

# Con Scanlan Of Fedamore

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

**T**HE Fedamore Club dates back to the earliest days of the G.A.A., having been formed in 1885, a few months after the Association itself first saw the light.

Some families, who played a leading part in introducing hurling to a parish that was often in after years referred to as the "Hurlers' Home," gave service all down the years to the caman code, and the Scanlans must be numbered with these.

A look at the first Fedamore team will best illustrate this. They were: William Enright (captain), Denis Haigney, John Howard, William Clifford, Thomas Shinnery, James Donegan, John Clifford, Patrick Clohessy, Patrick O'Brien, John Kennedy, John Howard ("Berk"), William McNamara, John Doran, James Shinnors, Thomas Roche, Laurence Scanlan, Arthur Blood-Smyth (now the well-known Limerick solicitor, who has often made the claim that he is Limerick's oldest hurler. He could be Ireland's oldest now!); John Hayes, Michael Shinney, Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Timothy Long, Edward Power, John Carmody.

## WON SIX CHALLENGE CUPS.

This team continued to play during the ensuing nine years until 1894, during which period they won six challenge cups. The Club colours were purple and gold.

In 1894 the Club was re-formed and the Club colours changed to the present combination of green and white. The team of this period was: James Lynch (captain), Patrick O'Callaghan, William O'Callaghan, Denis O'Callaghan, Daniel Doran, Frank Doran, John Howard, Timothy Howard, John Toomey, Patrick Kavanagh, Mich-

ael Clifford, Patrick Roche, Michael Storan, James Storan, Michael Gleeson, Jack Clancy, Patrick Lynch, William Haigney, Patrick Scanlan, Timothy Scanlan and Patrick Shinnors.

For thirteen years the bulk of these lads continued with the Club and had as successive captains, Patrick O'Callaghan and Timothy Scanlan. Although they never won a championship they won several cups and important tournaments.

## BEGAN IN HANDBALL.

The subject of this sketch — Con Scanlan, born in 1890, grew up with this team and it was under the tutelage of some of its members he learned the rudiments of the game, in which he was to figure with such distinction in after years.

Con's first real introduction to the sporting public of Limerick was actually in handball, of which he was a fine exponent. He made his championship debut in this code on July 5th, 1908, at Bruff, where, partnered by Stephen Gleeson, the honours were gained for Fedamore over the Limerick City pair — A. Cole and J. Grant.

In Con's first big outing with the Fedamore Club they had a fairly substantial win, 7-9 to 0-7, over their near neighbours, Loughgur, in the Senior Hurling Championship. The latter, however, objected to the constitution of the winning side and were awarded the contest by the County Board.

Con also figured with the Fedamore juniors that season, and what was a really good team were unlucky to be beaten by Commercials, 0-7 to 1-3. That game was played at the Markets Field on November 7th, 1909.

## GAVE OUTSTANDING DISPLAY.

Fedamore did not regard 1909 as a very successful or active season but that Con Scanlan made his mark and gained the eye of the County selectors was evident from the team announced to play London-Irish at the Markets Field on March 27th, 1910, and which they won, 2-11 to 1-5 for the exiles. Con was included on that side and gave an outstanding display. His colleagues included Tom Hayes, Timmy O'Brien, Pat Mangan, M. Mullane, T. Bourke and J. Griffin. The London-Irish team included James Hayes (captain), of Murroe; Sean Og Hanley and D. Grimes, of Kilfinane; C. O'Shaughnessy, of Fedamore, and P. Crotty, of Kilmallock.

Fedamore opened 1910 in very satisfying fashion, recording Murphy Cup wins over Croom, 6-15 to 5-9; Young Ireland, 1-17 to 2-10, and South Liberties, 5-0 to 1-0, to win that trophy.

On May 22nd Con was with the Limerick team that beat Clare at the Markets Field, 3-10 to 4-5, in the opening round of the Senior Hurling Championship.

## CASTLECONNELL SELECTION.

On August 14th, Castleconnell took a selection to Waterford to play an Erin's Own selection from Kilkenny, then enjoying their greatest ever hurling spell. Limerick won, 5-3 to 1-1. The Castleconnell selection was: 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 (Fedamore); M. Mangan, T. Mangan (Croom); T. Hayes, T. O'Brien (Young Ireland's).

