

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Irelands

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

1898 was a memorable year in the story of Gaelic games by Shannonside.

An unique position was created on January 16th, when Frank B. Dinneen of Ballylanders, then President of the G.A.A., was elected Secretary of the Association. Until the annual Congress on May 22nd he held the joint position of President and Secretary—the only person ever to hold these two key posts at the same time.

On February 6th, Limerick Commercial secured their second All-Ireland senior football title, when they defeated the Dublin Young Irelands for the 1896 final, 1-5 to 0-7, after leading 1-4 to 0-3 at the interval. The game was a thrilling one, and the Dubliners lost because they were confronted by a well trained team capable of meeting them at all points of the game. Commercial were the heavier team, and though not so clever at footwork as their opponents were, they were much the faster combination.

THE LIMERICK PLAYERS.

The Limerick players deserve to be remembered: Con Fitzgerald (captain), D. Birrane (goal), W. Guiry, John O'Riordan, M. Ryan, Larry Roche, James O'Riordan, Larry Sheehan, P. Roche, A. Quillinan, J. Buttimer, Tom Campion, James Dalton, W. Murphy, W. McNamara, Jack Murphy and J. Nash.

On May 1st, we had, at the Markets Field, one of the toughest fought County senior hurling finals in the history of the competition. The teams were abreast all through a vigorously contested and exciting game, and it was the general opinion that Kilfinane were lucky, indeed, to be a solitary point in front at the final whistle: Kilfinane, 4-9; Cappamore, 4-8.

Kilfinane later won Limerick's first All-Ireland senior hurling crown, and as they were helped by a number of Cappamore lads the teams which contested the County final will be recalled with interest:

Kilfinane: Denis Grimes (capt.), T. Ryan, P. Flynn, Maurice Flynn, T. Flynn, T. Casey, J. ("Sean Og") Hanley, John Finn, Michael Finn, F. Dunworth, Patrick O'Brien, T. Brazill, M. Downes, J. Corkery, M. Regan, A. Carey, J. Connery.

Cappamore: John Hynes (capt.), J. Conroy, D. Connolly, P. Mulcahy, J. Mulcahy, M. Davern, J. McNamara, P. Butler, J. Condon, J. Mackey, J. Reddan, M. Davern, E. Nugent, M. Hilliard, P. Cummins, W. Keffe, James Conroy.

Mr. Michael Deering, a Limerickman then resident in Cork, was appointed President of the G.A.A. at the annual Congress of the Association, held in Thurles on May 22nd. Mr. J. F. Halvey was elected a Vice-President, whilst Frank B. Dinneen was re-elected Secretary. It is doubtful if any other County had three representatives holding key posts on the Central Council at the same time

at any stage of the Association's history.

PADDY LEAHY.

At Millstreet Sports on September 6th, Paddy Leahy of Cregane, a member of the most famous athletic family the world has known, made a world's record in the running high jump at 6ft. 4½ins. — a record that held good for many years. On the same occasion he covered 23ft. 8½ins. in the running long jump, and 49ft. 1in in the running hop, step and jump.

Limerick won first Munster Senior Hurling Championship honours when the Kilfinane selection defeated Cork's Blackrock pick, 4-9 to 1-6, at Tipperary on September 25th.

The Kilfinane lads were back at Tipperary on November 20th for the All-Ireland Final, in which their opponents were Tullaroan (Kilkenny). The Leinstermen had the better of the exchanges in the first half, and were well worth their interval lead of 2-4 to 1-1. Excitement was intense after the interval as Limerick slowly closed the gap. They met a stubborn resistance and with time almost spent it looked as if their best efforts were to be in vain. They put in a whirlwind finish, however, and a great goal in the closing minutes brought the hurling blue-riband to Shannonside for the first time.

The players on that historic occasion were:

D. Grimes (captain), J. Reidy (goal), P. Buskin, J. Cattrell, J. ("Sean Og") Hanley, M. Flynn, P. Flynn, M. Finn, John Finn, P. O'Brien, T. Brazill, J. Condon, J. Hynes, P. Butler, P. Mulcahy, J. Flood, M. Downes.

THE YOUNG IRELAND HURLING CLUB.

Into this crowded picture we must endeavour to fit the foundation of the Young Ireland Hurling Club, an event which passed almost unnoticed at the time, but one which was to have a profound influence on the subsequent history of Limerick hurling.

The need for such a club was long felt in the city, and its establishment filled a gap and catered for a section of Gaelic fans whose existence was almost ignored in the preceding years, particularly since the revival following the "Parnell Split" when many of the old city clubs passed out of existence.

Just as the G.A.A. was the child of the I.R.B., who secretly sponsored its foundation and nourished its early life, the Young Ireland club sprung from the Young Ireland movement, so prominent in the Ireland of the closing years of the nineteenth century.

The Young Irelanders laboured to rebuild an Irish nation on the firm foundations of national character and national self-respect.

In the history of the movement we encounter appalling years of social, intellectual and political de-

gradation and widespread misery and poverty; pictures of the Young Irelanders planning schemes for a nation's resurrection; composing immortal verse; writing brilliant newspaper articles; sending forth volumes of great literary and historical merit; delivering fearless addresses on the platforms or in the dock; listening unflinchingly to sentences of death and transportation beyond the seas; escaping to foreign countries and dreaming in exile of an Ireland free from alien contamination!

PRIDE OF RACE AND SELF-RELIANCE.

Davis and his colleagues persistently preached pride of race and self-reliance, gave our people a clear cut conception of nationality, unblurred by political expediency and untarnished by selfish ambitions, and left a splendid heritage of Anglo-Irish literature as an inspiration to Irishmen and women for all time.

Their teachings were founded on truth and justice, on a holy hatred of oppression, and on inalienable national right. The Young Ireland party brought a new soul into Ireland and removed much of the dross which had corroded and dimmed the pure spirit of Irish nationality.

The Young Ireland club derived its name from the Young Ireland movement and was founded by leading members of that organisation, notably Mr. Johnny Sweeney, who was the prime mover, assisted by Messrs. Michael McInerney (Davis Street), James Fitzgerald (Guinness's), Jack Murphy (carpenter, Mungret St.), Pat Cowhey and Jim Gleeson. All the early meetings of the club were held at the Young Ireland Society Rooms, then situated at 55 Thomas Street, Limerick.

The first appearance of the club (the sixtieth anniversary of whose foundation occurs this year) on Limerick playing fields will be dealt with in the next article, which will also deal with Tom Hayes, the great Limerick hurler of the Young Ireland Club.

PART 1

GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Irelands (Cont.)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

THE success of the Young Ireland club was assured from the start. In the first place a number of its founders were members of the Shamrock hurling club, notably Michael McInerney, Johnny Sweeney, Paddy Farrell, and Frank O'Shaughnessy, and it was their wish that Shamrock should provide the hurling power behind the new venture, which was founded on broader national lines than the club from which it originated.

The strength of the Shamrocks, however, was demonstrated, when a few months after the decision to throw in their lot with Young Irelands, the old club won the delayed final of the 1898 Senior Hurling Championship, which was played at the Markets Field in April, 1899. On April 16th they met Caherline, and after one of the best County finals of the period the issue was undecided; Shamrocks 3-5, Caherline 2-8.

The replay took place the following Sunday, and Shamrocks were awarded the championship as Caherline, owing to alleged interference from spectators, left the field ten minutes from time, with the score reading: Shamrocks 1-6, Caherline 1-2.

THE TEAMS.

The teams will be of interest:

Shamrocks — Patrick O'Reilly (capt.), P. Moloney (goal), Patrick Dwyer, Thomas Reals, J. Flannigan, Michael Hogan, Johnny Sweeney, M. Slattery, W. Brennan, J. Braddish, J. Howard, C. Kelly, J. Murphy, Andy Kelly, J. Slattery, J. McMahon and J. O'Dea.

Caherline — M. O'Neill (capt.), P. Creamer, J. Mulcahy, M. Ryan, J. Muldoon, P. Muldoon, J. Flood, W. Ryan, T. Lloyd, T. Wixted, D. Riordan, J. Fennel, M. Lawlor, P. Sweeney, D. Hourigan, M. Leahy and J. Kiely.

Some difficulty appears to have arisen because of the late finish of the 1898 championship, and Young Ireland could not get admittance to the 1899 competition. The Shamrock lads did not participate, however, but the team continued in existence and went to the final of the Cratloe Tournament, in which they drew with the local lads, 3-5 all, on St. Patrick's Day, 1901, but lost the replay on April 21st, 5-7 to 2-3.

Young Ireland appeared dogged with bad luck when the County Board decided on abandoning the 1901 championship in an effort to get their competitions up to date. Despite this, however, it was March 9th, 1902, before the final for 1900 was played.

YOUNG IRELAND HURLERS' FIRST APPEARANCE.

The Young Ireland hurlers made

their first appearance at the Markets Field, a venue with which the famous city club have many associations, on February 2nd, 1902, when they beat St. Michael's, 4-10 to 4-5, in a friendly encounter.

The "Saints" team that day included a few veterans, notably the ever popular Michael Joyce, afterwards Mayor of Limerick and M.P. for the city; Dick Gleeson, one-time Treasurer of the G.A.A.; Michael McKnight and Dan McNeice.

