decided the issue, apart from the scores disallowed.

"It happened in this way. Egan Clancy was injured and fell to the ground. Both teams ceased play and Timmy O'Brien (Limerick), who was in possession, let the ball drop. A Wexford player walked leisurely over and struck towards the net. The Limerick goalkeeper was leaving his goal as the ball approached, thinking play was suspended, and made no effort to intercept it, but to the consternation of Limerick players and spectators the score was allowed."

Only recently, a Wexford veteran, Sim Donoghue of Kilmacoe, who played in the 1901 home final against Cork and filled the left half back position on the 1910 team, gives his reminiscences of the final against Limerick, said it was a game of heavy pulling. It was, he continued, almost all ground hurling. "You worked your way the shortest route to goal, and then tried all you could to get through."

Sim went on to tell about a false whistle as Wexford mounted an all-out offensive on the Limerick goal. Mick Cummins was on the ball when some spectators blew a whistle and all the players stood up. The referee shouted "play on" and Mick completed the movement with a point, which, in the end, proved the winning margin.

## SEVENTEEN CONSTITUTED TEAM

Returning to "Tyler's" story: "The Wexford team were drawn from Castlebridge, New Ross, Oulart and Screen, while our selection was from Castleconnell, Fedamore, Young Ireland, Commercial, Rathfole and Boher.

"At the time seventeen constituted a team, and ours included some of the finest hurlers who ever donned a jersey.

"For instance, the deeds in the hurling arena of Mick Feely and his fellow Gaels, the Mangan brothers, from the pretty Malgeside village of Croom, where the game flourished from the early days, will be evergreen, as will the names of the men from the neighbouring centre of Fedamore, which included Egan Clancy, whose brother, Seoirse, was ten years later murdered by British Crown Forces whilst Mayor of Limerick. We had in goal J. Burke of Boher, to complete a selection as good as ever represented our county, or, for that matter, Munster."

Referring to the points of the game, "Tyler" said that Limerick were first to take the field and were greeted with loud applause.

A Limerickman resident in Dublin, Mick Crowe of Ballysimon, was referee.

## A NEW RULE

At the previous Congress a new rule was passed providing for a parallelogram, and the umpires had to watch out for the encroachment of this parallelogram, or "square," as it is now so often called.

"The rule in its early application gave rise to no little confusion as regards interpretation and it was, perhaps, unfortunate for us that it was introduced for the first time in this final. The umpires were Jim Harrington (Cork), who was Chairman of the Munster Council at the time; Jack Grace of Kilkenny, a well-known hurler and footballer playing with the Kickhams in Dublin; Joseph Ward (Louth), a prominent member of both the Leinster and Central Councils, and an American visitor. The latter was not conversant with the new rule and his decisions on more than one occasion did not meet with the approval of Limerick."

In the course of his description of the match "Tyler" said: "Limerick won the toss, but within a minute of the start Wexford were through for a goal. The pace was terrific as we fought for the equaliser, the Leinstermen putting up a great defence.

"From a free forty yards out, Mick Feely pointed for Limerick's first blood. The Croom sharpshooter minutes later dropped in the goalmouth, which led to a goal per his clubmate, Ter Mangan.

"We then held the advantage until Wexford gained the sensational goal whilst Egan Clancy was down injured, as already described. Wexford followed with another major before we forced a seven" and from Mick Feely's well-placed drive Ter Mangan again found the net. Encouraged, Limerick stormed the Wexford posts and Dave Conway finished a dashing movement with a further goal. Minutes later a further goal was scored, but was disallowed. At half time Wexford led 6-0 to 3-1.

"Though we had experienced very hard luck in the first half, we were not disheartened and played on in dogged fashion in an effort to get on level terms. Con Scanlan hit a free which was returned but the Fedamore man again got possession and opened up a grand movement which was crowned by a great goal scored by Dave Conway. We had the best of the play in the next passage and our forwards had hard luck in missing the posts on several occasions.

## LED BY SOLITARY POINT

T. Mangan and J. Madden reduced the leeway with a point and a goal in the subsequent exchanges, and we were certain of winning when the latter again goaled to reduce the lead to a solitary point seven minutes from the end. With might and main we struggled for the major that would give us the title, and there was intense excitement as we stormed the Wexford posts, only to be driven back time and again by the full-back, Sean

O'Kennedy, who hurled as one inspired.

"Then a mighty shout went up as J. Madden whipped on a great clearance from Tom Hayes and who to the net. It was shortlived, however, for the umpires disallowed what looked a perfectly valid score, and our cup of sorrow was filled to the brim—Wexford gaining the title by a solitary point, 7-0 to 6-2."

The Press report of the match the following morning had this to say: "Captain Mackey of the Limerick team lodged an objection on the field. The Limerick men maintain that they won the match. There are at least two goals in dispute."

Limerick County Board followed up with a formal objection and a long and bitter controversy ensued. The Central Council refused to entertain the objection but letters continued to appear in the Press from supporters of both sides for a considerable time.

Dissatisfaction with the handling of the game did not detract from the admiration in which Limerick held the sporting Wexford men and their county who had, in previous efforts to win the crown, encountered their own share of ill-luck and disappointment.

No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKEY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

LIMERICK soon recovered from the 1910 All-Ireland final disappointment, and the early months of 1911 witnessed some great hurling in club games within the county.

The Lyons Memorial final attracted a great crowd to the Markets Field on February 12th and turned out a terrific struggle, Fedamore defeating the County Champions, Castleconnell, 4-1 to 1, after a hard, closely contested game.

Mr. Pat Mangan was the referee, and the teams were:—  
 Fedamore—Con Scanlan (captain), S. Gleeson, M. Bourke, M. Harrington, P. Shinnors, P. Cavanagh, M. Whelan, E. Treacy, J. Quinn, J. Ryan, Egan Clancy, Clancy, W. Clifford (goal), John Casey, P. Keane.  
 Castleconnell—J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), Vaughan, M. Danaher, J. Leonard, P. Herbert, M. Sweeney, Benn, B. O'Connor, W. Carroll, Carroll, C. Mackey, W. Benn, Brennan, D. Conway.

