

## GAELIC GROUNDS

### Grant For Thurles

#### MUNSTER COUNCIL DECISION

Proposals from Thurles Gaelic Field Committee to carry out improvements costing £4,000 were considered at a meeting of the Munster Council of the G.A.A. held at Limerick on Saturday, Rev. M. Hamilton, P.P. (Chairman) presiding.

Mr. Leahy (Tipperary) said that it was not the intention of the Thurles Committee to improve the field to the exclusion of all other fields in Munster, but they felt that they were in the best position to provide an outstanding venue, provided they received financial help from the Munster Council.

Mr. D. Lanigan said if the Munster Council was expected, as in this instance, to put up a substantial sum to improve Thurles, certain matters would need attention. For instance, while the people of Thurles were more than willing to cater for crowds, the hotels were most reluctant to cater for teams in any way.

Mr. Sean Murphy (Cork) said that it was only with the greatest difficulty the Cork team secured accommodation when in Thurles, where the hotel owners seemed to forget that it was the teams actually made the money for them and should get first consideration.

The Rev. Chairman said the complaint was one that should not be ignored. It was a serious commentary on Thurles that neither Limerick nor Cork could obtain facilities without serious inconvenience.

The Rev. Chairman suggested it might be advisable to postpone consideration of the improvements to the Thurles field to a meeting to be held in Thurles, when all points such as those raised could be put up to those interested in the promotion of the town. He felt that the people of Thurles generally were not aware of the attitude of the hotel owners there; that they would object strongly to such treatment to visiting teams.

Mr. O'Donoghue (Waterford) said that, apart from Thurles, there seemed to be a general reluctance to cater for teams in hotels within recent times.

The Rev. Chairman asked if the Council was satisfied to devote part or all of its surplus money this year to co-operate with the Thurles Field Committee in making the field a first-class one. Other fields were in the need of attention also, but he thought an effort should be made to have at least one first-class centre by the time travel facilities became general again.

Rev. E. Punch, P.P. (Limerick) said he disagreed with the intention to devote all its funds to the improvement of one venue to the neglect of others. Limerick was the centre of Munster, and it could easily happen that a Munster final be fixed there. He thought from the viewpoint of expediency both places should be developed.

The Rev. Chairman said improvements to Thurles were estimated to be £4,000 and the Munster Council was asked to provide half of it. The Council's surplus balance this year would be in the region of £1,600, therefore, it would be impossible to do two fields. He disagreed with Father Punch, who was taking a localised view, and felt it would be better to create one good centre. The question was one field or none with the money available.

Mr. J. J. Sheehy (Kerry) suggested that the Thurles Committee be asked to provide more money than they had in mind. He felt that the project should get every encouragement, but they should be asked to do a little more themselves.

The Council decided, in view of the existing commitments, to put £1,000 at the disposal of the Thurles Field Committee, and to send a deputation to meet the Committee to discuss matters arising out of the proposal.

### THE GREEN CROSS

In view of the recent announcement made by the Six County Government that most of the internees would be released, a special meeting of the Dublin Committee of the Green Cross Fund was held, at which it was decided to intensify the work of the Committee in order that the trustees may be in a position to help the

## SOLDIER DROWNED

### Rescue Efforts Described

#### AT CITY INQUEST

The frantic efforts of a military rescue party to save the life of a comrade were described at an inquest held in Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, on Friday evening, by Mr. J. S. McNeice, solicitor, Deputy Coroner, into the death of Private Jeremiah McCarthy, Milford, County Cork, who was drowned at Limerick on Thursday.

Lieut. P. Conington, 7th Field Artillery, Sarsfield Barracks, stated he accompanied Captain O'Connor to the Metal Bridge on Thursday, in charge of the members of a camp on a bathing parade. Captain O'Connor divided the party into two groups, and accompanied one group to the other side of the river. Witness sat on the bridge, where he could see the bathers in the water. At 11.20 he called the men together. At this time there were four or five still in the water. He noticed one man wading after a swan, trying to splash it. The man was moving away from the bridge, and witness noticed the splashing increasing. The man's head was just above the water and witness did not know whether he could swim or not. He shouted to Coy-Sergeant Wall to watch him. Then Company-Sergt. Wall, N.C.O., in charge of the rescue party, jumped in, and was at the spot in about 5 secs., followed immediately by all members of his party. Deceased was still above the water 10 or 15 feet from the bank. The man went down when Coy. Sergt. Wall was about three yards from him, and did not re-appear. Six members of the rescue party formed a circle and dived in turn, and continued until exhausted. Witness called for more volunteers, and diving was continued for a considerable time, without success. The body was recovered at 8.30 that night.