Young Ireland followed up their initial success with a victory over the local club at Ballysheedy, and beat Newport, 1-6 to 1-3 in the Castleconnell Tournament.

Their first reverse was at the hands of Kilfinny, who beat them 3-11 to 1-7 in a friendly game at the Markets Field.

On July 27th they were visitors to Cork, and at Turner's Cross met a selection from the Redmonds and Sarsfields clubs, who beat them 3-11 to 1-7, after a great game and a valuable one for the Limerick lads.

THEIR FIRST BIG WIN.

Young Ireland were pitted against Castleconnell (County Champions) in the first round of the Senior Hurling Championship and the Markets Field, on August 24th, housed an immense gathering for what proved one of the great games of the Limerick area—the city men winning their first big engagement, 2-14 to 3-7.

Young Ireland followed up with a success against Pallasbeg (1-6 to 0-3) and revenged a previous defeat by Kilfinny (2-1 to 1-1). Then they faced another great hurling stronghold, Croom, in the semi-final, and came through with colours still flying, to the tune of 5-11 to 2-5.

They were in the County Senior Hurling final at the first asking, with their opponents Monagea. The great day was May 31st, 1903, and the venue the Markets Field. It was a grand game, the City men giving a brilliant display of overhead play, to win 2-9 to 0-5.

THE TEAMS.

Mr. Denis "Spencer" Lyons, of Croom, refereed, and the teams were:

Young Irelands—James Flanagan (capt.), Tim O'Brien, P. Moloney, T. Casey, T. Flynn, J. Connell, J. Creamer, M. Slattery, M. Kelly, C. Kelly, A. Kelly, P. O'Dea, J. Fitzgerald, M. Real, T. Brazill, M. Hogan, J. Sweeney.

Monagea—D. Begley, D. Danaher, M. Danaher, M. King, W. King, B. King, T. Shanahan, M. Shanahan, J. O'Connell, P. O'Connell, T. Sheehan, J. Hogan, P. Hogan, T. Greene, J. Hennessy, M. McCarthy, P. Hough.

Young Ireland continued their winning way in 1903 and in Croom Castle demesne beat Caherline 3-3 to 1-3 in the opening round of the championship.

FIRST RECORDED APPEARANCE OF TOM HAYES.

Then they had a visit from the Cork Redmonds and reversed the verdict of the previous year—2-11 to 2-3, a great achievement against what was then one of the best club sides in Munster.

This was the first recorded appearance of Tom Hayes in the Young Ireland jersey, and he filled the goalkeeping position. Captain on the same occasion was the late Micky Hartigan, the other members of the team being: P. O'Connell, D. Mullane, T. Feely, A. Kelly, C. Kelly, M. Rael, J. Riordan, P. Mahony, P. McDonnell, P. Frawley, M. Danaher, T. O'Brien, M. Slattery, M. Hogan.

From that day, October 4th, 1903, the association of Tom Hayes with the Young Ireland Club has been an unbroken one. For twenty-six long years he adorned the blue and gold colours and retired in a blaze of glory; for his last game was with the Young Ireland side that beat Rathkeale, 5-7 to 2-1, at Croom on April 7th, 1929, in the 1928 County Senior Hurling final. Tom was again between the Young Ireland "sticks" on that memorable occasion.

FAMILY ASSOCIATION WITH HURLING.

Born in the Post Office in Patrickswell (which his father built) around the period of the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Tom was introduced to the glamour of hurling at a very early age, for his father and five uncles comprised the backbone of the old Crecora team, then one of the best known hurling combinations in Limerick.

The Hayes household was the scene of many animated discussions on hurling, and the doings of the local lads were threshed out there almost nightly, when many members of the team gathered for a chat.

Tom's father was the official hurling ball maker for the Crecora team and activity in the parish was so pronounced at times that he was often called upon to provide two balls a week to keep all the players engaged, the usual hurling ground being Carroll's field.

THE TROUBLES OF THE PERIOD.

Tom received his early education in Patrickswell National School, but eventually had to withdraw from same under circumstances which reflect the troubles of the period.

An emergency man got Mullane's farm in Patrickswell and when his children appeared at Patrickswell School, Tom's father withdrew his children and put a walk of over three miles on them to Crecora, where Tom was a fellow pupil of County Board President, Very Rev. E. Canon Punch, P.P.

The Hayes family suffered in another way also for their principles, for the father was fined £5—a big sum then—for withdrawing his children from Patrickswell.

The unfolding of a great hurling career with Young Ireland will be dealt with in the next article.

PART 2

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

EIGHT Young Ireland men played on the Limerick team which fought the 1903 Munster Senior Hurling Final with the far-famed Cork Dungourney pick.

Played at Tipperary on October 18th, a great crowd saw what proved an exciting and closely contested decider, which Cork won 2-9 to 1-5, gaining the decisive scores in the final seven minutes of play.

The teams on that occasion will be of interest:

Cork—D. Harrington, captain; J. Harrington, D. Sheehan, M. O'Leary, M. Linehan, W. Moloney, P. O'Sullivan, J. Kelly, Jim Kelleher, W. Hennessy, J. Desmond, T. Coughlan, J. Ronayne, S. Riordan, D. O'Keeffe, D. McGrath, W. Mackessy.

Limerick—J. O'Connell, captain; T. O'Brien, J. Riordan, P. O'Dea, M. Rael, M. Hogan, P. Mahony, M. Slattery (Young Ireland), T. Flynn, M. Finn, P. Brazill (Ardpatrick), M. Danaher (Murroe), T. Lloyd (Caherline), P. Bourke (Patrickswell), M. Feely, J. Mul-lane (Croom), M. King (Monegay).

HIS FIRST AWAY MATCH.

Tom Hayes played his first away match in the Young Ireland colours when he lined out at Cork against the Redmonds on November 8th, 1903. Although the Limerick lads were beaten ten points to seven, Tom, who was between the sticks, played a magnificent game and did not concede a major score. In fact so solid was his work that the Cork forwards raised their sights in the second half and concentrated on scoring points, to win 0-10 to 1-3.

Young Ireland secured their second County hurling title, when their under sixteen players won one of the first Juvenile Championships played anywhere. That decider took place on June 12th, 1904, at the Markets Field and resulted: Young Ireland, 2-8; Claug-haun, 1-2. It was the commencement of a great rivalry between the famed city clubs which blossomed to full maturity a decade and a half later.

Referee of that under age decider was Michael Keyes, who was Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the last Inter-Party Government. A few weeks later he was captain of the Limerick junior hurling side that played Dublin at The Thatch Grounds, Drumcondra, in a friendly game.

REMARKABLE "SAVES."

It was always the policy of the Young Ireland mentors to play as many games as possible with outside teams. On October 23rd, 1904, the Limerick lads were visitors to Fermoy, where they had a very hard fought game with Dungourney, and pulled away in a thrilling finish to win 5-4 to 1-7. Tom Hayes gave another outstanding display on this occasion, and made some remarkable "saves." His puck outs, too, were of surpassing length and many of his admirers of those early days often wondered afterwards how it was that he did not make the net minding job his own. Tom, however, preferred the freedom and adventure of an outfield berth, and it was in such he did most of the hurling of his heyday.

In the Blackwater Tournament, Young Ireland beat several well-known teams to reach the final, in which they met an unexpected reverse, suffering defeat at the hands of a lively and robust Tulla team, who won 4-6 to 2-6.

One of the great games of the period resulted from the meeting of Castleconnell and Young Ireland

in the County Senior Hurling Championship, played at the Markets Field on March 12th, 1905. The teams were together all through a thrill packed hour, and Young Ireland just got their head in front for the final whistle, to win 3-5 to 1-10.

UNEXPECTED REVERSE.

The city lads met an unexpected reverse afterwards in the county semi-final, losing to a little fancied Cappamore side, 3-6 to 1-7. This game was played at Castleconnell, a very popular venue, and attracted over four thousand spectators—an unusually big muster for a hurling game in those days. Cappamore later proved their worth by winning the county crown, their first success, and one they did not repeat for half a century.

Young Ireland were visitors to Listowel on July 16th, and met with a rare surprise at the hands of Tralee Celts, who showed that the hurling tradition was much alive in North Kerry by winning, 5-5 to 1-2.

A tournament success over O'Callaghan's Mills at the Markets Field, 5-10 to 1-8, opened the road for another meeting with Tulla, who again confirmed their superiority by winning 1-15 to 1-10.

Young Ireland gained a very sweet victory over the county champions, Cappamore, when they beat them, 2-4 to 0-3, at the Markets Field, on March 18th, 1906, in the Fermoy Cup Final. Paddy Leahy, the well-known athlete, refereed.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN COUNTY COLOURS.

The following Sunday, Tom Hayes, made his first recorded appearance in Limerick County colours, when he lined out against Waterford, at Tipperary, in the Croke Cup competition. It was a winning debut, for the Shannonsiders emerged victorious, 1-14 to 2-3. The Limerick players were:—D. Connolly, captain; P. Butler, W. Coffey, P. Dillon, J. Leonard, J. Lane, M. Derragh, J. Davis, T. O'Brien, M. Raels, T. Hayes, M. Frawley, J. Sweeney, M. Dwyer, J. Riordan, T. Herbert, J. Hickey.

