

No. 201—WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

WITH Bruff very much in the G.A.A. limelight just now, following the opening of the splendid new sportsfield there, it is opportune that we recall other days in the history of hurling and athletics in the district.

In any flash back to the turn of the century—the halcyon period of athletics in Limerick, we cannot fail to contact Willie Naughton, who came into the Gaelic picture as a schoolboy, when he competed in hurling matches and youths sports with some distinction, and later figured for over a score years as one of the big men in keeping a flourishing hurling club going in the parish.

Willie had a finger in many other pies as well but I think he treasures most of all the part he played in helping in a big way, as Secretary for many years, the organisation of the monster sports meetings at Bruff, at which the cream of Irish athletes were always to be found in action.

GREAT MEN OF AN UNFORGETTABLE ERA

It is like reciting the litany of the great men of our best athletic years to hear Willie Naughton recall the athletes with whom he was in such close contact when they came to Bruff, oftentimes twice in a season, for sports meetings that were recognised as some of the best run in the country. Here are some of the men who left their impress on Bruff fields then: John Flanagan, Willie Connery, Larry Roche, Paddy McNamara, Mick O'Neill, J. J. Condon, J. F. Halvey, Dan Shanahan, Willie Drake, the Leahys, Paddy, Con and Joe; Willie O'Shea, Ned Caulfield, Con Ryan, Denis Herlihy, Mick Hynan, J. J. Bresnihan, Andy Kelly, Mick Creed, Owen Coll, John Carey, J. J. O'Brien, Con Harty, Paddy Ryan, T. F. Kiely, P. J. McCarthy, J. Blackburn, J. J. Hurley, P. O'Donnell, Jim Fahey, R. J. Casey, J. J. Collins, M. Dee, Charlie McGill, D. M. O'Connell and Mick Heelan.

The names of a few may have slipped the memory but after half a century any veteran could be excused on that score, and acquitted of failing to give honest recognition to all the great men of an unforgettable era.

GENEROUS IN TRIBUTES TO OLD FRIENDS

Willie Naughton is generous in his tribute to the friends of boyhood days. He told me that he looked back with pleasure to his meetings with the many athletes, whilst he had nothing but the happiest recollections of his connection with the Bruff hurling team, "one of the best teams in the county, with members who were surely a grand lot of men and most loyal."

Speaking of that Bruff hurling team he stressed that they were forced to keep going with very little assistance from any quarter as hurling was not fashionable in those days. The boys had to pay their own expenses when playing matches and Willie, as a member of the County Board, had to cycle to the city to attend meetings of the Board in all classes of weather. As a popular referee and in much demand he had to cycle to the different venues and carry on as best he could with any umpires that were available. There was no such thing as any re-imbursement of expenses incurred at that period and Willie stuck everything of that nature out of his own pocket. Later he figured as one of the Limerick representatives on the Munster Council and during that period was in much demand as a referee of important inter-county ties in both hurling and football.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

Willie's earliest recollections concern the prowess of Jack Fitzgerald, who put the parish well to the fore on athletic fields when the G.A.A. was young, and was also one of the best handballers of his time.

Micky Creed he held in high esteem. Micky's smallness of stature made him a warm favourite on athletic fields. In holding that he was by no means a lesser light amongst the jumping luminaries of what might be called the Leahy era one conveys to anybody familiar with the deeds of those days enough to make him famous. Standing only five feet, five inches, he could jump well over six feet, actually reaching 6 ft. 5 ins. on occasions—a remarkable achievement.

He was equally good at all the jumps, but it was his magnificent performances in the high jump contests that drew the applause of the crowds that thronged the sports fields of those days.

Micky had a habit of closely examining the ground near the jump so as to ensure a favourable take off. The examination was slow and deliberate, and the crowds seeing that the cross lath was many inches higher than the contestant's head were unstinted in their applause.

HOMESICK IN AMERICA

In 1907 Creed tied with another famous Limerickman, T. J. Ahearn of Athea, for the Irish high jump title at 5 ft. 11 ins. In 1911 he won this event. In the years between he was in America, where his love for athletics drew him once more to try his luck at jumping. The unnatural conditions of those indoor performances were so strange to him that his early efforts were a pronounced failure. He had, however, the willpower to persevere and before very long he became the outstanding attraction, with astonishing jumps that had never before been approached. Micky was homesick though, he loved Ireland dearly, and even the close companionship of Tom Flanagan, brother of the great world's champion, John, and Longboat, the famous marathon runner, well known in Limerick, could not keep him long away from his native land.

TEAM THAT WON ELEVEN SETS OF MEDALS

Another "celebrity" who resided in Bruff for many years was Mick Finn, a member of the Kilfinane team that won Limerick's first All-Ireland hurling championship away back in 1887. The same year they also won the Croke Cup, and in the few seasons of their greatness that lovely Kilfinane side won eleven sets of medals, including a Munster and two county titles, in addition to the All-Ireland victories mentioned.

Mick was through them all. In the famous games for the All-Ireland Blue Riband Kilfinane first encountered Tulla (Clare), then holders of the Croke Cup. The match was played in the Greenpark enclosure, Limerick, and Kilfinane emerged victorious to the great joy of a huge throng of followers, led by the Kilmallock Ninety-eight Baalbec Band, with its leader, Paddy O'Brien, in full costume, personifying Robert Emmet.

Next the Limerickmen had to meet the famous Blackrock team—as renowned in hurling lore as in later years, and after a grand battle at Tipperary the Shannonsiders won.

The hurling parish of Tullaroan—one of Kilkenny's greatest nurseries—provided the last obstacle, and again the Kilfinane men proved their worth, to cap a grand record for that famed district in bringing home an All-Ireland hur-

ling crown.

GREAT BREEDING-GROUND OF ATHLETES

It is difficult to resist further reference to the grand men of Kilfinane, but the temptation must be resisted, except to add that it was a real home and breeding ground for Irish athletes. More world beaters hailed from there than any other area of like size anywhere, and it is an undisputed fact that many though they were whose fame spread to distant lands, there were as many more who never ventured into the arena and who were worthy competitors with those who focussed the eyes of the nations on the athletic stars who hailed from Kilfinane and district.

Other hurlers that fill in the passing years include Mick Quinlan and Mick Whelan, both well known players of the Bruff senior side that gained inter-county prominence nearly half a century ago; Con Scanlan, renowned with Fedamore a little later—captain of the Lyons Memorial final winners in 1911 and member of the Limerick team that won the 1910 and 1911 Munster Championships, as well as the much coveted Cardinal's medals in 1913; Chris Ryan, a member of the Limerick side that won the 1921 All-Ireland final and of the Army selection that won the first All-Army hurling title; Ger O'Donnell, well known inter-county player, who won the 1927 County Championship with Fedamore and the following year's title with Young Ireland; Bill Hogan, a member of the 1928 Young Ireland team also, and Bill Moroney, who played in two County senior hurling finals with Bruff.

ASSOCIATION WITH COUNTY BOARD

Willie Naughton was closely associated with the County Board for many years, and next week he will tell of interesting discussions and debates at Board meetings in the early years of the century.

No. 201—WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Continued)

By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

From the records of the period, kept by Willie Naughton, we learn that the 1903 All Ireland G.A.A. Congress, held at Thurles, was one of the liveliest in the annals of the Association.

