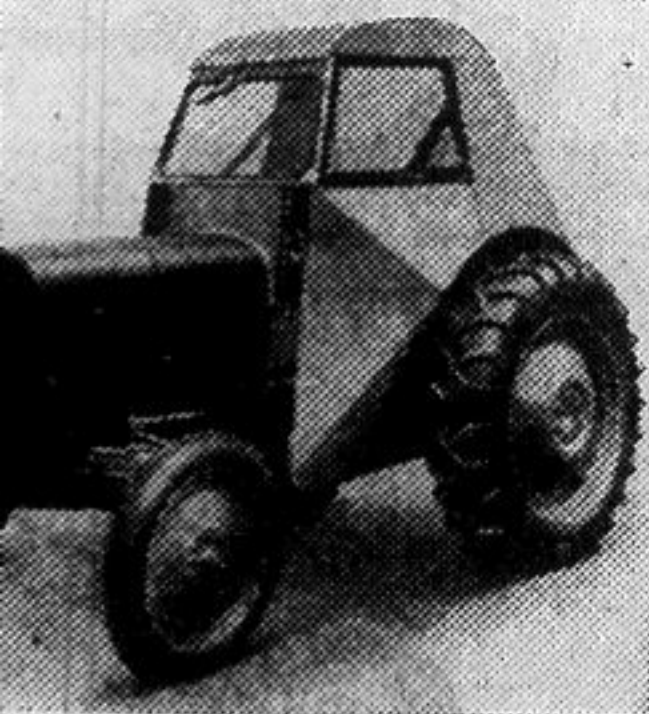


RINGS REWIRED.
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Cappamore, 28 in day classes and 61 in the evening classes; Croom, 13 in day classes and 75 in night classes; Dromcollogher, 24 in the day classes and 112 in the evening classes; Hospital 38 in day classes and 61 at night; Kilfinane, 14 during the day and 53 in the night classes; Newcastle West, 88 in day classes and 75 in the evening classes, and Shanagolden, 27 in the day classes and 102 in the night classes.

The C.E.O. added that during December, there were 33 Irish classes operating in County Limerick. The average attendance at each was 21 pupils. These figures, he said, were fairly satisfactory. However, some of the classes were weak, particularly the girls classes in Croom and Kilfinane schools. The Irish class in Casteltownconyers had to be abandoned and was now transferred to Clounagh.

The report of the C.E.O. was unanimously adopted.

OBITUARY

MR. GEORGE POWELL

We regret to announce the death of Mr. G. Powell, Annaholty, Birdhill. Remains were removed to Castleconnell Church on last Sunday evening. On the following day the funeral took place to family burial ground, Castleconnell.

On Monday, Requiem Mass was offered for the repose of his soul, the celebrant being Rev. Father Fogarty, P.P., Castleconnell. In the choir were:—Canon Molloy, P.P., Killaloe; Father Vaughan, P.P., Clonlara; Father Hogan, C.C., Castleconnell; Father White, C.C., do.; Father Casey, C.C., Killaloe; Father Dwyer, C.C., do.; Father Hayes, C.C., Clonlara.

OPENING OF CASTLE HOTEL

The Castle Hotel, Bunratty, was formally opened on Saturday night, 15th inst., with a grand ball. The dinner was served on sumptuous lines, and the guests, over two hundred in number, were loud in their praise of the service. The hotel, standing on its own grounds, commands a wonderful panoramic view of a beautiful countryside, which sweeps down to the Shannon. The furnishings and appointments have been carried out regardless of cost and too much credit cannot be given to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Corbett, the proprietors, for their initiative and enterprise. The manageress of the Castle is that very popular lady, Miss M. O'Callaghan, who was chatelaine of the Adare Arms for a long period.

WANTED—

selection of full-back. The general impression, prompted by experts who being ordinary mortals can't always be right, and rarely are, was that George Norton of Bective Rangers being the man challenging for the full-back berth, would have to prove himself better than the man holding it.

And this, without any beating about the bush, Norton failed to do. He played far below his normal form; in fact his most unimpressive game of the season. But still he gets Dudley Higgins's post. I think I can explain why. The reason, though it may sound queer, was Barney Mullan. Had the Clontarf winger played well enough to justify continued selection, which he did not do, then it is as sure as night follows day that Higgins would have held on to his job.

With Mullan out of the team, and he could not very well get in it, for he played like a spent force, Ireland would have been left without an expert place-kicker had Higgins remained, as undoubtedly he deserved to do on last Saturday's trial showing.

EXPERT PLACE KICKER.

So the selectors had really no alternative but to jettison the Ulsterman and take Norton, the expert place kicker, on board. I do not think there need be the least qualms about the new full-back. On his day, and it is very very rare he has a bad one, Norton has no superior in the country or any other—unless it be Gerry Murphy of Trinity.

On the extreme wings are two sons of Munster, Mick Lane of U.C.C. and Bertie O'Hanlon of Dolphin. I'm more than satisfied. I like this pair. There's something genuine about their rugby. Lane, who has filled out since I saw him earning his first cap against Wales at Swansea in 1947, was one of the big successes of the trial.

Bertie O'Hanlon, playing alongside a centre who telegraphs his passes—Sunday service, too—did not get the same chances as his fellow Munsterman, but what little he did there was a touch of real class in it.

It is, indeed, most fitting that in sport, good sportsmanship and loyalty should be rewarded, and this is one reason why I am elated that Bertie was able to make the grade last Saturday, for it is no denying the fact that by subordinating his natural instincts when playing a centre in the hope of getting his province out of a hole, he had jeopardised his international prospects.

BRAINS IN FOOTBALL.

Our two centres are Des. McKee, who runs hard, and lets his legs propel the brain, and Father Tom Gavin, who believes in the opposite and better policy of getting the

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