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Players: Be Fair To Fans And Yourself

By "FLACCUS"

WATCHING Munster beat Leinster—only just, and by a last-minute goal—it was borne in upon one more clearly than ever that players do not train properly for these early season games. It would appear that those who hadn't a game for their counties on the previous Sunday or two had not kicked or handled a football since well before Christmas.

This simply is not good enough; it is not good enough for the spectators and public who pay to see the games, and expect and demand only the best from men in the best possible physical condition.

More important, it is not good enough for the players themselves, because they are attempting something which they are not equipped to do.

The consequent strain on limbs and muscles, lungs and heart, is correspondingly greater than it should be where a man has toned himself to the correct level.

DAMAGE DONE

Many a man has done himself irreparable damage by playing a hard game of football or hurling, but especially football, without training.

Of course, the distinction between football and hurling which I make is marginal, although there is an added strain to leg muscles in the football game.

Everybody who has played the game has had, I'm sure, the experience of this struggle against the rubbery feeling in the legs, and the searing-hot bands that seem to enclose the lungs.

The top-class player will remember a game when, though he was reasonably fit, as all first-class players are bound to be because

of the more or less constant match-play, he found the pace that extra bit too hot or his opposite number that extra bit spry.

Then, on the other hand, the ordinary clubman will know the feeling, because he has certainly lined out in a match with no more than a few practice periods of kicking-around, and found to his sad dismay that a match is a far different thing.

NO REST!

He found that he could not take that little rest just when he wanted, for it is one of the best known and most perverse things about football, that the ball keeps on coming towards you just when you are in the most distress.

The symptoms of over-stress on the body are easily enough discerned after the events; it takes the shape of severe cramps, or a waking night because of muscles which are too tired and sore to rest comfortably.

It is a question of the old story, aptly summed up in another context, by Christian teachers—"The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

So much for the negative attitude towards the physical fitness, it has also a positive side—a side which gives one the advantage of being fit for one's game, whatever it may be.

Apart from the feeling of well-being which the athlete has, there is that edge which he will have over his opponent. Granted opposite

of equal or more or less equal skill and ability, the fitter one will come out on top.

In that sprint for ball he will find himself pulling ahead; in the jump for the high one he feels himself lithe and outreaching his man; for the sudden unexpected break of the ball he discovers himself first to the spinning ball because his reflexes and reactions are quicker; and towards the end of a hard game he will be able to brush aside tired men and perhaps turn a whole game on the vital last five or ten minutes.

SELECT BAND

Now, it is a known fact that there is a certain class of individual who is a 'born athlete' such as, I think, Christy Ring must be. This is explained by the fact that these types have a better controlling mechanism, particularly in the voluntary and reflex control of the nervous system over the muscular activity.

But, of course, we all know, to our cost, that all cannot be Christy Rings, and there are many, indeed the great majority, who are ordinary average men without an extraordinary natural ability.

If this is so, then surely it is obvious that every athlete must attempt to build up his state of physical fitness to compensate for that great gift of "control" which is given to the few but denied to the many.

You cannot build champions on natural ability alone. Rather it must be done on a sound foundation of physical fitness, being laid before skill and technique enters the bargain.

Youths must be encouraged to make bodily fitness the essential foundation before any sporting technique can bring any advantage or improvement.

RECENT TREND

It is only in the last fifty years that any real understanding of the factors entering the composite picture of physical effort have been obtained, and now research is going on constantly in an endeavour to complete the understanding of the human body and all the complex mechanisms and adjustments involved in muscular exercise.

The best definition of physical fitness I have come upon is: "the development of the body to a state or condition such that a given amount of physical effort can be produced when required with the minimum of physical strain."

And, of course, the efficiency of physical effort depends upon the combination existing between the muscles, the breathing and blood circulation, co-ordinated by the activities of the central nervous system.

Now, a solid basis of physical fitness is necessary so that the athlete can develop on that foundation a building up of technique and skill. This is obvious when you consider that the aim of the physical training is to be light and agile; to be able to perform bodily movements easily, with economy of effort, and to have complete control over every part of the body.

Can you think of any sport which would not be participated in more easily and more successfully if the player possessed these facilities? And they can be achieved by all without exception, unless one is suffering from any adverse medical condition.

A well trained competitor in any form of sport is a joy to watch, and the value of training can be seen in any kind of contest between trained and untrained competitors. A moderate performer well-prepared can beat a star who is out of condition.



Roscommon backs tussle with Galway forwards in their National Football League game.

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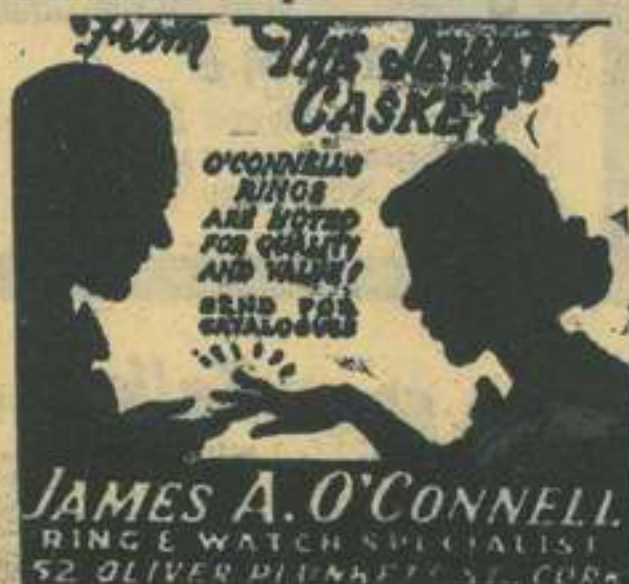
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John Nallen Will Lead Mayo Team

CASEY VICE-CAPTAIN

"FEAR SUIL"

JOHN NALLEN, Tuam-based Mayo centre-field man, has been unanimously elected captain of the senior team for 1957. Willie Casey, blonde star of left full-back, has been honoured as vice-captain.

Jimmy Curran, left-corner forward and place kicker on Mayo Team, has announced his engagement. We send him and his bride-to-be our heartiest congratulations and good wishes.

Congrats, too, to Jack Mangan, captain, Tom Dillon, Frank Eivers, Frankie Stockwell, all of Galway, and to Páike McGarty of Leitrim, on selection on Ireland team. Joe Salmon, Galway's centrefield player, is the only Connacht man honoured on the hurling team.

* * *

Western supporters wonder why Sean Purcell has been overlooked, but the Ireland selectors probably thought that the Combined Universities had first claim to the Galwayman, the outstanding centre forward in the game to-day.

* * *

Who will represent Connacht in the All-Ireland Colleges Individual Championship? Most College football fans think that the winner of the St. Jarlath's/St. Nathy's game on March 10th will provide an answer. St. Jarlath's won this honour in 1947 and succeeded in capturing the trophy after a thrilling game with St. Patrick's, Armagh. Sean Purcell, Mick Flanagan and Peter Dolan, later to make their mark on All-Ireland Senior football, were members of the winning team.

* * *

Hopes are high in U.C.G. that their Camogie team will defend the Ashbourne Cup successfully next month in Belfast. Friendly matches with Manulla, Mayo Co. Champions, have sharpened up the Western side and must help the U.C.G. girls in their bid to retain the title for yet another year.

* * *

Gerry O'Malley, Roscommon star, takes his training very seriously and puts in a very strenuous course

to ensure his fitness. Recently, he first played a hurling match for South Roscommon against Four Roads and then, having changed his togs and jersey, fielded out for Roscommon in their National League football win over Laois. What an example for some of the younger players who could with benefit imitate this great-hearted all-rounder.

* * *

Farewell and good-luck to Maureen MacDonnell, well-known member of Manulla camogie club, who has emigrated to U.S.

* * *

Sean Flanagan, T.D., and Harry Kenny, T.D., former All-Ireland players, are Mayo's representatives on Connacht Council.

* * *

Joe Masterson, Sligo, Tubbercurry and Connacht Railway Cup player is the energetic secretary who handles with such success, the Tubbercurry Drama Festival. This year is expected to even out-do other years—and that will take some doing! But with Joe Masterson in form, we can be assured of the goal being reached.

* * *

Mayo's list of declared players is as formidable as ever and includes such well-known performers as John Nallen (Tuam Stars), Paddy Prendergast (Limerick), J. Curran (Meath), W. Shannon, Tom Langan, P. Irwin, J. O'Connell (all of Garda Club, Dublin), Brendan McLoughlin (Na Fianna), Sean Mulderrig and John MacCormack (Shamrocks, London), Seamus O'Donnell (An Uaimh Harps), Dan O'Neill (Drogheda) and Owen Roe O'Neill.

PAST v PRESENT

MAYO'S FOOTBALL MATCH

MAYO football supporters are looking forward to the proposed challenge game between the present team and the 1951 team that won the All-Ireland title, for which tentative arrangements have been made. The venue will probably be Mac Hale Park, Castlebar; the date—sometime in May.

Missing from the 1951 line-out will be Pádraig Carney, now a medico in Chicago, Fathers Peter Quinn and Mickie Caulfield, labouring in the mission fields of the Philippines, and Peter Solan, on engineering work in Rhodesia. Most of the others are available but in what condition I cannot, at the moment say. Willie Casey and

Jimmy Curran are likely to be claimed by the '51 side, although still members of the present team.

The '51 line-out may read something like this (and again it may not!):

S. Wynne

J. Forde P. Prendergast S. Flanagan J. Staunton H. Dixon W. Casey E. Mongay J. McAndrew P. Irwin L. Hastings J. Gilvarry M. Mulderrig T. Langan J. Curran

All in all, an enjoyable match should be the result, with both sides trying to prove something. What that something may be I don't know—better come along and see for yourself.

LIMERICK CAMOGIE

The Limerick County Camogie Board's Annual Convention took place at the Gaelic League Hall, Limerick, recently. The election of officers resulted as follows: Chairman, Miss Chris O'Connell; Vice-Chairman, Miss Tess Hannigan (Croom); Secretary, Miss Maureen Quail (Adare); Treasurer, Miss Tess Hannigan (Eflin); County Registrar, Miss Carrie Gillane (Pat's-well).

ROSCOMMON

WILL MISS

TOM KELLY

By "FEAR SUIL"

ROSCOMMON hurling will be the poorer for the departure of Tommy Kelly to the U.S.A. A founder and playing member of Tremane hurling club, he was a member of the 1955 Junior team that won county honours.

The club went one better in 1956 by annexing the Co. Senior title in their first year in the higher grade, as well as the County Junior and Minor championships.

An enthusiastic club member, an energetic worker and a sportsman on the field and off, Tommy won a Connacht College's Senior football medal with Roscommon C.B.S. in 1948, but concentrated on hurling in later years to do his part in the hurling drive in Co. Roscommon. Slan agus beannacht agus pilleadh gan mhoill, a Thomais.

Dan O'Rourke Retires

By "Fear Siuil"

FOR 20 YEARS DURING WHICH ROSCOMMON FOOTBALL TEAMS WON ALL-IRELAND HONOURS IN EVERY GRADE, DAN O'ROURKE HELD OFFICE ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY AS CHAIRMAN.

That great era began in 1939 when the minor title came West and the highest honour was achieved in 1943 and repeated in 1944, when a team of dashing ball players brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Roscommon.

Behind the team was the guiding hand and valuable advice of the 'Mr. Football' of Roscommon, Dan O'Rourke, whom every Gael in Ireland respected and admired for his firm uncompromising stand on all things Gaelic and National.

FLUENT SPEAKER

A strong advocate and a fluent speaker of the native tongue, he never let an occasion pass that he did not use his fluency, appeal and position to further the cause of the revival of Irish.

Handball and hurling held soft spots in his heart and his appeals to Gaels to support those games seem to have borne fruit, at least in regard to hurling, which is in a healthy position in Roscommon.

His retirement this year from the chairmanship of the Roscommon Co. Board means a big loss to that county, even though Donal Keenan is a very worthy successor.

Donal, a native of Elphin, has been associated with the G.A.A. since childhood, and played through all grades of club football until 1939, when he secured his place on the Roscommon senior team, and held it till 1950.

A deadly left-footed place kicker, a safe fielder, a speedy brainy forward, Donal won two All-Irelands with Roscommon in '43 and '44.

His interest in the administrative side of the Association's activities merited the unanimous selection of this popular medico as their new chairman.

Notes & News

Aidan Brady, captain of Roscommon senior football team, has been appointed to New Ross as Agricultural Instructor for that area. Gerry O'Malley, his brilliant team-mate, also served a term in the same capacity in the Model County.

Not since the days of Tommy Hoban, the mighty atom from Westport, has a Mayo man enjoyed the distinction of featuring, even among the subs., on a Connacht Railway Cup hurling team.

This year Ignatius Gavin stalwart of Ballina's hurling team, has been honoured as a substitute, a fact that should lend an impetus to the hurling drive in Mayo.

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The Gaelic League In Ulster

There was a large attendance of delegates at the Dail Mhor of Comhaltas Uladh held in Omagh on January 5, 1957.

Progress for the year 1956 showed a mixture of success and failure. A propaganda campaign was carried out among teachers throughout the province and out of 658 teachers who received invitations to attend meetings at various centres some 331 attended. It was pointed out to teachers the best method of making use of time for the furtherance of Gaelic ideals.

A tremendous amount of organisation has been put into Oireachtas Cuig Uladh which will be held this year in Donegal. So far the reception to the idea has not been too enthusiastic but it is hoped that eventually the Oireachtas will be turned into one of the highlights of the Donegal Gaelteacht season.

The number of branches of the Gaelic league has shown a steady increase since 1926 but in the last two years there has been a small decline.

Figures for branches and feiseanna are as follows:—

	Branches	Feiseanna
1926	28	2
1944	152	21
1950	154	20
1954	159	20
1955	156	21
1956	141	21

Let us hope that this decline is arrested in the coming year.

More encouraging news is that the numbers attending the Summer colleges in Donegal are once more on the upgrade and that the alarming decline between '54 and '55 has been arrested.

The publication of books too has gone ahead. Alf. Murray's "Ceachtanna Gaelige" having gone into its third edition and selling well at that. It is hoped too that "An Lochrann—Cuid a do" will be ready early in the new year. "An Breagan" by Cait Ni Giolla Bhrihde has also been published and it is hoped that "An Suanair" will soon be ready.

An alarming decline in the National collection has, however, been a serious blow to the League's progress. The figures for '55 and '56 are as follows:—

	1955	1956
Belfast	£220 6 0	£211 15 10
Co. Antrim	£214 3 10	£173 7 10
Co. Armagh	£199 13 7	£156 7 0
Co. Cavan	£130 11 1	£108 14 8
Co. Derry	£120 15 0	£72 11 3
Co. Down	£177 6 4	£147 15 9
Co. F'managh	£72 14 6	£61 11 11
Co. Louth	£55 1 0	£92 17 6
Co. M'han	£138 7 3	£110 18 3
Co. Donegal	£114 12 9	£82 1 8
Co. Tyrone	£260 5 0	£254 1 5
Total	£1,703 16 4	£1,472 3 1

The resignation of Padraig Mac Con Midhe from the secretaryship will be a source of regret to all those who know him but I feel sure that his successor Gearoid Mac Giolla Dhomhnaigh will prove his ability in the position.



Leitrim defenders F. Quinn and L. Helsin gain possession to check a Westmeath attack during the recent National Football League tie at Mullingar.

Australians To Play Irish In Gaelic Football

A GAELIC football match between Australian students in London and a London-Irish Selection will be staged in the future in London at the request of the students.

The game will be played under G.A.A. rules and Mr. John Dunne, secretary of the London County Board, has been instructed to make final arrangements for the game.

"The two games are very similar" said Mr. Dunne, "so that it should not prove very difficult to stage an interesting game. A few years ago games between Scottish Shinty players and hurlers proved very popular."

Eighteen players take part in Australian football — and there are special posts for points and goals as there were in old-time Gaelic football. The game is very much like Gaelic football and is believed to have been first brought to Australia by Irish emigrants.

(See special article on Australian Football on page)

What Parish Can Beat This

During the past nine years, nine sets of medals (hurling) have been won by teams bearing the name St. Molings (Co. Carlow), one each year. During that nine years, St. Molings junior hurlers set up a record that may never be equalled by any other team in the County. They won the championship seven years in succession.

BRAY EMMETS JUVENILE CLUB

At the annual general meeting of the Bray Emmets Juvenile Club, the following officers were elected:

President, W. O'Brien; Chairman, W. P. Heavey; Vice-Chairman, J. Cullen; Secretary, Sean Cullen; Treasurer, Paddy Kelly, Committee, J. Napier, L. Browne, J. Cassin, J. Lyons, M. Casey. Mr. Paddy Kelly announced that he succeeded in getting a Cork team to travel to Bray for the annual match at Easter. This would provide a great test for the local juveniles and he hoped they would train hard for the event.

LUKE RETURNS TO ST. MOLINGS

Luke Morrissey, brother of Mick Morrissey, the Wexford All-Ireland half-back, who has been assisting Paulstown in the Kilkenny championship of late, will this year play with his native St. Molings hurling club. While playing in the Kilkenny Championship he was selected to play with the county juniors but had to cry off the team owing to illness. He will be a very welcome asset to his native parish this year.

THE NOLANS KEEP ON COLLECTING

The Nolan brothers of Coolnamara, have quite an array of hurling and football medals to their credit. Between them they have 39, a nice collection you might well say, seeing that the eldest is only 25 and the youngest 15. They have many years of "active service" left still and it's anybody's guess what the number will be when they retire. Incidentally, one of them, Tom, who is a student at UCD may be seen in this year's Dublin Championship.

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G. Walsh (Ulster) makes a daring dive to block a shot by Leinster full-forward, Nicky Rackard, who has managed to beat B. Donnelly, the Ulster full-back, in the Railway Cup hurling semi-final, at Casement Park, Belfast.

WHAT! NO KERRYMAN?

By D. J. KELLY.

AN Ireland football team without a Kerryman on it! Yes, I feel that readers must have been as surprised as I was when they saw the team chosen to play the Combined Universities on the 18th of this month.

I must say that I was shocked, for Kerry despite their temporary fall from grace in last year's Munster's championship, are still a powerful force.

Frankly I feel that the selectors, Messrs. Murphy (Cork), O'Neill (Tyrone), Burke (Kildare) and J. Dunne (Galway), failed to produce the best men to represent Ireland.