Thomas F. O'Sullivan, of Kerry, who afterwards wrote the "Story of the G.A.A.," in a fighting speech, moved as an addition to the then Exclusion Rule, the following: "That police, soldiers, sailors, militia men and pensioners be prevented from playing hurling or football or competing at athletic meetings under G.A.A. rules."

Speaking to his motion, Mr. O'Sullivan said if it were opposed he would insist that a list of the voters be taken so that the Gaels of Ireland may know those who were friends of the British garrison. To his mind there was only one course which a healthy national organisation, composed of young men, should take, and that was to cut themselves adrift once and for all from those who are doing the dirty work of an alien despotism in their country. Were they to be told that because a man happens to be born in Ireland that that fact redeems his character though he may be a scoundrel, a hireling or a renegade? He earnestly hoped that from that magnificent organisation of theirs at no distant date material may be drawn for striking a blow at the accursed system of British supremacy. He was satisfied that the Gaels of Ireland would never be convinced that the national interests of Ireland could be advanced by associating with the British Garrison.

Frank B. Dineen, Ballylanders, in a short speech, seconded the proposition.

UPROAR!

There was uproar when Jim Riordan of Limerick suggested that the proposed new rule also apply to Post Office officials, civil servants and schoolmasters. If there was anything such as proscribing anybody let it be done to the full.

Mr. O'Sullivan said the resolution only referred to those who by military power were upholding tyranny in the country.

Mr. M. Murtagh, Wicklow, said he was a member of one of the bodies referred to by Mr. Riordan, namely, school teachers, and he was a member of the G.A.A. since 1887, and he should say if they did away with men of his calling they would be losing some of the best Gaels in Ireland.

After some further heated arguments in which well known Gaelic figures like Tom Dooley, Cork, Chairman; Dan Fraher, Dungarvan; J. R. Etchingham, Wexford; P. McGrath, Tipperary; Joseph Ward, Louth; Stephen Clune, Clare, and P. J. Devlin, Dublin, participated the resolution as originally proposed was declared carried without a division.

CLUB EXPELLED.

The Clonmel Shamrocks Club were expelled from the Association owing to their action in getting a decree for £16 odd, which they were granted on account of expenses, and had executed by the Sheriff's officers on the goods of the Secretary, Luke J. O'Toole.

Arising out of a Dublin motion, proposed by Arthur Murphy, it was agreed to establish Junior All-Ireland Championships in hurling and football.

Nearing the end of a stormy meeting it was agreed by a solitary vote, 25 to 24, that the operation of the Exclusion Rule be left to the discretion of County Boards.

At a special meeting of the Limerick County Board, called to consider the implementation of the Rule, Mr. Thomas London proposed that it be enforced in its entirety.

Mr. J. McDonnell, opposing the motion, said if it were adopted it would ruin the Association in both city and county.

The question was debated at great length and with the introduction of some heat, but was defeated by ten votes to six, four members not voting.

WORDS OF JOHN REDMOND APPRECIATED.

The meeting unanimously passed

the following resolution: "That we the members of the Limerick Co. Board, G.A.A., fully appreciate the kind and hopeful words of John E. Redmond, M.P., addressed to the Gaels of Limerick City and County at Sunday's demonstration in Limerick, and we avail of this opportunity to assure him that the Gaelic Athletic manhood of our historic city and county is still unalterable to the principles of Ireland a Nation."

A deputation appeared on behalf of the Gaelic League asking the Board to have no matches fixed for St. Patrick's Day, as they were working to make such a national holiday. On a poll, fourteen voted for the Gaelic League's request and three against.

Weather conditions were bad during the closing months of the 1903 season but Bruff, the town of the "Tough Wattle" by the "Star" river, made every effort to complete their Monster Tournament, in which all the leading teams were engaged. Mainly through the exertions of their energetic and capable Secretary, Willie Naughton, ably assisted by amongst others, Messrs. P. Shearin, P. T. Stanton, M. Hogan, D. Guinane, J. Mortell, and J. Callinan, the competition progressed most satisfactorily, two of the best games of late 1903 resulting in the defeat of Granagh by Effin, 1-5 to 0-5, and an undecisive meeting in which Dromkeen (1-0) and Ballyagran (0-3) finished with scoring level.

THE PLAYERS.

The players in these games were:—

Effin—D. Lynch, Captain; James Power, goal; M. Carroll, P. O'Brien, M. Ryan, M. Coleman, J. Kearney, J. Dennison, P. O'Brien, F. Lee, D. O'Donnell, J. Riordan, B. Fitzgerald, J. Kennedy, W. Mescall, J. Williams, J. Prendergast.

Granagh—M. Sheehan, Captain and goal; J. Conway, E. Houlihan, P. Walsh, P. Hogan, M. Spearin, M. Lee, C. Mahony, P. Mahony, J. Gorman, M. Walsh, M. Tracey, M. Storan, J. Houlihan, J. O'Shea, P. Broderick, J. O'Shea.

Dromkeen—T. London, Capt.; M. Leonard, goal; J. Leonard, M. Dillon, J. Lane, J. Dillon, T. Jones, J. Jones, Owen Conway, John Hynes, D. Hayes, W. Coffey, E. Lawlor, John Mulcahy, Denis Conolly, P. Bourke, P. Ryan.

Ballyagran—M. Clifford, captain; E. Clifford, M. Barry, M. Fitzgibbon, D. Murphy, R. Corkery, C. Madigan, P. Naughton, Owen Donovan, M. Bresnan, J. Blake, E. Murphy, W. O'Keeffe, D. O'Connell, J. Leahy, E. Watson, M. Barry, T. Carroll.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

Limerick pioneered a new departure in Gaelic sport when the County Board sent a team to London on Whit Monday, 1904, to play the London Irish, who were All-Ireland senior hurling champions at the period.

A newspaper account of that visit said: "At the splendid grounds of Elm Park, Lea Bridge, London, one of the largest gatherings of London Irishmen ever seen at Gaelic sports assembled there to witness the international hurling contest between the men from Sarsfield's County and the London Irish, who are the present champions of Ireland and England."

"The Limerick men were entertained on Sunday night by Mr. Liam McCarthy, President of the London County Board (who afterwards presented the splendid cup, now the trophy for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship, and which Limerick were the first county to win, in 1921, at the Shamrock Hotel, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, national songs being the order.

"A like function took place at the Irish National Club on Monday night. After supper, a dance was arranged which lasted until 4 a.m. on Tuesday. That evening Mr. W. London, M.P., East Limerick, showed the members of the Limerick party through the House of Lords, House of Commons and Westminster Abbey. The Italian Exhibition, Earl's Court, was next

visited and a few pleasant hours were spent in that fairy palace.

THE HURLING MATCH.

"At the Sports Grounds on Monday chief interest was centred in the hurling match, and I may say that the exhibition given by both teams was the finest ever seen on these grounds. Limerick sent across a combination captained by the famous Tim Lloyd of Caherline, that it would be difficult to overcome. They were played on the grounds by the Peckham Band, V.I.L. to the strains of "Garryown," the crowd cheering lustily. The match was an extremely fast one. The lifting and hitting of the London Irish hurlers was a thing to be admired but the ground passing of the Limerickmen completely nonplussed their opponents with the result that at the end the score stood: Limerick, 3-4; London, 0-3. Mr. W. Douglas refereed and Mr. Thomas London, Killeely, and Mr. O. D. Coll, Bruree, acted as umpires.