**THE 1910 FINAL.**  
 On March 19th another fine crowd assembled at the Markets Field for the delayed final of the 10 County Senior Hurling Championship. It was a neck and neck struggle for supremacy between two great teams and was won by Young Irelands by the narrowest margins, their score being four goals and two points to Castleconnell's four goals and one point.

With scores running level all through an exciting second half, the indications were that the game would end in a draw. Young Ireland were pressing hard in the closing minutes but a magnificent Castleconnell defence withstood every effort of the forwards. Time was almost up when one of the county backs ruled. The free was at an awkward angle but everyone in that vast crowd were aware that the city captain, Tom Hayes, could put a ball "through the eye of a needle." It was a tense moment as he stooped and lifted, and shot straight and true to declare the champions. It was a dramatic last second score that reserved the rounds of applause which greeted it.

**THE TEAMS**

Mr. James O'Riordan was the referee and the teams were:  
 Young Irelands—Tom Hayes (captain), P. Scanlan (goal), J. Mangan, M. Halvey, J. Creamer, McNamara, J. Ryan, P. Frawley, C. McGill, T. McMahon, J. Brennan, J. McSweeney, J. Murphy, F. Murphy, T. O'Brien, J. Subbins, A. Kelly.  
 Castleconnell—J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), J. McCarthy, P. Vaughan, P. Herbert, J. Leonard, J. Carroll, C. Mackey, M. Sweeney, J. Benn, J. Vaughan, W. Carroll, B. O'Connor, M. Danaher, T. Brennan.

Young Ireland Club made a very sporting gesture following this final. By their win, Young Ireland were entitled to the selection of the county team but they agreed, in view of the disappointment suffered in 1910, that Castleconnell should be given another opportunity of holding a county side, with J. ("Tyler") Mackey again as captain.

Castleconnell beat Thurles Blues 0 to 2-1 in the semi-final of the Brussels hurling tournament, played at the Markets Field on April 2nd.

**AT KILLARNEY**

The Castleconnell lads were visitors to Killarney on June 4th, where they beat Dungourney 6-4 to 3-2 in a senior hurling tournament in conjunction with the Gaelic League Oireachtas.

The late Egan Clancy of Fedamore, a team mate of "Tyler's," in his memoirs, published some years ago in the "New York Advocate," made interesting reference to a rivalry that had its beginning on that occasion:

"I remember away back in 1911, Dungourney were invited by the Killarney Fels Committee to play Castleconnell for a special set of gold medals. It was a glorious June day, and there was hardly room to stand in the town, famed in song and story. Before the game my seat at the festive board happened to be next to the one and only Jim Kelleher, and after a friendly salute and handshake, Jim said in a stage whisper: 'Egan, I want to introduce to you Timmie Nagle, the lad that's going to spike Tyler's guns to-day. Watch his style. He is very fast and snappy. This is his first inter-county game.'

**OUTSTANDING STAR**

"Those comments, coming from the lips of such a wonderful hurler as Kelleher, needless to say, caused me to take a great interest in my new acquaintance, who not only lived up to his captain's expectations in checking Tyler's desperate rushes but was acclaimed by all sporting writers as the outstanding star in that memorable contest, which Castleconnell won, only to have the decision reversed a few weeks later by Dungourney at the Cork Athletic Grounds, for the Ottway Cuffe Shield and gold medals; by six points to five. In this terrible struggle for supremacy both teams were five points with about four minutes to go. Out of a ruck at midfield Nagle got possession, dribbled at top speed down the left wing, pucked the leather, and with a lovely shot sent over the winning point. It was one of the most spectacular and thrilling passages I've ever seen in any game. Ever after, when Cork and Limerick met, you could hear on all sides along the lines: 'Look out for the exchanges between Nagle and Tyler to-day.' They were truly worth watching."

**BRUSSELS TOURNAMENT FINAL**

The final of the Brussels hurling tournament for the St. Joseph Green Cup and medals, played at Cork Athletic Grounds on June 25th before four thousand spectators, proved a thrilling tussle, one of the toughest games witnessed on a Gaelic field for many a day. Great interest centred in the contest and a big crowd, led by a pipers' band, travelled from Limerick. Rev. Dr. Edwin, U.C.C., threw in the ball and Mr. J. McDonnell, Tralee, refereed. Limerick made a very plucky fight, and were only beaten in the closing stages of a very low-scoring game.

The Shannonside players were: J. Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), P. Vaughan, P. Herbert, J. Carroll, B. O'Connor (Castleconnell), C. Scanlan, E. Clancy, J. Clancy, M. Harrington, S. Gleeson (Fedamore), J. Madden, M. Madden (Commercials), T. Mangan, M. Feely (Croom), T. Hayes (Young Irelands), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale).

**IRISH-AMERICAN TEAM**

A team of Irish-American hurlers drawn from Chicago and New York toured Ireland during the summer of 1911 and played Limerick at the Markets Field on August 27th, before ten thousand spectators. Mr. G. O'B. Storan, Police Inspector, New York, threw in the ball and Mr. Harry Boland (uncle of our present Minister of Defence) refereed.

A very interesting contest ended in favour of Limerick, who won 5-1 to 3-1.

The teams were:  
 Limerick—M. Feely (captain), M. Mangan, E. Halvey, J. O'Shea, T. Twomey (Croom), J. Madden (Commercials), J. Flaherty (Rathkeale), P. Treacy, M. Harrington, M. Bourke, C. Scanlan, E. Clancy, S. Gleeson (Fedamore), J. O'Donnell (Bruff), T. Hayes, M. Hayes (South Liberties).

Irish-Americans—M. Mangan (Chicago) (captain), W. Doyle (New York) (goal), M. Fogarty, T. Roche, D. Scully, M. Moriarty, M. Treacy, D. McNamara (Chicago), W. Heffernan, P. Shortall, J. Kavanagh, J. McMahan, P. Sanders, A. Berbery, J. J. Riordan, P. Purcell, T. Bourke (New York).