Young Ireland were visitors to Cashel on May 6th, where they lost to Dublin Commercials, 1-12 to 2-3, in a tournament in aid of the local C.B.S. As on many other occasions, they were accompanied on this trip by the Commercials footballers, who also suffered defeat by Dublin Keatings.

The city lads were dismissed from the 1906 Championship by Kilfinane, who beat them 2-10 to 1-8, but the losers had some measure of satisfaction a few weeks later when they met and defeated their "bogey" team—Tulla—in a game that proved one of the best witnessed at the Markets Field that season.

The 1907 title race also ended abruptly and at an early stage for Young Ireland when, before a large crowd at Bruff, Caherline beat them 4-12 to 1-4. The two contestants were visitors to Nenagh three weeks later for an inter-Co. tournament, in which Caherline beat Clomanto (Kilkenny) 4-9 to 0-3, and Young Ireland just failed against Fontenoys (Dublin)—1-6 to 1-5.

The first Munster Championship appearance of Tom Hayes was with the Limerick team defeated by Tipperary at Cork Athletic Grounds, 2-12 to 0-4, on June 23rd, 1907. All the thrills of that occasion came from the football game,

in which Commercials and Grange-mickler drew at six points each.

THE LIMERICK PLAYERS.

The Limerick players in those games will be of interest:

Hurling—Tim Lloyd, Jim Flood, William Ryan, Patrick Creamer, Michael Kiely, Thomas Kiely, James Bourke, James Neligan, Richard Power, John Leonard, Patrick Flaherty, John Aherne, Thomas Hayes, Michael Quinian, Michael Whelan, John Riordan, Michael Danaher.

Football—A. Quillinan, captain; M. O'Dwyer, J. Riordan, W. Daly, P. Madigan, J. Duane, J. Birmingham, J. Larkin, D. Hogan, P. O'Sullivan, J. Ryan, P. Cronin, J. Davis, M. O'Sullivan, P. Cassidy, J. Riordan, J. McCarthy.

Young Ireland showed a return to their best form when figuring in a great game for the Senior Hurling Championship at the Markets Field on November 10th, 1907. Matched against St. Patrick's, it was a neck-and-neck struggle all through and the teams were level a minute from the end. Just on time Young Ireland scored a goal, leaving them winners of a remarkable match, on the score 1-6 to 1-3.

The winning of the second championship, the fight for the Murphy Cup and the great games at Fethard for the magnificent Croke-Fennelly trophy, will be amongst the matters described in our next article.

Part 3

24/5/58

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

YOUNG IRELAND opened 1908 with a great win over Murroe, 5-5 to 1-2 at the Markets Field, in the Murphy Cup hurling competition. Mr. Michael McKnight refereed, and the teams were:—

Young Ireland—T. O'Brien, captain; J. Reals, goal; J. McSweeney, T. Hayes, J. Flanagan, P. McCarthy, R. O'Dea, J. Creneear, M. O'Dwyer, J. McNamara, P. Sullivan, P. Doyle, J. Fitzgerald, P. Frawley, M. Reel, J. Ryan, M. Hogan.

Murroe—M. Danagher, captain; P. Cooke, N. Cooke, M. Bourke, J. Power, J. Haney, P. Davis, W. Dulea, J. Dulea, P. Rainsford, W. Rainsford, J. O'Brien, P. Horan, W. Kenny, P. Hogan, C. Holmes, J. Ryan.

Three weeks later Young Ireland qualified for the Murphy Cup final at the expense of St. Patricks, 1-12 to 2-6; Croom winning the second semi-final from Rathkeale, 5-9 to 1-11.

A THRILL-PACKED ENCOUNTER.

The final played at the Markets Field on June 7th, 1908, was a thrill packed encounter between two well matched teams, which Croom won in a whirlwind finish. On the same occasion Commercial's won the Murphy Football Cup, defeating Foynes after a stirring struggle, and thus reversing the championship result of a few months previous.

Commercial's and Croom had a dispute with the County Board over prizes for the Murphy Cup winners, and were strongly supported by the Young Ireland Club. When the Board refused to meet what was really a most reasonable request all three withdrew from the 1908 County Championships.

Young Ireland had the Dublin O'Toole's as visitors to the Markets Field on June 21st, for a game in aid of the Limerick Branch of the Gaelic League, and won, 3-17 to 3-6. On the same occasion Commercial's were defeated by the Keatings of Dublin, 0-5 to 0-2.

One of the most richly endowed tournaments ever opened to senior hurling clubs was that organised at Fethard to provide funds for the renovation of the local Catholic church and the building of a parochial residence.

TROPHY VALUED AT £1,000.

His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, Patron of the G.A.A., presented a magnificent silver trophy for the winners. This trophy had been bequeathed to his Grace by his predecessor, Most Rev. Dr. Croke, who had been presented with it in 1886 by the Gaels of America. It was a large silver jug, swinging on silver uprights, with two silver goblets on the sides and a silver ewer beneath. The uprights terminated in a flexible artistic handle. The jug was lined inside with finest porcelain, and the goblets were gilt within. Its value at the time was stated to be not less than £1,000.

Young Ireland were the only Limerick club invited to participate, and in the opening game, played on September 20th, they beat Castlebridge of Wexford, 6-14 to 5-11.

In the semi-final the Limerick lads beat the Dublin champions, the far famed Kickhams, 3-10 to 1-3.

THE FINAL.

The final was played at Fethard on September 12th, 1909. There was a great crowd in attendance, a special train running from Limerick packed to capacity. Three bands were present, and with the field in excellent condition the teams lined out—Young Ireland and Thurles Blues.

To fully appreciate the value of the opposition it is sufficient to

mention that Thurles had a few months earlier (on June 27th) won the All-Ireland senior hurling title at Athy, beating Dublin Kickhams, 3-15 to 1-5. The pair had earlier drawn at Jones' Road: Thurles, 2-5; Kickham's, 1-8.

Young Ireland, by their substantial semi-final win over the Kickham's, attracted much attention and it can be said that the game lived up to the expectations of the hurling fans and proved a great battle for supremacy.

The ebb and flow of the game favoured one side, then the other, for fifty-five minutes of an unforgettable hour, and the crowd were in excitable mood as both teams reached wonderful heights in their mastery of the caman.

DEFENCES SHONE.

Defences shone in magnificent effort as their lines were stormed in successive waves, and it was only when the Thurles lads realised the impossibility of reaching the Limerick net and sent over a quartette of fast points that victory came to their banner in an exciting finish on the tally: Thurles Blues, 1-11; Young Ireland, 1-7.

John Fielding of Mooncoin refereed, and the captain of the Young Ireland side was the late Johnny Creneear, who gave an outstanding display. Other Limerick lads to shine were Tom Hayes, Timmie O'Brien, P. Frawley, J. Flanagan, J. and M. Reals. The Thurles stars were Tom Semple, Hugh Shelly, Andy Carew, Paddy Brolan, J. O'Brien, P. McLoughney and T. Kerwick.

TOM HAYES AS YOUNG IRELAND CAPTAIN.

Tom Hayes was elected Captain of the Young Ireland Club at the annual general meeting held in December, 1909. Other officers elected on the same occasion were: Chairman, James Murphy; Vice-Chairman, G. Gleeson; Treasurer, Pat Flynn; Joint Secretaries, P. Flynn and J. J. McMahon; Vice-Captain, Tom Reals.

On March 27th, 1910, Tom Hayes was a member of the Limerick team that opposed a London Irish selection, which included five Limerickmen—James Hayes of Murroe (Captain), Sean Og Hanley and D. Grimes of Kilsfinane, C. O'Shaughnessy of Fedamore and P. Crotty of Kilmallock. The Saanonside team won 2-11 to 1-5.

Tom Hayes and Timmie O'Brien were the Young Ireland men included on the Castleconnell pick that opposed the great Kilkenny side, Erin's Own, then at the zenith of their power, at Waterford, on August 14th, where the Limerick lads created a near sensation by winning 5-3 to 1-1.

The real sensation came at Tralee on October 16th, where Limerick beat Cork 5-1 to 4-2 in the final of the Munster Senior Hurling Championship. The "gate" was £58, a contrast to the present Munster record of £6,708 16s. 8d., set at Limerick Gaelic Grounds in 1954.

LIMERICK MEN IN RARE FORM.

The Limerick men were in rare form that memorable day at Tralee. They fought with great determination, their hurling was magnificent, their combination excellent, their swiftness in getting possession of the ball, and their long and well delivered shots were more than Cork could withstand. Limerick set a terrific fast pace at the start and were well worth their interval lead of three goals. Cork played better on the resumption, but Limerick kept up the pace and the tussle for victory was neck and neck. Cork launched some fierce onslaughts but the defence of Paddy Flaherty, Timmie O'Brien and Tom Hayes has rarely been

equalled on a hurling field and carried Limerick to a magnificent and well deserved success.

UNFINISHED GAME.

Young Ireland opened their assault on the 1910 County Senior Hurling crown with a lively and closely fought game with Commercial's, which was played at the Markets Field. The game was unfinished, the referee, E. Halvey, reporting that a Commercial's player refused to leave the field when ordered to do so by him for having assaulted a goal umpire. This incident occurred nine minutes from the time play should conclude, with Young Ireland leading, 4-2 to 4-1.