"The victory was a splendid one, and although each and every member of the Limerick team played a brilliant game, still special mention must be made of Lloyd, McCarthy, Kelly, Riordan, and Clifford. The Limerick team was—T. Lloyd, captain; W. Ryan, D. Reardon (Caherline); J. Herbert, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell); M. Clifford, M. Barry, M. Gibbons, L. Roche, P. J. Leahy, J. J. Leahy (Ballyagran); W. Sheahan (Rathkeale), M. Danaher (Murroe), T. Flynn, goal (Kilfinane); J. W. O'Brien, J. O'Regan, P. J. Kelly (Bruree).

THE ATHLETIC EVENTS.

"With regard to the athletic events, the Limerickmen captured a great many prizes. The half-mile race was the most exciting event of the day, from the fact that J. G. Coughlan, champion of London and J. O'Regan, Bruree, were starting from scratch, and conceding to their seventeen opponents no less than a handicap of sixty yards. To the intense delight of the Limerick boys, O'Regan wore down his opponents gradually and came in a winner by five yards, Quilter of the Hibernians being second and Coughlan third.

"The relay race, one mile, was quite a new event to the Limerickmen. Five clubs entered from London, consisting of four competitors from each; Limerick being ably represented by P. J. Leahy, J. J. Leahy, J. O'Regan and O. D. Coll. The race created intense excitement among spectators, and in the final round a terrible set-to took place between the representatives of the Milesians and Limerick, when eventually Coll of Limerick, who ran a splendid race all through, came to the front and won by two yards. The high jump was won by P. J. Leahy at 6 ft. 1½ in., his brother Joe being second. James Herbert of Castleconnell got second in the raising and striking of the hurling ball out of nineteen competitors.

"The Limerickmen left London on Tuesday night for home and were seen off by an immense crowd, who whiled away the time on the platform by dancing to the music of the bands."

Some further interesting recollections of the veteran Bruff Gael will be related next week.

Part 2

No. 201—WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

THE 1904 Limerick County Convention was one of the liveliest and most exciting in the history of the G.A.A. by Shannonside, and was subsequently declared illegal by both the Munster and Central Councils. The second Convention provided a continuation of the wordy warfare of the first gathering but finally ended on a happy note.

A lot of the difficulties were the making of the County Board functioning during the previous year, who were too ready to grant postponements on the slightest pretext, thus allowing the championships to run heavily into arrears.

Matters reached a climax near the end of that season, and in view of the vigorous indictment carried on through the medium of correspondence in the local Press against the alleged mismanagement of the Board, the greatest interest was aroused in the clamour for change, with the result that when Convention time came along a great muster of delegates turned up for the expected fireworks.

SIGNS OF THE RISING STORM.

They were not disappointed. The first signs of the rising storm were evident at the outset when it was proposed that the chair should be occupied by Very Rev. W. Casey, P.P., Abbeyfeale, rather than by the outgoing Chairman, Mr. Denis Spencer Lyons of Croom Castle. The Convention agreed to this course.

Accepting the position, Father Casey appealed to the delegates to conduct the proceedings in a becoming manner. There was a great deal of talk about this Convention—what they were going to do to each other and such like. To-day, they were going to belie these statements by proceeding with the business with regularity and decorum.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary, Mr. P. J. Hayes, in the course of a lengthy report, said that fifty clubs had affiliated for 1903, against thirty-six the previous season. The financial position was not very satisfactory because of inclement weather and the refusal of several clubs to play in enclosed grounds. In fact, only one match was played at the Markets Field during the year.

Mr. Larry Roche hotly contested the assertion that fifty clubs had affiliated and the Treasurer eventually admitted that only eighteen had paid their fees and were properly registered with the provincial council. Continuing, Mr. Roche said they were the merest serfs and slaves if they left the Convention without righting the many matters complained of and putting the blame on the proper shoulders for not having the rules of the Association carried out.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

When the election of Chairman was announced Mr. B. T. O'Rourke (Kildimo) proposed the re-election of Mr. D. Lyons. In doing so he said that it was unnecessary to tell his colleagues of the many services rendered by Mr. Lyons in the interests of the G.A.A. His connection with the

Association was a long and honourable one. At the present time it was looked upon as an honour to be in the rank and file of the Association, and some members were aspiring for positions on the Co. Board; ten or twenty years ago such was not the case, when the Association was looked upon with ridicule by the people of Limerick. It was through the exertions of Mr. Lyons and a few followers that Gaelic football and hurling were kept alive by the Shannonside.

Mr. Con Fitzgerald, in seconding the proposition, said he knew Mr. Lyons to be a true Gael.

Mr. Landon proposed that Mr. Laurence Roche be elected chairman. He belonged to the people, sprung from the people and was prepared to die for the people.

Mr. C. C. O'Rourke seconded. As a vote was about to be taken, Mr. O'Dea said that there were some clubs represented that were not affiliated. He questioned if there was such a club in existence in 1903 as St. Michael's.

HEATED EXCHANGES.

Some heated exchanges followed, and the vote was being taken when Mr. Lyons jumped up to remark that persons who were not entitled to vote were now voting. He did not come there to make a speech or to say what he did or did not do. He was simply Spencer Lyons, and if the delegates wanted to elect him as their chairman, they could, and if not, they could shove him out.

Above the din the chairman said he was taking the vote between the candidates, and would leave the votes of the St. Michael's Club until the last, when, perhaps, they would not be required at all.

Two delegates—J. O'Neill and M. Creed—complained that their voting cards had been eaten from them at the door and asserted the convention was a packed one.

DIVISION TAKEN.

This led to further noisy scenes but a division was eventually taken, this resulting:

For Roche—Jer. Lynch, C. C. O'Rourke, D. A. Riordan, J. McGrath, T. Lloyd, C. Birrane, T. Landon, G. Scully, P. O'Reilly, M. Dee, M. Breen, C. Callaghan, J. Quaide, P. O'Leary, J. Moloney, D. Murphy, T. Campion, W. Hogan, J. O'Donnell, M. Higgins, T. O'Reilly, T. Coffey, P. Kett, F. Fitzgerald, T. Shanahan, P. J. Kelly, W. Murphy, D. O'Connell, F. Kennedy, L. Roche, M. Coughlan, J. F. Ginnane, T. O'Conner, J. Bernahan, D. Harnett, J. Carroll, P. Leahy.

For Lyons—J. O'Neill, E. Kelly, J. Rourke, J. Storan, T. Scanlan, J. Tierney, D. McDonnell, M. Costelloe, J. Fitzgerald, P. Halvey, B. O'Rourke, M. Feely, J. Mullane, M. McDonnell, W. Meade, J. Roche, C. Holland, T. McNamara, M. Kennedy, P. Cowhey, J. O'Brien, C. Fitzgerald, J. Smallwood, T. J. Lynch, G. Lane, J. Higgins, C. Kelly, J. McSweeney, T. Reidy, D. Hurley, W. Naughton, P. Meany, T. Carroll, P. Hayes, M. Creed.

ROCHE DECLARED ELECTED.

Mr. Murphy said the poll could not be declared until the votes of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the County Board were recorded.

Some further votes were accepted, and the Chairman, amid a scene of excitement, declared the poll as 39 for Roche and 35 for Lyons.

Mr. Lyons—I presume you are not going to close until the question of St. Michael's is decided. Also I claim my right to vote.

Mr. Murphy, Treasurer—We are not going to be hounded down that way. We have a right to vote.

The Chairman said he would not allow the votes of the officers. Even giving St. Michael's votes to Mr. Lyons would not bring him up to Mr. Roche, whom he declared elected.