In the semi-final of the Munster Senior Hurling Championship played at the Markets Field on October 2nd, Limerick beat Kerry, 6-2 to 2-0.

The Munster Senior Hurling Final was played at Tralee a fortnight later, where what was then regarded as a near record crowd of two thousand paid £58 to see one of the greatest games in the history of the championship, and a first class surprise.

## IN RARE FORM.

The Limerickmen were in rare form, and proved more than a

match for the strongly fancied Rebel County team, who had ousted the title holders and 1908 All-Ireland champions, Tipperary. They fought with great determination, their hurling was magnificent, their combination excellent, their swiftness in getting possession of the ball, and their long and well delivered shots were more than Cork could withstand.

In the opening half, Limerick set a terrific fast pace, and at half-time they were leading by three goals. After the interval, however, Cork played better, and it looked for a while as if they would win. Meantime the Limerick players kept up the pace, and the tussle for victory was neck and neck, but despite fierce onslaughts made on the Limerick territory, the Corkmen could not score, as the defence set up by Flaherty, O'Brien, and Hayes was too sound. Con won his way into the hearts of the Limerick supporters by his fine hurling and accurate striking, and the full time whistle went leaving the Limerick pick the winners on the score of 5-1 to 4-2 for Cork.

## THE LIMERICK PLAYERS.

The Limerick players that eventful day were: J. Bourke, goal (Boher); M. Feely, T. Mangan, M. Mangan (Croom); J. Harrington, E. Treacy, E. Clancy, C. Scanlan (Fedamore); T. Hayes, T. O'Brien (Young Ireland); J. Madden (Commercials), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. Mackey, captain; S. Carroll, M. Danaher, D. Conway, M. Sweeney (Castleconnell).

The final of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship was played at Jones' Road, Dublin, on November 20th, before a very large attendance of spectators, the gate receipts amounting to £288. It was the first occasion on which sideline seats were provided at a Gaelic match. The Limerick team were the same as played in the Munster Final against Cork.

A number of changes had been made in the playing rules at the previous All-Ireland Congress, and it was evident that the umpires (one of whom had only returned from America a short time previously) were not familiar with the new regulations. The result was an unsatisfactory game, hardly up to the standard of other finals.

## HOW THE PLAY WENT.

The first half was all in Wexford's favour, who showed splendid team-work and led at the interval by 6-0 to 3-1. In the second half Limerick asserted themselves and ran their opponents to a point with only seven minutes to go. Excitement was intense when the Shannonsiders scored a goal, which was, however, disallowed — a most controversial decision — and the long whistle saw Wexford winners by the minimum margin, on the score, 7-0 to 6-2.

Limerick objected to the award of the game to Wexford on the grounds that they were disallowed a goal unfairly, and that Wexford scored a goal while a Limerick player lay injured on the ground. Through some oversight the objection was not lodged in duplicate, as required by rule, and the Central Council, at its meeting on December 4th, refused to entertain it.

Thus Con Scanlan lost a unique opportunity of capturing an All-Ireland medal during his first year in Limerick colours.

## GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

## Con Scanlan Of Fedamore

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

FEDAMORE opened 1911 in sensational fashion for at the Markets Field on February 12th they created a great surprise when they beat the county and Munster champions, Castleconnell, 4-1 to 3-1, in the final of the Lyons Memorial Tournament.

A great crowd saw a very good and closely contested game, with the issue in doubt to the last puck.

**THE TEAMS:**

Mr. Pat Mangan was the referee, and the teams were:—

**Fedamore**—Con Scanlan (capt.), W. P. Clifford, goal (later President of the G.A.A., Chairman of the Munster Council and of Limerick County Board); S. Gleeson, M. Bourke, M. Harrington, P. Shimmers, P. Cavanagh, M. Whelan, Ned Treacy, J. Quinlan, J. Ryan, Egan Clancy, J. Clancy, John Casey, P. Keane.

**Castleconnell**—“Tyler” Mackey (capt.), Jacky Ryan, goal; Paddy Vaughan, Mick Danaher, J. Leonard, P. Herbert, M. Sweeney, T. Benn, B. O'Connor, Willie Carroll, Sean Carroll, C. Mackey, W. Benn, T. Brennan, D. Conway.

Fedamore made it a double on that occasion, for in the Junior Hurling Championship they beat Ballybricken, 3-0 to 2-1, in another exciting game.