Gunner John Blake, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, said that when on the bank after finishing his swim he noticed a comrade soldier in difficulties. He went to his assistance immediately, joining the other members of the rescue party in their diving efforts.

Company-Sergt. Mark Wall stated that he was one of the rescue party who just went into the water to ensure that the place was safe for the general body of men. They ascertained that the place was suitable and safe, and the men were allowed in there. The spot where deceased disappeared was some distance from the bridge, where the general body had been swimming, and when witness took part in the diving operations he could not reach bottom.

Denis Madigan, Canal Harbour, said he was a diver by occupation. On the 26th July his aid was requested in recovering the body of Pte. McCarthy. At 8.30 that night he discovered the body in about 45 feet of water. The body was on its back about 100 feet from the bank. The river-bed was soft and shelved into a deep hole.

Michael McCarthy, Ballyhane, Milford, Co. Cork, father of the deceased, gave evidence of identification, and said his son was 23 years of age and unmarried.

The Coroner, reviewing the evidence, said he was satisfied that all the bathing parade regulations were duly carried out, and had no hesitation in exonerating the officer in charge and rescue party from all blame. He expressed sympathy with deceased's family and the army unit on the loss of a fine young soldier. He also thanked Mr. Madigan for the great assistance given by him to enable the body to be found, and the rescue party, and the other civilians who immediately came to the assistance of the rescue party.

Comdt. McGrath said that deceased was an excellent young man and a most proficient soldier, who through his cheerfulness and efficiency was a great favourite with the members of his unit. He wished to express deep sympathy with the bereaved parents.

Inspector Byrne, on behalf of the Gardai, also joined in the expression of sympathy to the deceased's parents.

The Coroner returned a verdict of asphyxia, following accidental drowning.

### BOWLS

## SPLENDID TREAT

### Army Concert At The Savoy

One of the biggest and most enthusiastic audiences to fill the vast Savoy in recent years thoroughly enjoyed every moment of last night's grand Army concert, which very fittingly brought Army Week in Limerick to a triumphant conclusion. The Army, song and deservedly famed for attention to detail, and possessing a happy flair for doing things right, secured the services of a number of brilliant "outside" artistes for this function.

Leading the star-studded bill of the evening was Patricia Black, Ireland's prima donna soprano of Dublin. Her "Orry Time" and proud Killarney tenor of B.E.C. "The Atlantic Spotlight" Sean Ryan. Miss Black completely captivated her listeners in her first group of well-chosen songs, which included "Love Me But To Deceive" (Bohemian Rhapsody), "Fairy Tales of Ireland" and "For The Green." Sean received a warm reception, as he opened his repertoire with "Bonnie Mary of Argyll," "On Wings of Song," and "The Miller's Daughter."

These were rendered in excellent style and showed that he is improving immensely. In their second appearance, Patricia sang "Two Little Words," while Sean brought down the house with a firm favourite here—"God Keep You Is My Prayer." As a duet, the pair sang "Il Trovatore's" "Home To Our Mountains," a piece sensationally popularised here by Mary Magee and Frank Ryan. And, sure enough, this piece of resistance, as in the latter's case, had to be repeated in response to thunderous applause and cries of "encore."

The accompanist to these two singers was popular Pat O'Connor, whose delicacy of touch on the piano was a treat to the discerning ear. Here, too, is an artiste of marked ability and it is a pity that his services are not more frequently availed of. He is one of the most accomplished pianists in this city to-day, and his "fingering" for two such distinguished singers has earned him the plaudits of his fellow-citizens.

Corporal Horrigan (now Sergeant) made another of his welcome "Savoy" appearances, and, as usual, scored a distinct "hit." This artist seems to improve with every concert. The outstanding supporting programme included two well-trained Army choirs; Kevin Casey (Dublin's new parody king), Noel Mulcahy (boy soprano) and the Sokol team, who created such a favourable impression for synchronisation at the Pageant all last week.

Captain O'Connell singing "The Pride of Petravore," the Legear School of Dancing in some faultless routines and Stanley Bowyer's selection of Irish airs in a "community sing-song" were other items which added to the all round excellence of the Army's final offering in their sensationally successful Army Week.

Another splendid concert in connection with Army Week was given in the open-air at Sarsfield Barracks on Friday night, a huge audience being treated to a varied and very admirable programme.

### DANCING

#### ARMY WEEK CONTESTS

Keen interest was displayed in the dancing competitions organised by Lieutenant O'Sullivan in connection with Army Week and held yesterday at Thomond Park. The entries were numerous, especially in the junior sections and the standard was high all round. Mrs. Violet Danaher-Dillon (former All-Ireland champion) adjudicated.