Mr. Roche said he thanked God the flag of Irish nationality was unsullied—that colour they would always bear against rotten Unionism.

Mr. Lyons said he had to thank the Chairman for his courtesy, but he should take him as objecting. He would prove it where Mr. Roche would not be allowed inside the door (interruption). He was afraid that at the end of the year the Chairman would have to preside at two meetings.

A Voice—Not in Dublin Castle.

Mr. O'Neill—That's where some of them would like to be. Some lively interchanges of "compliments" between a few of the delegates took place before order was eventually restored and the remaining business of the meeting concluded in comparative calm.

At Bruree—Silver Cup Hurling Tournament (final) (7 p.m.).

At Limerick Gaelic Grounds—Junior Hurling Championship (8 p.m.)—St. Patrick's v. Patrickswell; referee, W. Naughton.

FRIDAY, MAY 31.

At Mental Hospital Grounds (8 p.m.)—Juvenile Football Championship—St. John's C.B.S.I. v. Commercial; referee, W. O'Callaghan.

Bits In Brief.

For Treaty hurling the bell has tolled, the golden days are over, and the Club are faced straight away with a big rebuilding job. The Thomondgate mentors, however, are the men for the task. They tackled it successfully before and with schoolboy material much more plentiful now than in the rich, promising days of triumph under Brother Doody's expert management, the road back should not be the long and difficult one some former famed clubs have been fated to traverse.

The Treaty lads defend their football crown next Sunday, and able to devote all their energies now to this code hopes are high they will maintain their superiority.

The main results from last Sunday's games were: At Croke Park: National Football League final—Galway 1-8; Kerry, 0-6.

At Limerick: Munster Football Championships, Senior—Clare, 4-5; Tipperary, 2-9. Minor—Cork, 3-6; Clare, 3-4.

At Dungarvan—Munster Minor Football Championship—Waterford, 1-9; Limerick, 0-3.

At Caherconlish: Senior Hurling Championship—Emmets, 3-8; Treaty-Sarsfields, 3-7. Ahane, 2-7; Geraldines, 1-8.

At Rathkeale: Senior Hurling Championship—Kilmallock, 3-6; Feohanagh, 2-4. Senior Football Championship—Claughton, 4-6; Western Gaels, 0-4.

At Patrickswell: New Ireland Shield, Junior Hurling—Patrickswell, 5-4; Ballybrown, 4-4.

At Pallaskenry: Minor Football Cup—Copsewood College, 3-4; Commercial, 2-3.

At Bruree: Hurling Tournament Cup—Banogue beat Croom.

Old Murroe hurler, James Hayes of Cappanuke, has died in London at the age of 73. In his youth a star of the famed old Murroe team, James, following his arrival in London fifty-three years ago, threw in his lot with the exiles and hurled many fine games in the best of company. The London Irish were then a great side and actually won All-Ireland laurels around the period of the Murroe man's arrival there.

A two-minutes silence was observed at Patrickswell last Sunday in tribute to the memory of a great worker for the local Club, the late James Mann, who rendered yeoman service in the work of developing the splendid new field in the village.

Busiest player last week must have been Commercial's football and Young Ireland hurler, Alphonsus Killeen, who played three games in a little over twenty-four hours. First figuring with Commercial's minor footballers in the defeat of Crecora, he assisted Limerick C.B.S. to overwhelm St. Munchin's College in the Dr. Keane Cup final, and then turned out on the city minor hurling pick which defeated East Limerick 5-2 to 2-3.

Big plum of the Munster year—the likely meeting between Cork and Tipperary in the Senior Hurling Championship semi-final, fixed for June 30th—will be handed out this week-end and hopes are high that Limerick will be once more favoured as the venue. Slan agus Beannacht De agaibh go leir, a chairde Gaedheal!

Part 3

No. 201-WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

CONTINUING the Gaelic memoirs of the great Bruff sportsman, Willie Naughton, I give some further extracts from the very fine diary he kept of events on Gaelic field and forum of over half a century ago:

Father Casey had a thorny question to decide at the first County Board meeting following his election to the chair.

Mick Clifford, Captain of the Ballyagran team, lodged an objection to the Rathkeale team which defeated them in the County Senior Hurling Championship at Ballingarry, on the grounds that P. O'Donoghue, who played with Rathkeale, had earlier played in the All-Ireland ties with London-Irish.

CONNECTED WITH RATHKEALE TEAM FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.

Mick Madigan, replying for Rathkeale, said that O'Donoghue had been connected with the Rathkeale team for fifteen years and never missed a match they played. He had been forced to go to England, but that was no reason why he should be debarred from hurling for his native parish. London County Board was hardly governed at all by the Association in Ireland.

Mr. J. O'Riordan said London was a province of Ireland in the latter.

Mr. Clifford said they did not want the match, only a re-play, which, they held, should be at the Markets Field, certainly not Ballingarry.

After considerable discussion Father Casey said that O'Donoghue had to leave Ireland for a little while. He had since returned and was determined to stay. Now it was suggested he could not be allowed to play with his home parish. He would not for any reason give it against him. He would make O'Donoghue a member of the Rathkeale team even if he had severed his connection with them for a short time.

THREATENING LETTERS.

Arising out of a dispute that took place at a senior hurling championship match between Cappamore and Young Ireland at Castleconnell, Mr. Thos. Landon, of Kiltelly, said he was regretfully compelled to resign his position on the Board as he had received two threatening letters, one from the Young Ireland team which read:

"Dear Landon—If you attempt to attend the next meeting of the County Board your brains will be scattered about the flags at the Commercial Hotel. You have always been opposed to the Young Irelands, but if you interfere with them now you won't do so again for some time."

Mr. Johnny McSweeney (Young Irelands) said no member of his club wrote the letter complained of. It was a libel on the club to suggest it came from Young Ireland without producing any

proof concerning the identity of the writer.

Some warm interchanges followed, in the course of which complaint was made of incidents in the city on Sunday, April 25th, in which followers of Bruff, Caherline, Young Ireland and Cappamore were implicated, which led Mr. O'Riordan to suggest that any member who had been in the Police Court be suspended for 12 months.

Rev. Chairman—It is enough to have the English Government condemning us without condemning each other.

Mr. Landon eventually decided to reconsider his decision.

The final of the local hurling tournament attracted a great crowd to Bruff on Sunday, October 20th, 1904, and a great game it proved for three-quarters of the hour, after which Caherline forged ahead to win by a big score.

THE TEAMS.

Mr. Willie Naughton refereed in his usual very capable fashion and the teams were:

Caherline—Tim Lloyd (captain), J. Flood, P. Cremear, W. Ryan, M. Kiely, J. Muldoon, T. Kiely, M. Sarsfield, J. Bourke, P. Muldoon, C. Hanley, W. Keogh, T. Ward, D. Riordan, M. Ryan, W. Ryan, J. Neilgan.

Effin—J. Riordan (Captain), M. Sheehy, M. Carroll, T. Pender, M. Coleman, D. O'Donnell, F. Lee, W. Hartnett, B. Fitzgerald, J. Moloney, P. O'Brien, J. Kennedy, M. Gorman, M. Ryan, W. Hayes, J. Howe, T. Tuohy.