I agree that goalkeeper Jack Mangan could not be bettered. The Tuam man is gifted with a wonderful sense of anticipation, safe hands and agility.

Neither can I quarrel with the selection of Tom Dillon, Paddy Harrington, Sean Moore, John Rice, Jim McKeever, Patsy McGarty, Des. Ferguson, Frankie Stockwell or Dan 'Toots' Kelleher.

While I have every respect for Paddy Driscoll, I feel that Jerome O'Shea in current form is the better right corner man and despite Jim Devlin's great game against Galway's Stockwell in the All-Ireland semi-final last year, I maintain that the Coalisland man did nothing prior to that nor since to earn him the honour at full-back.

It should be remembered too that Stockwell did not play his usual wandering game against Devlin on that occasion last August but in the recent Railway Cup semi-final at Sligo he reverted to his usual role with dire effects on the Ulster defence as a whole.

Why Not Roche?

I would prefer to see Kerry's Ned Roche on the fringe of the square, for while not brilliant the Cork based Army lieutenant is a solid tenacious defender who has brought honour to himself and his county in the position.

Despite Gerry O'Reilly's periodic displays of greatness for Leinster, I give my vote unhesitatingly to Dublin's Nicky Maher for the left half-back position. Not only is Maher a regular there but he is infinitely more consistent than the Wicklowman.

I regard Frank Evers as one of Ireland's most tontalising midfielders, for not only does he play one disappointing game for every good one but he can also shine in one half-hour and be quite ordinary in the next.

No, my partner for Moore would be Mayo's John Nallen—a powerfully built, remarkably safe, high-fielding artist, who is the acme of consistency.

Is Larry McCormack's best position at centre-forward? I don't think so; surely he has had his best games at centre half back and midfield.

With Sean Purcell on the Combined Universities side I think it would have been a good move to

place Ferguson on the "40"—a position he has filled with great distinction—move Toots Kelleher to the right corner of attack and bring on Tadghie Lyne to the vacant left corner.

My team would read: J. Mangan (Galway); J. O'Shea (Kerry), E. Roche (Kerry), T. Dillon (Gal-

way); P. Harrington (Cork), J. Rice (Monaghan), N. Maher (Dublin); S. Moore (Cork), J. Nallen (Mayo); J. McKeever (Derry), D. Ferguson (Dublin), P. McGarty (Leitrim); D. Kelleher (Cork), F. Stockwell (Galway), T. Lyne (Kerry).

This team would provide All-Ireland champions Galway with only three players but since fellow finalists Cork have had their four also reduced to three I am happy that the status quo has been maintained.

OUR GAME IN SONG—

THE IRISH BRIGADE HURLERS

... By ...

By THOMAS DAVIS.

THIS ROUSING BALLAD BY THOMAS DAVIS RECALLS HOW THE IRISH BRIGADE CAPTURED AN ITALIAN TOWN BY PLAYING A GAME OF HURLING. IT IS THE FIRST OF OUR NEW SERIES OF BALLADS WHICH RECAPTURE SOME ASPECTS OF OUR GAELIC GAMES.

In the South's blooming valleys they sing and they play
By their vine-shaded eots at the close of the day,
But a game like our own the Italians ne'er saw,
The fine sweeping hurlings of Erin go brath.

Our tents they were pitched upon Lombardy's plain,
Ten days nigh the foeman our army had lain;
But ne'er thro' their walls made we passage or flaw,
Till we showed them the game played in Erin go brath.

Our sabres were sharp and a forest was nigh,
There our hurleys we fashioned ere morning rose high;
With the goal-ball young Mahon had brought from Dunlawe,
We showed them the game played in Erin go brath.

Our captain stood out with the ball in his hand,
Our colonel he gave us the word of command;
Then we dashed it and chased it O'er Eskir and Scragh,
While we showed them the game played in Erin go brath.

The enemy stood on their walls high and strong,
While we raced it and chased it and dashed it along;
They opened their gates as we nearer did draw
To see the fine game played in Erin go brath.

On a sudden we turned from the ball's swift career,
And rushed thro' the gate with a grand ringing cheer;
Ah! they ne'er thro' our bright dauntless stratagem saw,
While we showed them the game played in Erin go brath.

Their swords clashed around us, their balls raked us sore,
But with hurleys we paid them in hard knocks galore;
For their bullets and sabres we cared not a straw,
While we showed them the game played in Erin go brath.

The fortress is taken, our wild shouts arise,
For our land and King Louis they swell to the skies;
Ah! he laughed as he told us a game he ne'er saw,
Like the fine sweeping hurlings of Erin go brath.

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Sean O'Callaghan's Gaelic Sports Review

THE MONTH OF MARCH PROMISES TO SUPPLY PLENTY OF HIGH-CLASS FARE. IN FACT, SOME OF THE YEAR'S CLASSICS SHOULD BE WITNESSED.

As a preliminary to the Railway Cup games on St. Patrick's Day, the real gem should be seen when this year's new feature, Ireland versus "The Rest" in hurling, will be staged on March 10 at Croke Park.

The second stage of this series (football) is reserved for March 18, also at Croke Park, when Ireland meets the Combined Universities.

Wider Appeal

Football has the wider appeal, so therefore all Ireland has an interest in the team chosen to wear the green jerseys.

To the ordinary man in the street, who may or may not, know a great deal about picking teams, the first thing that will strike him as peculiar, about this "Ireland" team is, that no Kerry player has been chosen.

The selectors evidently had a flare for mathematics, as they gave two thirds of the team to the provincial champions and picked the remaining five from Dublin, Derry Monaghan, Leitrim and Wicklow.

An interesting point arises: had the selectors waited for the results of the Railway Cup semi-finals, would they still have chosen the same men.

Maybe they would, as county and provincial interests, are strongly bound up in such selections.

One thing is certain, however, that the team could do with a place kicker like Ollie Freaney (Dublin), Tadgh Lyne (Kerry), or Frank Donnelly (Tyrone).

CONSOLATION

The Combined Universities side will give places to counties like Kerry and Mayo who failed to gain a representative on the Ireland side.

In some instances there will be a further clash between Railway Cup players such as happened recently at Sligo, between John Rice and Sean Purcell.

In my opinion, there appears to

Feast Of Games This Month

be much greater scoring power in the Combined team than in the Ireland pick.

Football

IRELAND

J. Mangan capt. (Galway)
 P. Driscoll (Cork) J. Devlin (Tyrone) T. Dillon (Galway)
 P. Harrington (Cork) J. Rice (Monaghan) G. O'Reilly (Wicklow)
 S. Moore (Cork) F. Evers (Galway)
 J. McKeever (Derry) L. McCormack (Kildare) P. McGarty (Leitrim)
 D. Ferguson (Dublin) F. Stockwell (Galway) D. Kelleher (Cork)
 Subs.—J. O'Shea (Kerry), J. Mahon (Galway), N. Fitzgerald (Cork), F. Donnelly (Tyrone), S. Harrison (Kildare).

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES

J. O'Neill (Queen's)
 J. Dowling (U.C.C.) T. Lyons (U.C.D.) C. O'Toole (U.C.G.)
 S. Murphy (U.C.D.) J. Ryan (U.C.D.) D. Murray (U.C.D.)
 G. O'Malley (U.C.G.) J. O'Donnell (U.C.D.)
 E. Devlin (U.C.D.) S. Purcell (U.C.G.) M. Stewart (U.C.G.)
 K. Heffernan (U.C.D.) F. Higgins (Queen's) J. Brosnan (U.C.D.)
 Subs.—C. Mallan (Queen's), M. Moroney (U.C.C.), F. O'Leary (U.C.D.), D. O'Sullivan (U.C.D.), J. McGivern (Queen's).

Well Received

THE announcement of the "Rest of Ireland" hurling to play Ireland on March 10 has been very well received, but at the same time, few very conspicuous players, which many thought worthy of inclusion, have been omitted.

THE MAN OF THE YEAR SO

FAR AS SELECTIONS ARE CONCERNED IS SURELY DESSY FERGUSON OF DUBLIN

He has been chosen on the two Leinster teams, hurling and football; honoured by the Ireland selectors with his place on the team as top right forward, and finally by the "Rest" hurling selectors as right full back.

The irony of it all is, that this great player has to emigrate to America. He has made all his preparations for departure late in March, and no doubt he will find little difficulty in gaining his place on one or other of the New York teams when he arrives.

I wish him God speed and the best of luck.

Hurling

IRELAND

A. Foley (Wexford)
 J. Brohan (Cork) N. O'Donnell (Wexford) R. Rackard (Wexford)
 J. Finn (Tipp.) W. Rackard (Wexford) P. Philpott (Cork)
 W. Walsh (Kilkenny) J. Salmon (Galway)
 S. Clohosey (Kilkenny) E. Wheeler (Wexford) T. Flood (Wexford)
 P. Kenny (Tipp.) N. Rackard, capt. (Wexford) C. Ring (Cork)
 Subs.—M. Hayes (Clare), J. Maher (Kilkenny), S. McDonald (Antrim), J. Kiely (Waterford), Gerry Kelly (Cork).

THE REST

O. Walsh (Kilkenny)
 D. Ferguson (Dublin) J. Walsh (Kilkenny) M. Morrissey (Wexford)
 J. English (Wexford) P. Stakelum (Tipp.) J. McGovern (Kilkenny)
 J. Quaide (Limerick) S. Hearne (Wexford)
 M. Ryan (Tipp.) T. Cheasty (Waterford) F. Walsh (Waterford)
 P. Barry (Cork) W. Dwyer (Kilkenny) D. Rockett (Kilkenny)
 Subs.—V. Twomey (Cork), C. O'Brien (Laois), T. Wall (Tipp.), J. Young (Galway), L. Cashin (Dublin).

Disappointing

THE "Railway Cup" football semi-finals have been decided and the stage is set for a Munster and Connacht final. To say the least, both games were disappointing.

IT IS TOO LATE, I SUPPOSE, TO FIND AN ALIBI FOR ULSTER'S DEFEAT, BUT STRANGE TO RELATE BOTH ULSTER AND LEINSTER SUFFERED FROM THE SAME COMPLAINT, LACK OF A PLACE KICKER.

Had Frank Donnelly (Tyrone) been included on the Ulster side scores could have been obtained which were lost through faulty direction by those entrusted with the task.

Another weakness displayed by Ulster was their lack of preparation. This game was not taken too seriously, and failure to get going in the early stages, plus two freak scores ended their hopes for this year.

MANY WEAKNESSES

Leinster suffered from a series of weaknesses. It was apparent to everyone that Stephen White was hopelessly out of position as a full forward, while Jim Crowley (Dublin), who could fill the position, was placed at centre half back and on top of it all, frees galore in front of the posts were missed.

That more or less confirms my conviction, that if the proper men had been selected in the first instance for certain positions, Leinster could have beaten Munster.

However, Munster came through and we have no hard feelings on that score. The same team will do duty, and I hope they will improve.

Connacht gave a couple of doubtful positions; one at centre-field.

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HOME FROM AUSTRALIA

BY "CRAOBH RUADH"
TEN years is a long time but it wasn't long enough to dim the memory of Irvinestown people for Fr. Dermot Mahon on his homecoming from the Australian mission fields. During his years at home Fr. Dermot had been hero of Irvinestown and Fermanagh teams on many an occasion and played hurling for several hurling teams in the locality. However, although Gaelic games were his first love he was also the life of most social activities in his native town. It was but natural then that when he arrived back in Irvinestown on December 21 that a grand reception should be planned for him by the local G.A.C. and band committee.

The townfolk gathered en masse outside the town to meet him on arrival and if torchlights were banned by the police enthusiasm was not dimmed. As he stepped from his car the band greeted him with "Faith of Our Fathers". Then after renewing acquaintances the procession headed for St. Molaise Hall along streets lined with cheering crowds.

At the hall a welcome committee, headed by Very Rev. Fr. McKenna, P.P.; Rev. Fr. Lappin, C.C., and G. Magee, M.P.S., Chairman Fermanagh Co. Board, echoed the sentiments of the local people. There was much music, song and dancing in Irvinestown that night, but his old team-mates and he, gathered together and soon the yarns of yesterday were being resurrected.

One of the best, I thought, was how Fr. Dermot once controverted the Official Guide when he bet a local enthusiast, Jimmy Diver, 10s. that he would score ten points for Irvinestown against Maleek in the first round of the Fermanagh championship. He scored 11 just to make sure and Irvinestown won by 1-11 to 2-7.

Father. Dermot's comment was: "I'd almost venture forth again, the homecoming's so great a joy". P.S.—Fr. Mahon doesn't want hurleys or footballs to take back with him but he has an order for 30 postulants and 15 novices. Any volunteers?

P. Hamill, S. Donnelly, I. Jones, R. Gribben.

I hope I don't have to say I told you so.

Will Success Ever Crown Dublin's Achievements?

PEDAR BYRNE

"MOST misunderstood team of the century"—this could well be the term to describe the present Dublin senior football team. Never, perhaps, has any selection aroused so much controversy as the present Metropolitan outfit who from the time they first hit the senior headlines six years ago have been the subject of many a heated argument.

They are misunderstood in the sense that outside of their own county their worth was never fully appreciated. To most people they were just a crowd of crazy, mixed-up adults who wouldn't or just couldn't conform to the recognised manner of playing Gaelic football.

The 'catch and kick' method didn't count with these Dubliners. In its stead they employed a brand of high-power, "on-the-floor" football which had for its chief attributes speed, craft and a highly-developed sense of positional play.

This is where the Metropolitan ran into criticism No. 1. To some people this style of football seemed very like soccer and they seldom lost an opportunity of voicing their opinion. Something these 'know-alls' didn't know was that this was the Dubliner's natural way of playing football. Unlike their counterparts from the Provinces they didn't have acres of wide open grassland on which to learn the rudiments of the game.

Natural Way

On the contrary their training ground, was the narrow confines of the streets of the city. With one eye on the passing traffic and the other on a tiny tennis ball they soon perfected their "Combo" game while the infuriated look of some harassed house-holder saw to it that wild kicks were at a premium. Hence the Metropolitan's cramped style of football.

Carlow Hurler

Mick Morrissey is the only Carlow man ever to win an All-Ireland hurling medal. He hails from Ballycinnigan and played for the Carlow minors when only 14 years of age. In 1954 Mick moved to New Ross and played for a local club. He was selected for the Wexford team in 1955, and is on it ever since.

Just how effective are these tactics when pitted against the tried and trusted 'sky it' method perfected down the years by such renowned G.A.A. counties as Kerry and Mayo.

Following the Kingdom's defeat of Dublin in the '55 All-Ireland final, many were inclined to write it off as a "has been". I don't agree. Did not Galway win last year's crown by playing much the same type of football while I am still convinced that the present Dublin team, with a few alterations, will capture this year's title.

There is no doubt the advent of this "on the floor" style of football has done the G.A.A. a world of good in the Metropolis. Let us not forget that up to a few years ago, Dublin, as far as the native Dubliner was concerned, was predominantly a foreign games city.

But all that is changed now and with the rise of the famed St. Vincent's, the G.A.A. is now on a firm footing in Dublin. The all-conquering Marino have swept the boards in all but one competition—the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship—and I'm sure nobody would begrudge it if this happened to be their lucky year.

HERE AND THERE...

NEW captain of Dublin Senior football team is burly Jim Crowley. Play-anywhere Jim takes over from "Danno" Mahony, and his leadership could well play a big part in gaining the Metropolitan that eagerly-awaited All-Ireland title.

A little bird tells me that Terry Sheridan (Kickhams) brother of former Cavan player, John may soon be on the move. This promising youngster, who learned his football in Belcamp, is a very neat defender and has shown rapid improvement in the past few months.

A Meath team just wouldn't be a Meath team if it didn't include an O'Brien. In recent years, Paddy Michael and Seanie all kept the flag flying proudly and now carrying on the standard in equally noble style is Skyrne's Cyril.

Brother of Paddy, he has a fine pair of hands and his mid-field partnership with Michael Durican, has laid the foundation for more than one Royal County victory.

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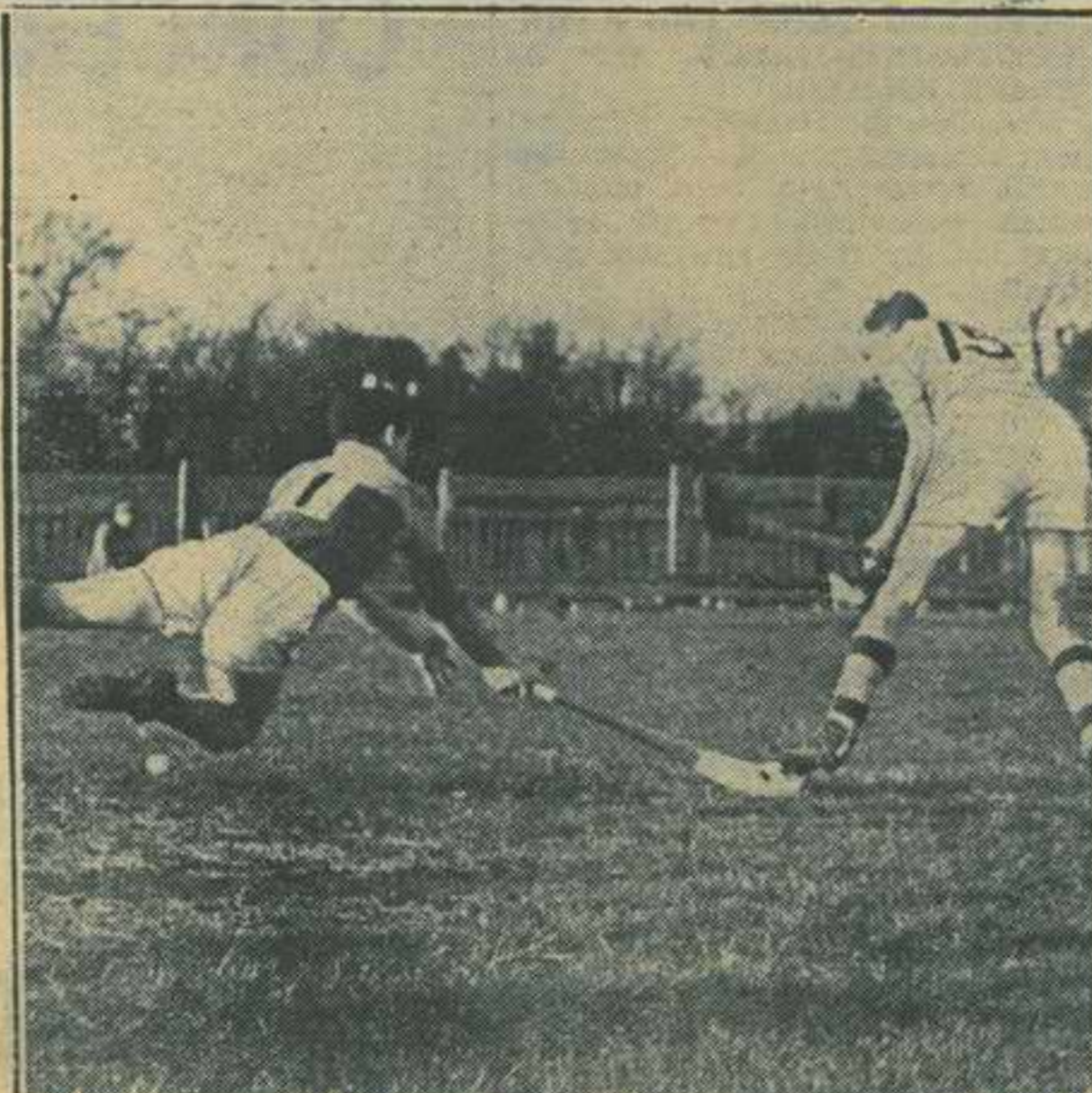
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Heffernan scores Dublin's first goal despite a great effort by Wexford goalkeeper, Foley, at Enniscorthy in the National Hurling League.