The County Board awarded the match to Young Ireland, but the latter refused to accept a bloodless victory and insisted on a replay, which took place at the Markets Field on February 5th, 1911, and which Young Ireland won, 3-1 to 2-0.

Young Ireland created quite a surprise in the county semi-final, when they defeated a fancied Croom side very readily, 5-4 to 1-0.

THE GAME.

The game took place in the Markets Field, with Joe Herbert in charge. The teams were:

Young Ireland—P. Scanlan, goal; T. Hayes, captain; J. Gubbins, M. Halvey, J. Flanagan, J. McNamara, A. Kelly, C. McGill, J. Hayes, F. Murphy, J. Ryan, P. Frawley, T. McMahon, J. McSweeney, J. Brennan.

Croom—M. Toomey, goal; P. Mangan, captain; M. Mangan, T. Mangan, J. Mangan, J. Mullane, M. Mullane, T. Bourke, T. Hayes, E. Halvey, M. Feely, M. Bray, J. Lane, P. Lyons, J. O'Shea.

The 1910 County final was played at the Markets Field on March 19th, 1911, and proved a great struggle for supremacy between two splendid teams, who fought doggedly and determinedly to the last for the honours, which Young Ireland secured by the narrowest of margins, in an epic finish, Tom Hayes taking the winning tally from a free almost on the call of time, to leave the final score: Young Ireland, 4-2; Castleconnell, 4-1.

THE TEAMS.

Jim O'Riordan refereed, and the teams that memorable day were:

Young Ireland—Tom Hayes, captain; P. Scanlan, goal; M. Halvey, J. Ryan, J. Flanagan, J. Creneear, J. McNamara, P. Frawley, C. McGill, J. McSweeney, J. Brennan, T. McMahon, F. Murphy, T. O'Brien, J. Murphy.

Castleconnell—J. "Tyler" Mackey, captain; J. Ryan, goal; M. McCarthy, P. Vaughan, P. Herbert, J. Leonard, J. Carroll, C. Mackey, M. Sweeney, J. Benn, J. Vaughan, W. Carroll, B. O'Connor, M. Danaher, T. Brennan.

PART 4

31/5/58

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

(CONTINUED)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

BALLINGARRY, who had been defeated by Ardpark 6-2 to 5-1 in the final of the 1910 Intermediate Hurling Championship at the Markets Field on April 30th, 1911, created a first class sensation when they beat the county title holders, Young Ireland, 3-4 to 2-4, at Adare on May 20th in the opening round of the Senior Hurling Championship. It was a thrill-packed game played before a great crowd.

All the exciting incidents of the hard-fought Munster final at Tralee, in which Limerick created the biggest upheaval for many a day, were re-enacted at Cork on June 25th when Cork and Limerick lined out in the final of the Brussels Hurling Tournament for the Stopford Greene Cup and medals. Interest was so great that the crowd was almost double that which witnessed the provincial decider. A large contingent, accompanied by a pipers' band, travelled from Limerick and witnessed one of the hardest fought games for many a day in which the Shannonsiders gave an excellent account of themselves and were unlucky to be on the wrong side of the ledger at the end of a very low scoring game.

THE LIMERICK PLAYERS.

Rev. Dr. Irwin, U.C.C., threw in the ball, the Limerick players being: John ("Tyler") Mackey, Captain; J. Ryan, goal; P. Vaughan, P. Herbert, J. Carroll, B. O'Connor (Castleconnell); C. Scanlan, E. Clancy, J. Clancy, M. Harrington, S. Gleeson (Fedamore); J. Madden, M. Madden (Commercials); T. Mangan, M. Feely (Croom); T. Hayes (Young Ireland); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale).

Young Ireland were honoured by an invitation to play at Jones' Road, Dublin, in the annual game in connection with the Gaelic League Oireachtas, and proved their worth by beating the Dublin champions, Faughs, 8-4 to 4-4.

Young Ireland Club made a very sporting gesture in connection with the selection of the County team for the 1911 All-Ireland Championship series.

It will be remembered that the Castleconnell pick were most unlucky the previous year in losing All-Ireland laurels to Wexford in one of the most controversial finals ever fought for the hurling blue riband.

NICE GESTURE.

Mindful of this, Young Ireland after dethroning Castleconnell to capture the County Crown, waived their right to the selection of the County team and asked the County Board to allow Castleconnell continue as selectors—a proposition to which the latter agreed.

It was October 29th before the Munster semi-final came up for decision at Tipperary, where Limerick qualified for the decider with a substantial win from Clare, 10-5 to 6-1.

Three weeks later, the Shannonsiders gained a remarkable victory over Tipperary in the Munster Final, played at the Cork Athletic Grounds before six thousand spectators.

The hurling was fast and furious and excitement reached fever pitch as the teams fought the issue with rare abandon and the lead changed hands on numerous occasions. A great Tipperary burst at the commencement of the final quarter got them seven points ahead and almost assured of victory.

"A GOLDEN GOAL."

Some of the crowd were actually hitting homewards when Limerick fought back in unrelenting fashion. Mick Feely blazed the victory trail when he shot a marvellous goal from midfield; and as Limerick returned to the assault following brilliant work by Con Scanlan, Paddy Flaherty and Egan Clancy, the Tipperary defence conceded a vital free from which Tom Hayes collected a golden goal. "Tyler" Mackey returned the delivery and the now badly rattled backs had to yield another opportunity to the Young Ireland sharpshooters, who made it level pegging with two minutes play remaining. In a whirlwind finish Limerick captured the crown with a last great assault, which swept everything before it to lodge the ball in the Tipperary net, leaving the final score:—Limerick, 5-3; Tipperary, 4-3.

LIMERICK TEAM.

The Limerick players that memorable day were:—J. "Tyler" Mackey, capt.; J. Ryan, goal; P. Vaughan, J. Carroll, M. Sweeney, B. O'Connor (Castleconnell), C. Scanlan, S. Gleeson, E. Treacy, E. Clancy, M. Burke, M. Harrington (Fedamore), J. O'Shea, M. Feely (Croom), T. Hayes (South Liberties), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), T. Hayes (Young Ireland).

Young Ireland had ample revenge for their surprise championship defeat at the hands of Ballingarry when the pair met at the Markets Field in the final for the John Daly Cup. The expectation of a great game brought a huge crowd to the venue, and Mr. John Daly, the veteran Fenian, threw in the ball. The match was a complete flop, as the city men were never extended and won all too readily, 7-0 to 1-0.

THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL.

Unprecedented interest centered in the All-Ireland Final meeting of Limerick and Kilkenny, which was fixed for Cork Athletic Grounds on February 18th, 1912. The Noresiders then boasted a grand array of first class caman wielders and were at the height of their glory in the best spell ever recorded in the story of hurling by an individual county.

It is a high tribute indeed to the Limerickmen that they were strongly fancied against such powerful opposition. The entire County were behind them to a man and despite the early season huge crowds travelled in several special trains serving the city and county.

A big disappointment, however, was in store. Following heavy rains the grounds were in a very bad condition, but Limerick expressed their willingness to play. The members of the Central Council present, however, declared the pitch unplayable and postponed the contest, later re-fixing it for Thurles on April 2nd.

LIMERICK REFUSED TO PLAY

Limerick refused to play in the

new venue and appealed to the annual All-Ireland Congress, which, by 53 votes to 17, upheld Thurles as the venue. Limerick persisted in their refusal and thus threw away the opportunity of testing their worth with the Noresiders, who got a bloodless victory. The Limerick County Board was subsequently suspended for refusing to field a team.

Limerick lined out for the opening round of the 1912 championship on May 19th and beat Waterford, 4-5 to 1-0. The Shannonsiders were afterwards nominated to represent Munster against Ulster (Antrim) in the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship semi-final at Jones' Road, Dublin, on August 25th, and won, 11-4 to 2-0.

A week later, at Waterford, the Munster Championship semi-final was decided. There was an excellent attendance, reflected in a "gate" of £240, ten special trains serving the venue.

STUBBORNLY CONTESTED GAME.

Rev. Fr. Dollard ("Slievenamon") threw in the ball and the game proved one of the toughest ever waged for Munster honours. Stubbornly contested from the start, the teams were level at 1-2 when the interval came. Limerick held a slight advantage all through the second half and were in a single point lead as the referee prepared to blow the final whistle. Limerick were attacking, but a long, raking Cork clearance found an unmarked Leaside player, who sent a pile-driver to the net with the last stroke of an unforgettable tussle, which Cork won, 2-2 to 1-3.

That defeat might be written the end of a glorious if most unfortunate Limerick hurling era. The men who figured in it were: J. "Tyler" Mackey, capt.; J. Ryan (goal), B. Connors, P. Vaughan, J. Carroll (Castleconnell), E. Clancy, M. Harrington, E. Treacy, C. Scanlan, S. Gleeson (Fedamore), M. Feely, T. Mangan, J. Shea (Croom), J. O'Donnell (Bruff), T. Hayes (Young Ireland), T. Hayes (South Liberties), P. Flaherty (Croom).

TOM HAYES IN ROLE OF REFEREE.

A week later Tom Hayes made his debut as a referee, the first pair to come under his control being the junior hurlers of Commercials and Ballybrown, in a game at the Markets Field, which the latter won.