The following were the results:—Jig, Reel or Hornpipe (Confined to men in uniform)—1, Pte. O'Connor (7th A.M.S.); 2, Pte. Murphy (7th A.M.S.).

Reel (Boys and Girls under 10)—1, Aine Touhy (O'Rourke's); 2, Anita Cronin (Ennis).

Reel (Boys and Girls 10-15)—1, Cyril Benson (Daly School); 2, Noreen O'Donnell (Legear School).

Reel and Hornpipe (under 18)—1, Philomena Barry (Fitzgerald School); 2, Angela McCollig (Cork).

Three Hand Reel (under 18)—1, Legear School (Class B); 2, O'Rourke School.

## A GALA DAY

### Great Limerick Sports Fixture

#### FINE PERFORMANCES

With "King Sol" and the "Weather Clerk" smiling graciously, once again on the scene of Army Week's historic pageant and tournament—Thomond Park—another large assembly at the venue yesterday enjoyed the open sports rub in conjunction with the festival. That Thomond Park is an ideal centre for a sports meeting cannot be disputed. The ground itself is as level as a sheet of glass, which affords the maximum of comfort to competitors "pins" while the terracing in the enclosures provides an amenity to spectators which is enhanced by the obtaining of a bird's eye view of all that takes place. So it was, yesterday, with the first open sports meeting ever to take place on the Rugby Union grounds. It was a fitting augury that the privilege should fall to the Army authorities.

When the proceedings opened at 2.30 p.m. with the 100 yards sprint, the order of events was rigidly adhered to. The arrangements would have reached perfection point had the pole vault competition not developed into a long drawn out affair. In no way, however, could it be said that boredom intervened, and from the start of the "century" to the salvo fired by the 18th Battalion as the symbol of their victory in the alarm race, everything passed off smoothly, which gave a pleasantness to the programme. The loud-speaker was also appreciated; and during the afternoon patrons were informed that dancing sessions were in operation behind the "Walls of Limerick," while Irish dancing was attracting attention in another part of the "Park."

With all this hustle and bustle, Dave Guiney, the well-known weight thrower, with the chest of a colossus and seemingly the strength of a young Samson, was tossing the 16lbs shot about with fantastic dexterity. On a few occasions it was expected that he would fetch the sixteen-pounder within reach of beating the existing record throw of 48ft. 10in. He took first prize in the event. The track honours went to Pte. J. O'Donnell (Celtic A.C.) and B. Collins (Farranfore), both achieving doubles. A similar accomplishment was that of C. McCarthy (Blarney C.C.) in the cycling events. One of the highlights, incidentally the final item, was the alarm race, which attracted three battalions. It provided a humorous tail-end to a gala day. Previous to this the tug-of-war team from Croagh exercised their prowess in great style by disposing of Boherard and Sarsfield Barracks in impressive fashion.

The number of competitors listed on the programme reached mammoth proportions. In view of this, it was surprising to find many of the events actually attracting only a few athletes. The thinning-out process found a trio of champions in T. Wall (high jump), Pte. M. Kelly (sprints) and J. Barry (one mile flat) absentees. The first mentioned found it compulsory at the last moment to attend the Inter-provincial test at Derry, while a pulled muscle, sustained recently, prevented Kelly from competing. The sprint champion had a "try-out" prior to the opening of the sports, but found that he could not do himself justice. In the circumstances there is no blame to be attached to the organisers for the failure of the competitors to appear, as advertised.

The members of the committee who organised the meeting and the officials in charge were:—Committee—President, Col. T. Feely; Chairman, Major P. Curran; Hon. Sec., Lieut. T. McDonnell; Hon. Treas., Comdt. P. J. Murphy; Members—Comdt. J. Cooney, Capt. D. O'Sullivan, Lieuts. D. Long, J. O'Keefe, W. Doheny, J. O'Sullivan, P. Conington, S. Fitzgerald, Messrs. V. O'Connor, T. P. Murphy, J. C. Benson, D. Cowhey. Officials: Starter and Handicapper, Mr. V. O'Connor, N.A. & C.A. (I.); Judges (Track), Messrs. J. C. Benson, A. Moorhead and Lieut. S. Fitzgerald; Judges (Field), Messrs. T. P. Murphy, S. Twomey, Lieut. D. Long; Judge (Tug o' War), Capt. M. Grogan; Referee, Major S. McKeon; Timekeepers, Capt. D. O'Connor, B. S. M. Noctor; Recorder, Lieut. W. Doheny.

#### DETAILS

100 Yards Open Handicap—1st Heat—1, T. A. Daly (U.C.D.); 2,