After the match the principal men of both teams were invited by Mr. Naughton to his residence. Amongst those present were: T. Lloyd, J. D. O'Neill (Caherline), J. Riordan, D. O'Donnell (Effin), J. Shearin, M. Whelan, E. Guerin, D. Curley, T. Mortell, P. Stapleton, P. Casey, J. McGuinness, W. Naughton (Bruff).

Mr. Naughton in the course of a brief address expressed the thanks of the Bruff Gaels to the many teams that had participated in their tournament, and in presenting the trophies to Mr. Lloyd expressed the hope that it would be only one of their many future victories. He then handed over a beautiful set of Irish made jerseys.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUFF GAELS.

Mr. Lloyd, in returning thanks, congratulated the Bruff Gaels on the Gaelic spirit with which they conducted their tournament. He was delighted it had ended so satisfactorily and could assure other tournament committees they would be doing well if they took a leaf from the Bruff book.

Mr. J. D. O'Neill said he had great pleasure in endorsing everything Mr. Lloyd had said.

Mr. Riordan, on behalf of the Effin Club, said he was delighted to say that he never came across any Gaelic body that treated teams with such an even amount of fair play as the members of the Bruff Tournament Committee had done. Although they were defeated by a big score it was at the hands of one of the crack teams of the county. He wished to return on behalf of his club their sincere thanks to Mr. Naughton for the kindness he showed to them on every occasion that they came to Bruff.

Mr. Casey said that the thanks of every true Gael were due to Mr. Naughton for the self-sacrificing way he worked to make the tournament a success. He need hardly state that Mr. Naughton gained nothing by the tournament. He, along with a few more young spirited Gaels of the town, started the great tournament they had that day brought to a successful conclusion. It was gratifying to know that any person connected with the spirit trade had neither hand, act nor part in the working of the tournament.

Messrs. T. Mortell, P. Shearin and E. Guerin also spoke.

PARTICIPATING TEAMS THANKED.

Immediately after the teams leaving the town a special meeting of the Tournament Committee was held and expressed their sincere appreciation of the kindness of Mr. James Butler in placing his field at their disposal. They extended to all the teams that competed their best thanks: Ardpatrick, Bulgaden, Bruree, Banogue, Ballyagran, Ballybricken, Croom, Caherline, Dromkeen, Effin, Elton, Fedamore, Grange, Granagh, Kiltelly, Kilmallock, Manister and Patricks-

well.

On the proposition of Mr. Naughton, seconded by Mr. Shearin, the Committee unanimously adopted this resolution: "That we, the members of the Bruff Tournament Committee, return our sincere thanks to the 'Limerick Leader' for its kindness in inserting several matters connected with our now terminated tournament and we also wish to state that the 'Leader' deserves the support and patronage of every true-hearted Gael in the County on account of the large space devoted to Gaelic pastimes in its columns."

OTHER TOURNAMENTS.

Limerick teams were to the fore in the Rath Luirc Tournament played around the same period and in the semi-final we find Ballyagran defeating Bruree 2-12 to 0-5. The match was fast and, according to Press reports was the best ever seen in the Rath Luirc enclosure. Special mention was made of M. Clifford, Ballyagran, and D. Coll, Bruree, for their brilliant display.

Another fine tournament between Cork and Limerick club teams was organised in Kilfinane that season and the Press report on a pair of the games will be read with interest.

"Kilfinane of 'Staker Wallace' fame was the centre of a great Gaelic gathering on Sunday. This neat and well laid out town rests on a gentle elevation. To the east of it lies the Galtees—a range of mountains that for a passing view cannot be excelled. The south-west view from the town is one with which some of our Alpine climbers would be pleased. The valley itself is beautiful. Winding through it is the Golden Vale, while the 'Morning Star' waters in its course the rich verdure that surrounds it for miles. At an early hour the town pipe and drum band paraded the streets, rendering some choice selections of music, amongst which the national airs found a prominent place. The band also went out and met each team as they came and played them through the town on to the field. The latter was well laid out for the occasion and splendid order was kept from the start to finish, thanks to the members of the Kilfinane Sports Committee, who left nothing undone to see that each team got fair play."

GREAT WIN FOR BRUREE.

Bruree had a great win over their Cork opponents—Kildorrery, the Limerick players being:

P. J. Kelly, J. Moloney, C. Callaghan, B. Callaghan, M. Callaghan, T. Enright, J. Byrnes, J. Walsh, D. Murphy, T. Meehan, P. Dawson, O. Carroll, L. Carroll, W. Hanrahan, D. Heirley, P. Goer, D. Crimmin.

The tit-bit of the evening was the clash between Bruff Stars and Shanballymore, which the former won after a terrific tussle, 2-4 to 0-8. Stanton in the Bruff goal was the hero of the game, bringing off some thrilling saves. The Bruff players were:—

M. Quinlan (captain), T. Stanton (goal), M. Whelan, D. Curley, P. Stapleton, J. McGuinness, D. Ryan, J. Ryan, M. Flynn, E. Guerin, J. Guerin, W. Gambell, M. Hogan, P. Russell, C. Hayes, D. McAuliffe, J. Kearney.

TRIBUTE TO REFEREES AND TEAMS.

The Press report concluded: "The ever popular referee, Mr. William Naughton, Bruff member of the County Board, refereed the first game, and as usual gave entire satisfaction. Mr. T. Tobin, Kilfinane, was in charge of the second match and, indeed, did his duty well. It may be added that the way the contending parties conducted themselves was most edifying, not a cross word being heard between them. The crowd that witnessed the contests should be close on three thousand. The gentle sex graced the field in large numbers. Amongst those present was the Rev. Fr. Sheehy, P.P., Rochhill and Bruree. This ever popular gentleman was cheered again and again by the different teams. Speaking to the winners of the last match he said that a finer match he never witnessed. The play was really most scientific. The Bruff men had beaten the best team in Cork, a great achievement. He was delighted they won and hoped that that would be only one of their many victories. The rev. gentleman was then greeted with loud cheering, which was renewed again and again."

No. 201—WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

THAT club colours were more varied in the old days can be judged from a report of a County Board meeting of a little over half a century ago, when the Ballyagran team registered as their colours, orange and black, with a green sash. Other colours registered on the same occasion included such combinations as Saffron and cream, maroon and gold, yellow and red, blue and purple, red and green, red and black, white and amber, black and green, blue and red, white and black, and pink and light blue.

BALLYAGRAN REGISTERED PLAYERS.

The players registered by the Ballyagran team on the same occasion included many well-known athletes—three of the famed Leahy family, Paddy, Joe and Mick; two Bresnihan, J. J. and Mick; and Larry Roche. The full registration will be of interest: Mick Clifford, captain; P. O'Leary, D. Connell, L. Roche, P. Leahy, J. Leahy, M. Leahy, C. Madigan, T. Murphy, P. Vaughan, D. Donovan, M. Gibbons, M. Bresnihan, M. Barry, W. Keffe, R. Corkery, E. Watson, J. Noonan, M. Boyce, T. Carroll, E. Murphy, E. Clifford, P. Clifford, E. Byrnes, M. Kelly, J. J. Bresnihan.

The same County Board meeting decided on sending a hurling and football team, plus the Boys' Orphanage Band, to Fermoy, to play Cork sides in a series of games in aid of the fund for the erection of schools for the Christian Brothers in Fermoy.

YOUNG IRELAND TEAM.