He immediately made his mark in this new sphere and within a month was entrusted with the onerous task of controlling a real "needle" encounter, in which Fedamore beat Castleconnell, 3-6 to 4-1.

His splendid handling of that difficult assignment brought many demands for his services and it can be said in all truth that during the following two decades he had at one time or another all the great teams of the land—club and county—under his whistle.

PART 5

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH
(CONTINUED)

TOM Hayes had the distinction of playing in the first game for the historic Thomond Feis Shield. The Thomond Feis was founded in 1903, the chief originator being Rev. Timothy Lee, C.C., St. John's, who was Parish Priest of Croom when he died on Christmas Day, 1907.

The first Feis was held in June, 1904, and soon became the greatest all Gaelic Festival in Ireland. In 1913 the G.A.A. granted permission for a four county tournament in aid of the Festival and the Thomond Feis Shield was offered for competition. This magnificent Shield was probably the best trophy ever offered in Limerick for hurling honours. It consisted of silver plaques and richly coloured enamelling, highly engraved and ornamented.

The first match for this fine prize took place at the Markets Field on April 6th, 1913, before a splendid attendance (gate receipts were £131 11s. 6d.). Limerick met a much fancied Clare side—the Dalcassians won the All-Ireland titles in both junior and senior the following year—but Shannonside proved complete masters as reflected in the final scores: Limerick, 5-2; Clare, 2-2.

THE LIMERICK TEAM.

The Limerick players were: P. Herbert (captain), J. Ryan (goal), P. Vaughan, J. Keane, M. Doherty, M. Keane (Castleconnell); E. Treacy, E. Clancy, M. Harrington, T. Hayes, M. Hayes, S. Gleeson (Grange); M. Feely, J. Shea, T. Mangan (Croom); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); T. Hayes (Young Ireland).

This was one of the last games played with teams of seventeen aside, as the number of players on a team was reduced to fifteen at the All-Ireland Congress held on Easter Sunday that year. It was also the last match Limerick played in their old colours, for at the annual County Convention, held on May 1st, it was decided that the colours to be worn in the future inter-county contests by Limerick would be green and white.

Ten thousand people paid £245 to see Limerick beat Tipperary, 4-0 to 3-1 in the Shield Final at the Markets Field on May 18th. It proved a great game, with the issue in doubt to the last whistle. The referee was Mr. Tommy Irwin of Cork.

Cork had an unexpectedly easy win over Limerick, 3-3 to 1-2, at Thurles, on July 13th, in the opening round of the Munster senior hurling championship.

LIMERICK WIN OVER KILKENNY.

A fortnight later Limerick surprised even their most ardent admirers with a magnificent win over Kilkenny at Jones's Road, Dublin, in the final of the tournament in aid of the Father Matthew Hall, Cork and for a much prized trophy—the Cardinal Agliardi medals. As this was the first meeting of the pair since the abortive 1911 All-Ireland final considerable inter-

est centred in the game, which proved a very good one and exceptionally fast. Limerick won, 5-2 to 4-1, the victorious fifteen being: Mick Feely (captain), J. Shea, T. Mangan (Croom), J. Ryan, goal; J. Mackey, P. Vaughan, J. Carroll (Castleconnell), E. Treacy, S. Gleeson, E. Clancy, M. Harrington, T. Hayes (Grange), T. Hayes (Young Ireland), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. O'Donnell (Bruff).

Young Ireland Club had an eventful season in 1914, their only recorded success in any competition being the winning of the Newmarket-on-Fergus Tournament, in the final of which they defeated O'Callaghan's Mills, 7-4 to 2-1, for a set of medals.

ELECTED COUNTY BOARD SECRETARY.

Tom Hayes was elected Secretary of the Limerick County Board at the annual Convention held on St. Patrick's Day, 1914. Things were in a bad way in the County at the period, and the inclement weather of the early months of 1914 did not prove helpful. Owing to the backward state of the various competitions it was eventually agreed to abandon the 1913 championships and proceed with the 1914 ones.

Tom bent his back to the work with characteristic zeal and mainly as a result of his efforts activity during the principal months of 1914 was very pronounced. The Senior Hurling Championship semi-finals were played together on July 19th—the earliest since 1891, and besides making all the arrangements for these, Tom found time to referee the game in which Castleconnell beat Caherline, 10-3 to 2-1, and then donned the Young Ireland jersey to play against Claughaun in a game which the latter won, 5-1 to 2-2. This match was the starting point of a rivalry that in after years gave to the story of hurling in Limerick some of its most colourful chapters.

ESSENTIALLY A MAN OF ACTION.

The pen was not a favourite weapon with Tom. He was essentially a man of action, and found the harness of office irksome. He got great results from a short spell, and put things on a sound footing for those who were to follow. He was the twelfth to hold the office since the County Board was established in 1887, but the stability of the position in the years that followed is best illustrated by the fact that only four men have occupied the post since 1914: D. M. O'Connell (Ardpatrick), James Ryan, Denis Lanigan, and the present occupant, Jacky O'Connell.

Denis Lanigan made his first appearance on a Limerick County team during the Secretaryship of Tom Hayes, and he figured on the Shannonside fifteen unexpectedly beaten by Clare (afterwards All-Ireland champions), 4-2 to 2-0, at Mallow on August 30th, 1914, in the Munster semi-final. The Limerick players on that occasion were: Egan Clancy, captain; E. Treacy, S. Gleeson, M. Harring-

ton, M. Hayes (Fedamore), J. Ryan, goal; J. Mackey, J. Carroll, J. Keane (Castleconnell); M. Feely, J. Shea (Croom); T. Hayes, D. Lanigan (Young Ireland); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. O'Donnell (Bruff).

LIVELY AND DETERMINED GAME.

One of the liveliest games in the history of the Munster Championship, and one of the few unfinished matches in southern records, took place at Thurles on July 18th, 1915, in the Provincial semi-final.

Twelve special trains brought a huge concourse of spectators (gate receipts were £330), the contesting counties, Cork and Limerick, being strongly represented.

It was a dour and determined struggle, remarkable for the number of disallowed scores. The first moiety ended without either side being credited with any tally—a fair reflex of the even nature of the exchanges, which were tough and unrelenting, with spectacular hurling at a discount because of very close marking.

The exchanges became even more keen on the re-start and the crowd were in excitable mood as both sides battled harder and harder as the minutes fled. Entering the last quarter Cork broke through for three golden scores, and they were leading 2-1 to nil, seven minutes from the end when the match was abruptly terminated, owing to two opposing players coming into handgrips, after which the spectators invaded the pitch.

REFEREE'S REPORT.

The referee, Tim Ryan, Chairman of the Tipperary County Board, in his report to the Munster Council, said: "I had to declare the match off. About four minutes from full time J. Mackey (Limerick) and P. Nagle (Cork) came to blows. I sounded the whistle and ran to put both players off. The other players now joined in the row, and the spectators rushed on to the field. After some time I got the captains of both teams together, and the Cork captain was satisfied to continue the match, but the Limerick captain said he would continue if I allowed the goal they claimed was scored. As the outsiders and followers of the Limerick team refused to leave the field, I declared the match off."

The Munster Council ordered a replay for Dungarvan on August 15th with Willie Walsh of Waterford as referee, after suspending the players named in the report for twelve months.

Cork appealed to the Central Council, and at a meeting at Croke Park on August 1st, were awarded the match by five votes to four.

PART 6

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH
(CONTINUED)

WHEN Limerick lined out against Clare in the opening contest for the Thomond Shield on April 16th, 1916, which the Shannonsiders won, 3-5 to 2-3, the team included a quintet who were to figure later in making All-Ireland history for Garryowen. They were Willie Hough, Dan Troy, Willie Gleeson, Joe ("Twager") O'Grady, and Tom ("Wattles") McGrath. Their team mates that day were:—J. Carroll, J. Keane, M. Doherty, E. Carroll (Castleconnell), W. Harrington (Fedamore), J. O'Shea, T. O'Sullivan (Croom), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), T. Hayes, D. Lanigan (Young Ireland).

When Tom Hayes was a young player he took pride in the fact that the then Secretary of the G.A.A.—Frank B. Dinneen—was a fellow Limerickman, a native of Ballylanders. When Limerick played the All-Ireland Final of 1910 at Jones's Road that venue was owned by Mr. Dinneen, who sold the property to the G.A.A. in 1913, to be renamed Croke Park, and grow through the years to the splendid venue we know to-day. Frank died on April 18th, 1916, and Johnny Sweeney represented the Young Ireland Club at his funeral.

The following Sunday was Easter Sunday and at the Markets Field, Young Ireland beat Boher, 5-0 to 4-1, after a very exciting game, in the opening round of the Murphy Cup.

BRITISH BAN ON GAELIC GAMES.

That was the last match played in Limerick, or in fact in Ireland, for many weeks. The next day another chapter in Irish history opened with the Insurrection of 1916. Many prominent Gaels participated or were subsequently arrested and interned, and, in addition the playing of Gaelic games was prohibited under order of the British Military Authorities. This ban was raised on June 10th.