Young Ireland subsequently beat Castleconnell, 4-2 to 4-1, to take the 1910 county senior hurling crown, and a few weeks later Fedamore continued the giant-killing act when they beat the new title holders, 7-1 to 4-1, in a challenge game at the Markets Field.

**UNEXPECTED REVERSE.**

Limerick suffered an unexpected reverse in the final of the Brussels Hurling Tournament for the Stopford Greene Cup and medals, played at the Cork Athletic Grounds on June 25th, 1911, before a large crowd. A big contingent, accompanied by a pipers band, travelled from Limerick.

The game, which was one of the hardest witnessed on a Gaelic field for a long time, was started by the Rev. Dr. Irwin, U.C.C., who threw in the ball. Limerick made a very plucky stand and were only beaten in the closing stages of a low-scoring game, the full whistle finding the position: Cork, 2-2; Limerick, 1-1.

**THE LIMERICK PLAYERS.**

Mr. J. McDonnell, of Tralee, refereed, and the Limerick players were: J. “Tyler” Mackey (capt.), J. Ryan, goal; P. Vaughan, P. Herbert, S. 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).

The annual meeting of the Fedamore Club was held on July 4th, and elected as officers: President, Joseph Clancy; Captain, Con Scanlan; Vice-Captain, Ned Treacy; Treasurer, J. Power; Secretary, J. Gleeson.

Five days later the club junior team beat Castleconnell 4-2 to 2-2 in the semi-final of the County Championship. The seniors repeated the dose a short time later, but their win on this occasion was more substantial, 8-2 to 3-2. It, too, was a championship engagement.

**VISIT OF IRISH-AMERICAN HURLERS.**

The Markets Field had an over-capacity crowd on August 27th, 1911, for the visit of a team of Irish-American hurlers drawn from Chicago and New York who played Limerick and were defeated 5-1 to 3-1 after a very interesting game.

The exiles got a rousing reception, two bands being present. Mr. G. O'B. Storan, Police Inspector, New York, threw in the ball, and the game was refereed by the late Harry Boland, one of the great

Gaels of his time and uncle of the present Minister of Defence.

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

**MUNSTER SENIOR HURLING FINAL.**

The Shannonsiders scored one of their sweetest ever victories over Tipperary in the Munster Senior Hurling final, played at the Cork Athletic Grounds, on November 19th, 1911.

It was a great contest, fought at a terrific pace, but Tipperary looked home and dried when ten minutes from the end they shot into a seven points lead. The spectators were actually streaming from the pitch in hundreds when Mick Feely opened a great Limerick rally by landing a magnificent goal from centre field. A Garryowen revival followed and Tipperary were literally swept off their feet as the Limerick forwards swept through for a succession of scores, to be a goal on the right side when the final whistle sounded: Limerick, 5-3; Tipperary, 4-3.

**THE PLAYERS.**

Mr. Willie Mackessy of Cork refereed and the players in that unforgettable final will be recalled with interest:—

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

**Tipperary**—Hugh Shelly (captain), “Hawk” O'Brien, goal; Andy Carew, Tom Kerwick, Martin O'Brien, Joe McLoughney, Bob Mockler, Paddy Brolan, Jack Mooney, Andy Callanan, Tim Gleeson, Jerry Fogarty, J. Mockler, J. Kennedy, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Leahy.

Limerick qualified for the All-Ireland final when they beat Galway, at Portlaoighise, in the semi-final. In the second semi-final, Kilkenny beat Antrim, 3-5 to 1-1.

**LIMERICK IN ALL-IRELAND FINAL.**

On February 18th, 1912, fourteen thousand people were in Cork for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling title, Limerick v. Kilkenny, fixed for the Athletic Grounds. Large crowds travelled in several special trains from Limerick.

Following heavy rains of the previous night and early morning, the pitch was a quagmire and the members of the Central Council present declared it unplayable. The Limerick team, however, insisted on lining out and, as a sequel to this gesture, claimed the match.

The matter came up before a subsequent meeting of the Central Council, who re-fixed the match for Thurles on April 21st. Limerick refused to play in the new venue and appealed to the annual All-Ireland Congress, which, by 53 to 17, upheld Thurles as the venue.