Young Ireland had charge of the Limerick hurling team and they did exceptionally well when they accounted for Danguerny, led by the renowned Jim Kelleher, 5-4 to 1-7. The Young Ireland selection was T. Llyod, E. Flynn, M. McCarthy, M. Ryan, T. O'Brien, M. Creamer, J. O'Connell, J. Flanagan, W. Ryan, J. Mackey, M. Hartigan, P. O'Dea, J. Flaherty, T. Bresnihan, M. Feely, W. Sheehan, J. Carroll.

In football, Commercials were held to a draw (two points each) by a strong Fermoy side that included the great dual star, Willie Mackessy. The Commercials lined out; A. Quillinan (capt.), Jacky Riordan, P. Connell, P. O'Connell, W. Collins, P. Mooney, W. Horan, P. Mooney, W. Daly, E. Mullane, W. Brennan, E. O'Sullivan, J. Leahy, D. Leahy, J. Ryan, J. Normoyle, S. Nash.

TOM HAYES.

Tom Hayes, afterwards to prove a noted hurler and referee, and now one of the most respected Gaels in Limerick, and Hon. President of the recently revived Young Ireland Club, was first registered with Young Ireland at a meeting of the County Board held in August 1904. The club colours registered on that occasion were not the ones for long associated with the renowned city club. They were green, with gold sash across chest. The other members registered with the club on the same occasion were: Johnny McSweeney, President; J. Fitzgerald, Vice-President; J. Flanagan, Captain; J. O'Connell; Vice-Capt.; T. O'Brien, J. McNamara, A. Kelly, T. Fraw-

ley, P. O'Dea, M. Real, J. McDonnell, W. Brennan, J. Brennan, J. Hoare, M. Hogan, J. Hayes, T. Hayes, J. Riordan, J. Gleeson, C. Kelly, M. Slattery, M. Hartigan, J. Creamer, P. Mooney, P. Carthy, P. O'Driscoll, T. Crowe.

BRUFF PLAYERS

The Bruff players registered on the same occasion were: Michael Quinlan, W. Gambell, E. Guerin, J. Guerin, M. Hogan, P. Russell, M. Flynn, J. Ryan, M. Feely, P. Mangan, Michael Whelan, J. Mullane, J. McGuinness, T. Stanton, J. Kearney, M. Barron, E. Clarry, D. McAuliffe, P. Stapleton, C. Hayes, W. Naughton, Secretary.

Tom Hayes played his first recorded game in the Young Ireland colours when he manned the Bearn Baoghail in a match at Kilfinane against the Redmonds of Cork, which the Leesiders won, 2-14 to 0-3.

On the same occasion, Effin had a great game with Castletown-roche, and in a thrilling finish, during which they scored a goal and two points, were narrowly beaten, 1-9 to 1-8. The Effin players were: J. Riordan, captain; M. Sheedy, J. Power, T. Pender, D. O'Donnell, F. Lee, M. Corkery, M. Coleman, M. Carroll, B. Fitzgerald, P. O'Brien, M. Ryan, W. Hayes, J. Howe, J. McCarthy, J. Kennedy, J. Tuohy.

NOTABLE VISIT.

A notable visit to the Markets Field was that of the London-Irish senior hurling team, holders of the All-Ireland Championship at the time. Thousands of citizens, accompanied by the St. Joseph's Orphanage Brass Band and the Sarsfield Fife and Drum Band, assembled at the Railway Station to greet the visiting team, who were loudly cheered on arrival. The members of the team were escorted in procession order through the principal streets to Geary's Hotel, where they were entertained to dinner, at which Mr. Larry Roche presided, the company including Ald. M. Joyce, M.P.; Ald. John Daly and well-known City and County Gaels.

THE TOASTS.

The Chairman proposed "Ireland a Nation," which was toasted with enthusiasm, and responded to by Aldermen Daly and Joyce.

The guests of the evening, "the London Irish," was received with great enthusiasm, being responded to by Messrs McInerney and Storan, after which the County Secretary, Mr. P. J. Hayes, presented an illuminated scroll of welcome to the visitors.

The toast of the G.A.A. was responded to by an old Gael in the person of Mr. Dick Gleeson of the St. Michael's Club.

Songs and recitations followed, those contributing including Aldermen Joyce and Daly, Messrs. McInerney, London, Nash, Burke, Portley, Meaney and Hayes. The Brothers Keane rendered choice selections of Irish airs on the pipes which were highly appreciated, and a very enjoyable evening came to a close with the singing of "A Nation Once Again."

THE GAME.

A very large crowd assembled at the Markets Field for the

game, which was won by the home side, 4-11 to 2-6. The success was not as overwhelming as the score might indicate, as the visitors had plenty of the play but were unfortunate in their scoring essays. The Limerick players were: T. Lloyd, captain; W. Ryan, P. Creamer (Caherline), M. Flynn; goal, (Kilfinane), M. Feely, M. Whelan (Bruff), J. Mackey, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell), M. Shinnors (Kilteely), T. O'Brien, J. Flanagan (Young Ireland), M. Danagher, M. Horan (Murroe), W. Sheahan, P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), J. Butler (Cappamore), T. Sheehan (Monegay).

ECHO OF THE TIMES.

An echo of the times can be traced in a resolution moved by Mr. T. Mortell, and unanimously adopted, at a meeting of the Bruff Club, over which Willie Naughton presided. It read: "That having seen in the 'Limerick Leader' a letter from Mr. W. Whelan, a respected member of our club, in reference to a farm held by his grandfather from Mr. C. W. Smyth, J.P., Ballynanty, and having carefully considered the contents of that letter, we have come to the conclusion that it was a cruel eviction, and, therefore, pledge ourselves by every legitimate means in our power to support Mr. Whelan until justice is meted out to him by restoring or compensating him for the holding which he is justly entitled to, and we call on the U.I.L., the Gaels of the county, and the members of the Land and Labour Association to rally behind him."

NINETEENTH ALL-IRELAND CONGRESS

At the nineteenth All Ireland G.A.A. Congress, held in the Confraternity Hall, Thurles, on January 9th, 1905, Limerick was represented by P. J. Leahy, P. J. Hayes, F. B. Dineen, W. Naughton, P. J. Kelly, M. Clifford, J. A. Collins, J. McMahon, Con Leahy and C. C. O'Rourke.

The value of money at the period can be appreciated from a discussion which arose concerning the overcrowding of Cork Athletic Grounds on September 11th, 1904, the occasion of the All Ireland Senior Hurling Final, in which Danguerny, representing Cork, overthrew the London Irish, who were title holders. Considerable damage was caused to the paling and the Cork delegates sought and were granted £5 compensation, to repair the damage.

LIVELY INTERLUDE.

The only lively interlude of an otherwise tame Congress arose out of a Limerick motion, sponsored by Mr. Con Leahy, seeking an explanation from Mr. T. O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Munster Council and a trustee of the Central Council, as to his action in having permitted a police officer and a constable compete at Listowel Sports without protest or warning. Mr. O'Sullivan hotly declared that he neither directly nor indirectly officiated at the meeting in question. An improper use of his name had been made in putting it on the programme.

DR. CROKE MEMORIAL.

An interesting decision of this

Congress was that concerning the erection of a memorial to Dr. Croke, which eventually led to the purchase of Croke Park.

The convention agreed that all contract work done for the Association be of Irish material and performed by trades union men. That was an unusual course in Ireland of over half a century ago.

IMPORTED GAMES.

A motion which was carried despite the strenuous opposition of the majority of the Munster delegates ruled that "all persons who play rugby, or Association football, hockey, cricket or other imported games, shall be suspended for two years from the date of playing such games, this rule to apply to all counties affiliated to the G.A.A."