Gaelic activities resumed in Limerick on June 25th, where at the Markets Field in the C.B.S. Tournament Tipperary hurlers beat Limerick, 5-2 to 3-3. Tom Hayes was missing from this Limerick line-out, which was: W. Gleeson (Captain), T. Keane, M. Harrington, W. Harrington, S. Gleeson, J. Collins, D. Whelan (Fedamore); P. Flaherty (Rathkeale); J. Liston (Knockaderry); J. O'Grady (Claughaun); E. Carroll (Castleconnell); D. Lanigan (Young Ireland); T.

Mangan, J. O'Shea (Croom); W. Hough (Monegay).

John Daly, the veteran Fenian, who had left a sick bed to attend the Markets Field and present the cup, which he donated, to Young Ireland Club as winner of the special tournament organised for the trophy, died on June 30th. It is interesting to note that the magnificent cup now presented annually to the winner of the County Senior Hurling Championship commemorates the memory of John Daly.

On July 2nd, Young Ireland advanced a further stage in the Murphy Cup competition when they travelled to Newcastle West for a close and exciting game in which they got the verdict from Kilmeeedy.

A THRILL-PACKED GAME.

Three weeks later one of the greatest games in a long succession of thrill packed encounters between the glamorous City pair—Claughaun and Young Ireland—was staged at the Markets Field. It was in aid of the Christian Brothers and drew a capacity crowd who were rewarded with hurling of a very high order, excitement and hard hitting in ample measure, and a never say die spirit that made it plain to all the determination of every man of the thirty to give the last ounce in the pursuit of victory.

It was a game typical of many meetings between the pair, who were probably the greatest hurling rivals in Ireland at the period and roused the crowd to a pitch of enthusiasm that has no counterpart in present day hurling.

The grip these two had on the Gaelic imagination is difficult to convey to a generation which did not exist in the unforgettable years when they were in their heyday. But the old timers have their memories, and to get one of them in reminiscent mood he would tell the most amazing stories of man to man battles fought hip to hip with glory awaiting the outcome of each individual duel, every bit as comprehensively as the communal struggles that ranged half the field at times.

The crowd had their part in it, too, and a few of the most abiding memories concern the intimate association of a few famous old figures, who, like the cheer leaders of the American arena, never failed to operate on the side line, roaring themselves hoarse in the effort

to encourage their favourites to still greater endeavour, even if they had to burst a blood vessel in the process.

FIERCE BUT SPORTING.

The hurling in such encounters was always fierce and uncompromising but sporting withal to the last degree. You could expect nothing but hard knocks, and it was a well-known, if unwritten, rule that you kept your head well out of the way of any spot where the ball was likely to be. I remember the occasion when a newcomer to the Young Ireland colours—a very stylish player who gloried in spectacular hurling—shot his hand up to grab a fast travelling ball. It was immediately sandwiched between a pair of Claughaun hurleys, and as the sound of crashing ash silenced the crowd an old campaigner was heard to remark:—"That fool. He put his hand where a sensible man would not put a crowbar."

That was typical of what to expect in such hurling company, and it goes without saying that there was no lifting or fooling with the ball in such encounters. You hit first time or not at all, one of the reasons why games between the pair were invariably contested at a fast and unrelenting tempo.

NEVER STOOPED TO MEAN TACTICS.

Probably the greatest tribute that could be paid to any body of men is that they played with all-out vigour and determination. They were hard hitting and uncomplaining but never stooped to mean tactics. The handle of the hurley in the ribs or the jersey pulling was unknown, and friendships were made on the playing field that endured through life. That's the real test of the sportsman. The spirit of the times was best illustrated by a letter I had some short time ago from the great Cork hurler of "Tyler's" day—Andy Fitzgerald—in the course of which he said: "My recollections of the Markets Field, Thurles, Dungarvan, Waterford, Tralee, Cork, etc., are still vivid, and, thank God, I have no hard feelings of any of the various tough games in which I participated. I cherish many friendships forged on the hurling field. May God rest all those that have gone before me and keep well those that still remain to foster the good work."

To return to the great game between Young Ireland and Claughaun. It ended with honours even—three goals and three points each—a fitting finish to a game that will endure to the end in the memory of many an old timer.

NAMES OF THE PLAYERS.

The names of the players in that notable meeting will recall nostalgic thoughts of other days, and cause a shock to many to think that more than two score years have passed since that first notable milestone in the bright chapter of Claughaun-Young Ireland rivalry.

Claughaun—Denis Maher (captain), Joe O'Grady (goal), Dan Troy, Tom McGrath, T. Kelly, W. Penny, W. Hayes, M. Kelly, J. Harrington, M. Gleeson, M. Madden, W. Casey, M. Rochford, T. Humphries, W. Hayes.

Young Ireland—Tom Hayes (captain), Jack Purcell (goal), P. Ryan, Bob Browne, John Ryan, Dan Ryan, Paddy McInerney, Johnny McInerney, J. Morrison, D. Lanigan, J. Moloney, J. Ryan, J. Sheehan, M. Beville, A. Hogan.

The winning by Young Ireland of the Murphy Cup, their sensational defeat in the 1917 County Final, by Newcastle West, and their capturing of county honours in 1921 and 1923 will be amongst the matters dealt with in the next article.

PART 7

No. 217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG Ireland displayed fine form in qualifying for the 1917 County Senior Hurling final, in which their opponents were Newcastle West. The match was fixed for June 2nd, 1918, at Rathkeale, but Newcastle West expressed doubt regarding their ability to field a team and at one period actually contemplated conceding a walk-over.

It was consequently a first-rate surprise when they defeated the strongly fancied Young Ireland lads, 3-5 to 3-1, in an amazing decider which was the talk of Gael-dom for many a day.

Newcastle West, as county champions, broke entirely new ground when they informed the County Board that they did not propose exercising their right of selecting the Limerick team. Instead, they nominated a "Big Five" to pick the team—Willie Hough, Jim Ryan, Tom Brennan, Tim Humphreys and Denny Lanigan. This procedure was ratified by the County Board and has continued ever since, except that the Co. Board now appoints the Selection Committee, but have departed from the original number, five, which proved successful in winning for Shannonside the 1918 All-Ireland title.

MURPHY CUP FINAL

Young Ireland scored one of their sweetest successes on May 18th, 1919, when they beat Cappamore, 3-5 to 1-0, at the Markets Field, in the Murphy Cup final—the last occasion that storied trophy was played for in Limerick.

Tom Hayes captained that winning side, which included such well-known players as Mick Murphy (goal), Jack Shea, Paddy McInerney, Denny Lanigan, Bob McConkey, the former Castleconnell star, Jack Keane; and a trio from Fedamore, then in the Young Ireland colours—Willie and Stephen Gleeson and Mick Collins.

Early in the game Willie Gleeson got a nasty wound in the head, which necessitated his removal to the County Infirmary, where he lay for several days before his jersey could be removed. He made a rapid recovery then, however, for we find him on June 8th helping Limerick beat Cork, 3-1 to 1-1, at Cork Athletic Grounds in the final of the Fr. Matthew Hall Tournament.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

An attendance record for a County Championship game was made at the Markets Field on July 13th, when the gate receipts at the Claughaun-Young Ireland game realised £130. It was a typical meeting between the great city rivals—a dogged display in which no quarter was given or sought. Claughaun won, 5-0 to 2-2.

A short time later Young Ireland gained revenge, when they reversed the verdict in a game in aid of the families of the victims of the Shannon drowning fatality.

This was the pattern of Claughaun-Young Ireland rivalry—a see-saw which favoured one to-

day, the other to-morrow, but never failed to give the spectators their monies worth.

In early 1920 Young Ireland had another success over their old rivals—this game being in aid of the men affected by the motor permit strike against a British occupation edict.

The War of Independence reached its peak during the latter part of 1920, and the playing of Gaelic Games was prohibited. The ban remained in force until after the Truce was signed on July 11th, 1921.

FIRST LOCAL GAME AFTER THE TRUCE

The first game played in Limerick after the Truce was at the Markets Field on July 31st, where Claughaun beat Young Ireland, 4-2 to 3-2, after a terrific struggle watched by a great crowd.

Young Ireland won their third County Crown in the 1920 series, not concluded until two years later. In the opening round they beat Caherline, 7-4 to 2-3, at Cappamore, and followed up by travelling to Castleconnell on April 16th, 1922, where they had a handsome win over the home side in the Eastern Final.

A fortnight later, Newcastle West won Western honours, when they beat the County title holders, Croom, 4-4 to 3-3, after a great struggle.

So the stage was set for another meeting between the 1917 finalists—a clash the Young Ireland lads were most anxious for.

Fixed for Adare on May 21st, 1922, the game was only twelve minutes in progress when it had to be abandoned because of the death of one of the Newcastle West supporters on the field.

The second meeting took place at Adare on July 18th, where Young Ireland had a very easy win, 5-4 to 0-1. The "gate" on the occasion was £145 7s. 6d., but the match proved most disappointing.

A MUCH STERNER TEST

A little later, when Young Ireland encountered Claughaun, they had a much sterner test and were lucky to emerge winners by the odd point of thirty three.

Young Ireland were unlucky that the County Championships of 1921 and 1923 were abandoned owing to the unsettled state of the country, for they had a magnificent team at this period.

In the 1922 championships, the opening game of which was not played until May 6th, 1923, they beat Cappamore-Murroe, 4-2 to 2-1 at Caherconlish.