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Hoodoo On Ten Year Olds?

Is there a ten-year 'hoodoo' on G.A.A. legislators? That's the question two of the most famous 'back stage' boys in the country must be ruefully asking themselves just now.

Popular Louth Co. Board Chairman, Mr. J. Matthews, was beaten in a straight fight by Drogheda's Jimmy Mullen after an illustrious ten year reign.

The new chairman has a man-sized job in front of him in trying to put Louth football back to its former position, but if enthusiasm and razor-keen determination count for anything, the job is already as good as done.

TEN YEARS, TOO

Dublin's Tom Russell was ousted from the chairmanship of the Co. Board after holding the post for—yes, you've guessed it was ten years.

His successor is 27 years old, Inter-County footballer, "Danno" Mahony and the first big project facing the St. Vincent's man in his new role will be the completion of the new grounds at Crumlin.

Hoodoo or no hoodoo there is no stopping Kildare's Tim Clarke who is as much a part of Kildare football as is the famed lily-white jersey itself. At the election of officers at the recent Kildare Convention, Tim was re-elected secretary for the 38th year—truly a magnificent record.

Still on the "transfer path," I hear the names of Brendan Keane (Mayo) and Tom Long (Kerry) being linked with Clanna Gael. Should these two stalwarts who helped Erin's Hope to Championship honours last year, make such a move, it would make "Clans" a really imposing force.

Encouraging news from Kildare concerns Clane's 19 years-old Pa Connolly who has been turning in some wonderful displays of late.

A grandson of Bill Bracken, who figured in the Kildare team which beat Kerry in the 1905 decider, Pa is a great utility player and has already played on the Kildare Senior team.

Another young player hitting the headlines in the short grass county is Sarsfield's centre half-back, Pat Buckley. High-fielding Pat has figured with distinction on the county Minor team for the past two seasons and if he develops along the right lines, he should prove a decided acquisition to the senior team in the next few years.

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CORK CITY G.A.A. DRAW

THE following are the groupings for the Cork City Hurling and Football Leagues:—

- JUNIOR HURLING**
Group A. — Blackrock, St. Anthony's, Lough Rovers, Glen Rovers, St. Finbarr's Na Piarsaig A., Nemo Rangers, St. Vincents.
Group B. — Redmonds, Douglas, U.C.C., Collins, St. Mary's and Passage.
Group C. — Na Piarsaig B., Matt Talbot's, Togher, St. Patrick's Lees, Mayfield, Brian Dillons.
JUNIOR FOOTBALL
Group A.—Nemo Rangers A., St.

- Nicholas, St. Finbarr's, Delaney Rovers, Na Piarsaig, St. Patrick's, St. Vincent's.
Group B.—Brian Dillons, Collins, U.C.C., Lees, Redmonds, Togher, Commercial and St. Michael's
Group C. — Matt Talbot, Nemo Rangers B., St. Anthony's, Glenview, Douglas, Lough Rovers, Passage, Mayfield.
MINOR HURLING
Group A. — St. Finbarr's A., St. Vincent's, Nemo Rangers, Glen Rovers A., Na Piarsaig A., Blackrock, Lees.

- Group B.** — Glen Rovers B., St. Finbarr's B., Na Piarsaig B., Douglas, St. Anthony's, Brian Dillons, Fr. Mathews, Glenview, Lough Rovers, Redmonds, St. Joseph's, Passage.
MINOR FOOTBALL
Group A. — St. Finbarr's A., St. Nicholas A., Na Piarsaig, Nemo Rangers, Lees, St. Vincent's.
Group B.—Redmonds, St. Nicholas B., Delaney Rovers, Brian Dillons, St. Joseph's, Douglas, St. Michaels, Fr. Mathew's, Glenview, St. Finbarr's B., Passage, Lough Rovers.

Gloucester Gaels' Successful Year

By LIAM O GRIOBTHA.

IN his address to the recent convention of the Gloucester G.A.A. Board, the Chairman, Rev. P. F. Cronin (Gloucester), appealed to members to adhere to the rules and ideals of the Association.

He would, he said, make a special appeal to all County Board and club officers to do their jobs well, because they were the bulwarks of the Association. "It is," continued Fr. Cronin, excusable for a player to get a little rattled in the heat of the game, but it is the one thing which any officer of a club or Co. Board cannot afford to do. They are responsible for their players and supporters. If everyone co-operated we would, he felt sure, go on from strength to strength in the county.

OFFICERS THANKED

Fr. Cronin then thanked all the outgoing officers of the Co. Board for the wonderful job of work they had done during the year.

Mr. W. Griffin in his secretary's report echoed many of the remarks of Fr. Cronin but had some words to say in support of that much maligned official, the referee.

"Indeed" said the secretary "there are very few who are willing to take on this most necessary duty and they are to be commended."

The referee's job is without doubt one of the more difficult tasks in the field and to make a success of it he must exercise the ability of a diplomat and very often the patience of Job.

Once the referee has been appointed for a game it is incumbent on every player and official to see that he is treated fairly and allowed to do his job as he feels he ought to do it.

Without co-operation from all concerned there can only be one outcome and none of us want that

EXPANSION
 Mr. Griffin then went on to sum up the activities of the past year, which he said was one of success and expansion including the request by two new clubs for affiliation to the Co. Board.

These were Newport and Cardiff and would both compete in the 1957 Co. championships.

The Secretary's report concluded by thanking all his co-officers of the Board for their help and co-operation during 1956.

One of the motions which came before the convention suggested that camogie be started in the county. This motion, which came from St. Patrick's Club, Gloucester, caused considerable discussion and it was eventually agreed that the motion, in modified form, be put forward for the consideration of the new Board.

Another motion, also from St. Patrick's was that the Co. Board inaugurate an inter-club athletic meeting during the coming summer.

PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT
 Very Rev. M. Canon Roche, President of the Co. Board, spoke in favour of this motion.

"The promotion of athletics" said the Canon "is a course which is very dear to my own heart and is something which in the past I have often advocated".

The Canon went on to say that he would personally donate a special cup to be presented to the winning club, if such a meeting were organised.

It was unanimously agreed that this motion also be sent forward to the Co. Board.

Rev. Fr. Cronin thanked the Canon on behalf of the Board and assured him of the officers appreciation of his most generous comments.

The following officers were elected for 1957

- President, Very Rev. Canon Roche, Gloucester (Wexford), outgoing; Vice-President, Very Rev. M. Fitzpatrick, Swindon (Cavan); Chairman, Rev. Fr. P. F. Cronin Gloucester (Kerry) outgoing; Vice-chairman, Rev. Fr. G. Rodgers, Swindon (Clare); Secretary, Mr. W. Griffin, Gloucester (Kerry), outgoing; Assistant Secretary, Mr. G. Sheerin, Swindon (Sligo); Treasurer, Mr. F. Timmins, Cheltenham (Meath).
 Registrar, Mr. M. Sullivan, Bristol (Kerry), outgoing; delegates to Provincial Council: Mr. W. Griffin and Mr. W. Wallace, Cheltenham (Wicklow).
 Delegates to Provincial Convention: Mr. M. Griffin, Mr. N. McGuire, Gloucester (Monaghan); Mr. P. Keating, Cheltenham (Kerry). Delegate to Congress: Mr. W. Griffin.

CUMANN GAELACH MEETING

By EAMONN LEAHY

THE Annual General Meeting of the Cumann Gaelach was held in the Servite Schools, Fulham, in February. The meeting showed an improvement in attendance on last year's meeting.

Bill Rollinson was re-elected as Chairman and was praised for his great work in the movement.

- Others elected were:— Secretary, Janet Booker (London), re-elected; Treasurer, Noel Canniffe (Cork); Registrar, Margaret Regan (Bristol) Asst. Secretary, Mary Robinson (Antrim). Committee: John Kieran, Patricia Robinson (Antrim), Mary Sheehy (Kerry), Christie Furlong (Wexford) and Maire McCarthy.

London Board Meets — 12 pt H
 The annual general meeting of the London County Board G.A.A. attracted delegates from every club in London and surrounding towns. There was a very large attendance and the meeting was conducted in an exemplary manner.

Officers elected were: Chairman, Rev. Fr. McNamara (Cork), re-elected; Vice-Chairman, Jack McCarthy (Wexford); Secretary: Sean Dunne (Laois) re-elected; Treasurer J. Moriarty; Registrar: J. Daly.

Prominent Gaels at the meeting were, Rev. Fr. Ryan, S.M., President of the Cardinal Griffin A.C.; Rev. Fr. Curley, O.S.A., of the Leitrimmen's Association; and Paddy Donoghue (Limerick), Chairman of the Clann Aontuithé.

COIR CONNRADH NA GAEDHILGE

The newly formed Gaelic League Choir recently elected the following to govern their affairs: Chairman, Jim Purcell (Kilkenny), Conductor; Secretary, Eileen Moran (Tipperary); Treasurer: Uinsinn Duggan (Kilmallock), Committee: — Eddie Hickey (London-Tipperary), Maire Kenny (Dublin), Mrs. Smith (London-Dublin), Eamonn Boardman (Dublin).

New Stadium For London Gaels In 1957?

Efforts are now being made by the London Co. Board to sell the New Eltham grounds in order to purchase a more spacious and better site at Redbridge, Ilford. There would be space for three pitches at the new grounds as against one at New Eltham, which would mean six games per Sunday. The New Eltham pitch, which is the sole grounds owned by the Co. Board, is, consequently, the only one at which gates can be taken. The

Redbridge grounds, therefore, would be the Board's greater advantage since with six matches being played each Sunday, the gates would be considerably larger. Another advantage from the county team's point of view is that the selectors would have a better opportunity of assessing the ability of prospective county players, the majority of whom could be seen in action at headquarters Sunday after Sunday. At the same time selectors would not be deprived of seeing the "bill leader" for the day, which so often happens at present when they have to travel to isolated grounds to get a line on certain players.

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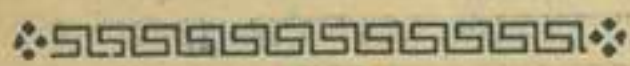
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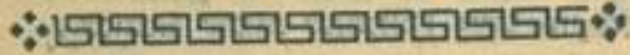
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The Case Of The Missing Ball

AT the annual East Kerry Board Convention, held recently in Killarney, the delegates were really given a poser with a Sexton Blake "who done it" twist when Mr. J. O'Brien, of the Legion Club, stated that to facilitate the Board his club had lent their football for the

playing of the League final between themselves and Dr. Crokes.

When the game was over, the ball vanished and the club, who had a minor league game to play, had no ball.

After some discussion, in which Mr. M. O'Connor, representing the

Dr. Crokes Club, stated that he knew nothing of the ball. Eventually it was agreed to leave the matter in the capable hands of the Chairman, Mr. J. O'Shea, who promised to "crack the case of the missing football."

WHY NOT AN ULSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP?

By CRAOBH RUA

A MOTION considered and passed at the Armagh Convention that (1) permission be refused for tournaments in which cash or token prizes are awarded, (2) that permission be refused for tournaments or promotions where foreign dancing is held, has probably arisen from a crux in last year's Senior County Championship when several Armagh players almost rendered themselves illegal by playing in a money-prize tournament on the eve of their championship engagement with Cavan.

The solid good sense of the motion is not questioned. However, it conjures up to my mind once more the idea of an Ulster club championship which has been mooted at various conventions over the past few years.

The main objection to this is that such a competition could not have sufficient appeal to become a financial success.

However, many clubs such as Letterkenny, Irvinestown, Omagh and Toome have shown that tournaments sponsored by their committees in recent years have tided them over many a financial crisis.

Most of Ulster's foremost clubs have been represented in these competitions and the public have certainly gone for them in a big way.

POPULAR

Another difficulty has been solved by these enterprising clubs, namely, the playing of nearly all matches on week nights instead of Sundays and these week-night games have become a popular feature of Northern football.

Surely then the time is ripe for the Ulster Council to take a hand and organise an Ulster Club Championship confined, say, to the Senior League and Championship winners in the respective

counties.

It would be (1) a fitting reward to many club players and officials who gain little recognition for their services; (2) a great help in strengthening the all-important club units in the various counties concerned; (3) a stimulation for local competitions; (4) a showpiece of local organisation, for it is a well-known fact that standards in many inter-club games are higher than some inter-county games.

I see that connacht already have got an unofficial championship, so who knows, perhaps we might be clamouring for an All-Ireland Club Championship before the year is out.

ELECTIONS IN PROVINCE

CLUB ELECTIONS

Club officers from here and there: Carrickmore—Pres., Fr. P. Hughes; Chairman, Fr. McNally; Vice-Chairman, J. McElduff; Sec., M. Harte; Treas., S. Campbell; Clontibret—Pres., Fr. P. Lynch; Chairman, P. McGlynn; Vice-Chairman, P. Murphy; Sec., P. McCully; Treas., J. Casidy; Irvinestown—Pres., Rev. J. J. McKenna; Vice-Pres., Rev. B. Lappin; Chairman, J. McElholm; Vice-Chairman, G. McGee; Sec., J. Gallagher; Treas., N. Kelly; Clones—Pres., Fr. M. Malone; Chairman, P. McGrane; Vice-Chairman, M. Murphy; Sec., S. Connolly; Treas., J.

Murphy; Trillick—Pres., Fr. O'Daly; Vice-Pres., Fr. McMahon; Chairman, W. Donnelly; Vice-Chairman, M. Donnelly; Sec., P. Kelly; Treas., T. McGee; Ballybay—Chairman, Fr. Cassidy; Vice-Chairman, B. Smyth; Sec., T. Murray; Treas., V. McAvinney; Ardara—Pres., S. O Caiside; Chairman, P. Macagoill; Vice-Chairman, T. Boyle; Sec., D. Ward; Treas., F. Brennan; Rockcorry—Chairman, P. Clerkin; Sec., P. Durnian; Treas., P. McCabe; Tallysallagh—Pres., Fr. McDowell; Vice-Pres., Fr. P. Quinn; Chairman, M. McGale; Vice-Chairman, P. Starrs; Sec., J. McCaffrey; Treas., D. McGinn.

AUGHAVAS MUINTIR NA TIRE

At a joint meeting of the Aughavas (Co. Leitrim) G.A.A. Club and the local guild of Muintir na Tíre, held recently in Corduff School, Aughavas, the main item for consideration was the proposed purchase of a plot of ground for a new football park.

PADDY O'Neill reports "that 1956 was the greatest year yet in the history of Tyrone G.A.A." So well he might, but he does not forget to point out that in "those areas where no branch of the Gaelic League exists, it is the duty of the G.A.A. Club to set an example in this respect and play its part in restoring our National heritage."

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G.A.A. Clubs Have Duty

PADDY O'NEILL'S report "that 1956 was the greatest year yet in the history of Tyrone G.A.A." So well he might, but he does not forget to point out that in "those areas where no branch of the Gaelic League exists, it is the duty of the G.A.A. Club to set an example in this respect and play its part in restoring our National heritage."

THE RED HAND OF ULSTER

(By CRAOBH RUA)

BOUTELL'S Heraldry has this to say about the Ulster insignia: The badge of Ulster is a dexter hand open and erect, coupled (cut-off) at the wrist Gules (red).