Limerick, however, remained adamant and their slogan was “Cork or nowhere.” They refused to play in any other venue but Cork and on June 2nd the Central Council awarded Kilkenny a walk-over. Subsequently, the Limerick County Board was suspended for refusing to field a team.

**MUNSTER TEAM NOMINATED.**

To cover the expenses incurred by the Central Council for the debacle at Cork, and to redeem the prestige of the G.A.A. in the eyes of the public, the Munster Council was asked to nominate a team on behalf of the province,

and Tipperary—Munster finalists against Limerick—stepped into the breach. The match was played on the last Sunday of July at Dunganarvan and after a strenuous game Kilkenny emerged victors on the score 3-3 to 2-1. Thus the Noresiders vindicated their claim and were recorded as All-Ireland champions for 1911.

In this way Con Scanlan and his colleagues lost in unsatisfactory manner for the second year running the chance of an All-Ireland medal—that great ambition of all Gaels.

# Con Scanlan Of Fedamore

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

CON SCANLAN was captain of the Fedamore selection, representing Limerick, which beat O'Callaghans Mills (Clare) 2-3 to 1-0 at the Markets Field on May 5th, 1912, in a splendid game, witnessed by a very large crowd.

An injury received in that game kept him on the sideline for some months and it was August 25th before we again meet him in action, on this occasion playing for Limerick against Antrim at Jones' Road, Dublin, in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship semi-final, the Shannonside winning, 11-4 to 2-0.

## LIMERICK REPRESENTED MUNSTER

Limerick were nominated to represent Munster in that engagement, because the provincial championships were unfinished. The following Sunday Cork and Limerick met at Waterford Sports Field in the southern semi-final, a fine crowd, reflected in a "gate" of £240, turning up to see what proved one of the toughest struggles ever waged for Munster honours. Ten special trains served the venue and the game was started by the poet-priest of Gaeldom, the late Right Rev. Monsignor Dollard ("Slievenamon").

## LEVEL AT HALF TIME

Stubbornly contested from the start, the teams were level at 1-2 after a half-hour of fast and very exciting hurling.

Limerick held a slight advantage all through the second half and looked all set to at least hold, if not increase, their solitary point lead as they entered the final minutes of play.

They were actually pressing very hard and fighting like demons for a further score when a rather lucky Cork clearance put Kennefick in possession, out on the wing. Kennedy, of Carrigtwohill, advanced to take a perfect pass and scored a sensational goal, giving a last-minute victory to Cork, on the score 2-2 to 1-3.

## HECTIC EXCHANGES

The hectic nature of the exchanges in that half and the stern resistance of both defences was best reflected in the fact that only one score each was recorded during a period when all-out endeavour was never more pronounced. If any game was fit to rank as an

epic, the claims of this one must be high in the list.

Mr. Jim McDonnell, of Tralee, refereed, and the Shannonside colours were worn by J. ("Tyler") Mackey, capt.; Jacky Ryan, goal; B. Connors, P. Vaughan, S. Carroll (Castleconnell), C. Scanlan, E. Clancy, M. Harrington, E. Treacy, S. Gleeson (Fedamore), M. Feely, T. Mangan, J. Shea (Croom), J. O'Donnell (Bruff), T. Hayes (Young Ireland), T. Hayes (South Liberties), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale).

## 1911 SENIOR COUNTY HURLING FINAL

Fedamore were defeated by Ballingarry, 4-2 to 1-2, in the final of the 1911 County Senior Hurling Championship, played at the Markets Field on September 29th, 1912, but reversed the verdict the following year, winning 4-4 to 2-2 at the same venue. This was the first great Fedamore success in the premier Limerick championship, and to the captain, Con Scanlan, were the plaudits of all Fedamore admirers on bringing to the parish the honours that had been sought so eagerly from the very foundation of the championship.

In a write-up of the period, we find Con described as the "unassuming star seventy yards man," and learn that eight of the team had inter-county experience, namely, Con Scanlan, Egan Clancy (who later emigrated to America and played there with the Young Emmet Hurling Club of Philadelphia, where he was described in Gaelic circles as the "wizard wielder of the crooked ash." He was also a noted writer on Gaelic affairs and contributed to many Irish-American papers: Michael Harrington ("the unbeatable"), Ned Treacy ("o' the pluck"), Michael Burke, Stephen Gleeson, Tom and Martin Hayes.