On July 8th the championships got a great boost from a thrill packed meeting in which Claughaun and Young Ireland ended on level terms, 6-4 all. It was a game of changing fortunes in which excitement was all the time at boiling point.

The replay on August 19th was an unforgettable affair, remarkable for the fast pace at which it was fought and for its many spirited

duels. The teams kept close together all the hour and another draw looked imminent when a storming Young Ireland finish carried the day—a major and minor score just on time giving the blue and gold victory on the score, 3-5 to 2-4.

ANOTHER HISTORY-MAKING EVENT

Tom Hayes imprinted his name on another history-making event on September 30th, when he refereed a famous contest at the Markets Field in which Garda beat the Army, 6-2 to 5-1. This was, I think, the first of a series of memorable games of the 'twenties between the twin forces of the then infant Irish state. I can still recall the wonderful enthusiasm and drive the late General Eoin O'Duffy put into the organisation of these meetings, and though he disliked the intensity of the rivalry which took the games far out of the kid glove class, he was, himself, in private, almost as keen a partisan as any of the active participants.

Young Ireland won the East Limerick senior hurling crown at the Markets Field on April 13th, 1924, when they beat Fedamore, 2-4 to 2-0, after a very hard fought game.

COUNTY SEMI FINAL

On May 18th they lined out against Newcastle West at the Markets Field in the county semi-final and the "Limerick Leader" the following evening, had this to say of the game:—

"With the sod in great condition the teams went away in a dash, and the spectators were treated to high class hurling. The speed with which the first half was played has never been surpassed in the Co. Championships, and could easily compete with the most strenuous of All-Ireland finals for dash and fast hurling. The county men made the pace and showed themselves to be a team of first-class hurlers, with a rare turn of speed. It was thirty minutes of exciting hurling, in which the Newcastle West team had the advantage and led by one point. The second half saw Young Ireland fighting hard to hold their honours, and after ten minutes they led by two points. Young Ireland, playing with determination and science, made wonderful progress in the closing stages, and crowned themselves with a magnificent victory to end a hurling contest which shall always be remembered as a gem in the long list of Limerick County Championships. The losers deserve credit for the display they made, and were a first-class team."

The Young Ireland lads had a facile win in the County Final played at Kilmallock on May 15th, 1924, defeating Bruff 10-6 to 2-2. Tom Hayes was missing from that team, which was: Bob McConkey, captain; Mick Murphy, goal; Denny Lanigan, Paddy McInerney, Willie Hurley, Jim Cleary, Tommy Reidy, Paddy Hartigan, Jimmy Fitzgerald, Jack O'Shea, Gerry Markham, John Noonan, W. Butler, J. Rahilly, P. Downes.

Tom was back, however, to win the 1928 County crown, which will be amongst the games dealt with in my next article.

217—Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland.

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

(CONTINUED)

FEDAMORE created a first-class surprise when they dethroned the County Champions, Young Ireland, at Cappamore in the opening round of the 1924 competition. The Fedamore lads were in command from the start and won easily, 4-2 to 0-1.

One of the most memorable games in the history of the Young Ireland club—a meeting still spoken of almost with reverence by the old-timers—was the famous "Foggy Day" match between the Cork champions, Blackrock, and the Limerick city lads, played at Rath Luirc, in the final of the local Tournament, on November 16th, 1924.

The day was foggy and visibility very bad; nevertheless, a great game developed, and tremendous enthusiasm was maintained right through, as the teams raced neck and neck. Under pressure, the Young Ireland defence was magnificent, with Paddy Flanagan, as full-back, giving one of the finest displays ever witnessed on the hurling field. His hurling was faultless, his sense of position something to marvel at, his striking accurate and of surpassing length, and all crowned with a courage that could not be surpassed.

A UNFORGETTABLE GAME. That was the abiding memory took from that thrill-packed game in which every player played his part; and hurling lost a hero who must have become one of the all-time greats of the game. Paddy was fatally injured on March 22nd, 1925, in a motoring accident on his way home from a match.

Blackrock won that unforgettable game with a last minute goal, but the honours of the occasion were shared by two sporting teams, who gave hurling a tonic that redounded to the credit of such inter-club tests for many a day. That occasion was Micky Fitzgibbon's first match in the Young Ireland colours, I think, and a right good display he gave. The referee was Pdraig O'Caomh, now General Secretary of the G.A.A.

One of the great games Tom Hayes refereed around this period was that between Cork and Tipperary—a Munster Championship meeting which attracted a record "gate" of £1,321 at the Markets Field on August 2nd, 1925.

FIRST NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL.

A short time later Tom was in charge of the first final of the then newly organised National Hurling League, in which Cork beat Dublin, 3-7 to 1-5.

On Easter Sunday, 1926, Young Ireland won the Croom Tournament, scoring 6-3 to 4-1 over Mallow for a fine win.

A record crowd (gate receipts, £158 7s. 2d.) witnessed a vigorous, determined and exciting hurling game at the Markets Field on August 1st, 1926, in which Claughaun beat Young Ireland, 2-6 to 1-6, in the East Limerick Senior Hurling Championship Final. It was as brilliant as any match contested for years and provided a thrilling finish.

Young Ireland reversed this result the following season, when another great crowd saw a typical meeting of the pair—a hard fought struggle in which the clashing was terrific and the hip to hip exchanges mustard keen. The final tally read, 3-7 to 1-4 in Young Ireland's favour, but most of the winning margin was accumulated in the closing minutes of a tough, unrelenting tussle for supremacy.

THE TEAMS.

Mr. Gerry Beckett, the well known Cork hurler and footballer, refereed, and the teams were:

Young Ireland—Bob McConkey (captain), Mick Murphy (goal),

Denny Lanigan, Tommy Ford, Tom Mullane, Sean Kelly, Micky Fitzgibbon, Paddy Hartigan, Martin O'Shea, Clement Garvey, Gerry Markham, Tommy O'Brien, Paddy O'Shaughnessy, Paddy Fahy, Timmy Murphy.

Claughaun—"Pa Jo" Daly (captain), P. Downes (goal), Micky Cross, Mick King, Jimmy Humphreys, Dan Troy, Stephen Tumpane, J. Burns, J. Kelly, P. Boland, Willie Ryan, J. O'Grady, Jimmy Hannan, J. Brennan, John Joe Kinnane.

Young Ireland and Fedamore subsequently made hurling history at Croom, where three meetings were necessary before Fedamore won a thrilling victory by a solitary point, with the long whistle just beating the effort that attempted to make it honours even for the third time.

The first game was played on October 16th, 1927, and proved a magnificent struggle, in which both sides gave of their best with every inch stubbornly contested. The result—a draw at 3-1 all—was indeed a fitting ending to a great contest.

THE RE-PLAY.

The re-play on November 13th attracted another big crowd who were kept bubbling over with excitement. It was a glorious struggle, vigorous and fast but played in an admirable sporting spirit. At half-way the score was 1-1 all, and when Mick Neville sounded the final whistle the story was the same—3-2 all.

The third meeting brought another bumper crowd to Croom on March 11th, 1928, despite snow showers and generally unpleasant weather conditions. In the bitterly cold atmosphere the crowd warmed to an enchanting game, which was altogether too keen to be spectacular. Fought at a stiff pace every duel was hotly contested and the pulling was terrific. With the sod holding and the drifting sleet making things generally unpleasant the players forgot all else in their dedication to the work before them.

Young Ireland, playing against a strong breeze, were leading all through the first half, until Willie Gleeson equalised with a splendidly judged shot a minute from the interval, leaving the score at the turn over, 1-2 all. The city lads were expected to win well in the closing minutes but the awful condition took heavy toll of their stamina whilst Fedamore, with determination stamped on every stroke, surprised all by the manner in which they hurled low into the hurricane for the lead, 3-2 to 2-4, in the closing minutes of a tense encounter. Young Ireland fought back magnificently, and Paddy O'Shaughnessy was sending a wing drive sixty yards almost from the touchline for the equaliser when the long whistle interrupted its flight and gave Fedamore one of the narrowest ever victories to end in a blaze of glory a historic chapter in the story of Limerick hurling.

REVERSE DID THEM NO HARM.

Young Ireland showed the reverse did them no harm three weeks later, when at Nenagh, they beat a strongly fancied Toomevara fifteen, 3-2 to 3-0, in what proved a most exciting Tournament final.

Tom Hayes was referee of a match at the Markets Field on April 29th, 1928, for a set of medals, in which he had played seven years earlier and which then ended in a draw. The second meeting, which was robust and scientific without being in the slightest degree rough, again ended with honours even—Tipperary, 3-2; Limerick, 2-5. Tipperary took the trophy at the third attempt by a very small margin.

Young Ireland had a very close

call from Kilfinane in the opening round of the 1928 championship, and were lucky to win, 4-2 to 2-7.

They beat Sarsfields decisively in the next round, 9-5 to 2-5, thus qualifying to meet their great protagonists of the previous season, Fedamore, which game was fixed for Croom on August 25th.

PLAYED IN DOWNPOUR

This game was played in a drenching rainfall, but despite the adverse conditions, it proved a first-class display—fast and scientific all the way. After forty minutes hurling only one point separated the teams, but then the city men, playing true to tradition, forged ahead to win comfortably, 5-1 to 1-3.

