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One Halfpenny

GREAT TEST. GAELIC FOOTBALL. KERRY TEAM DEFEAT CHAMPIONS.

MR. JOHN REDMOND ONE OF 40,000 SPECTATORS OF MATCH. LOUTH'S GALLANT FIGHT.

A crowd estimated at between 40,000 and 50,000 people assembled in and around the enclosure at Jones's road yesterday when the Gaelic football match between Louth and Kerry was decided. The final result was:-

Kerry – 2 goals and 4 points (10 points)

Louth – 5 points.

The gate receipts are estimated at well over £1,000.

It was a memorable struggle between two teams at stern rivalry. This rivalry is of years standing, and in a particular way explains the extraordinary and world-wide interest centred in the contest. Some years ago Louth, champions of Ulster, and Kerry, champions of Munster, were to have met at Dublin in the All-Ireland Football Championship. The Kerry team, for reasons already well known, did not keep that engagement, and Louth were awarded the honour.

Since that time Kerry were "itching" to have it out with Louth. The opportunity was afforded when the teams were brought together in the final tie of the Croke Memorial Tournament.

This match was played on the first Sunday of last month, and the result of an historic battle was a draw on the scores:- Louth, 1 goal and 1 point; Kerry 4 points. That match drew 30,000 people to Jones's road. Yesterday the teams again met to replay the match to a decisive result.

To say that all Ireland was excited by the contest is not to overstate the case. The train services specially put on for the occasion reflect this excitement. The special trains yesterday on the different systems running into Dublin brought the following numbers:-

G.S. and W. Railway.....	12,000
Great Northern Railway.....	7,000
Midland Great Western Rly.....	5,500
Dublin and South Eastern Rly...	4,000

Add to these crowds the thousands who came into the city from the neighbouring district by bicycles, motor cars, and other classes of vehicles, and some idea can be gained of the congested condition of the streets from the heart of the city to the North suburb.

ENTHUSIASTIC SPIRITS.

Amongst the thousands arriving into the city about noon were many hundreds who left their homes in the grey dawn of Sunday morning to catch their trains at the nearest railway station. At Dingle, for instance, midnight Mass was celebrated, and those who attended the Service entrained at Dingle at 3a.m. to join the excursion train from Tralee. Cases were numerous of where men and women, old and young, left their mountain homes and distant cottages in the wastes of the West or the mountains of the South to trudge, some of them, ten miles of road to meet the train on the main lines.

No accurate estimate could be given of the numbers of cars that plied from the city to Jones's road, always fully freighted, but it is correct to say that from 1 o'clock up to 3 the stream of cars was unbroken and unending. Scores of special trains were pressed into service along the Parnell street and Drumcondra routes. Despite these special means of conveyance, the streets and roads were for hours thick with humanity. It was a magnificently good-humoured multitude. Thousands sported their favours bespeaking their sympathies – "Up Louth" in flaring scarlet; "Up Kerry" in vivid green.

The gates at Jones's road were thrown open to the public at one o'clock. An hour later the enclosure was comfortably crowded. Two hours later the same enclosure and available space on and above the ground level were most uncomfortably congested. And still the crowds kept coming. Many of these late arrivals – late through no fault of their own – had taken the precaution to provide themselves with tickets for the reserved stands, but these enthusiastic, innocent people might have profitably kept their money in their pockets. Their foresight went for nothing: they were refused admission to the seats that they had purchased. They cried aloud their grievances, but their cries fell on deaf ears. They were barred and bolted out.

INDIGNANT VISTORS.

"There are ten of us here from Monaghan" cried one late-comer, and he and the nine others flourished their tickets, for which they had paid their half-crown each. "Why weren't you here before?" was the answer of an official. "This gate can't be opened now, no matter who it is." The Monaghan men became indignant. "We left home this morning at seven o'clock," he tried to explain, "and Heaven knows we wanted something to eat when we got to Dublin. Are we to be blamed for that?" But officialdom was obdurate. "We can't help it" was all the satisfaction given to the indignant visitors. And the case of the Monaghan men was the case of hundreds others from North, South, and West. It reflected a state of things far from creditable to the organising abilities of the Gaelic Athletic Association. They had bad previous experience, and apparently they profited nothing from that experience.