## OTHER WINS

In addition to the championship, this team won the Lyons Memorial medals, the Murphy Cup and medals and the Band Cup, the latter trophy being still in the parish.

On May 18th, 1913, Con got a Thomond Fels medal when he helped Limerick beat Tipperary, 4-0 to 3-1, in one of the most exciting games witnessed at the Markets Field for many a day.

A trophy he missed, and always

regretted, was the Cardinal Agliardi medal. Circumstances were against him on that historic occasion and it was unfortunate that they conspired to deprive him of the storied and much-admired medal. Only recently I saw one of these very beautiful works of the goldsmith's art set in a monstrance destined for the Foreign Missions field. The actual winner of it has long since passed from this life, but his sister, in donating it for such a worthy work, surely ensured a remembrance for that Limerick hurler and a share in the blessings it must bring.

## THE OTHER MEDALS

One crossed the seas in a noble cause, another re-crossed the ocean and is now in my possession, the donor a Limerick priest now doing great work for the Church, in far foreign fields. It is his intention that it should be eventually incorporated in some trophy associated with the new Canon Punch Park. The inscription on the medal reads—"Dona dedit Cardinalis Agliardi S.R.E. Cancellarius O.M.C. Protector, 27-7-'13." On the reverse side are crossed hurleys, surmounted by harp and shamrocks, with a broad shield in the centre containing the Cardinal's coat of arms underneath a representation of the symbolic Red Hat which all Cardinals receive on their appointment to their high office.

Con Scanlan was also unable to turn out with his club in the opening tie of the 1914 County Senior Hurling Championship, which provided a big surprise in that Caherline dethroned the title-holders, 2-4 to 3-0, after a hectic hour's hurling.

## UNHAPPY YEAR FOR LIMERICK

1914 was a rather unhappy year for Limerick, who started the season badly, going down before Cork 7-2 to 2-1 in the Thomond Fels final and then flattered only to deceive when they beat Tipperary, All-Ireland runners-up, 8-0 to 3-1, in the opening round of the Munster Championship.

The big surprise came in the provincial semi-final, played at Mallow on August 30th, when Clare qualified for the Munster final at the expense of Limerick, 4-2 to 2-0, later going on to win both Southern and All-Ireland honours.

Limerick were out of the big hurling news following this defeat and the concluding article on Con's career will deal with less familiar aspects of his time as a hurling great.

**FIGHT INDIGESTION**

## GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

# Con Scanlan Of Fedamore

(CONCLUDED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

ALL his life associated with the dairying industry, Con Scanlan was assistant manager at Greybridge Creamery during the best years of his hurling career.

He was still a great hurler when he accepted the position of manager of Newcastle Creamery in South Tipperary, an appointment, though welcomed as well merited promotion, which had its sad side for it deprived both Fedamore and Limerick of the services of a great player.

It must be remembered that in this period of the history of the Association there was no non-resident rule, or any provision permitting a player to return and help his native parish. Motor cars were still very much in the luxury class and patrons or players of Gaelic games were rarely or ever in a position to avail of this mode of transport.

Con's departure was a big blow to his club and county, and it came at a vital period for both — the crossroads, as it were, following a glorious spell, not however blessed with the best of good luck.

## PRESENTED WITH AN ADDRESS.

The Fedamore lads marked the occasion of Con's going in an especial manner, and were one of the first Gaelic bodies to present a player with an address to mark an occasion. This one will be recalled with interest. It read:

"Dear Con. We, your old comrades of the Fedamore Hurling Club, tender to you our hearty congratulations on your well merited promotion. Although we deeply regret your departure from amongst us, we have always admired your never-tiring energy and zeal in forwarding the interests of the club to which you have given time and labour without a murmur. Your prowess in the field of play and your scientific wielding of the caman time and again aroused the plaudits of the mighty multitude at many a well-contested game. When you and all of us have passed away and other men have taken our place on the hurling field the name of Con Scanlan will be repeated by those who are yet unborn. Goodbye old comrade, and may you be as successful in the battle of life as you were in the Gaelic arena is the prayer of your old colleagues. Signed on behalf of the Club. E. Treacy, President; J. Power, Treasurer; M. Clifford, Honorary Secretary."