Owing to delay in completing the Western Championship the County Final was not played for some considerable time. Meanwhile Young Ireland kept in trim by playing Tournament games—losing to the Waterford champions, Erin's Own, at Waterford, 5-4 to 3-5, but winning three trophies in a row afterwards. At Emly they beat Thurles Blues in the local Senior Hurling Tournament Silver Cup Final, and the following Sunday, at the Markets Field, secured a set of gold medals by defeating Claughaun after a fine sporting display, 5-3 to 3-1.

On a visit to Shanballymore they were defeated by St. Finbarr's (Cork), 4-5 to 3-4, but later reversed the result at the U.C.C. Grounds, Cork, where a great crowd saw them beat the Barrs, 4-4 to 2-5. The Lord Mayor of Cork, Ald. Sean French, T.D., threw in the ball on that occasion.

1928 COUNTY FINAL.

The 1928 County Final was decided at Croom on April 7th, 1928. It was a hard fought game for forty-five minutes, after which Young Ireland took control to win in characteristic fashion. A feature of the game was the brilliant netminding of P. Reidy for Rathkeale, who were beaten, 5-7 to 2-1.

Mr. Willie Gleeson refereed, and the teams were:

Young Ireland—Bob McConkey, captain; Tom Hayes, goal; D. Lanigan, M. Delaney, M. Fitzgibbon, G. Markham, W. Hogan, M. O'Shea, W. O'Donoghue, P. O'Shaughnessy, D. Kelly, T. Mullane, T. O'Brien, J. O'Shea, J. Fitzgerald.

Rathkeale—M. Casey (captain), P. Reidy (goal), P. Roche, P. Brennan, E. Quinn, J. Glenny, J. Roche, J. Quinn, M. Quinn, W. Quinn, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Younge, H. Doupe, J. Guinane, T. Magner, P. Quaide.

Next week's article will complete the Tom Hayes story.

PART 9

GREAT LIMERICK SPORTSMEN

No. 217-Tom Hayes Of Young Ireland

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

(CONCLUDED)

TOM HAYES retired from the active arena as a hurler in the Young Ireland colours following the winning of the 1928 County final, but he left a record of service to the Club that will not be easily beaten.

That is an achievement that will not have many imitators, particularly when the final game was a senior county championship title triumph, to prove a fitting finish to a great hurling career.

Although Tom hung up his hurley and togs, he did not break his connection with the Young Ireland Club, for he continued as Vice-Chairman to help very materially in shaping the destinies of one of the most successful spells in the history of that great Gaelic combination.

A GREAT VICTORY

The club followed up the county final success of 1928 by scoring a great victory in the Saint Patrick's Senior Hurling Tournament final over the renowned Dublin Army Metro fifteen, whom they beat 3-5 to 2-1.

The 1928 county final win was marked by a banquet given to the members of the team at Cruise's Hotel, on May 8th, 1929, which was attended by a very representative gathering of Gaels and proved a most enjoyable function.

UNEXPECTED EXIT

Young Ireland made an unexpected exit from the 1929 Senior Hurling Championship, when, after defeating Pallasgreen, the latter lodged an objection and were awarded the match.

The blue and gold lads had one of their sweetest ever wins when they beat Fedamore, at Hospital, 2-6 to 1-7, in a hotly contested decider for the local church fund tournament.

Other tournament successes recorded by Young Ireland this season included the defeat of Thurles Blues, 5-2 to 3-3, in the Caher final, and a 4-6 to 3-4 victory over St. Finbarr's (Cork), at the then recently opened Limerick Gaelic Grounds.

WELL-DESERVED HONOUR

Tom Hayes was elected President of the Young Ireland club at the annual general meeting, held on January 12th, 1930, a position he still holds, for when the club was revived two years ago, after a lapse of several seasons, Tom was unanimously re-appointed to his old position.

November 2nd, 1930, was a remarkable day in the history of the Young Ireland Club, notable for the fact that teams from the club figured in two Eastern Division Senior Championship Finals, played at the same time, but in widely separated venues.

At Croom, after a thrilling game full of life, dash and scientific hurling, the senior hurling side beat Ahane, 5-4 to 5-2, whilst at Hospital, the senior football fifteen figured in an exciting draw with Knockane, 4-3 all.

In preparation for their County Final tie with Newcastle West, Young Ireland played a series of games, their most notable success being a win, 4-1 to 3-1, over the Fitzgibbon Cup side of University College, Galway.

TO SAVE PEARSE'S COLLEGE

In an effort to save St. Enda's College, the famous educational foundation of Pdraig Pearse, a

series of games were arranged throughout Ireland for Easter Sunday, 1931. The Young Ireland Club fielded two senior hurling fifteens that day—one travelling to Cork, where they played St. Finbarr's; the other going to Cappamore, to engage the local lads, who were County finalists the previous season.

The 1930 County Senior Hurling Final, at Croom, was as thrilling an exhibition of the national game as was witnessed in the championship for years—and the result, a draw at 2-2 all, a fitting result.

The re-play, at Croom on April 19th, 1931, attracted a crowd which broke all previous records. The final score: Young Ireland, 4-2; Newcastle West, 1-4, by no means represents the run of the play, as it was only in the concluding minutes that Young Ireland forged ahead after their backs had withstood successfully fifteen minutes of sustained attack.

THE TEAMS

The teams will be of interest: Young Ireland—Bob McConkey (captain), J. Fitzgerald (goal), J. Kelly, J. Mullane, T. Mullane, T. O'Brien, W. O'Donoghue, P. O'Shaughnessy, J. O'Shea, M. O'Shea, G. Markham, D. Kelly, P. Kennelly, J. Houlihan and D. Kelly.

Newcastle West — Ned Cregan (captain), D. O'Connor, J. Dermody, P. Monahan, Mick Murphy, W. Raleigh, J. Ambrose, J. Toomey, P. Cregan, E. Bourke, C. Cregan, J. McMahon, M. Geary, M. Cregan, M. Keefe.

Young Ireland made an early exit from the 1931 Championship, when they were defeated by Ahane, 3-5 to 1-2, in the opening round, the Ahane lads going on to win their first of a long list of County Championship successes.

1931 was by no means a blank year for Young Ireland withall. They beat their old rivals, Claughaun, 2-4 to 1-2, in the final of the Plassy Disaster Senior Hurling Tournament, and with victories over Newport (Tipperary), 5-4 to 1-3, and Newmarket-on-Fergus (Clare), 2-3 to 1-2, became first holders of the Sweet Afton Cup and Limerick Development Association Gold Medals.

SWEET REVENGE

Ahane and Young Ireland again met in the opening round of the 1932 championship, when the city lads exacted sweet revenge. Ahane led at the interval, 2-3 to 1-0, and looked set for a facile win. Young Ireland quickly dissolved all such notions on the resumption and took the lead ten minutes from time, to win well in the end: Young Ireland, 6-1; Ahane, 2-5.

County honours for the last time to date came easy to the blue and gold after that, Newcastle West going down in a rather dull final at Rathkeale, 2-6 to 1-3. The teams that day were:

Young Ireland — M. Fitzgibbon (captain); J. Fitzgerald (goal); J. O'Dowd, T. Mullane, J. Kelly, M. Kennedy, M. O'Shea, W. O'Donoghue, T. O'Brien, P. Kenneally, J. Mullane, G. Markham, J. O'Shea, R. McConkey, P. O'Shaughnessy.

Newcastle West — J. Ambrose (captain); P. Monahan (goal); J. Toomey, E. Cregan, M. Geaney, D. O'Connor, J. Kennedy, P. Franklin, J. Roche, M. O'Keefe, P. Walsh, J. P. O'Connor, J. Sheehy, J. McMahon, M. Flynn.

Under Young Ireland captaincy Limerick won 1933 Munster Championship honours, but lost to Kilkenny, 1-7 to 0-6, in a great All-Ireland final. The club also had the distinction of providing the captain for the first National Hurling League victory, in the final of which Dublin was defeated.

REMARKABLE TRIBUTE

It is a remarkable tribute to the devotion of one man to a club that a sketch of his career over 30 years should embrace almost the history of the club. In recalling the service Tom Hayes gave to Gaelic games, we told almost the story of Young Ireland and saw how both were almost inseparably associated.

Tom Hayes spent a lifetime in the employment of a well known

Oil Distributing Company. The difficulties under which he played the game can best be judged from an incident which happened forty-five years ago. The Monday morning following Limerick's great victory over Kilkenny at Croke Park in the final for the Cardinal's medals, Tom was unable because of an injury to report to his oil depot at the usual starting hour then of six a.m. When he succeeded in getting there at 10 o'clock that morning, he was not allowed to work and was left out for a week.

When Christy Ring won his eighth All-Ireland medal a few years ago he got ample leave of absence, and his employers, also an oil company, gave a dinner in his honour.

A GOLDEN LINK

We must view the deeds of Tom Hayes against the background of his times. Long before motor cars were commonplace Tom was hurling for Limerick and his journeys to the many away venues were oftentimes adventures in themselves. The old wagonette, the joy and the laughter of a long trip under the conditions we cannot conceive now, are all part of a glorious past, with which the name of Tom Hayes must form a golden link. Long may he flourish!

Part 10