No. 201—WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Continued)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

THAT emigration was always with us can be appreciated from a report in the "Limerick Leader" of October 19th, 1904, of a function in Bruff, as follows: "Not often does it occur that a person leaves the old country whose departure occasioned such universal feelings of regret as that of Mr. Thomas Stanton, who recently left for the United States. Mr. Stanton was held in the highest esteem and regard both in his native town of Bruff and the immediate neighbourhood. He was goalkeeper for the Bruff Morning Star Hurling Club, and had been always associated with its many successes. As a proof of the respect in which he was held by his colleagues of the caman, a special meeting of the Bruff Hurling Club was held for the purpose of giving him an Irish 'send off.' Mr. William Naughton, President, occupied the chair, the others present being Michael Quinlan, captain; Edward Guerin, Charles Hayes, Michael Whelan, Daniel Curley, John McGuinness, Patrick Stapleton, Patrick Shearin, Michael Hogan, John Ryan, Michael Flynn, Michael Feely and Thomas Mortell, Hon. Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

"Mr. Naughton said they had assembled for the purpose of giving practical expression to their feelings of regret at the departure of their goalkeeper, Thomas Stanton, who was about to leave for the great Republic of the West. Not only should they mark Mr. Stanton's departure but they should also embody the names of John Kearney and Denis Ryan, who had left the week previous. He was confident that he was only expressing the sentiments of those present by wishing all three many years of prosperity in the country they were about to adopt.

"Mr. Edward Guerin said he had much pleasure in endorsing

everything that their President had said. On behalf of the Club he pinned a suitably engraved gold medal on Mr. Stanton's breast, amidst much applause.

"Mr. Thomas Mortell said that although their goalkeeper was now about to leave them he hoped the day was not far distant when the exiles of Erin, both girls and boys, would once more return and find in their mother country contentment and happiness.

MR. STANTON'S REPLY.

"In reply, Mr. Stanton said he could not adequately in words return thanks to his brother Gaels for such kind expressions of regret at his departure for America. He thanked them for the splendid medal with which they had presented him and assured them that he would always treasure it as one of his most unpurchasable mementos. He would never forget his friends in Bruff, but more particularly his colleagues of the Morning Star Hurling Club, and no matter in what circumstances he might be placed they would occupy the premier place in his memory.

"Immediately after the presentation Mr. Naughton entertained all those present. Several songs were sung, and many toasts were proposed and heartily responded to."

WELL-CONTESTED MATCH.

Kilfinane lined out a number of the men who helped Limerick win All-Ireland hurling honours in 1897, when they played Bruff at Elton on February 5th, 1905, in a match "in support of a labour demonstration to be held in the near future at Knocklong."

After a very exciting and well-contested match a draw was the result: Kilfinane, 1-7; Bruff, 2-4. Mr. T. Campion, Kilmallock, refereed, and the teams were:

Kilfinane—M. Downes (goal), M. Flynn, P. Flynn, T. Brazil, T. Casey, P. Casey, M. Finn, J. Finn,

Dunworth, Moynihan, J. Carey, A. Carey, Howe, Duggan, Corkery, Hayes, McCarthy.

Bruff—M. Quinlan (captain), E. Guerin, J. Guerin, M. Guerin, W. Gambell, C. Hayes, M. Hogan, P. Russell (goal), P. Coughlan, E. Clery, D. Stapleton, M. Whelan, J. Ryan, M. Feely, J. Mulhane, J. McGuinness, J. Gallagher.

KILFINNY HURLING CLUB.

Kilfinny Hurling Club, at a meeting of the County Board, registered the following players: E. Hartigan (captain), D. Ahern (Vice-Captain), W. O'Donoghue, P. Lane, J. Morrissey, M. Morrissey, P. Morrissey, M. Kelly, J. Kelly, Michael Kelly, M. Lynch, J. Pigott, T. Hannan, J. Carmody, J. Cattrell, M. Mangan, W. Byrnes, T. Quaid, D. Kelly, T. Mangan, Joseph Bourke, John O'Brien, Patrick Quin, John Noonan.

At the same meeting, Mr. Larry Roche, of Dromin, proposed and Mr. Bill Sheahan seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: "That we, the Gaels of Limerick City and County in meeting assembled, hereby tender to our former colleague, Ald. Joyce, M.P., our hearty congratulations on his election to the mayoral chair of the ancient Borough of Limerick."

A LIMERICK DOUBLE WIN.

Limerick had a double success over Waterford in Munster Championship ties played on April 14th, 1905, winning in hurling 7-10 to 1-3 and in football 1-4 to 0-4. The Limerick players were:

Hurling—Tom Flynn, P. Flynn, T. O'Brien, W. Brennan, J. Carroll, M. McCarthy, W. Whelan, M. Feely, M. Gibbons, L. Roche, M. Ryan, M. Danaher, M. Clifford, Joe Leahy, M. Quinlan.

Football—E. Mullane (captain), J. Regan (goal), John Reardon, W. Brennan, W. Daly, P. Moloney, T. Ryan, P. Horan, W. O'Connell, J. Normoyle, A. Quillinan, R. Quinn, M. Dwyer, J. Nash, T. McSweeney, W. Drumgoold.

EXCITING CONTEST.

Young Ireland figured in a very exciting game with Tulla (Clare) in the final of the Blackwater Tournament played at the Markets Field, and which the Dalcassians won by a narrow margin. The teams were:

Tulla—P. O'Neill (captain), F. Power, H. Power, P. Cullow, P. McMahon, J. Markham, M. Murphy, D. McMahon, M. Dinan, J. Canny, M. Canny, J. O'Halloran, M. Hogan, T. Boyce, J. Lawrence, J. Hehir.

Young Ireland—T. O'Brien (captain), T. Hayes (goal), J. O'Connell, W. Brennan, P. O'Dea, J. Hayes, M. Hogan, M. McDonnell, J. Brennan, T. Hoare, A. Kelly, M. Reals, J. Flanagan, P. Frawley, J. Creamer, J. O'Riordan, J. Sweeney.

A BIG SURPRISE.

Caherline created a big surprise when they defeated a fancied Kilfinane team at Knocklong in the Senior Hurling Championship 2-2 to 0-5. The Caherline players were: W. Ryan (captain), J. Flood, P. Creamer, M. Kiely, J. Muldoon, T. Kiely, J. Bourke, P. Muldoon, D. Riordan, W. Ryan, W. Neligan, M. Ryan, J. Burke, M. Murphy, M. Heelan, T. Ward, W. Keogh.

Willie Naughton was warmly congratulated on the manner, as referee, in which he handled this game, especially as the pitch was an open one and the crowd made encroachments on a number of occasions when excitement was at fever pitch.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

From the "Limerick Leader" of April 23rd, 1905, we read in "Gaelic Notes" the following interesting items:

"The marriage took place at Cork on Sunday last of Mr. Willie Naughton, Bruff, one of the truest Gaels in Limerick City and County, and member of the Munster Council.

"At the Markets Field Bruff met Caherline in the semi-final tie for East Limerick in senior hurling. The Caherline men were favourites in the start but the Bruff boys outclassed them as the game went on and won by 1-8 to 1-5 for Caherline.

"The Limerick County Militia has turned to Gaelic pastimes. On Monday last over a hundred men turned out at the Island Field with their camans, when a splendid contest between two companies was played. Sergt. O'Neill had charge of the whistle. This is looking well for our Gaelic pastimes when the Government has purchased camans for their recruits.