## HIS NAME HIT THE HEADLINES AGAIN.

South Tipperary was mainly a football area at the time—the big ball game was enjoying great popularity there and hurling, of which Con was such a fine exponent, was little played. Consequently, we hear little of Con for a period, but then his name hit the Gaelic headlines again—this time in a different sphere of action, but with the same old spirit, determination and effectiveness.

He rendered splendid service in the fight for national independence, figured in many successful actions against the British and advanced to the rank of Captain with the Third Tipperary Brigade. His exploits during this trying period were noteworthy and are linked with the history of the time in a manner that ensures for Con as high a place as a soldier of Ireland, as he gained on the hurling field as an able wielder of the caman.

Con returned to his native Limerick in 1923, when he became manager of Dromin Creamery, the position he held up to the time of his lamented death in March, 1950, at the early age of sixty years.

## FINE QUALITIES SUMMED UP IN LAMENT.

The fine qualities of the man were well summed up in a lament that appeared at the time of his passing:

Comes a shadow o'er my spirit,  
And a sorrow laden breath,  
For that noble soul  
That now lies in death.  
Con Scanlan, my ideal of what  
a man should be,  
Calm, reserved, warm, impulsive,  
and strong hearted as the  
sea;  
Laughter loving, glad and pensive,  
sad and happy all combined.  
Scorning all empty slamming of  
the shallow modern mind,  
True to principle and honour yet  
playful as a child,  
True Celt and kinsman of Brian.

Con Scanlan was particularly noted for his accuracy in the taking of frees. When I spoke to a colleague of his sometime ago concerning this characteristic, he said that he was the greatest man on a placed ball since his day, when he had as rival in the Limerick colours another man of extraordinary accuracy—Mick Feely of Croom.

There is a story told of an occasion when Limerick were playing an American hurling selection at the Markets Field.

## FINE ACHIEVEMENTS.

Mick Feely captained that Shannonside team, and provided a captain's inspiration by notching no less than one goal and five points off six free pucks awarded the Limerick lads. Con Scanlan was playing alongside Mick that day, and when Limerick got their seventh free, Mick said: "Con, have a try at this one."

Con, although charged in striking, got a beauty point. The whistle had gone, however, and he had to take another shot, which once more went between the uprights. But he was also fouled in delivering this effort, and the referee—a stickler for correctness—ordered a third attempt.

That grand Bruff sportsman, Michael O'Shaughnessy, was in the stand and he laid a bet of £5 with a companion that Con would score again off the third effort. And the great Fedamore man obliged, but this time with a goal—a fine effort surely, with the distance seventy yards.

Michael won his money, and the £5 he spent in treating the hurlers when the game was over.

## HIS ACCURACY WAS ALMOST UNCANNY.

Con was reputed to have perfected his technique in his own back yard. It was often told that there was a half-door in his home and that he spent his time shooting at it from fifty and seventy yards, until his accuracy at finding the target became almost uncanny.

Sleepy, easy going, in appearance, the wonder of his scoring ability was a puzzle to most players and spectators of his day. His "seventies" mostly ended in the net—the limit of his effortless puck, so easy going you would think it could hardly travel a dozen yards. That slow, easy puck was always a surprise though.

A colleague, who happened to be on the sideline at Killarney on the occasion of an inter-county game in which Limerick were playing Cork, wrote down a goal even before he hit it, everytime Con was awarded a free puck anywhere from midfield in. This set a group of nearby Corkmen almost mad with rage, particularly when four goals were duly registered in this manner. But the limit was reached nearing the end. Con was three-quarter way back field engaged

tying the lace of his boot when a Cork clearance dropped at his feet. He did not even wait to straighten himself, for half way up he raised and struck that ball and sent it through a goal at the opposite end. It was grand!

## WORDS FROM THE LATE "EGAN" CLANCY.

I can do no better than conclude with a few words from another of that great old team—the late "Egan" Clancy:

When all alone I often think  
And dream on days of yore,  
And my thoughts go quickly o'er  
the seas  
To dear old Fedamore;  
For it's many the pleasant stroll  
I took,  
With "ashen stick" in hand,  
To spend the day in manly play  
With the lads in "Con's" command.

And when the practice match is  
o'er  
To "Jamesy's" we'd repair,  
To discuss the coming conflict,  
And "Shaun" would take the  
chair;  
And "Mick" would read the  
minutes  
Of the meeting that passed o'er,  
Oh! God be with those happy  
times,  
And bless you Fedamore.