**IN DEFENCE OF THEIR MUNSTER CROWN.**

In the opening match in defence of their Munster crown Limerick beat Kerry at Listowel 6-5 to 1-2, and in the semi-final triumphed over Clare at Tipperary Town 10-5 to 6-1. Tipperary created the surprise of the season by defeating Cork 5-2 to 0-3 in the second semi-final, played at Dungarvan.

The final, played at Cork Athletic Grounds on November 19th, was a very exciting affair. Tipperary were leading by seven points ten minutes from the end and many spectators were actually leaving the field when Limerick staged a great recovery.

A great midfield rally led by "Tyler" Mackey and Mick Feely saw the latter send a marvellous drive that beat the famed "Hawk" O'Brien for a spectacular goal. Limerick responded in remarkable fashion and eventually chalked up one of their most thrilling victories, 5-3 to 4-3.

**THE TEAMS.**

The teams were:  
 Limerick—J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), P. Vaughan, J. Carroll, M. Sweeney, B. O'Connor (Castleconnell), C. Scanlan, S. Gleeson, E. Treacy, E. Clancy, M. Burke, M. Harrington (Fedamore), J. Shea, M. Feely (Croom), T. Hayes (South Liberties), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), T. Hayes (Young Irelands).

Tipperary—Hugh Shelly (captain), J. ("Hawk") O'Brien (goal), Andy Carew, Tom Kerwick, Martin O'Brien, Jac Mc-Loughney, Paddy Brolan, Jack Mooney, Andy Callanan, Jerry Fogarty (Thurles), Bob Mockler, J. Mockler, J. Fitzpatrick, Jim Bourke (Two Mile Morris), Tim Gleeson (Drombane), Johnny Leahy (Boherlahan), J. Kennedy (Toomevara).

On the last day of 1911, at Port Laoise, Limerick qualified for the All-Ireland final by defeating Galway 7-4 to 2-6.

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKEY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

ONCE more in a Blue Riband decider and determined to overcome the ill-luck of the previous year, Limerick prepared earnestly for the meeting with Kilkenny.

The Norwalkers, after winning four titles in the half dozen years from 1904 to 1909, had suffered a lapse, but with the bulk of the great figures of their glory days again in action hopes were high in Limerick that the title which Wexford won in 1910 would remain in the Province.

Enthusiasm was at fever pitch and a great crowd made the journey to Cork on February 18, 1912, to see the game.

But a big disappointment was in store. Heavy rains made the pitch a quagmire and the members of the Central Council present declared the field unplayable and postponed the contest. Limerick protested against this decision and demanded that the match be played, but to no avail.

At a meeting of the Central Council held on March 2nd the date was re-fixed for Thurles on April 3rd, with Mr. T. Irwin of Cork as referee.

## LIMERICK REFUSED TO PLAY

Limerick refused to play at Thurles, and "Tyler" tells the story: "After Limerick had secured the verdict over the famous Thurles Blues selection in the Munster Final, an objection followed. This was not sustained but gave rise to some feeling. So when the All Ireland Final re-date was made for Thurles, in view of the Tipperary objection, we felt that the venue was not a neutral one, and accordingly refused to travel."

Limerick tabled a motion for the All-Ireland Congress, held at the City Hall, Dublin, on Easter Sunday, seeking a change of venue but it was defeated by 23 votes to 17, after a lengthy discussion, marked with rather caustic passages.

The re-fixed date was May 18, but Limerick persisted in their refusal to play at Thurles, and at a meeting of the Central Council held on June 2nd, the All-Ireland title was awarded to Kilkenny. Limerick County Board were subsequently suspended for their failure to field a team.

The Munster Council were then asked to nominate a team to represent Munster, and Tipperary opposed Kilkenny, at Dungarven, on July 28th, in a game in lieu of the abortive final. The Norwalkers won, 2-3 to 2-1.

## NEW COUNTY BOARD FORMED

Mr. Jim Nowlan, Chairman, and Mr. Luke J. O'Toole, Secretary of the Central Council, with Mr. Pat McGrath, Secretary of the Munster Council, attended a meeting of Limerick G.A.A. Clubs on August 11th, 1912, at which a New County Board was formed, to replace the one suspended in connection with the failure to play at Thurles. The election of officers resulted: Chairman, Mr. Joe Kelly (Ballingarry), by 23 votes to 16 for Councillor P. Farrell. Vice-Chairman, Mr. Michael Ryan, D.C.; Treasurer, Mr. E. Jackson, Kilmallock; Sec. Mr. Mick Feely (Croom), by 26 votes to 17 for Mr. A. Quillinan, Assistant Secretary. Mr. P. Halvey, representatives on the Munster Council, Messrs. E. Treacy (Fedamore) and J. Kelly (Ballingarry).

## DELEGATES PRESENT

The names of the delegates present at this Convention will be read with interest. Castleconnell R.C.—John Carroll, Thomas Brennan. Rathkeale H.C.—J. Norrigan, P. Flaherty; Drimcollogher H.C.—M. Riordan, J. Fitzgibbon. Young Ireland H.C.—T. Hayes, S. Frost; Bruff H.C.—Michael Gurin; Newcastle West F.C.—J. A. Collins, Joseph Hanley; Kilmis H.C.—James Stokes, Thomas O'Shaughnessy; Galbally F.C.—N. Scanlan, P. Fitzgerald; Kilmallock, F.C.—E. Jackson, J. O'Mahon; Castlemahon H.C.—C. O'Donnell, M. J. Roche; Ballinacorney H.C.—James O'Grady, M. Houston; Ballybrown H.C.—N. O'Connell; I. A. Buckley; Doon H.C.—Michael McElligott, Patrick Ryan; Mungret H.C.—J. Finn, Michael O'Donoghue; Commercialis F.C.—J. Purcell, A. Quillinan; Green H.C.—R. Treacy, J. O'Connell; Ardpatrick H.C.—T. O'Connell, Thomas Barrett; Com-

mercials H.C.—John Thompson, P. O'Reilly; Caherline H.C.—R. O'Connell, T. F. Corboy; South Liberties H.C.—P. Halvey, C. Ward; Manister H.C.—J. Cregan, J. McNamara; Ballylanders F.C.—T. A. Crowley, P. Crawford.