"St. Munchin's College, Limerick, has given up the rugby code and has come into the ranks of the G.A.A. A hurling club has been formed in the College, and it is expected that they will take part in the Gaelic championships this year.

"The boys of St. Joseph's (Limerick) met the Thurles Junior Hurling Club on Easter Monday. The match was the best junior contest witnessed in Limerick for a number of years, the local lads winning 4-6 to 4-4.

"The Limerick County Board at their last meeting congratulated the electors of East, West and Limerick City on having again returned their true and tried representatives in Parliament—Messrs. Joyce, Landon and O'Shaughnessy."

No. 201-WILLIE NAUGHTON of Bruff (Concluded)

(By SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH)

GAELIC affairs in Limerick had got into a bad way by 1907, and it was in the efforts to restore the county to its usual high place in the G.A.A. world that the administrative capacity, foresight and drive of Willie Naughton really came to the front.

He went to the trouble of drawing up elaborate but very necessary proposals for the better working of the Association in the county, and perhaps the best tribute that can be paid to his G.A.A. knowledge and judgment is to be found in the fact that the great majority of the reforms he introduced fifty years ago now form the groundwork of G.A.A. government within the county. A read through Willie Naughton's proposals will convince anyone conversant with the laws under which the games operate to-day how big a part he played in shaping the present framework of G.A.A. control and competition.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM.

In a letter to the "Limerick Leader" dated February 21st, 1907, Mr. Naughton wrote:—

"Now that we are approaching the annual Convention I take the liberty of putting forward for the consideration of the Gaels of the county some suggestions of reform for the constitution and management of the Limerick County Board.

"For years past the Association is dying a certain death, chiefly due to an incompetent and non-energetic Board. I have been connected with this Board during the past five years, and consequently am in a position to criticise the most palpable mismanagement and utter helplessness of the Limerick County Board to satisfactorily transact the Gaelic affairs with which it is entrusted.

"I have often deplored and have more often still given expression to the feelings which I entertained relative to the slipshod manner in which the finances of the Board have been managed. This mismanagement is so culpable that many clubs are utterly disgusted and disorganised. The Board itself has become involved in debt, and the Gaelic movement throughout the country has lost both the support and confidence of the public. Any honest-minded Gael must admit that such an intolerable state of affairs should not be any longer permitted to exist.

CONSTITUTION OF COUNTY BOARD.

"With a view to a healthy and beneficial reform I now take the liberty of making the following suggestions: In the first place, I think that the Board, instead of being constituted as it at present is, by club representation, would, in the future, be governed by Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and a Committee of twelve responsible and solvent men, who are members of affiliated clubs, having at least seventeen bona-fide playing members, such men to be selected as the Convention may decide.

"Secondly, I suggest that the clubs situated in the extreme Western part of the county be governed by a Sub-Committee, to be also appointed by the Convention, and that said Sub-Committee be subject to the Constitution of the new governing body. The clubs under its control to be Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West, Rathkeale, Monegal, Tournafulla, Ballingarry, Templeglantine, Dromcollogher, Clonacagh, Castlemahon, Knockaderry, Askeaton, Ardagh and Foynes.

"Instead of as hitherto all meetings of the Board being held in the city I suggest that the future meetings be held alternately in such central places throughout the county as the Convention may decide. Nobody can deny that the present place of meeting is both inconvenient and expensive, more particularly for clubs located on the borders of Cork and Kerry. Should this change be approved I would further say the meetings of

the governing body should be held on a Sunday, and at some suitable hour, as this day is, in my opinion, much more convenient than any other.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

"That the future governing body open a bank account, and that all monies be lodged to the credit of that body in the names of the Chairman and Secretary for the time being and that all bills be submitted to meetings of the governing body, and that payments be made by cheque only. All cheques to be signed by the Chairman and Secretary. That the receipts and expenses of all matters be recorded in the minutes of the succeeding meeting. That wherever county championship matches are played in enclosed grounds, roll tickets be used, and that two responsible persons be appointed to check the receipts of said gates. That a half yearly statement of account be produced, and that the Secretary of the new governing body shall furnish printed copies of an annual balance sheet to the Secretary of each affiliated club at least one week previous to the date of the Annual Convention, and that two auditors be appointed by the Convention to scrutinise the accounts and report thereon.

"That the county championships be finished by the end of October and that Rule 8, page 16 of the Association, which provides for the holding of annual conventions, be rigidly enforced.

BYE-LAWS.

"In addition to the foregoing general changes I suggest that the following bye-laws be considered: (A) That championships for second teams both in hurling and football be established, and that the new governing body give every possible assistance and encouragement to the formation of such newly formed second teams. (Note—For the first quarter century of the G.A.A., championships were only organised for senior teams). (B) That a Referees' Committee be appointed by the future governing body, who would hold independent meetings and adopt stern and practical methods for refereeing, and that no persons be eligible to act on said Committee except those that have a thorough knowledge of the rules of the Association. (C) That a Committee composed of five members be appointed for the selecting of teams engaged in inter-county contests, and that the choice of players made by such Committee be in all cases upheld and that no players be allowed compete save those that this Committee shall appoint. (D) That in future any club refusing to give picked men to team travelling to play an inter-county or inter-provincial match for championship, or any player refusing to play in same, be suspended for a period of not less than six months, unless such club or player can give a satisfactory explanation of such refusal.

OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

"I shall not further enlarge on the bye laws, and shall leave their formulation to the new governing body. There are other important matters which require attention such as the travelling expenses of teams. The bye laws regulating such expenses seem to be completely ignored. The rules regulating the payment of teams' expenses should be again strictly enforced. The grants paid to injured players require provisional alteration. To meet such contingencies a tournament could be started, the proceeds to be devoted to an accident fund. The present system of gate management could be much improved on. I recommend that a gate voucher book be procured, the voucher for each gate taken to be signed by the ticket seller. The receipts taken should be handed over to the Treasurer for lodgment in the bank on the succeeding day; all expenses to be paid by cheque.

"Other matters to be dealt with include the question of postpone-

ments, carrying out of championships, tournaments, the competition for the Murphy Challenge Cup, Parish Rule, etc. All these, in my opinion, require the primary consideration of the convention. In concluding my suggested reforms I assume that all Gaels will understand that I have no wish to appear either impertinent or dictatorial. Whatever suggestions I have made, I have done so in the interests of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and I now invite a public interchange of opinions of all true hearted Gaels for the complete reformation of the Association in Limerick."

WARM COMMENDATION.

Mr. Naughton's proposals attracted much interest, and in subsequent issues of the "Limerick Leader" letters were published from leading Gaels, including W. F. Lee, Castleconnell; P. J. Hartnett, Tournafulla; W. Drake and J. Tobin, Kilfinane; J. McSweeney, Young Ireland; C. C. O'Rourke, Abbeyfeale; M. Clifford, Fedamore and R. Quinn, Pallas, warmly commending them and promising support.

All of the reforms did not come together but it is a significant fact that the bulk of them gained universal approval within a few seasons. For his work in this sphere alone Mr. Naughton deserves the sincere thanks of Limerick Gaeldom. Allied to his great powers of organisation, his administrative and refereeing abilities and the part he played as first Chairman in establishing the South Limerick Board, this great Gael can claim a major contribution to the progress march of native games by Shannonside. Long may he flourish!