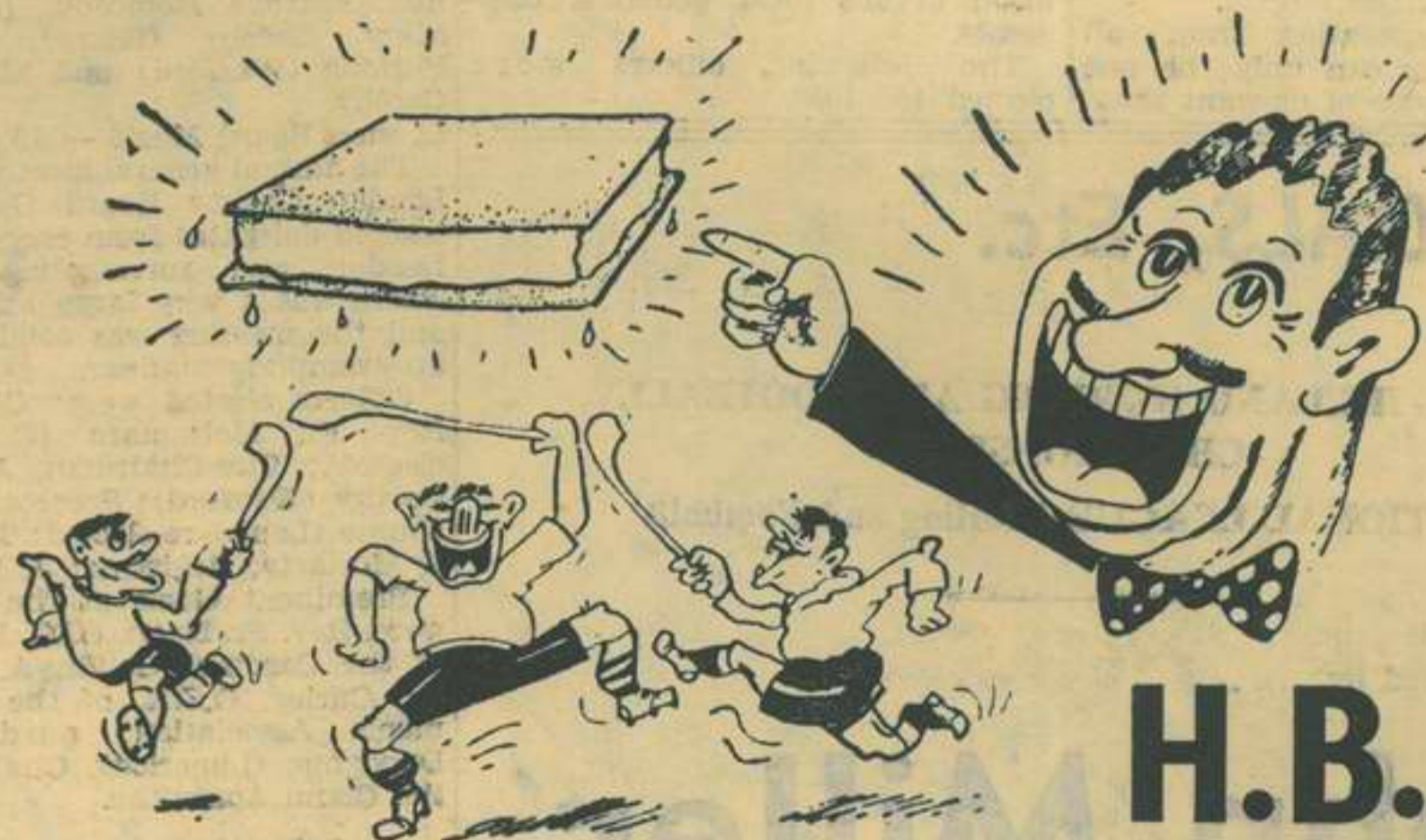
Sir Bernard Burke, who was Ulster King of Arm and Chief Herald of All-Ireland from 1853 to 1893, stated that the practice of showing a left hand dated only from modern times. The Red Hand first appears on a seal of Hugh O'Neill, King of Ulster, in A.D. 1335. This seal was taken to London in the 18th century. Other famous O'Neill's, including Shane the Proud and Owen Roe, also used the hand on their shields.

Main Reason

The principal reason why some people believe the hand should be left is probably that the hand was derived from the "Dextra Dei" — the right hand of God—which appears on some old Celtic crosses.

This is, of course, a right hand but the back of the hand not the palm is shown, with the result that it is easily mistaken for a left hand with the palm outwards.

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AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL REVIEW



ALL-OUT DRIVE IN T.B. SCHEME

ALTHOUGH there have been many pronouncements from the Department of Agriculture, and newspaper articles, dealing with the Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme, there still exists in the minds of many farmers some confusion as to how it works.

It is actually very simple. The country has been divided into three areas. Counties Sligo and Clare, and the Bannha area in Tipperary are called "Intensive" areas; Counties Galway, Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Donegal and Kerry are the "Pre-Intensive" areas, and the rest of the country is lumped under the term "General" areas.

In the "Intensive" areas testing is free, professional advice is free, reactors are purchased by the Department and the double byre grant is paid when the farm has met the requirements of the Department.

In the "pre-intensive" areas testing and advice is free and the double byre grant can be obtained. The difference lies in the fact that reactors have to be got rid of at a rate specified by the Department's officers.

Test Necessary

The participating farmer can apply for the double byre grant, but will not be paid until the herd has passed the test once within a time set out for the farmer. The maximum amount he can get under this is £180.

In the "General" areas the accredited Herds Scheme is the only one now working. An applicant under this scheme gets one free test, and after that the testing must be done at his expense.

After he has had two consecutive tests of all cattle in the herd—dry cattle as well as milch cows, calves, etc.—without reactors, he can apply for registration as an accredited herd owner.

The second of the two consecutive tests must have been done not more than six months before the application for accreditation, and not more than a year or less than 60 days after the first clear test.

An official test will then be made of his herd and if all animals pass this without doubt the farmer will be given an accreditation certificate provided that he conforms to various other regulations regarding

movement of cattle, fencing and so on.

Must Keep Rules

Once a herd has become accredited the owner must conform to certain rules. These rules cover proper marking of the animals, the keeping of accurate records, regular testing, proper maintenance of buildings, precautions against the introduction of the disease through food such as milk brought from outside the farm and the movement of cattle in and out of the accredited farm.

It will be possible for a farmer to set up an accredited herd in the minimum time by buying in animals from other accredited herds, once sufficient numbers of these are available to supply stock.

The advantages of accreditation for milk-producers are obvious, but many feel that they should get some extra price for their milk.

In fact, it has been advocated that if T.B.-free milk were to be given a special price, the eradica-

AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR APPOINTED



ANDREW KEHOE

Andrew Kehoe, M.Agr.Sc., H.Dip.Ed., has joined the staff of Messrs. W. & H. M. Goulding Ltd. to help in the setting up of an Agricultural Advisory Service. After graduation, Mr. Kehoe made a study of the soils of his native County Wexford under Dr. P. H. Gallagher and Dr. T. Walshe, before joining the educational and advisory services of the Department of Agriculture. Subsequently loaned by the Department to the O.E.E.C., Paris, he has been Head of the Agricultural Advisory Services, directing O.E.E.C. projects for promoting modern agricultural advisory techniques in the Organisation's eighteen-member countries, where he has travelled extensively, organising training courses and other activities.

tion scheme would be greatly speeded up and co-operation from the farmers would increase at least 100 per cent.

There is plenty of room for such an increase, because farmers have not come into the scheme in very great numbers so far, while the British free areas are extending every month and thus cutting down the areas to which non-attested Irish cattle can be sold.

The threat to our cattle export business has been stressed so often

Complete The Sowing

SPRING cereals will be all finished sowing this month. Where wireworm is suspected the seed should be dressed and if you are using a combine drill for sowing you could put a couple of cwt of superphosphate in with the seed to give it a good start.

Atle wheat should be sown early in the month if not already in the ground. Oats should be also sown as early as possible, and barley may be left to the last.

that we are a little tired of hearing about it.

Tired or not, it remains a fact that there is little being done on the farmers' side in a really organised way.

If the N.F.A. were to get behind this scheme it might get somewhere, but until Government and farmers join forces on an all-out drive, we are likely to be caught by the tide of attestation in Britain and find ourselves swamped out of our most valuable export market. Prompt action is vital.

THIS IS A FREE SUPPLEMENT WITH THE GAELIC ECHO AND MUST NOT BE SOLD SEPARATELY

Landrace To Come ?

ALTHOUGH we have not got Atrophic Rhinitis in this country, it affects us to a small extent, inasmuch as it is the chief cause of the exclusion of Landrace pigs from our shores.

There is little doubt that, if the Landrace had a clean bill of health, its introduction into this country would have taken place years ago, possibly even before Britain decided to take the step that has since run her into a big bill for slaughtered pigs.

The Landrace has all the earmarks of a first-class bacon-producer, and by crossing with the best of our large white pigs we should be able to step up the production of top-grade pigs in this country in a short time.

This in turn, should have an effect on the quality of our bacon and pork exports, which might bring us back to an advantageous position on the British market in a few years.

The economic losses in pig production caused by Atrophic Rhinitis cannot be denied. In the

United States it is now considered a major disease of pigs and considerable experimental work has been carried out in an effort to eradicate it, or find a treatment which would reduce its effects. So far, nothing has been found that will work.

The effects of the disease are shown in unthriftiness in the growing pig, longer periods taken to reach bacon weight, and more food consumed before reaching bacon weight.

All of which cuts into the margin between the producer's cost of production and selling price.

Added to the existing diseases such as virus pneumonia, oedema, internal parasites and so on, which already afflict our pigs it is difficult to think well of the possibility of atrophic rhinitis.

Whether the losses caused by the disease would be more than offset by the gains through better types of pigs has not yet been proved. It seems likely that the Landrace will come, but it will have to be from a strain or strains that have been proved to be free from the disease or any possibility of producing it.

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CATTLE EXPORTS: PEDIGREES BEST?

IN RECENT WEEKS, THE POSSIBILITY OF REALLY LUCRATIVE EXPORTS OF PEDIGREE BEEF CATTLE FROM THIS COUNTRY HAS COME VERY MUCH NEARER, AND HERD-OWNERS ARE WONDERING WHAT THEY CAN DO TO FOLLOW UP RECENT INDICATIONS.

During January, three buyers took Aberdeen Angus bulls and females out of this country for the United States. Mr. J. L. Sleigh, of Aberdeen, a well-known judge of "blacks" and an agent for American breeders, bought five females, two from Major Alexander's herd at Milford, Co. Carlow, while Mr. Ken Clark and Mr. James B. Lingle, both of Maryland, took one bull and two bulls, respectively.

The females bought by Mr. Sleigh are for Mr. C. M. Paterno, of Meadow Lane Farm, North Salem, New York State.

Mr. Clark, who owns a well-known herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, said that American breeders of these animals had found of late years that their stock tended to be small in size. This resulted in bad economics in production of beef, since they found that feeding the smaller animals up to killing weight cost just as much as feeding animals would give a much better return when sold by the pound.

The breeders, therefore, had been forced to see that their breeding policy so far had led them astray, and they were now in the mood to use bulls which would give them more size and quicker build-up of body weight.

Both Mr. Clark and Mr. Lingle have had experience of Irish A.A. bulls, having had relations of Prince Paul in their herds, and they found that these bulls gave them the size they wanted, so they were here to see if they could follow out their line of freasoning in a practical way by buying the bulls that would inject this desired new blood into their herds.

Both the visitors said that they had been impressed by the quality of the A.A. herds they had seen here, and thought that our agricultural "set-up" was such that we could easily produce the sort of bulls the U.S. needed and so get in on this market "on the ground floor".

AN OPENING?

How good is this market? Well, it appears that there are around 32,000 Aberdeen Angus herds in the U.S., and probably a great many more Herefords, since this breed has been popular for range cattle for a great many years.

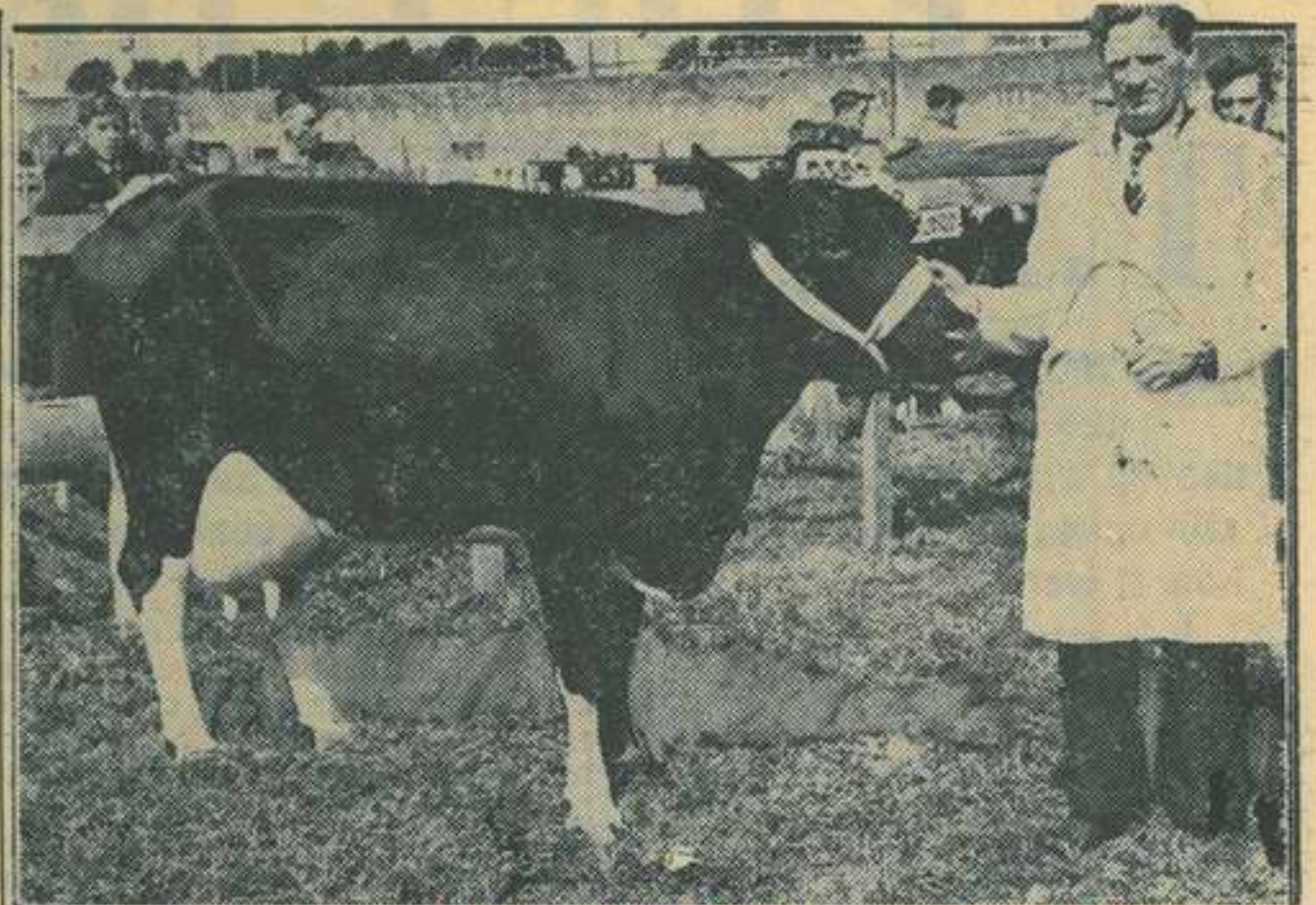
Could we supply this market? The American visitors saw only about a dozen herds, yet they formed the opinion that we could.

More than 50 bulls from leading Hereford herds in England have been imported by the Department of Agriculture and private breeders in the past ten years, including champions from such renowned families as the Vern, Brocket, Weston, Eaton, and Marlow lines. Others from which both males and females have been introduced are the Tarrington, Free Town, Atok, The Haven, Sugwas, Temple Court and Wenlock herds of Herefords.

GREAT BLOOD

Breeders and others interested in Aberdeen Angus cattle here will remember that we have in the country the blood of such great herds as Ballindalloch, Broadleys, Gaidrew, Harviestoun, Edenwood, Dalmeny, Glogburn, Barnolby and Dounside.

Styke Peregrine, supreme champion at the 1950 Perth show, Styke Greatheart, Winalot of Haymount Eros of Broadleys and many other



DUNLECNEY LASS in her last lactation, which was her third, gave 9,834 lbs. in 45 weeks, with 3.74 per cent. butter fat. In her present lactation of 15 weeks, she has given 6,742 lbs. She has won, this year, five supreme championships, six reserve championships, fourteen first prizes, and three cups. Six of her first prizes were won in Open Dairy Classes, competing against all breeds.

great bulls have left their marks on our Aberdeen Angus herds.

An Aberdeen Angus bull, Prince David of Castleview, was bought here by Mr. Mowbray Alexander for £250 and sold in the Argentine for approximately £2,500.

One of the attractive features about our herds is that they can supply first-class animals at a comparatively cheap price. So long as our breeders do not try to force the market they should be able to cash in on the trend over the next few years without seriously depleting their own stocks of the right sorts.

The Government plan of leasing high-class imported bulls to selected breeders and having the services of these bulls available to all at reasonable fees, meant that small farmers could raise high-class cattle, and many of them took full advantage of this service.

SMALL FARMERS TOO

Although the main prizes at shows, particularly at the R.D.S., are usually won by the bigger and established breeders, it is by no means uncommon to find a small farmer taking first place at the more important provincial shows.

The cost in time and money of taking animals around to other shows probably precludes their animals from making a better showing over a season.

One of the things that has attracted buyers of pedigree beef bulls to this country in recent times is the sight of our store cattle in Britain, South American and United States buyers have been attracted by these animals and some have come over to examine their production at source.

Mr. Clark, the Maryland buyer, said in January in Dublin, that he had been attracted by the blue-grey store cattle offered at almost every market in Britain.

Every time he inquired where they came from he was told: "Ireland", and he thought they were a first-rate advertisement for the use of A.A. bulls on Shorthorn females—A.A. bulls, that is, of the type we have here.

As an associate of a meat packing firm in Baltimore, he thought he had never seen more promising animals than these, most of which come from the West of Ireland and are very free from disease, including tuberculosis.

PRIMARY NEED

If we are to cash in on this immense U.S. market with our beef bulls we need publicity. We have

had, perhaps, something of an inferiority complex up to this, but now we look like growing out of that under the cheerful psychiatry of these American visitors and buyers' agents who are prepared to back up their opinions with good hard cash.

The Department, in conjunction with Coras Trachtala Teoranta, recently did some publicity for the beef breeds, and it is likely that more will be forthcoming.

It is from the breed societies, however, that the main drive should come. They are the people who will benefit directly, and should be prepared to invest.

The Aberdeen Angus Society does it fairly well already, with a fine magazine which is widely read, and the Hereford and Shorthorn Societies do something similar, but what is needed is a really strong publicity campaign directed to buyers in the U.S., the Argentine, Uruguay, Canada, and any other country where beef production is important.

Many of these do not really consider Ireland when thinking of where to get stock bulls, but it is our business to see that we constantly are brought before their minds.

One suggestion made recently by an American visitor was that our March sales at the R.D.S. should be brought nearer to those at Perth so that buyers from overseas could take in Dublin in the same trip.

If Dublin were earlier than Perth we might even have a bit of an edge on the Scottish breeders, since buyers might see animals here that would suit them at better prices than they are likely to be asked for in Scotland.

CONCESSIONS NEEDED

Some concessions will have to be made, and an important consideration in that connection is the difficulty of getting animals half across the world after buying them in these islands.

We have a reputation all over the world for freedom from animal disease, and certain countries give concessions regarding quarantine periods to animals coming from here.