The loss of two All Ireland titles under circumstances that were almost tragic for the county, could not but put a damper on the enthusiasm of the hurling men of Limerick.

The impasse created by the Shannonsiders' refusal to play the 1911 final at any other venue except Cork, had a serious effect, too, on the Association in Munster, and 1912 was well advanced before matters were straightened out.

The Southern Championships were late in consequence. With all, when they eventually got under way, the Limerick lads entered the fray with their accustomed zeal, and secured a good win over Waterford in the opening round, 4-5 to 1-0.

## IN ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

The Shannonsiders were then nominated to represent Munster against Ulster (Antrim) in the All Ireland Semi-Final at Jones Road, Dublin, on August 28th, and won, 11-4 to 2-0.

On September 1st, one of the biggest crowds to patronise a Munster game up to that date receipts were £249, assembled at Waterford Sports Field for the Southern semi-final between Cork and Limerick.

Right Rev. Mons. Dollard, the "poet priest of Gaeldom," threw in the ball for what proved one of the toughest and most stubbornly contested games ever hurled for the Munster crown.

## LIMERICK SET A LIGHTNING PACE

Limerick, led by "Tyler" Mackey, had a glorious side. They whipped, slashed and pulled on everything in that game and set a lightning pace from the beginning.

The Corkmen gave as good as they got. "Tyler" and Jim Ronayne of Dungourney nicknamed "the tall, sweeping menace") had the crowd on tip toe with their repeated flashing fireworks around midfield.

At half-time the scores were level at 1-2 each.

The second half, in speed and desperate hurling, excelled the first. For Limerick, Barney Connors, Vaughan and Jack Carroll were in their element. Closer grew the tacking and swifter sailed the ball. Then Limerick pointed. That score inspired them and the minutes kept ticking away as they surged around Connie Sheehan, one of the finest full backs of the time, the peerless Jim Kelleher, and the mighty Andy Fitzgerald in goal.

## TERRIFIC BARRAGE

They kept up a terrific barrage, and on the point of time "Tyler" shot from great length a shoulder high ball at Andy Fitzgerald, playing the game of his career.

With a fierce sweep Andy met it and sent to Mick Byrne away out on the wing. Neatly, with a master's wrist work, the Sarsfields man struck the ball in its flight. Diagonally, it flashed to Paddy Mahony, unmarked on the other wing. Another crisp, accurate stroke and it passed in to Dan Kennedick of St. Mary's. A fast drive to "Major" Kennedy, and one of the swiftest movements in hurling memory ended with the flash of his hurley which crashed the shoter behind Jacky Ryan for the sensational goal that gave Cork victory, 2-2 to 1-3. The puck out was long and high but the final whistle sounded before it touched the ground.

A press report of the game said: "When Cork secured the winning goal, men seemed to have taken leave of their senses; hats, coats and umbrellas were thrown into the air. Cork went mad for joy—the impossible had been accomplished."

## THE TEAMS

The teams were:—  
Cork—Barry Murphy (Captain); Andy Fitzgerald (goal), Denny Barry, Larry Flaherty, W. Doran, Mike Kidney, Mike Dorney (Blackrock); Mick Byrne, "Bowler" Walsh (Sarsfields), Jim Kelleher, Jim Ronayne (Dungourney), Connie Sheehan, Mick O'Keefe (Redmonds), Gerry Beckett (St.

Finbarr's), Paddy Mahoney (Aghabullogue); J. ("Major") Kennedy (Carrigtwohill), D. Kennedick (St. Mary's).

Limerick — J. ("Tyler") Mackey (Captain); Jacky Ryan (goal); Barney Connors, Paddy Vaughan, Jack Carroll (Castleconnell); Egan Clancy, Mick Harrington, Ned Treacy, Con Scanlan, Stephen Gleeson (Fedamore); Mick Feely, Ter Mangan, Jack Shea (Croom); J. O'Donnell (Bruff); Tom Hayes (Young Ireland); Tom Hayes (South Liberties); Paddy Flaherty (Rathkeale).

Mr. Jim McDonnell (Tralee), Chairman of the Munster Council, refereed.

## PRESENTATION TO "TYLER"

"Tyler" Mackey retired from the Captaincy of the county team following this game, and on Jan. 15, 1913 the Gaels of Limerick presented him with a cheque for £100, a princely sum then, in recognition of his services on the Gaelic field. This was a gesture rare in the annals of the G.A.A., demonstrating in unmistakable fashion the high place "Tyler" held in the hearts of Gaeldom.

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKEY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

At the annual convention of the Limerick Gaels, held on 1st, 1913, at Geary's Hotel, Street, it was agreed that the colours to be worn in inter-county contests by Limerick would be green and white.

That Limerick were still a great force was demonstrated in the games for the newly presented Thomond Shield—a magnificent trophy, which inaugurated the Thomond Tournament.

Limerick beat Clare, 5-2 to 2-2, in the opening round, and ten thousand people (gate receipts 240) saw them defeat Tipperary, 4-0 to 3-1, in the final, played at the Markets Field on May 18, 1913. It proved a terrific struggle, with the issue in doubt to the last whistle.

Mr. Tom Irwin, of Cork, refereed, and the Limerick players were: P. Herbert (captain); J. Ryan (goal); P. Vaughan, J. Keane, J. Doherty, M. Keane (Castleconnell); E. Treacy, E. Clancy, M. Harrington, T. Hayes, M. Hayes, S. Gleeson (Grange); M. Feely, J. Shea, T. Mangan (Croom); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); Hayes (Young Ireland).

**CARDINALS GOLD MEDALS**  
A notable tournament at this school was that organised in aid of St. Father Matthew Hall in Cork and for which His Eminence Cardinal Aguirre presented a set of valuable gold medals, inscribed in Latin and bearing his personal coat of arms.

Limerick and Kilkenny qualified for the holder and as this was the last meeting since the abortive All-Ireland final, great interest was shown in the game.

Played at Jones's Road, Dublin, on July 27th, 1913, it proved a fine close match, contested at a very fast pace. Limerick won, 5-2 to 4-1, the victorious fifteen being:—

Miss Feely (captain), Jack Shea, T. Mangan (Croom); Jacky Ryan (goal); John ("Tyler") Mackey, P. Vaughan, J. O'Carroll (Castleconnell); Ned Treacy, S. Gleeson, E. Clancy, M. Harrington, T. Hayes (Fedamore); Tom Hayes (Young Ireland); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); O'Donnell (Bruff).

**UNEXPECTED REVERSE**  
Limerick met an unexpected reverse on April 5th, 1914, when, in the Thomond Fels Competition, eight thousand spectators saw the Limericks trounce the Shannonsiders, 3-0 to 2-1.

The Castleconnell selection that lined up on the occasion was: J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain), J. Ryan (goal), P. Herbert, T. Mackey, E. Carroll, P. Vaughan, J. Keane, M. Doherty (Castleconnell); O'Shea (Croom), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), T. Hayes (Young Ireland), J. Rochford, T. McGrath (Commercial), M. Harrington, E. Clancy (Fedamore).

The Shannonsiders displayed very fine form this season, for in the last engagement, the Munster Championship opening round, played at Dungarvan on July 5th, 1914, they created something akin to a sensation when beating the Munster title holders, Tipperary, 5-0 to 3-1, after a hard, gruelling game.

**THE LIMERICK LINE-OUT**  
The Limerick line-out on that occasion was: E. Clancy (captain), E. Treacy, S. Gleeson, M. Harrington, J. O'Donnell, M. Hayes, T. Clancy (Fedamore), M. Feely, J. Keane (Croom), T. Hayes, D. Lanigan (Young Ireland), J. ("Tyler") Mackey, J. Carroll, P. Vaughan, J. Ryan (Castleconnell).

But another surprise was in store, for in the Munster Championship semi-final, played at Mallow on August 30th, Clare beat the Limericks, 4-2 to 2-0, and went on to win Munster and All-Ireland honours.

The teams were:—  
Clare—A. Power (captain), P. ("Fowler") McInerney (goal), Brendan Considine, J. Power, J. Shalloo, Ned Grace, Martin Maloney, Tom McGrath, P. Maloney, Paddy McDermott, Jim Clancy, J. ("Sham") Spellacy, John Fox, P. Doherty, M. Flanagan.

Limerick—Egan Clancy (captain); Ned Treacy, S. Gleeson, M. Harrington, M. Hayes (Fedamore); J. ("Tyler") Mackey, J. Ryan, J. O'Carroll, Jack Keane (Castleconnell); M. Feely, Jack Shea (Croom); Tom Hayes, Denis Lanigan (Young Ireland); Paddy Flaherty (Rathkeale); J. O'Donnell (Bruff).

"Tyler's" Castleconnell side played their last County Final on September 27th, 1914 at the Markets Field, where they lost to Cloughaun, 6-0 to 1-0.

### FIRST OF FOUR TITLES WON BY CLAUGHAUN

It was the first of four titles taken by Cloughaun in the five years that followed, and the teams will be read with interest:—

Cloughaun—D. Maher (captain); J. ("Iwager") O'Grady (goal); M. Rochford, P. Kelly, R. Browne, P. J. Daly, R. Hynes, P. Halvey, P. Ryan, W. Hynes, Paddy Campion, P. Penny, J. McGrath, J. O'Brien, M. Gleeson.

Castleconnell—J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain); M. Rainsford (goal); P. Vaughan, E. Carroll, J. Leonard, T. Brennan, J. Keane, P. Herbert, M. Doherty, F. Rose, M. McCarthy, T. Mackey, J. O'Carroll, T. Joyce, M. Danaher. Mr. Paddy Flaherty (Rathkeale) refereed.

The up and down Limerick hurling form continued through 1915. In the Wolfe Tone Memorial Tournament, played at the Markets Field, Limerick beat Clare, All Ireland champions, 3-0 to 0-2, the winning fifteen being: J. Ryan (goal); J. Keane, J. Carroll, P. Vaughan (Castleconnell); J. Shea, J. Mangan (Croom); S. Gleeson, E. Clancy (Fedamore); D. Lanigan (Young Ireland); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); P. Kelly, M. Rochford, T. McGrath, P. Halvey (Cloughaun).

### GAME FOR THOMOND SHIELD

A few weeks later, Limerick were badly beaten by Tipperary, 4-2 to 0-1, in the opening game for the Thomond Shield. The players on this occasion were: J. ("Tyler") Mackey (captain); J. Ryan (goal); P. Herbert, J. Keane, P. Vaughan (Castleconnell); M. Feely, T. Mangan, J. O'Shea (Croom); P. Kelly, M. Rochford, P. J. Daly, P. McGrath (Cloughaun); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); D. Lanigan (Young Ireland); E. Clancy (Fedamore).

Limerick beat Kilkenny, 4-6 to 3-4 at the Markets Field on May 7th. Egan Clancy captained the Shannonsiders on this occasion, his last game in county colours, as he emigrated to America shortly afterwards.

The other players were: W. Gleeson, S. Gleeson, M. Harrington, T. Keane (Fedamore), J. O'Shea (Croom), J. Ryan, J. Vaughan (Castleconnell), D. Lanigan, T. Hayes (Young Ireland), J. Liston (Knockaderry), P. Ryan (Cloughaun), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), M. Quaide (Ballingarry).

In the semi-final of the Wolfe Tone Tournament, played at Tipperary on May 30th, Tipperary registered another victory over Limerick, this time by 6-6 to 3-3.

The Limerick team this time was:—

P. Kelly (captain), M. Rochford, T. McGrath (Cloughaun), J. O'Shea, T. Mangan (Croom), D. Lanigan (Young Ireland), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. Mackey, J. Keane, J. Carroll, J. Ryan (goal), P.

Vaughan (Castleconnell), W. Gleeson, S. Gleeson, M. Harrington (Fedamore).

### WHEN RIVALRY REACHED ITS CLIMAX

The hurling rivalry between Cork and Limerick reached its climax at Thurles on July 18th, in a hard, fierce struggle for the Munster semi-final before a great crowd.

Partisan feeling was at fever pitch, intensified by the fact that settling was indulged in openly all over the field, and which was mainly responsible for an unhappy and untimely ending to what was a hard and determined clash.

The first half was scoreless, demonstrating the closeness of the exchanges. The Cork men asserted themselves in the second period and looked likely winners when the game came to a sudden end.

The referee, Mr. Tim Ryan, Chairman of Tipperary County Board, subsequently reported to the Munster Council: "About four minutes from full time J. ("Tyler") Mackey, Limerick, and T. Nagle, Cork, clashed over vigorously and came to grips. I ran to separate them, but other players joined in, and spectators rushed on to the field. After some delay, I got the captains together. The Cork captain was satisfied to continue but the Limerick captain said his team were insisting on being allowed a goal they claimed was scored. As the outsiders and followers of the Limerick team refused to leave the field I declared the match off."

### DECISION OF MUNSTER COUNCIL

The Munster Council, at a meeting in Mallow on July 23rd, considered the matter and ordered a re-play for Dungarvan on August 15th, with Mr. Willie Walsh, of Waterford as referee. Messrs. J. Mackey and T. Nagle were each suspended for twelve months.

Cork appealed to the Central Council, and at a meeting held at Croke Park on August 1st were awarded the match by five votes to four.

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKKEY of Castleconnell (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

TIPPERARY, who won the All-Ireland title in 1916, defeating their old rivals, Kilkenny, in the final, were very lucky to get the verdict over Limerick in the Munster semi-final that year, decided at Dungarvan on September 10th before a great crowd.

Played in a grand sporting spirit, the teams were level with time running out and Limerick fighting desperately for a winning bag. Tyler Mackkey cut through half a dozen players in an effort typical of his greatest hour and hit the upright with a resounding drive.

John Leahy got the rebound and sent it over the heads of the charging forwards; Joe Fitzpatrick, doubled on it and with one of the last strokes of a hectic struggle the Premier County got ahead, a last minute dash yielding the second goal that gave Kilkenny's County a surprise success.

Dohertyhan represented Tipperary and wore jockey caps, reminiscent of the best days of the Horse and Jockey combination.

## THE TEAMS.

Mr. Willie Walsh of Waterford was the referee, and the teams were:

Tipperary—J. Leahy (captain), J. Doherty, J. Flavin, A. O'Donnell, J. Power, L. Walsh, D. Walsh, P. Leahy, W. Dwyer, N. Dwyer, J. Murphy, J. Fitzpatrick, H. Shelly, M. Dwan, J. Collison.

Limerick—T. McGrath, M. Rochford, W. Cessy (Claughaun), M. Eason (Knockaderry), J. Lynch (Cherilene), J. O'Shea (Croom), D. Lanigan (Young Ireland), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), W. Hough, W. Callaghan (Monagea), J. Mackey, J. Keane, P. Vaughan, J. Carroll, J. Ryan (Castleconnell).

Limerick on the occasion were missing a number of prominent players. A dispute in the county had resulted in the suspension of the Fedamore Club. The latter reformed by joining the Association of Gaelic Athletic Clubs—a rival body to the G.A.A. then in existence. They entered the All-Ireland Final of that organisation, played at Wexford Park on Dec. 12th, Fedamore winning from Castlebridge (Wexford) 1-1 to 0-1.

## BRITISH MILITARY CANCEL

### SPECIAL TRAINS.

A big Inter County Hurling Tournament was arranged for the Markets Field in aid of the Co. Board for September 24th. The British military authorities cancelled all the special trains the day before the game, consequently the Dublin and Laoighis teams were unable to travel. Dromevara, representing Tipperary, arrived on Saturday night, and a large crowd saw them defeat Limerick the following day, 3-3 to 2-1. Mr. A. Quillinan refereed, and the Limerick players were: J. Ryan (goal); J. Mackey, J. Carroll, P. Vaughan, J. Carmody, J. Keane (Castleconnell); J. O'Shea (Croom); D. Lanigan, S. Gleeson, W. Gleeson (Young Ireland); W. Hough, W. Callaghan (Monagea); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); T. McGrath (Claughaun).

## THOMOND SHIELD FINAL.

There was another big crowd at the Markets Field on October 25th for the Thomond Shield final, despite the cancellation of the special trains, which at this period was a part of British policy in dealing with the G.A.A. The Dromevara selection won the trophy for Tipperary, defeating Limerick's Castleconnell pick, 2-2 to 2-2. Tipperary, as a result winning two years in succession, secured possession of the valuable Shield—a one of the best ever fought for on a hurling field.

The Limerick players in that order were: J. Ryan (Goal); J. drawn game, Jack Keane being the

Carmody, J. Keane, J. Carroll, P. Vaughan (Castleconnell); D. Lanigan, S. Gleeson, P. Ryan, W. Gleeson (Young Ireland), T. Mangan, M. Feely, J. O'Shea (Croom); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); T. McGrath (Claughaun); W. Hough (Monagea).

Mr. Jerry O'Brien, Chairman of the Munster Council, refereed.

At the annual county convention, held at the Gaelic League Rooms, Limerick, on St. Patrick's Day, "Tyler" Mackkey was elected Limerick representative on the Munster Council—a position his son, Mick, holds at present.

## GRUELLING STRUGGLE.

In the 1917 Munster Championship semi-final, played at the Markets Field, Limerick, on July 5th, Castleconnell (Limerick) beat Middleton (Cork) by 5-8 (23 points) to 7-1 (22 points) after a gruelling struggle. A Press report described the game "one of the fastest and most scientific expositions of the national pastime witnessed in Limerick for a long time."

The Limerick players were: J. Ryan (goal), J. Mackey, P. Vaughan, J. Keane, M. Doherty, J. Carroll (Castleconnell), D. Lanigan, P. McInerney, W. Gleeson (Young Ireland), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), W. Hough (Monagea), P. Barry (Boher), W. Ryan (Cappamore), R. Ryan (Pallas), J. Murnane (Bruff).

It is interesting to note that when Martin Doherty had to go off injured in this game his place was filled by a younger brother of "Tyler's"—Anthony—who was a mere schoolboy at the time, a pupil of that great hurling nursery—Limerick C.B.S.

At the annual Gaelic League Oireachtas held at Waterford, Kilkenny and Limerick hurlers were in opposition for the Oireachtas Cup, the Noreiders winning 1-5 to 1-3, after a thrill packed struggle. Mr. Eoin Mac Neill threw in the ball.

September 2nd, 1917, was a remarkable day in Limerick hurling history.

## ALL-IRELAND FINAL.

The All-Ireland final under the National Association of Gaelic Athletic Clubs was played at the Markets Field and resulted in Limerick beating Wexford, 5-2 to 1-2. Mr. Michael McKnight refereed, and the victorious players were—T. Mangan, M. Mangan, P. Mangan, M. Mullane, J. O'Shea, M. Feely (Croom); D. O'Donnell (captain), M. Harrington, J. Keane, J. Whelan, J. McNamara (Fedamore), Tom Grady, P. Keogh (Ballybricken), D. Dolan (South Liberties), J. Clune (Sarsfields).

The same day at Cork Athletic Grounds, Limerick and Tipperary met in the Munster Senior Hurling final under G.A.A. auspices. It was a great game, in which the lead changed hands several times and even scores—3-4 all—was a fitting result. Mr. Willie Walsh, Waterford, refereed, and Limerick colours were worn by: P. Vaughan, captain; J. Mackey, J. Carroll, J. Ryan, J. Keane (Castleconnell), S. Gleeson, W. Gleeson, D. Lanigan, P. McInerney (Young Ireland), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), W. Hough (Monagea), P. Barry (Boher), R. Ryan, P. Kennedy (Pallas), W. Ryan (Cappamore).

In a trial game, preparatory to the re-play, a County Board selection beat a Castleconnell selection, 5-3 to 3-3.

## THE RE-PLAY.

A record crowd assembled at Cork Athletic Grounds on Sunday, October 7th, for the re-play. The game, which Tipperary won, 6-4 to 3-1, was not up to the standard of the previous meeting, yet it provided some thrilling passages. The Limerick team was practically the same, as that which played in the

only absentee. He was replaced by J. Ryan.

This was "Tyler's" last inter-county game with Limerick as he retired at the end of that season. Thus he narrowly missed getting an All-Ireland medal, as Limerick won the 1918 Munster and All-Ireland titles.

"Tyler" Mackkey gave more to hurling that most players of his day, and his story is typical of many of the greatest players the G.A.A. has known.

## THE HURLING TOAST OF GAELIC IRELAND.

Several lesser known figures wear All Ireland medals won in a decade when "Tyler" was the hurling toast of Gaelic Ireland, but the absence of the Celtic Cross, symbol of All Ireland hurling renown, does not detract one iota from the glamour and the glory he gathered during an unforgettable period in Limerick hurling history.

His story will conclude next week, with some reminiscences of the great days, with particular reference to the careers of some of the leading men he met on Gaelic fields.

# No. 204—JOHN ("TYLER") MACKKEY of Castleconnell (Concluded)

(By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH)

WILLIE WALSH, of Waterford, was one of the greatest referees ever to handle a whistle on hurling or football fields, and his opinion of the hurling men of Limerick might clear many misconceptions which appear to exist concerning the Limerick hurlers on "Tyler's" day. Here is what Willie had to say:

"I found about 1903 or 1904 I first made the acquaintance of the hurling men of Limerick, when refereeing a Munster Championship game at Clonis.

"Refereeing in those days was far more difficult than it is now; as was only in the order of things since our arenas of half a century ago were not as up-to-date as they are at present. Emplacements were few, and very often the only protection round the playing pitch was a wire palisade. In the absence of goal nets disputed often arose as to whether the ball had passed over or beneath the crossbar. A referee's duty under such circumstances can be better imagined than described.

### HAPPY EXPERIENCE.

"It is a long stretch since 1903, and during the years that have passed by since I have officiated in many a championship game, in which Limerick entered the arena to do battle for a Munster or All-Ireland crown. My experience of these games is a very happy one indeed.

"At such venues as Cork, Thurles, Tipperary, Ennis, Limerick, Dungarvan and Riverstown, I have refereed many a hard fought championship clash between Limerick and the other Munster counties, as well as the two All-Ireland final tests and 1921, which the Barrrowmen won. In the numerous contests which I have handled, I can, in all sincerity, say that I have had a comparatively easy time with the cunning wielders of Sarsfield's county. Many a time, I am sure, I must have made some bad blunder or given a wrong decision, yet never have I known a Limerick player to question such a decision. Acting, I suppose, on the assumption that 'tis human to err, and being convinced that any error of judgment on my part was a genuine mistake, the players, one and all, have at all time accepted my ruling in a true sporting spirit. I may here say I have experienced much the same consideration from the hurlers of other counties, if I except the case of one or two individuals of the 'perpetual grievance' type.

### IMPETUOUS NATURE BUT A GENEROUS SOUL.

"Speaking of individuals reminds me of a noted Limerick hurler, who was more or less misunderstood by a certain section of Gaelic patrons, and I think by some referees also. I refer to 'Tyler' Mackey. 'Tyler' was, undoubtedly, of an impetuous nature, but a generous soul within. He was the type who would not be intimidated, and the referee who warned him even before the game began was only making trouble. With a threat such as: 'Now Mackey, if you do this or if you do that, off you go,' how could poor 'Tyler' be expected to enter the fray with an even temper? In justice to this great player I feel it my duty to say that in six or seven games in which he played under my whistle, I never had a moment's anxiety or trouble with him.