ARRIVAL OF MR. JOHN REDMOND.

Shortly after the Monaghan contingent had vainly endeavoured to gain an entrance to the seats purchased at half-a-crown each, Mr. John Redmond arrived near the gate from which these Monaghan men had been turned aside. It was only by much physical effort in which several stalwart members of the D.M.P. force gave valuable assistance, that a way was cleared for the Chairman of the Irish Party, who took the crushing good-humouredly. The moment he passed the gate he was recognised and a hearty cheer was raised, but from the look that swept over the face of the distinguished visitor the last thing he desired was anything in the nature of a public demonstration. He went quickly to his seat, and played the part of an ordinary interested spectator.

UNIQUE VANTAGE POINTS.

Many great crowds have assembled at Jones's road, but nothing yet has equalled this mighty concourse in or around any athletic arena in Ireland. Everywhere the eye turned, massed humanity met the gaze. People crowded up the barbed-wire walls. Men and boys hung out of the posts, pillars and roof-eaves of the stands. The railway line overlooking the field of play was packed with people, laity and clergy, and dozens of women. Very many of these had actually left the enclosure, and had to make a lengthy detour to get on to the railway line, which towers sixty or seventy feet above the ground.

In the enclosure itself, outside the rails, in the spaces occupied by the multitudes who paid sixpence and a shilling admittance, people were packed from ten to twenty deep. The vast majority of these not only could not see the progress of the match, but could not get even a glimpse of the playing pitch. And here was noted the enterprise of the orange, sandwich and mineral-water vendor. They renounced their trade in food and liquid stuffs, and hired out their orange boxes and mineral cases at fancy prices. A group of Carlow friends who had purchased half-crown tickets and could not get to their seats purchased a fruit-case for half a sovereign but alas! It was made for secreting luscious edibles, but not for bearing the combined weight of enthusiastic stalwarts, and at the first sway of emotion on the part of its occupants the improvised grand-stand crashed into splinters. More alarming than this was the collapse of one of the reserved enclosure stands, and incident attended with much discomfort, but, fortunately, without serious injury to anybody.

A GLORIOUS STRUGGLE.

As to the contest. Let this fact first be stated, that the sun blazed down on the playing pitch, and yesterday's heat was 90 degrees in the sun. In this heat thirty eager, straining men "footballed" for 60 minutes with scarcely a minutes breathing space. It was an ordeal that only athletes of magnificent physique and untiring zeal could endure. Every minute of the struggle gave lustre to the Celtic spirit of fair play and sportsmanship – the spirit too that every Gael feels when putting up a fight for his parish and his county.

For twenty minutes after the ball was thrown in the honours were all with Louth. For the next forty minutes the honours of war were Kerry's. As an eminent medical gentleman remarked "Gaelic games are like no other tests of physical endurance. Think of these men striving might and main out there under that sweltering sun. It is only men who live with nature who could bear the strain. I understand that Louth have trained along strictly modern lines – the seaside, the road walks and the gymnasium curriculum. I have seen pictures of Kerry men doing their training out in the fields behind the plough. In this Gaelic football, in weather like this, it is stamina that tells, and the man behind the plough has it in him."

THE TEAMS

KERRY

R. Fitzgerald (capt.).
D. Mullins (goal).
J. Skinner
W. Doyle
C. Murphy
P. Healy
P. Breen
M. McCarthy
J. Lawlor
T. Costelloe
C. Clifford
T. Rice
P. O'Shea
J. Kennelly
J. Moriarty

LOUTH

J. Smith (capt.).
M. Byrne (goal).
J. Brennan
E. