

Weston Joker, 1; Sergeant Mike, 2. Also ran—Dr. Hack. Time, 34.30; dist. Monlena Wood (solo). Time, 34.50.

OLD BANDSMAN

DEATH OF MR. MICHAEL O'CONNELL

Mr. John Reddan writes:—

It is with feelings of regret I convey to the relatives of the late Mr. Michael O'Connell my sincere sympathy on his demise, at an advanced age. When a youth I used hear a great deal about the famous clarinet player of the Boherbuoy Band, Mick O'Connell. I was a member of that combination in October, 1890, until 1900 during which time I was hon. secretary. From my first acquaintance with the deceased I learned to love him for his many sterling qualities. He took a great interest in all the young members of the band, showing them how they could become good performers, especially those who were learning the clarinet. How I can recall the pleasant evenings we, the juniors, would have, listening attentively while he played that beautiful solo, "La-Sonnambula."

It was he could produce the fine, round tone in the lower register—organ-like—and, again, those variations in the ever-popular marches, "Presciosa," "Punjaub," and "Belphegor" were delectable. He played no mean part in bringing musical honours to Limerick away back in '35, '86 and '87.

At the funeral yesterday—an immense cortege—the band, to show its loyalty to the dead veteran, attended in strength, and played most solemnly the funeral marches: "The Last Honours" (Chopin), and "Beethoven No. 1." At the graveside the Last Post was sounded, and then mother earth received the mortal remains of him who was the last surviving member of the original Boherbuoy Band. R.I.P.

FOYNES G.A.A.

The Foynes junior football team went under to Ballysteen at Rathkeale last Sunday by the narrow margin of two points. The game, which was very evenly contested, was productive of a high standard of football. Interest was maintained until the final whistle, as in a last desperate rally Foynes nearly succeeded in saving the game. The local club has now lost direct interest in this season's football championship, as the minor team was also recently defeated by Kilcoleman. The hurling team meets Askeaton in the next round.

plays and attended the functions wearing the regalia of the Club, the various items of each member's dress being made from the skins of badgers.

FIRST REGULAR THEATRE.

"Peter's Cell," was, of course, unsuitable in every respect as a playhouse, and with the increasing public desire for dramatic entertainment, the first regular theatre in Limerick was erected and opened in the autumn of 1736. It was called the Theatre Royal, and here the Limerick born actor, Andrew Cherry, author of the immortal ballad, "The Dear Little Shamrock," who for years ranked at the top of his profession as a comedian, frequently appeared.

Later in the 18th century, a citizen named Tottenham Heaphy was responsible for the building of a splendid new theatre, for long popularly known as the "Play House." It was situated in Cornwallis Street—now Lower Gerald Griffin Street—and cost £600, which sum was contributed by twenty-four gentlemen, who were granted free admission for life. A host of famous actors, including Kean, Kemble, "the matchless" Mrs. Siddons, Barry, and Ryder, performed there. It was the hey-day of the theatre in Ireland, and a general view of the conditions then prevailing is extremely interesting.

Shakespearean plays were very popular. When the principal character in a tragedy was about to die, it was the custom to spread a carpet on the stage, on to which the actor fell, and writhing in imaginary death throes, recited his closing speech. The audience then signalled the fall of the curtain by their applause, refusing to hear any more. It was their tribute to the actor, but as a result they frequently lost the recital of some splendid passages at the close of a drama.

The play and acting had to be of a high standard to satisfy the critical tastes of the people, who voiced their disapproval of a poor show in no uncertain fashion. There was little of the present day decorum in the eighteenth century theatre. Members of the audience were inclined to be unruly while waiting for the start of a performance, and generally amused themselves by pelting the orchestra with over ripe oranges and apples. Occasionally, even bottles were thrown. Eventually, the space

CARNIVAL AT FOYNES

The opening of Foynes Carnival on last Sunday was very successful (writes a correspondent there). The weather was glorious and a large crowd attended. The principal feature was the horse-jumping competition, which attracted a splendid entry. The chief event was won by Mr. James Hagar.

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