"Nearly fifty years ago it was my good fortune to travel to Tralee with a group of hurlers from Castleconnell, and I had many a pleasant meeting in subsequent years with the same bunch. The Gaels of Castleconnell, under the leadership of Sean Carroll, were the most genuine set of Irish-Irelanders I have ever met. Sean was a born leader and all his boys were possessed of a high standard of patriotism and a true conception of national ideals. I shall always cherish happy memories of the times I spent in the company of the Castleconnell hurlers.

"In a tree lined avenue on a fine sunny evening I last met the great hurling star of other days as he prepared to put away his horses, following a busy day in the meadow.

### "TYLER'S" VIEWS ON OTHER HURLERS.

"'Tyler,' an industrious farmer, is rated one of the hardest workers in the district, and believes the years which have passed since he hit the hurling headlines over two score summers ago.

"We talked of hurling and the great players of his time. 'Tyler' considers Jim Kelleher of Duncannon the best of them all. 'Never as good a man came out of Cork,' he said.

"Jim ('Spud') Murphy of the 'Barrs' was the toughest player I ever encountered on a hurling field,' he continued. 'Spud' was never one to bother overmuch with rules and to the end of his hurling days he remained a referee's pet problem. With all his impulsiveness he was still a great player and one of Ireland's most popular hurlers for over a period of a dozen years. A rash, reckless, devil-may-care centre-field hurler and one of the hardest of hard men, he partnered at centre-field, Tim Nagle, the blacksmith of St. Mary's, and not a pair in Ireland could boast that they mastered these two. 'Spud' became a great soccer player in later years.

"Connie Sheehan, one of the finest full backs of his day, played his first game against Limerick at Tralee for the 1910 Munster Championship, and acquitted himself with real distinction. He continued in Cork colours until May, 1922.

Of all the goalkeepers he met, he said: "I had a great admiration for that great Cork net-minder, Andy Fitzgerald, a fine tall fellow and very quick as a goalie. I retain happy memories, too, of Joe and Amby Power (Clare); the Doyles of Kilkenny, three of them; Dan 'Rooker' O'Keefe of Cork, another tough hurler; Tom Coughlan, of Blackrock, brother of 'Parson'; 'Bachus' Leary and the two Kidneys, also of Blackrock, a club that always boasted good forwards; and the Tipperary stalwart, Tom Semple, still playing for much of my time was a veteran from the twenty-one aside days—'Billex' Moloney of the 'Barrs, one of the greatest backmen of his score years in inter-county hurling.

### BETTER TEAMS IN THE PAST.

"When I asked him what he thought of hurling as played now, he answered without hesitation: 'We had better teams in the old times—everybody knows that. The determination that was part of the game in my day is not anything like as much in evidence now.'

"Tyler' told me his interest was aroused in hurling whilst still very young, and he played the game as a youth attending Castleconnell National Schools. Hurling rivalry was very keen at the time between Castleconnell and the neighbouring parish, Murroe, and 'Tyler' had a great admiration for one of the Murroe stalwarts of earlier days, the late Tim Humphries, whose son, Jimmy, captained the Ireland hurling team at the first Tailteann Games.

"On the Castleconnell team when 'Tyler' first lined out with it were the brothers, Bill and Dave Galligan, of Sallymount, who gave great hurling service to the parish and in after years continued very keen followers of the hurling code. "When 'Tyler' led the team on to the Jones's Road pitch for the 1910 All-Ireland final he wore a cap presented to him by a leading Castleconnell Gael."

When I asked "Tyler" how they trained in his day, he explained that they had no time for training as we know it now. "Work was hard then," he said, "and most of the lads had little time off except on Sundays. Even facing an All Ireland Final the bulk of the players had to work the day before." He explained that the team were not all big men, as some seem to think. Jacky Ryan, the goalkeeper, was only eight stone but the Herberts were all big.

### NO BAN IN HIS EARLY DAYS

"There was no ban in my early days," Tyler continued. "We had a rugby team in Castleconnell and Sean Carroll was a fine exponent of that code. I kept fit through the winter by playing with this team. One memorable week-end I played a Transfield Cup rugby match with Richmond on the Saturday, participated in a strenuous Munster hurling championship game on the Sunday and was at Killaloe regatta the following day, August Monday, and rowed in four boat races." He explained that Richmond had two teams at the time, Johnny Hall, the great oarsman, captained one and the late Conny Hogan, who died young, the other.

Before we parted I asked him where he got the nick-name "Tyler." "I was in Limerick City one day and bought a pair of boots in a new shop that had just opened there," he told me. "I brought them home, and when asked where I got them gave the name of the shop. It was unknown in the district at the time and appealed to some of the locals as an unusual one. It has stuck to me ever since."

When I asked him for a message for our present day Limerick hurlers he said: "Tell them not to be too fond of rising. Some are very quick at it, of course, but on a bad day it should be ruled out completely as it only slows up the play and gives the opponent an advantage. Our lads have the speed, and it is the factor they must exploit."

### NEW RULE A GREAT BOON.

"The new rule is a great boon to hurling," he went on. "There was too much dropping down in recent years and it was spoiling the game. I never went off the field with an injury and, as far as I know, neither did Mick or John in their day."

In his sixteen years with Limerick "Tyler" started numerous great scoring movements for his side. Though he won many coveted titles the All-Ireland evaded him persistently. Yet, in the very year he retired from the game Limerick went on to win the Blue Riband. Ironical some people would say, but honest men have another word for it.

I conclude with a memory of "Tyler" from an old admirer: "I remember him best for his toughness and daring. Surprisingly fast he was with his hurl, and the apotheosis of courage. Who can forget his hard, hard games; the fierce strength of his young, supple body, and the magnificent heart it housed? He was my model of the perfect hurler. Long may he flourish!"

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