If these could be extended or more fully exploited it would be an attractive factor for buyers who wish to get their newly-bought animals into their herds as soon as possible.

The possibility of breaking into these great markets calls for the fullest co-operation between the Government and the breeders, and if that is forthcoming without delay we should, as the Americans say, "be on a good thing".

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Are Land Commission Farms Fully Productive?

(By TRAVELLER).

ALTHOUGH most people agree that the basic idea of dividing up unproductive or under-productive estates among numbers of farmers is a sound one, no discussion of the work as carried out by the Land Commission in this country is ever free from criticism. Perhaps the most important of these criticisms concerns the question of getting the divided land into proper production at the earliest possible time.

The acquisition of an estate is often prolonged by legal argument which adds to the cost and incidentally to the rent the subsequent tenant has to pay. Even after acquisition there are often delays during which the land is let to neighbouring farmers who have no interest in keeping up its fertility. When the tenants ultimately move in they have the disadvantage of low fertility to fight against along with other disadvantages which will appear later.

LACK OF CAPITAL

As well as this, the tenants seldom have enough capital to stock the land, buy machines, fertilisers, and other essentials, and they are forced to try farming on the extensive system which is usual in the district surrounding the estate. The result is that they get no living from the farms and have to go to work on the roads or elsewhere, leaving the land largely to take care of itself. In such cases the new state may be even worse than the old.

The selection of tenants does not appear to be related to their farming ability—in other words the Land Commission seeks to remedy a social evil rather than a national economic one. Small rural slums, it has been said by many critics, are set up where a number of new holdings are created, are badly worked and where the tenants are from the same district in a congested area and form a clique which does not mix with their new neighbours.

SIZE AND EQUIPMENT

The size of farms given to Land Commission tenants is most commonly 30 to 40 acres, which would need about £1,000 to equip and stock, but hardly any of the tenants would have anything like this sum and they seldom can get credit in their new environment where they are complete strangers. A criticism which one often hears from agricultural advisers who have to deal with Land Commission tenants is that the new holdings are laid out without regard to farming principles. They are formed by drawing lines on a map, and there is no attempt to make each into a farming unit, with water supply, and a logical lay-out with regard to physical characteristics of the ground.

One new farm may have a high proportion of the good land of the divided estate, while another is largely poor land, whereas the two could have had good and bad

divided between them. This puts one man at a disadvantage with regard to his neighbours and predisposes him to make little effort to improve.

Formerly (the practice is being discontinued, it appears) all the holdings were divided, where a new boundary was necessary, by the type of sod bank that has become identified with the Land Commission in the minds of the farmers all over the country. It had the disadvantage that it was not durable and it left an area on one or both sides which was unproductive. Lately wire fences have been substituted, with some gain to the tenants.

PROVIDING THE CAPITAL

In talking this matter over with interested people, one comes across certain suggestions almost every time. One of these is that capital should be provided for the tenant to stock and equip the new holding, the repayment to be in the form of rent. The Land Commission's terms of reference do not allow this, and it is usually suggested that if these cannot be altered, some other organisation should be set up to fill this function. Obviously the Agricultural Credit Corporation could not fit into its terms, under which, it has been said, "a man must prove that he does not need a loan before he will be granted one."

Another suggestion is that if the Commission officers, before dividing up a farm, discussed the plans in a general way with the local advisory staffs and the local Land Project officers before allotting this would result in a more rational type of division which would give each tenant a reasonable chance of making a success of his farm, provided things like equipment and fertilisers were available.

The Farm Survey has shown that the small holding has to be intensively worked on an intelligent plan if the farmer is to make a living out of it for his family and produce a significant fraction of the land's potential. Without financial backing this is impossible, and the tenant too frequently finds his lot but little if any improved by the change. He remains poor with the added disadvantage that he is poor among strangers.

MODERN METHODS NEEDED

Very often, it appears, the new tenants have no knowledge, or very little, of modern farming techniques for the smaller farms; and they sometimes come from districts totally different from that in which they have been settled. In this regard, many people have suggested that prospective tenants, once they have been chosen and allotted their farms, but before

they actually make the change, should be given an intensive course in the type of farming that will best suit their new holdings. With this new knowledge they would get a realisation of the problems facing them and be encouraged to work on the right lines, in conjunction with the advisers in their new areas, with consequent improvement in their chances of being successful.

AWKWARD HOUSES

It is very seldom that one hears any commendation of the type of dwelling house or outhouse provided on Land Commission holdings. The houses are of an arbitrary size and design. As one woman described one of these houses, the kitchen has four doors and no draught-free corners; the bedrooms are so small that if they are even adequately furnished one can hardly get into or get out of them, while if a fire is lighted there is danger of setting the bedclothes on fire. Usually it is necessary to build a lean-to back kitchen so that the normal kitchen can be used as a living room.

The outhouses were designed a long time ago, like the whole yard and house, and are not by any means adequate, especially if the tenants try to expand production from the land.

These then are the main criticisms, and they are rather impressive. There is no doubt that quite a number of Land Commission tenants make a success of their holdings, but there are always exceptional people who will surmount any difficulty. The need appears to be to treat the matter as a progressive problem, not one that is solved once the tenant has been established on the new holding—the agrarian rather than the social.

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EVERY farmer knows that at this time of year the milking cows give much more milk in the morning than in the evening milking, because there is a longer time between the night and morning milking than between that of the morning and night.

All farmers do not realise that the evening milk is far richer in butterfat though the quantity of milk is smaller. Cows normally giving about four per cent butterfat when there is about equal periods between milkings may give as much as six per cent in the evening and as little as two two per cent in the morning when the evening milking is done after eight hours and the morning milking done after 16 hours. This does little harm as long as the farmer is aware of it but

may lead to trouble where milk is sold.

In all kinds of stock the feeding hours have probably as much influence as they have in milch cows and it is therefore of the greatest importance that food should be given punctually every day. This need not mean that animals should be fed before daylight and after dark so as to preserve equal intervals between meals, for that would defeat its purpose; it means that it is generally convenient or desirable to feed stock at 8 o'clock in the morning, they should be fed punctually at 8 o'clock every day.

Not much is known scientifically of the results of irregular feeding, but moderately good farmers who have experience of calves and pigs know the positive danger of feeding at irregular intervals and feeding different quantities of food each day.

Give your GRASS a chance

Soil tests have shown that most of our pastures are starving for phosphates and potash while many of them are also short of lime. Starved pastures will starve your cattle and sheep.

APPLY FERTILISERS NOW!

If there is enough lime in your soil use 3 to 4 cwts. of Superphosphate per statute acre. On acid soils you may use 4 to 6 cwts. of Semsol or Basic Slag instead. For soils short of Potash add 1 cwt. of Muriate of Potash.

IF YOUR SOIL NEEDS LIME, DRESS WITH GROUND LIMESTONE BEFORE MANURING

FOR EARLY GRASS HAY OR SILAGE

add 1 to 2 cwt. of a nitrogenous fertiliser per statute acre.

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Mass-Production Of Ducks In America

THE introduction of broiler strains of poultry from the United States by the Department of Agriculture will give poultry-keepers a chance in a few years to try their hands at this side of the trade.

Broiler production has become a big business in the United States, where these special breeds have been evolved, with high capacity for converting food into flesh in a short time.

It is likely that the Department will, in time, do something similar with regard to ducks. Quick-growing ducks have been evolved in the U.S. for the same purpose as the broiler chickens.

Like so many things in America, the broiler and table duck production has grown to mass-production dimensions, highly mechanised, with small profits from huge numbers making the over-all return to individual farmers very well worth while.

Tens of thousands of ducks are reared each year on individual farms, mainly on Long Island, which is near the huge market of New York and other cities of the Eastern seaboard.

The farms have their own killing and dressing plants, which are supervised by the U.S. Government, and the birds are delivered to the shops eviscerated, dressed and beautifully packaged, making an attractive article on the grocer's counter.

The commercial duck grower works on the basis of the utmost efficiency in feeding and economy of management. He carefully selects all his breeding stock, has his feeding arrangements almost completely mechanised and uses specially prepared feeding to give him the best food conversion rate that he can get.

Special Control

Special equipment for egg-holding rooms has been evolved, controlling

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humidity and temperature, so that eggs can be held for hatching for quite long periods without materially affecting hatchability.

The biggest feed producers are continually experimenting to give improved weight gain, and now ducks can be brought to market weight at eight weeks of age. Feeding is given almost entirely in the pellet form, which saves waste and is easily handled, especially by mechanical means.

One hatchery proprietor, in Cavan, Mr. T. McCormick, has been hatching large numbers of ducks for some years past, and lately he spent some weeks in the United States.

From his observations he formed the opinion that the production of table ducks could very easily be introduced, with profit, to this country. He found that the American strains of Pekin ducks were better than those we know here, for food conversion and commercial qualities generally.

They reached market weight at an early age and were better shaped at that age than we were accustomed to find with the strains in this country.

White Popular

White ducks are the most popular because white feathers are the best sellers on the feather market, and this is an important consideration in calculating income.

Ducks do well in a moderate climate such as ours, and of course, a supply of running water on the duck farm is essential.

Artificial ponds can be built and need not be very large or deep.

Too large a pond would mean that ducks do too much swimming and take longer to reach market weight owing to excessive exercise.

Housing need not be complicated or expensive according to our known standards, but heat is essential in the early stages, just as with chickens or turkeys.

Duck production for the commercial market and export might well offer a special opportunity for co-operative effort. It seems that the best results are got where dressing and packing are closely allied to production, and handling reduced to a minimum of middlemen.

It will need courage and imagination for somebody to start this enterprise, but it would seem to have a very attractive potential.

Misunderstanding About Spraying

THERE appears to be considerable misunderstanding in some of the agricultural literature about what is meant by "low", "medium" and "high" volume spraying. The "Weed Control Handbook, 1956", issued by the British Weed Control Council, gives the following definitions:

Low-volume: where the diluted chemical is applied at rates less than 20 gallons per acre (in the handbook the term implies a minimum rate of about 5 gallons per acre).

POTATO GROUND

LAND for potatoes which is moist and heavy could do with a deep ploughing to get it well dried in time for ridging.

Plant the sprouted seed first at a depth of about four inches. Use the best seed available and sow immediately the ground is ready.

Medium-Volume: this refers to application rates within the 20 to 60 gallons per acre.

High-Volume: the application of more than 60 gallons per acre of ground treated (in the handbook the term applies to a maximum rate of about 100 gallons per acre).

DNOC SPRAYS

DNOC sprays are essentially suspensions, not true solutions, and generally the best results are obtained by applying them at high-volume rates. Even with the newer, more soluble types, a minimum rate of 40 gallons per acre is generally required.

What kind of sprayer will you buy? A lot depends on the range of jobs to be done. As well as weed-killing, it may be needed for fungicide spraying, potato haulm destruction and possibly spraying of insecticides on fruit trees.

A high—or a medium-volume sprayer can be converted for use as a low-volume sprayer, but the cost might not justify the job. Low-volume sprayers cannot be converted for high-volume work. Sprayers described as "Universal" are adjustable for different rates from low to high.

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Nitrogen From Air Beware Of Pulpy Kidney In Sheep

THE amount of atmospheric Nitrogen fixed by clovers is an important factor in considering the quantity of Nitrogen available from pasture growth when determining the output of grassland.

Investigations now in progress here show that the amount fixed varies from very little to about 300 lb. of Nitrogen per acre per annum, or the equivalent of about 15 cwt. of Sulphate of Ammonia.

The figure of 300 lb. is the maximum and it is likely that the average for well-managed pastures is in the region of 100 to 150 lb., or the equivalent of 5 to 7 cwt. of nitrogenous fertiliser per acre every year.

This average figure is in itself of

little value, however, because several factors have a marked effect on the process. Adequate supplies of calcium, potassium, phosphorus and molybdenum are essential for efficient fixation.

Many Factors

Soil conditions such as texture, moisture content and the amount and kind of organic matter present are important because of their effect on the bacteria concerned.

Competition between clovers and grasses is also of vital importance as this determines not only the total quantity of Nitrogen fixed, but also the way in which the

Nitrogen so fixed becomes available for use by the grasses in the sward.

Competition can be regulated by management of stock, which is thus highly important in making use of the Nitrogen which is freely available in the atmosphere to increase the output of grassland.

The amount of Nitrogen fixed by clovers in Ireland varies widely because of the wide variation that exists in these factors in Irish soils.

The New Zealand farmers make full use of clover Nitrogen whereas the Dutchman prefers to buy Nitrogen. Perhaps the answer for Irish conditions lies somewhere between.

Kidney In Sheep

IT is probable that pulpy kidney disease of sheep causes more losses than are realised by farmers. The old explanation, "wool ball," often masks cases of this trouble, and where sheep and lambs die mysteriously after appearing quite healthy, it is most likely that pulpy kidney has caused the deaths.

The recurrence of this disease is due to the fact that the germs responsible for it can live in the soil for a long time, just like those of blackleg.

They are taken in by the sheep and may lie inactive in the bowel until conditions inside the sheep are right for their development. Then they flourish in a short time and one day the sheep is found dead.

It is not known exactly what the conditions are in the sheep's bowel that favour the eruption of the germ, but it is usually an upset due to change of diet or to eating frosty roots. A sheep affected with pulpy kidney will seldom look sick, but a few minutes before death it will lie down and go into convulsions with every sign of severe pains in the stomach.

GERMS IN MANY SOILS

The germs of the disease are present in very many soils, so sheep farmers are advised to take precautions against it. These can be a matter of careful management of the sheep and lambs, or inoculation.

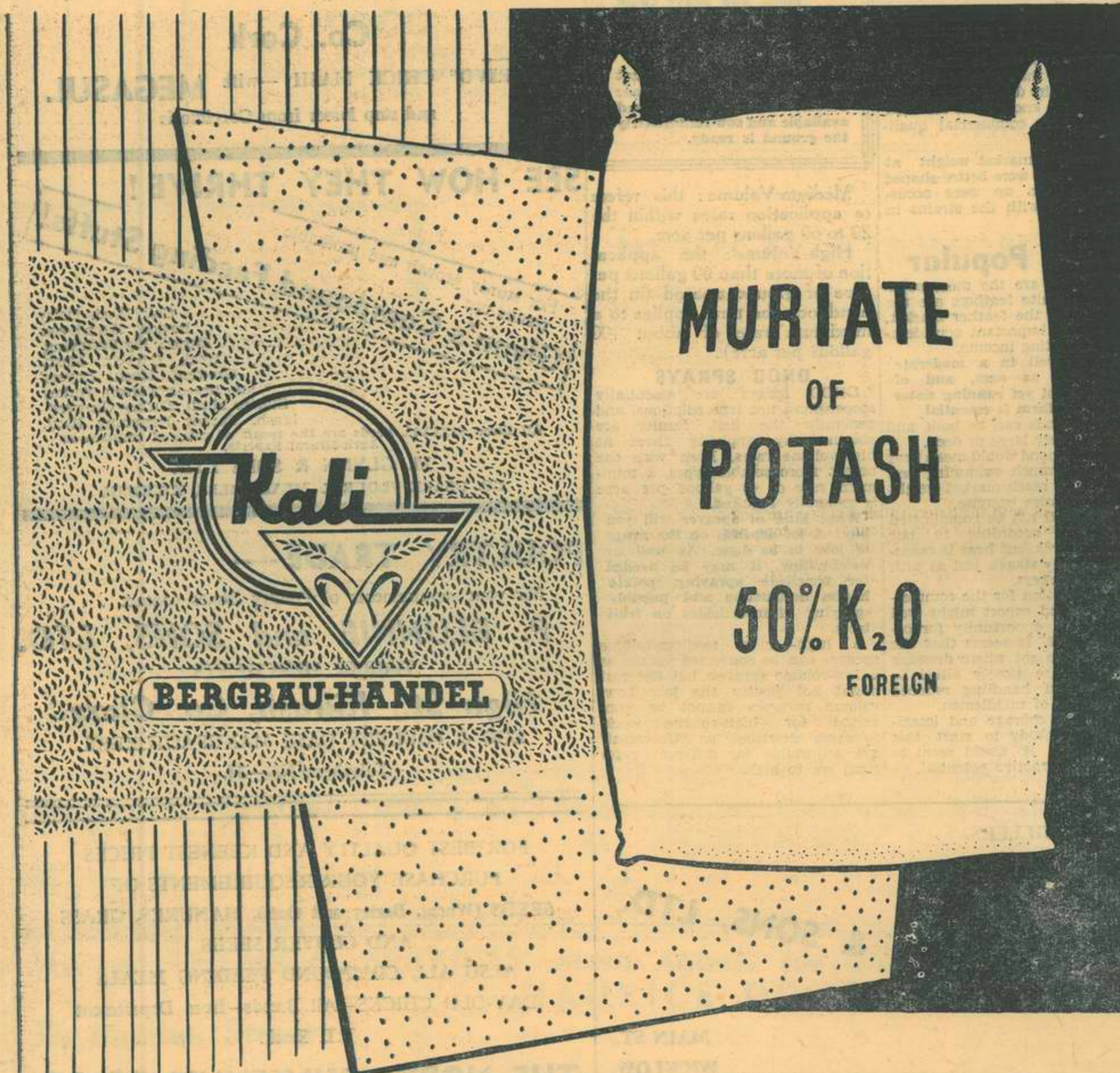
If changes of feed are made gradually, there is less likelihood of the germs (if they are present in the sheep's bowel) getting a chance to develop.

This principle of gradual change-over of feeding is one which should be applied to all animals at all times, of course, but the danger of pulpy kidney is one that makes it obligatory in sheep management.

If you have to give sheep frosted roots, always put out a supply of hay with it so that the sheep will not fill themselves with the frosty root and thus upset their stomachs.

Lambs which are thriving well often go down with pulpy kidney, so they should be carefully watched.

Inoculation should be resorted to if the trouble is thought likely to arise, from previous experience of sheep on the same farm. It is better to consult the veterinary surgeon about this, as there are two types of inoculation that can be given.



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UNCONTROLLED GRAZING IS BAD

Some Of Us Expect Too Much From Grass

UNCONTROLLED grazing is uneconomical grazing. This is probably one of the principal reasons why our grassland is giving so much less than it could.

A large acreage of Irish grass is now getting fertilisers regularly, but the full value of the increased growth thus stimulated is very often lost through lack of an idea as to how it should be used.

There is no use in stimulating growth and then checking it by grazing before it has attained its full food value for the stock.

One of the first principles of controlled grazing is to get the grass to grow well, storing up food reserves in the root system for later growth and food for the stock in the herbage.

When at its best condition graze it uniformly, with the use of an electric fence (or any other method of strip grazing) and then shut it up until it grows back again.

UNEVEN EATING

Unlimited grazing means that the herbage is unevenly eaten, much being wasted, while over-grazing means that the resources of the sward are being impaired and future growth jeopardised.

The use of nitrogen is not always recognised as one of the most potent weapons in obtaining the best from grassland. We hear a great deal talked about the superiority of leys against old pastures but this margin of superiority would be greatly reduced if the old pastures were properly treated with fertiliser and the more desirable types of herbage given the chance to establish themselves in the right strength.

AMAZING RESULTS

The grass harrow and nitrogenous fertilisers can make an amazing change in old pastures, and much unploughable land would carry probably twice as much stock if these were used more regularly on them.

There is a fallacy that is often repeated in the best of good faith by farmers, and that is that soil can be restored by leys alone. A LEY SHOULD NEVER BE LAID DOWN ON LAND ALREADY EXHAUSTED.

Unless it is itself fed with essential plant foods and kept in clean condition, no ley can do anything to help outworn soil. It cannot put into the soil any more than it gets from it, unless that extra bit comes from the farmer.

Cattle Markets More Popular

Cattle markets have displaced many of the fairs in the midland counties. Many farmers are now using them and they tend to become more popular.

The management of those markets leave much to be desired. There is no order in the grading of cattle, they are penned in the order they enter the market. This results in different types and weights of animals following one another into the sale ring. This necessitates the buyers remaining at the sale ring until they get their requirements, which may be some hours. If the cattle were graded as to type and weight it would facilitate the buyers and so guarantee the success of the markets.

Help Production Only Answer

Commenting on the famous grass land of Co. Meath the Annual Report of the Co. Committee of Agriculture states: Too many of our farmers are still under the false impression that because we live in a county suited to grass growing that we not fertilise it or care it in any way. In poorer districts farmers realise that grass will not grow unaided and so they make a special effort to grow it as a crop. Here however due to good soil conditions a "reasonable amount" of grass will grow without any effort on the part of the farmer and so there is not the same urge to increase production. But "reasonable amounts" are not sufficient in 1956 when the farmers other expenses are rising. High production is the only answer to meet these costs.

SILAGE MAKING

TIME - SAVING METHOD

SILAGE-MAKING is inclined to be unpopular with numbers of farmers because of the labour involved in daily handling and carrying from silo to animal.

The actual job of filling the silo is not much more than that involved in hay-making, and the farmer has the satisfaction of knowing, while he is doing it, that the weather does not matter very much.

Nevertheless, in certain areas, the amount of silage made has been going down, due to shortage of labour in most cases, and if the principals of self-feeding silage were more widely understood it is likely that much more would be made.

TIME-SAVING

Where silage is already made and fed by the old method of carrying and distribution, the introduction of self-feeding means an immediate cutting out of much expense in labour and machine use, plus the added gain of an

irritating job taken off the hands of the men or the farmer.

The principle of self-feeding is that the animals just eat their way through the bank of feed, having access to it at all times or only for limited period, according to the arrangements most suited to the general farming plan.

Cattle have been found to eat as much silage under this system as they would eat in grass while grazing, and unless the silage is badly made there will be no difficulty in getting them to take to it.

Where the soil is heavy on the farm and it is not the practice to out-winter the cattle, a silage pit in the farmyard with concrete base will give great satisfaction in self-feeding, but on other farms it is often possible to site the pit in a field.

There is usually fairly severe punishment of the grass around the pit, but this is offset by other advantages in labour-saving.

No farmer should abandon the practice of silage-making without giving serious thought to the question of self-feeding, and information about it can be had from the agricultural advisers.

LIMESTONE

IRISH FIRM'S PROGRESS

Agricultural Limestone Ltd. was formed in April 1948, with the object of Quarrying and Grinding the highest grade of Limestone for Agriculture. The policy was to operate Quarries of modest output, sited strategically to cover as wide an area as possible, thereby reducing haulage miles to the minimum. Plants were first installed at Kilkenny, Carrickmacross and Lanesboro. In addition, the Company had in lease a Lime Marl deposit at Swinford, Co. Mayo, which was closed soon after working because the Ground Limestone Subsidy Scheme could not be applied to Marl. Then followed the opening of Quarries in County Kildare (June, 1951), Dungarvan (March, 1951), and County Donegal (April, 1951).

Portable Plant

The Company devised a fully portable Ground Limestone Plant, the only one in Ireland, which functioned satisfactorily at various points as a means of creating a demand before being used as a pilot producing plant at Convoys, County Donegal, prior to the construction of a permanent Unit.

The demand for Ground Limestone in the early days of 1948 was poor: farmers in general were reticent to accept this new fertilizer. In some districts it was regarded with suspicion and of having some political implication. This hesitancy has since been changed, in the main by the hard working officers of the Department of Agriculture who by example, lectures and demonstration have done much to convince most farmers of the real value of Ground Limestone, particularly with its virtue of cheapness. The maximum selling price of Ground Limestone is controlled under a Government Order at 16/- per ton ex Quarry and at that price it is cheaper than anywhere else in the world.

Trailer Spreader

The Company introduced into Ireland the trailer type Spreader which, because of its suitability to local field conditions, has been almost universally adopted. Unlike heavy truck spreaders, these smaller machines do not cut up the field surface.

The table set out below will give an idea of how productivity can be increased on the farm by regular liming.

These are authentic figures show-

ing the increase in yield per acre after a single dressing of 55 cwts of Ground Limestone per acre applied at the beginning of a rotation in December, 1946.

Limed and unlimed plots received the same manurial treatment each year.)

1947—Barley (Malting) 16½ cwts (limed), 7 cwts (unlimed), 9½ cwts (increase).

1948—Sugar Beet 16½ tons (limed), 11½ tons (unlimed), 5 tons (increase).

1948—Mangels 36½ tons (limed), 20½ tons (unlimed), 16 tons (increase).

1949—Spring Wheat 39 cwts (limed), 20 cwts (unlimed), 19 cwts (increase).

1949—Barley (feeding) 48 cwts (limed), 20 cwts (unlimed), 28 cwts (increase).

1950—Grass (Silage) 12½ tons (limed), 10 tons (unlimed), 2½ tons (increase).

1951—Grass (Silage) 21½ tons (limed), 16 tons (unlimed), 5½ tons (increase).

1952—Grass (Silage) 18½ tons (limed), 16 tons (unlimed) 2½ tons (increase).

Since 1948 the Company's output has increased tenfold and with modifications recently completed they are in a position to give farmers speedy delivery of a consistent product of the highest available calcium carbonate content. Progress can also be measured by considering that the Company found employment in 1948 for forty, yet to-day, over 300 are concerned in producing, delivering and spreading its products. The Company can look back on its achievements over the past eight years with pride and satisfaction.

STILL EMIGRATING FROM LEITRIM

During the past months dozens of young men and women have left from the Aughavas, Carrigallen and Cloone districts to take up employment in Great Britain. Some have also gone to the U.S.A. It is hoped for a brighter year in 1957 as unemployment was at its worst in those districts last autumn and winter.

PLOUGHING IN CO. LEITRIM

Ploughing operations have commenced in the Carrigallens and Mohill districts. Farmers say that lands are still very wet owing to the heavy torrents of rain. In some parts of south Leitrim the farmers are held up in starting their spring work owing to flooding of their lands.

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Ireland's Industrial Advance

URNEY SUCCESS STORY

THE model factory of Urney Chocolates Limited in Tal-laght, at the foot of the Dublin Mountains, is one of the finest examples of Ireland's industrial advances since she gained her independence.

Urney Chocolates are to-day world famous and the firm employs 300 people who work in a bright modern factory under ideal conditions—a far cry from the day it was started at the end of the first World War with a handful of employees.

SUCCESS STORY

The Urney success story despite the happy ending had many heart-breaking chapters however.

The firm was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher in the village of Urney in Ulster almost forty years ago. When the factory was set up the Gallaghers knew nothing about sweet making and could not have guessed at the difficulties that awaited them in this highly specialised business.

When the Treaty was signed in 1922 and the Border set up, the Gallaghers found themselves on the wrong side of it. The river at the bottom of their garden became the Frontier. They were cut off from their main market in the South by a few feet of water and a crippling import tax.

To add to the Gallaghers troubles a disastrous fire broke out and gutted the factory. Faint hearted people would have then given up the struggle—their markets had disappeared and their factory was burnt-out so why not quit?

The Gallaghers saw in these catastrophes an opportunity to start afresh, however, and as their former customers were in the South they decided to move to Dublin. They bought a disused airfield at Tallaght near Dublin and started afresh with the help of fifty workers who had moved with them from the village of Urney.

The factory today is extremely modern, the layout is spacious and a streamlined production system

is in operation ensuring the highest degree of efficiency in the manufacture of chocolate, confectionary and boilings.

COMPLICATED PROCESS

When Mr. Louis Bowers, the Sales Superintendent, explained the complicated process of chocolate manufacture to me, he said that the question most often put to him by visitors is, "how do you make a cream bar? How can a very soft cream be moulded and then chocolate coated?" Well the explanation is quite simple, the cream is hard when it is coated but softens up on storage due to an action of an enzyme obtained from the yeast which is added to the cream batch before moulding.

The works laboratory is one of the most important departments in the factory. It controls all manufacturing processes and recipes. The laboratory is equipped to deal with the analysis of all products and raw materials, a special section being devoted to milk analysis.

Urney is still a family business. Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher live nearby in semi-retirement but their son, Redmond, is in charge of the factory today.

The impression you get at the factory is that vigour and enterprise are the twin driving forces behind the fabulous achievements of the Gallaghers in founding this great Irish industry.

CROCK OF GOLD

ON a quiet by-road in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, six miles from the city centre the "Crock Of Gold" weaving mills are situated. Here on a thirteen acre model farm called St. Ita's are spread the offices and workshops of this family business owned by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Farrell.

Born in 1919 out of that stirring period's intellectual, political and industrial renaissance and called after the famous book by J a m e s Stephens, telling the old legend of the Crock of Gold hidden under a thorn bush at the end of the rainbow, the Crock of Gold was launched with the blessing of such men as Sir Horace Plunkett of Co-Op. fame, Arthur Griffith and W. B. Yeats.

These famous men who helped the "Crock of Gold" on its way in the early days are all dead but the woman who translated a dream into a reality, who studied weaving and dyeing in England, Austria, France and Switzerland, is still alive.

She is Sligo-born Mrs. Michael Farrell, who became so famous for fine weaving that the Swiss hung her work in their galleries, brought her to Zurich to demonstrate her techniques there and appointed her chief instructor at the Cours Institute.

Since the "Crock of Gold" was founded the chief fashion designers of the world have incorporated these tweeds in their creations. Since Ireland arrived on the fashion map lately our own designers have been using "Crock of Gold" tweeds also, of course.

American Craze Started It

IN the sixties of the last century the American candy craze hit Europe. So great was the demand for American candy and so widespread was the interest shown in this wonderful delicacy from the New World that a mammoth exhibition was held in London and one William Bruce Fuller, an American, was the leading exhibitor.

Fuller saw that there was a large market for high class cakes and sweets this side of the Atlantic, so instead of going home when the exhibition was over he decided to stay in England and open a factory.

The business gradually expanded and in 1913 a branch was opened at 84 Grafton St. Dublin. This consisted of a bakery on the top-floor and a coffee shop spread over the rest of the building where Fullers large range of cakes were sold.

Owing to increasing demand for their products, Fullers gradually outgrew their premises in Grafton St. and in 1920 the bakery was moved to Bow Lane East while the Restaurant remained at 84 Grafton St.

WOLFE TONE

84 Grafton St. is of course famous in Irish history as the home of Matilda Witherington who at the age of 16 became the wife of Theobald Wolfe Tone.

On a May evening in 1782 Wolfe Tone, then a young student at Trinity College took a stroll up Grafton St., towards Stephen's Green. Passing No. 84, he glanced upwards and saw her looking from the window. It was a case of love at first sight—three months later they

were married after an elopement as her parents did not approve of the match.

In an essay he wrote, Terence Mac Swiney has given us a pen picture of this wonderful woman who shared all her husband's dangers.

When Tone gave his life for Ireland she reared and protected his children, keeping his memory green until his son could secure publication of his fathers autobiography and thus give to Ireland that great book which has since become almost the gospel of our National Faith.

NEW FACTORY

In 1950 Fuller's new factory at Inchicore, Dublin was opened by the then Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr. Dan Morrissey. This factory is so hygienic that it is looked upon as a model factory by Dublin Corporation and as such is visited by student health-inspectors as part of their course.

120 employees work in bright, airy surroundings and a bewildering selection of cakes, chocolates, sweets and candies are to be seen coming off the production lines.

Fullers are in the happy position to-day of having a growing output and an increasing range of products. These are all helping to meet the demands of expanding home and overseas markets.

At the moment Easter-eggs are top-priority in the factory and countless children will see a dream come true when they discover a Fuller's egg in an attractive box at the foot of their beds next Easter Sunday morning.

Sausage Pioneers

WHEN Donnelly's introduced the "new-look" in sausages some years ago certain people scoffed at the idea, but time has vindicated these pioneers of meat-processing, and to-day Donnelly's skinless sausages are sold in ever increasing quantities not only in Ireland, but all over the world.

For over 100 years the name of Donnelly has been synonymous with high class bacon products. This famous firm changed ownership on several occasions since it was founded, but since 1914 it has been in the hands of the O'Mara

family. Mr. A. M. O'Mara is the Chairman and his son Stephen is the Managing Director.

Although the firm was always nationally known it was the birth of the revolutionary skinless sausage that brought the name of Donnelly before the world. To-day Donnelly's sausages are available in most countries and the export drive has been so successful in the sister Isle that Donnelly's sausages are on sale in most of the food shops in Britain that are equipped with deep-freeze cabinets.

Modern productive methods, a first class selling and advertising campaign in the press and on the radio and an incentive bonus all play their part in the fabulous Donnelly success story.

The incentive plan was introduced over three years ago and under its provisions a man who does a normal full week's work earns a bonus of 37s. and if the output is higher than normal he may make up to 74s. a week in bonus.

120LBS. A MINUTE!

The annual wages bill of the firm is over £100,000 and the firm employs 250 people all the year round.

The factory's output is an unbelievable 120 lbs. of sausages per minute. Automatic linking machines pickers and weighers eliminate handling, provide an attractive pack and guarantee full weight to the customer.

Because the name of Donnelly has become so linked with sausages we are inclined to forget that the company also carries on an extensive trade in bacon. The full range is available, from the full side to the famous Irish mild cured hams. Black and white puddings, cooked hams and cised sausages ("Cambridge sausages") also figure in the Donnelly range of products.

An interesting by-product of the Donnelly bacon factory is a high protein animal food which is obtained by converting bones and offal in the Solvent Extraction Plant. The demand for this food exceeds by far the supplies available.

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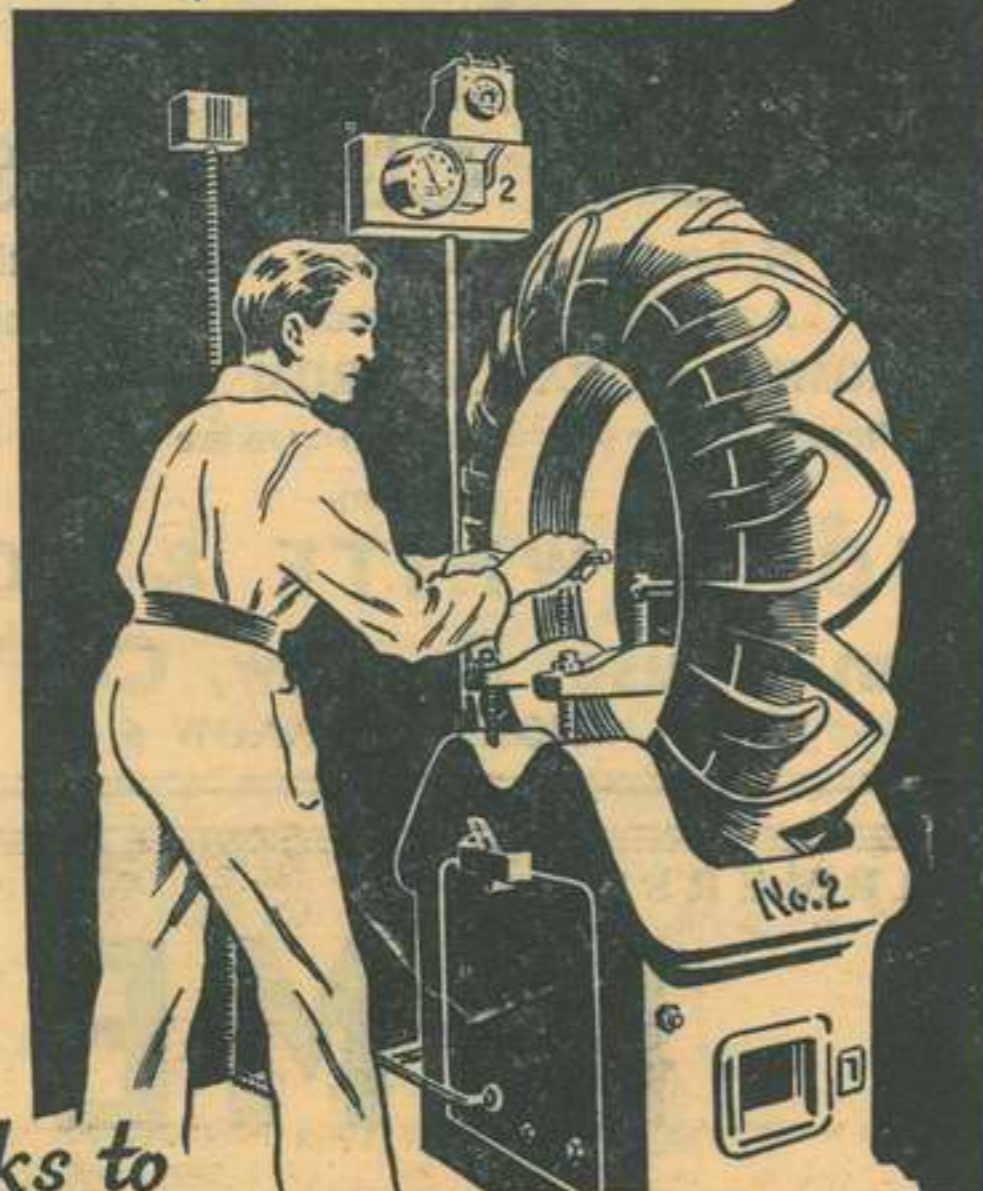
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Handball Spotlight

(BY J. K. CLARKE).

DES DILLON OF CLARE

DES Dillon, noted Clare born inter-Provincial hurler is justly considered one of the most consistent of top grade handball-players in Ireland to-day. He is essentially a softball player, but can hold his own with the best in the native or hardball code also.

Des Dillon came into prominence when he won the Mineral Waters Co. Inter County Challenge Cup (S.B.) at Bray in 1954, with Dublin's Larry Roe as partner.

In the following year, he and Roe went on to take the Dublin Senior S.B.D. title, while Des. also annexed the S.B. singles, defeating L. Roe, who had held it for the previous 14 years or so.

In the sphere of Inter-county

play, Dillon and J. Bergin (Tipperary) reached the 1955 final of the Inter-Provincial Postal S.B. Tournament going under to J. Ryan (Wexford) and C. Delaney (Kilkenny).

His biggest success to date was also gained in 1955, when from an entry of 200 leading softball men from all over the Country, he won the Gael-Linn Cup Competition.

1956 saw him again reach the concluding stages of the Gael-Linn Competition, being beaten by C. Delaney (Kilkenny), his opponent in the 1955 decider, in a hard fought semi-final. The Kilkenny man went under to J. Ryan (Wexford) in the final eventually. Later in the season Des. won the Munster H.B.S. title, beating the holder P.

Downey (Kerry) in the decider, going on to contest the National final against that great Wexford player—J. Ryan who, however, proved too good for him. Before the fall of the year, Dillon annexed the Dublin senior H.B.S. title, defeating A. Clarke—who, except for one season, has held it since 1939.

These are no mean achievements when the relative strength of the opposition is considered, and compare favourably with the successes attending the efforts of many fine players of the past.

For almost a year now, Des. has been living in England, where, I am told, he practices in a small three walled court attached to a school. He travels back regularly, by sea or air, to fulfil his handball commitments in this country. This is certainly a great tribute to Des. Dillon's love for the game. He is ever ready and willing to come home at short notice, and travel to any part of the country in which he may be listed to play.

ANOTHER STAR?

Tyrone handball enthusiasts almost got a severe shock when their county champion Peter Kelly was lucky to get through in a recent Gael-Linn competition.

His opponent was youthful John Curran, who is eligible for minor competitions for three more years and he certainly looks to have an outstanding future.

Kevin Is Future Prospect

By J. K. CLARKE.

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Kevin McHugh of Dublin is one of the most promising of our younger school of present-day handballers, a youth that may well go far in All-Ireland competition in the years ahead.

He first came under favourable notice as a fifteen-year-old school-boy playing for St. Joseph's C.B.S., Marino, and the D.M.G. Club, in 1953.

So rapid was his improvement that in the following year, as a member of the Clontarf Club, re-established about this time, he and brother Ray won the Dublin Novice S.B.D. Championship (Div. I.) from an entry which involved many experienced competitors. He was runner-up also in two other novice events.

In 1955, he took the Co. minor hard and softball singles title, and the Co. junior hard and soft singles and with Ray again as partner, the softball doubles. Crowning achievement of the season, however, was his winning of the Leinster minor H.B.S. title, which gave him the right to contest the National Final against Munster champion J. Ryan of Tipperary, who defeated him, 2 games to nil in a close scoring decider.

Last season—1956—saw him take the Co. Intermediate singles titles both hard and soft, retaining also both minor championships, thus becoming the first Dublin player in the history of the game to win his way to senior ranks, while still a minor.

Further distinction was accorded him by his selection as Co. representative in all four Leinster minor Championships, during the course of which, to the surprise of many, he lost his hard-ball singles title. He had the honour of being called upon to represent his county in the Leinster Junior H.B.D. championship, the first occasion upon which a minor had ever done so for Dublin.

This season—1957—he enters Senior county ranks, and of course is still eligible to play as an inter-county junior, where his continued progress will be watched with interest.

Incidentally, he is also a very promising hurler and footballer.

Australian Game Had Irish Origin

WHEN Irishmen left their native shores, either through necessity or sheer wanderlust, they invariably brought some of their customs and culture with them to their new homes. In fact, in centres as far apart as Melbourne and Boston, Gaelic games are played by emigrants and their children, born in these far-off foreign lands.

In Australia the Irish influence is particularly strong and the national football game in that country—Australian football—has much in common with Gaelic football. That's not surprising of course, because when the game was first played most of the rules were founded on the Gaelic code.

In the fifties of the last century tales of untold wealth in the Victorian goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat enticed many Irishmen to gamble everything and to take a chance on striking it rich in Australia.

Goldfield Games

While at the diggings these Irishmen introduced football to their fellow-workers and before long the game was being played, not alone by Gaels but by men of all nations.

It was from these early goldfield games that Australia's national game was evolved. Pioneer in this evolution was one Tom Wills who, while completing his university education in England during the eighteen fifties, visited Ireland and was very impressed by Gaelic football.

When Wills returned to Australia he drafted the first rules for a football code based on Gaelic. Wills visualised a game packed with action which would express the vigour of a young country in its pioneering era. It had to be vital, it had to call for manly vigour and in Gaelic football he found the ideal basis for this game.

Each team consisted of 20 players up to 1896, and 18 since then. On a ground 200 yards by 150 yards, the Australians play a game that lasts two-hours (how many Gaelic players could stick this?) divided into four quarters of 25 minutes each.

Four Posts

Goal posts, twenty feet high, are placed seven yards apart and the two "behind" posts are placed at a distance of seven yards on each side of the goal posts and in a straight line with them.

A goal is worth six points, and a "behind" one point. This, of course, means that a "behind" in Australian football is less valuable than a point in Gaelic football.

Up to 1869, the side that first scored two goals was the winner. This was quite ludicrous as some games were over in less than fifteen minutes. A rule was then framed abolishing this practice and giving the victory to the highest scoring side in a 100 minutes of play.

Teams are organised with two attacking and two defending lines.

There are three forwards and three half-forwards; three backs and three half-backs. A centre line consisting of a pivot player and two wingers gives the side its momentum, and a trio consisting of two strong players and a fast and elusive rover working with close understanding, supply the main attacking drive.

Australian football as it is played to-day resembles Gaelic football as it was played in the early days of the G.A.A. The four posts and large teams were a familiar sight on Gaelic pitches in the days gone by.

Like Gaelic games in Ireland, Australian football has a drawing power far greater than a combination of all the other ball games—cricket, rugby, soccer, golf, tennis and hockey.

In the State of Victoria, where the Australian code had its origins, there are 1,600 clubs with 50,000 players and 23,000 club officials. Attendances at the League finals in Melbourne, last year, reached a total of 273,000 for four games and gate-receipts totalled £34,000.

Their Big Day

The nearest approach to the glamour of an All-Ireland Final in Australia is the Australian National Football Carnival, held every three years since 1908, except for interruptions during the two World Wars.

Since 1950, the Australian National Football Council has engaged in an intensive propaganda drive in the "weak" football States, New South Wales and Queensland. In this, it has achieved sound success in Queensland, but has made less spectacular progress in New South Wales.

In States where Australian Football is firmly entrenched, the Football Council is working hard to counter the challenge of Soccer.

In its drive against Soccer the Australian National Football Council has supplied films to 700 schools in Victoria alone. These films teach the children of both "new" and "old" Australians exactly how the game is played by top-line players. The films are supplemented by lectures by leading Australian football coaches and present and former champion players. The films and lectures are backed up by the issue of free footballs to schools.

General opinion is, however, that the Australian code has very little to fear from the competition of other ball games, even from cricket which is very popular in Australia although 70 years ago cricketers scoffed at what they contemptuously called "this football code played by morons for the edification of morons." Time marches on!

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Low Football Standard

INTER-COUNTY football in Westmeath has reached a very low standard. Two years ago the senior football team made a very bold bid for honours in both the Leinster Championship and National League.

In the championship they were beaten by Meath by a very slender margin. In the League of '54-'55 they scored only two points less than the total score of Cavan, Meath and Mayo, who were the provincial champions.

Since then they have only won two National League games.

The club football standard has not gone down in the county. St. Marys, Rochfordbridge, who have not a representative on the county team, proved this last year when they won a competition with senior clubs from six counties taking part.

Lack of match practice for most of the year is the main fault. For senior clubs there are three competitions. These are played out in a crowded season from April to September, while for the remaining seven months of the year most of the players in the county never have a match.

This is a disgraceful way for the

County Board to treat both players and clubs. So I would suggest that only the championships be played in the Summer and the Feis Cup and League in the Autumn and Spring.

This would give players a chance of seeing other counties in action during the Summer and this is one of the best ways of raising the standard.

It would also give selectors a chance of having the players who are best able to represent the county on the team for both League and championship.

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Signs Of Hurling In Province

LIAM S. O h-OISTIN

OPTIMISTIC REPORTS FROM THE HURLING BOARDS IN MAYO AND ROSCOMMON OFFSET TO SOME EXTENT THE GLOOMY TALE FROM GALWAY, CONNACHT'S STRONGHOLD OF THE GAME, WHERE HURLING "STRUCK AN ALL-TIME LOW" IN 1956. DEFEATS WERE HEAVY AND MONOTONOUS, WHILE THIS UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS WAS AGGRAVATED BY SOME UNSEEMLY INCIDENTS IN THE CO. CHAMPIONSHIP.

A ray of hope is seen, however, in the generous invitation of the Leinster Council to compete in the Leinster championship with a view to easing the "solitude" of the Galwaymen. This invitation is open to the senior team only, and if one is to judge by their neighbours' hopes, Galway's junior side will need to be on their mettle to win the Western title in 1957.

From Roscommon, in spite of lack of whole-hearted support in many parts of the county, comes the good news that hurling has reached a high standard in the Southern division and the team was considered unlucky to lose the Connacht Junior Final to Galway. This year they hope to go one better and sparked by the enthusiasm now sweeping the area, it could well be Roscommon's year.

Still more optimistic is the Mayo report—to quote Seamus de Brun, hurling secretary, who states—"Mayo has now a junior championship team which any other county would be proud of, and if the Hurling Board is given the financial assistance necessary in the coming year, to maintain the progress attained during 1956, and to carry out a proper training schedule for the championship, I feel confident that

the county hurling team can annex the Connacht championship in 1957".

Confident, perhaps over-optimistic, words those, yet it does show that some progress is being made in spreading the game in Mayo, who last won a Connacht championship in 1936, and lost to Waterford in Ennis in the semi-final by two points. Waterford won the All-Ireland junior crown that year and that same team, practically, contested unsuccessfully the All-Ireland Senior Final in '38.

Added interest to this report of Seamus de Brun lies in the fact that Ignatius Gavin, of Ballina, has been included among the subs. on the Connacht hurling team.

Leitrim hurling folk are hopeful that the rise of Aughavas as hurling champions for the first time may coincide with a more forward showing in the Four-County championship.

Revival WESPORT CLUB'S FEAT

LIAM S. O h-OISTIN

WESTPORT G.A.A. club hope to see soon the fulfilment of many years' hard work when they finish their park in the near future, writes Liam S. O h-Oistin.

For many years, Westport were without a suitable field to stage their club matches, and were forced to rely on generous supporters to rent them fields for games and practice. Such well-known venues were Coyne's field, Munster's field, or The Point.

The situation of those fields was unsuitable however and the position generally unsatisfactory. There was a crying need for a permanent playing-field to house their own games and to provide facilities for practice, so necessary in a town that boasted a strong foreign games following.

Accordingly, some few years ago a few enterprising members decided to do something practical about it and bought the present site for £500. The trustees elected were Matt Beckett, present Chairman of the Mayo County Board; Frank Kenny and Tom McLoughlin. With the help of many eager workers they organised raffles, sweeps and silver circles and raised the money necessary to pay off the purchase cost. The funds, at the moment, total £700 and hopes are high that local contribution and grants from the Connacht Council will see the necessary total reached.

Westport are not ambitious to provide a large stadium, but to secure a modern club-field costing in the region of £2,000. They hold, and quite rightly, too, that club football should receive more at-

tention than any other football because without the clubs you just can't have football. A suitable pitch in Westport would give the game in West Mayo an enormous fillip, where there are six or seven clubs without a proper playing field.

The Gaels of Westport wish to record their thanks to the clergy, to the Christian Brothers, to the County Board, to their own townspeople and their ever-faithful helpers, workers and supporters whose financial aid helped in such a large way in advancing the ideal they have all hoped for. Soon, very soon, that ideal will be a reality.

Mayo Senior Selectors, five in number for 1957 are Matt Beckett, Chairman Co. Board; Josie Munnely, Paddy Curran, Kilmaine, and the Northern Division representative not yet decided on.

Leitrim Co. Board held a monster Ceili in Mohill to present their runner-up medals to their All-Ireland Finalists and Connacht champions in the minor grade.

Emigration Greatest Danger

But the other Connacht counties have suffered, too, and one remembers Bill Carlos and Ed. Quinn of Roscommon; Tom Sullivan, Stevie Gallagher or Billy Duffy of Galway, Frank Gaffney or the Crysties of Sligo, Sean Ruttledge or Patsy MacGarty of Leitrim.

Fortunately, thank God, some of them have come back to us but that does not solve the problem or lessen the evil of the emigrant ship. How many never return?

What of the thousands who go, never to come back, except for a brief holiday at Christmas while their parents are alive. With the passing of the old folk, the short holiday visits come to an end.

It is the attendant evils that spring from emigration that leave discerning people anxious and concerned.

Many Evils

Those evils are many and grave—the weakening of family life and of ties of friendship; the heart-break and the dry tears and the empty loneliness of father's and mothers bereft of their families, the unrest and the discontent among the younger folk who feel the "itchy foot" that is the sign of the inevitable departure.

And what of those fortunate (?) enough to succeed to 'the place'—they are tied to an existence that holds forth no great promise of joyous youth, contented middle age or a happy old age.

These are but a few of Connacht's ills—who will be the physician and who would dare prescribe a remedy?

"Since the wise men have spoken I speak, who am only a fool!"

Yes, only a fool, and a daring one at that, would dare prescribe a cure for these ills but, even at the risk of being thought a fool, I venture to put forward a solution—the only solution for Ireland's forgotten province.

It is the full utilisation of the natural resources of the Western counties.

No Remedy

What good are the watery sops thrown to the people of the West-factories—what misnomers—which employ women and young girls only, or glasshouses to keep a few men at home?

Give the West heavy industries industries that will keep the men in their native land, earning a comfortable wage, working reasonable hours.

If the men are there, the women will stay.

Utilise the vast resources of bog, plant the mountains and hillsides with thousands of acres of forest, dig from the earth the lead, the copper, the coal that we know lies there; use the marble and the granite and the soapstone to make the West a happy, emigration-free land.

Give fishing boats—modern boats—to the seaboard areas and take the wealth of the sea: fish, seaweed, etc. and use them for our own benefit. These are but some of the resources of Connacht but enough to keep three or four boys in every home, not only in Kilmeeena, but in every village from Kinvara to Kinlough or from Belmullet to Ballyleague.

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New Croke Park Stand Is Welcome Development

WITH such a severe recession in the building trade at the moment, the Gaelic Athletic Association's decision to proceed with the erection of a new stand is indeed welcome for more reasons than one.

The contract which is being carried out by the well known firm of Thomas McInerney and Sons Ltd., will give employment to approximately one hundred men.

The contribution of the McInerney's of Scariff, Co. Clare to the Association is well known and it is fitting that they should be entrusted with this large scale construction job.

NO INTERFERENCE

The work will not interfere with the big fixtures of the season. The new double-decker stand will have seating on both tiers and will be in the region of a hundred feet high with a total seating capacity of 16,000.

The stand will also include offices, a large Committee room plus broadcasting and television facilities.

To cover the cost of this project the Central Council has floated a loan of £120,000, which will be repaid over a ten year period.

In charge of the auctioneering of the old stands (the Hogan and Long Stand) will be the famed Big Tom O'Reilly, star of many a glorious Cavan hour. The new stand will be named the Hogan stand.

One immediate benefit which should follow when the new stand is built is a relaxation in that ticket rush for big games. For this alone there will be few who will not be thankful.

MORE STANDING ROOM

Somehow, I would rather see accommodation for an extra 16,000 spectators, even if it were standing room.

No doubt if the capacity of the ground were increased to 150,000 it could still be filled because there's many a follower—especially those who are getting on in years and who do not travel to Dublin on final day because of the fear that they will not gain admission.

It is time, I think, for the Central Council to face the facts. Our native games are growing in popularity each year; All-Ireland final records of twenty or less years ago are being surpassed at top-line inter-county ties to-day.

At the moment an average of one person in every forty of our total population attends the All-Ireland finals each year.

This far exceeds the drawing power of any sport in other countries in ratio to population.

The new stand may help to solve the ticket muddle but it leaves Croke Park no bigger than before.

When the new Hogan stand is completed it will leave us with two huge stands walling in the playing pitch on either side.

NO EXTRA ROOM

Now, when the new stand is completed, there won't be much space, for standing room which is necessary.

At each end of the field we have two seemingly immovable obstacles namely the Railway and the Canal, so there seems to be just no more room for expansion.

If I were one of these Anti-G.A.A. cynics, I might be inclined to say that the Central Council were more interested in raising the gate receipts through extra seating than with providing the patrons with proper amenities.

I am not of this group, but I would have been much more satisfied if the New Hogan Stand, were modelled on the Cusack Stand, that is with seating on the upper tier and standing underneath.

This would mean an extra eight thousand seats plus extra stand-

ing room for at least the same figure.

NOT AS WIDE

The new stand could not of course be as wide or go as far back as the Cusack stand but a slightly steeper gradient would mean that the standing room of the Long Stand would be increased, plus the standing room now taken up by the old Hogan Stand together with the eight thousand who would be seated on top.

But this is only wishful thinking and by the time you read this article Dan McInerney and his men will have laid most of the foundation of the new 'two tier' which will slowly but surely rise as an imposing monument to the continued progress of the G.A.A. and to the pure Gaelic ideals of Michael Cusack.

It will also stand as a tribute to the thousands of tireless workers who have through the years striven to build the Association into its present worthy position.

Constant Care Has Given Perfect Sod

HOW many times have you gone to Croke Park on All-Ireland Day and marvelled at the magic carpet of green that is the centre-piece of that great stadium, the very heart of the G.A.A.? Of course you were not alone in your wonder, seventy or eighty thousand others were thinking the same thoughts as you.

There is another side of the story however. Have you ever seen it in mid-December when winter's heavy hand has been at work? Snow, rain, and worst of all, frost have come and still that almost miraculous velvet remains immaculate.

Behind that green sward lies a quarter of a century of careful nurturing and it is in fact the very uowering of an ideal.

All credit to Secretary Pádraig O Caoimh for this modern miracle and the late head groundsman, Michael Curran, should not be forgotten either. Michael's son, Dick, is now carrying on the good work.

When Pádraig O Caoimh took over the management of Croke Park, one of the things he set himself to do was to get first hand knowledge of how grounds should be treated, particularly those meeting with such continuous wear and tear.

He visited sports grounds and public parks with a view to getting the necessary first hand knowledge on the treatment and care of lawns.

Once groundsman Michael Curran got the word go he tended the pitch as a proud housewife would look after her best carpet. Very few realise the care that must be taken in the selection of manures, soils and seeds to produce that verdant pitch. Important matters such as drainage, cinder and trimming, must also be attended to.

The fact that such a good job is being made of the pitch at Headquarters should not blind us to the fact that Croke Park is

Ulster Council

It is often alleged that the Ulster Council of the G.A.A. is monopolised by teachers. I feel sure that when this suggestion is made nobody intends any disrespect for the teaching profession. Rather is it meant that the custom of holding meetings on Saturdays has excluded many sections of officialdom from attending meetings with the result that some of the province's best brains are excluded from its highest council.

Surely this practice has outlived itself. The custom arose when delegates had to travel by train but I fear the G.N.F. benefits little by G.A.A. officials at the moment. Indeed of late the Central Council has found it satisfactory to hold meetings on week nights and surely it is time the Ulster Council followed suit. Present petrol restrictions may knock this idea on the head at the moment but the time should not be far off when the non-teaching county officials should have a chance of representing their counties on the Ulster Council

Words Of Wisdom

"I present this flag to my native land and I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the orange and green and I trust that beneath its folds the hand of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood."

—Meagher of the Sword

being grossly overworked. Can you guess how many games are played there in a year?—156! This is an average of three games a week. Is there any other ground in Ireland used or abused to such an extent and still remaining a perfect lawn?

As I see it the only solution to this problem is a second auxiliary ground in Dublin that could be used for the big League games. An alternative to this suggestion, however, is to close down Headquarters for three or four months a year to give it a general overhaul.

Biggest headache of all for Croke Park's groundsman is the incursion of spectators from the sideline on to the pitch at the close of play. This churns up the ground and gives the impression that a cattle fair has just been held on it. This problem will not arise in the new Croke Park, however, as it has been wisely decided to scrap the side-line seats

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SECRET BEHIND CORK SUCCESS

By "LEESIDER"

SINCE the time Ahabullogue won their first All-Ireland Hurling Championship, and Middleton their first Football Championship, back in 1890, Cork has forged ahead with success after success, climaxed perhaps by their entering both All-Ireland finals in 1956.

The county has always been one of the great pillars of the G.A.A. What, then, is the secret formula for success?

In my opinion, three factors have contributed largely to the county's wonderful record in hurling:

1. That the county is devoted almost entirely to hurling. Football has only risen from the doldrums recently and is confined to certain areas.

2. The county has been fortunate in having such a wonderful trainer as Jim Barry.

3. Really brilliant players just came on the scene at the right time.

COUNTY-WIDE

There's no such thing as a particular hurling area in Cork—the whole county is hurling mad. From early youth Corkmen play the game at school and after school.

They are given every opportunity to improve their play; hurlers are supplied; grounds are at their disposal and they are assured of plenty of matches, throughout the year.

Cork have won seven All-Irelands since 1941, and with these victories must be linked the name of Jim "Tough" Barry. A tailor by trade, Jim must surely rank as being the greatest trainer ever. He has played a major part in bringing both hurling and football honours to the county.

An athletic and physical training enthusiast himself—he won the diving championship of Ireland

when but a mere boy of 13½ years. Altogether he has won 103 medals for swimming.

He first started training the team in 1926 and has been doing it ever since.

NOTHING SPECIAL

Jim has no time for special training. He believes in letting men do their ordinary work during the day and bringing them together in the evenings for a spot of light limbering up.

Cork have been lucky enough to have produced great men at the right time. From the late Billy Mackessy down to the inimitable Christy Ring, there have been many heroes.

Eddie Coughlan, Jim Hurley and Jim Regan were all great men and proud bearers of Cork's great tradition. Incidentally, mention of Eddie Coughlan brings back memories of what must have been the greatest hurling family ever.

The Coughlans hailed from Blackrock, birth place of many a great hurler. Five brothers, Patrick, Dan, Denis, Tom and Jeremiah, all figured prominently for their county and between them won eight all-Ireland medals.

Two of Patrick's sons, Eddie and John, carried on the tradition. Eddie was first selected for his country way back in 1920. He won four All-Ireland medals in 1926, 1928, 1929 and 1931. He also captained the Cork team in that famous 1931 final with Kilkenny.

His brother John was goalie in the 1926 and 1931 finals, so that between them the Coughlan family have won 14 All-Ireland medals. Is that a record?



Dick Rockett (Kilkenny) and Martin Codd (Wexford) in a goalmouth struggle during their charity game at Ferns, recently.

CLARE GAELS CONVENE

(By P.J.L.)

THE outgoing Chairman, one of the two Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary, Treasurers, Central Council and Munster Council representatives were unanimously re-elected at Clare Convention of the G.A.A. in Ennis. Mr. P. Begley, outgoing Vice-Chairman, the only officer opposed, was re-elected by a big majority.

LAPSES

"All lapses tending to sully the fair name of the Association, or belittle its ideals in the eyes of the uninitiated, must be suppressed," said the Rev. Fr. Corry, C.C., Chairman, in his annual address to members at the Clare G.A.A. Convention, in Ennis.

The paramount purpose inspiring spectators and players in the G.A.A. should be to provide a fair field and afford equal opportunity to all, to encourage manly contention, the will to win without the desire to injure, he said.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Those re-elected are as follows: Chairman, the Very Rev. J. Corry, C.C.; Vice-Chairmen, Messrs. P.

Hennessy, Miltown-Malbay, and Patrick Begley, Sixmilebridge; Secretary, Mr. S. Cuinnane, Ennis; Treasurers, Messrs. S. O'Connor and N. McMahon, Ennis; Munster Council representatives, the Very Rev. Fr. Corry and Mr. V. Murphy, Clarecastle; Central Council representative, The Very Rev. Canon Hamilton, P.P. V.F., Nenagh. Delegates were elected as follows: To Munster Convention: Messrs. J. Carney, Sixmilebridge; B. Lynch, Clarecastle; W. O'Halloran, Crusheen; M. Lyons, Ruan; M. McGuane, Ennistymon; To Congress: Messrs. A. Carroll, Miltown-Malbay; J. Smith, Ruan, H. Daly, Clarecastle; L. Blake, Junr., Ennis; M. Hayes, N.T., Barefield, and T. Small, Ardacrusha.

MALLOW GAELS MEET

At the recent meeting of the Mallow G.A.A. club the following were elected: President—Very Rev. Fr. Sheehan; vice-president, Rev. Fr. O'Donovan; Chairman, T. Long, re-elected.

THIS IS THE CHALLENGE

Can a free Irish Nation achieve the economic strength that will ensure a livelihood for all its people?

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NOW THERE IS DOUBT!

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**Renewed Effort Needed To
Develop Loughrea Park**

PEOPLE in Loughrea are wondering what has happened to the committee that was formed some years ago to develop the Town Park into a first-class G.A.A. pitch.

The Committee made a good beginning. A ten-foot high wall with barbed wire on top was erected on three sides of the pitch. Two main entrance gates were erected.

It was decided to change the lie of the old pitch, which runs North-South, to East-West. Clay was spread over the site of the new pitch. The clay was levelled by a bulldozer some time ago, but since then nothing has been done.

Two Big Games

The town has now been three years without a first-class G.A.A. fixture. Townspeople in Loughrea should take note of the plea sent out to them by Very Rev. M. A. O'Callaghan, Adm., when he presided at the annual general meeting of the local club.

Fr. O'Callaghan deplored the fact that there was a great lack of co-operation from the townspeople in the matter of developing the Town Park into sportsground capable of meeting modern needs.

Loughrea is, and ever has been, the geographical centre of hurling in Co. Galway, and even in the present under-developed state has attracted an all-time record gate of over £700 for a county cup match.

Townspeople who profit through it, and the youth who get maximum enjoyment and use out of the park, should act during 1957 to have the ground brought into step with those at Athenry, Tuam and Ballinasloe or abandon forever all hope of maintaining its position in the G.A.A.

Fund Raising

The Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, football club, have now for some years been practising a rather novel fund-raising activity.

Each St. Stephen's Day, the young (and some not too young) Gaels of the club form a colourful Wren-boys group and tour the parish.

In these days when Wren-boys, or mummers as they are known in North Clare, have generally declined from what they used to be in days of old, the Lisdoonvarna idea is something to be welcomed.

The group is usually thirty to forty strong, having all the old characteristics, plus traditional music, which would well merit a visit from Ciaran Mac Mathuna and his recording tape.

From the club's point of view, the day usually proves a profitable one, with seldom less than forty pounds in hand at the end of their rounds.

Critics Answered

A short time ago, in his address to the South-East Cork Annual Convention, Mr. C. Murphy, Chairman, answered the critics who regard the Gaelic Athletic Association as narrow-minded.

"Was it being unreasonable," he asked, "to endeavour to preserve the individuality of the Irish nation, to try and prevent it being just another part of England?"

"Was it being unreasonable or narrow-minded to frame rules to enforce them on the Association's members?"

"Certainly not. They were all humble members of the Association, who took pride in their work and should not be embarrassed by any suggestion to the contrary. If necessary, they should be ready to stand and defend the principles they believed in, because theirs was not a movement to foster games alone. It was an organisation imbued with love of country and its one aim was to preserve the characteristics of the nation."

**AROUND THE GALWAY
G.A.A. CLUBS**

ST. BRENDAN'S

ST. BRENDAN'S G.A.A. Club, Loughrea, had a very successful year in 1956. Although traditionally a hurling area, they won two sets of football championship medals. The President, Very Rev. M. N. O'Callaghan, Adm., congratulated the winning teams and expressed the hope that he would have the pleasure of presenting hurling championship medals at the next annual meeting. Their senior hurling team was narrowly beaten in the Co. Galway semi-final.

Officers elected for 1957: President, V. Rev. M. A. O'Callaghan, Adm.; Chairman, Martin O'Regan; Vice-chairman, Peter Finnerty; Hon. Treasurer, James McLoughlin; Hon. Secretary, Fergus Benson; Assistant Secretary, Lexie Marmion

Minor club: Chairman, Rev. A. Devine, C.C.; Hon. Sec., Master Joe McLoughlin.

CRAUGHWELL

Craughwell club is facing this year's championship with confidence. Last year they won South Galway championships in both hurling and football. They confidently expect to do well in the higher grades. Officers elected for the coming year are: Chairman, John Kennedy; Vice-chairman, Paddy Burke; Hon. Secretary, Paddy Gegan; Treasurer, J. J. Kelly; captain of senior team, Tom Fahy.

GORT

Gort won four South Galway titles last year. Off the field, the club had also been significantly successful. A debt of £80 had been reduced to an insignificant £20. This was due in no small measure to the efforts of their treasurer, Mr. Paddy Piggott.

Officers for the coming year are: President, Rev. Fr. Vaughan, C.C.; Vice-President, Rev. Fr. C. Burke; Chairman, B. Long, N.T.; Hon. Sec. Padraig Cahill; Treasurer, Paddy Piggott.

COROFIN

Emigration was the club's greatest problem during 1956. The club is to make an effort to stem the tide during 1957. It suggests that youth welfare officers should be appointed to collect data in each parish, so that probable avenues of employment might be suggested to enable the youth to remain in their own parishes.

One of their players, L. Mannion, played with Galway in the All-Ireland Final. The club will run a parish league and affiliate senior, junior, minor and juvenile teams.

Officers elected: Chairman, M. Mannion, N.T.; Vice-chairman, T. Lawless; Hon. Secretary, D. Creaven; Treasurer, J. Flaherty.

TUAM STARS

The past year was the greatest in the history of the club. It regained the Galway senior football championship and the trophy for the best club side in Conacht.

The Tuam Stars men Sean Purcell, Frankie Stockwell and Jack Mangan were the outstanding players on the Galway senior football team that won the Sam Maguire Cup.

Officers: President, J. Mooney; Chairman, Rev. J. B. Fitzsimons; Vice-chairman, H. Mangan; Secretary, Miko Kelly; Treasurer, T. Bray.

ST. GRELLANS

Three representatives of the club were on Galway's All-Ireland team, a proud honour indeed for any club.

They were Johnny Keeley and Gerry Kirwan. The real hero of the encounter was Johnny Keeley who played an outstanding game despite a serious injury.

High tribute for the fitness of the players during the year must be paid to "Inky" Flaherty, of hurling fame, who trained the team.

Officers: President, Very Fr. John Kelly, Adm.; Chairman, M. O'Connor; Vice-chairman, John Dunne; Hon. Secretary, M. Greally; Assistant Secretary, E. Kelly; Treasurer, Thomas Keogh.

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JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE



Ulster Colleges Scene Is Vigorous And Varied A Saint Colman's Win Would Be Popular All Round

By M. O DUBHGHAILL

YOU may recall that we promised an Ulster commentary in this month's issue. There the Gaelic games' scene is vigorous and varied; but, unhappily, we must confine ourselves to football games. When the field activities were suspended for the Christmas recess, the penultimate stage in the Senior Football Colleges' Championship had been reached.

For the benefit of those whose knowledge of this—the Mac Rory Cup competition—may be somewhat nebulous, a brief explanation may be required.

Competed for on the league system in two divisions: A, with four teams; B, with six: it does provide some six good games for most of the sides involved.

Colman's In Final

St. Colman's College, Newry, has won out in the completed Division A, and awaits the outcome in Division B, before they know their final opponents.

So many shrewd judges have tipped the Newry boys to become cup-winners in 1956-57, that an upset in the final would be very surprising.

Few will cavil at the result, should Colman's secure the trophy this year—they have been in the competition, year in, year out, since it was first established in the early 1920's; and have won out only twice 1949 and '50.

Their team presents a judicious mixture of youth and experience.

Such lads as L. Watson, T. Keenan, P. T. Treacy, and L. McCartan—all members of last season's MacRory Cup team—have matured into skilful and formidable footballers, forming the backbone of their side which contests the final.

They complete their team from players, who as juniors, were successful in the Ranafast Cup.

Leis an da bhuintaiste ud, agus sciorta beag de'n adh a bheith ortha niorbh ionadh linn an corn craoibhe do bheith acu i mbliana.

Meet St. Pat's?

Have no doubt about it, these St. Patrick's, Armagh, youths will provide formidable opposition in the

three teams withdrew from the MacRory Cup series: St. Patrick's, Cavan; St. Eunan's, Letterkenny; and St. Macartan's, Monaghan.

What A Pity

With memories of the thrilling fare served up by these great nurseries of Gaelic football, in games of yesteryear, their withdrawal is very much to be regretted.

Happily, they are taking part in a special triangular senior competition, played on a double round home and away basis.

Sa chomortas seo ar a chead chursa, bhuaidh Colaiste Phadraig ar an da fhuirinn eile, Leanfar de'n dara cursa go luath amach anseo.

Incidentally, with the All-Ireland Colleges' Games reverting to the individual colleges' representation, this withdrawal poses a rather intricate problem. What college will represent Ulster this year—the winners of the MacRory Cup? We await the decision of the Ulster Council on this question with much interest.

Corn Na n-Og

My second letter was from a St. Malachy's, Belfast — "Interested Party". Yes, J.B., we agree — the under 15 football competition is often more interesting than the senior one and gets little or no publicity. That is true of minor and junior competitions generally but space is our big trouble. However we will try to include more about the small fry!

I gcrabh-chomortais Corn na n-Og i mbliana, grabh 14 foirni paint ins na ceithre ranna. Ta buaite ag Colaiste Cholmain, Colaiste Phadraig, Cabhain agus Colaiste Mhaobhoig. Beal Feirste, Crichtnobar an triu roimn go luath anois.

—Editor's footnote: Incidentally, regarding of publicity, it is often the colleges own fault. We have many times requested details of interesting items but with very little response.

final, Belonging to Division B, with its six team league competition very much keener, the form book points to their great merits; having full points from all matches to date, with a game against St. Patrick's, Dungannon, still to be decided.

After facile wins over two CBS teams, those of Abbey and Armagh; the St. Patrick's College team, met the toughest opposition when opposed by newcomers to the competition, Omagh CBS.

Held to level scoring twice during the game, it took two quick goals towards the end, to enable them to survive with full points.

With no 'passengers' and with such sterling players as A. Clarke, B. Donaghy, O. Grimes, E. Kerr and E. Flanagan, it could be, you know, that the MacRory Cup might return to St. Patrick's College this year. Is maith an sceal an aim-sear.

My Critics!

We always appreciated the sterling qualities of Ulster footballers; but never until now, did we know that they could abuse poor commentators so virulently. Talk about being 'in the soup' it was worse!

A Monaghan reader fairly burned up the paper with hydrochloric acid, because we made no reference to St. Macartan's boys this year.

Believe me, Peggy, if we were being cruel, it was only to be kind.

We regretted this latest 'partition' in sport up North. We felt the least said, soonest mended. Ach a chonach san orainn, nuair a bhomar ag iarraidh an fhirinne a cheilt.

Briefly the position is this. When the age limit was lowered last year,



Des Ferguson (Leinster) just gets in his kick as Paddy O'Driscoll (Munster) comes from behind in the Railway Cup semi-final.

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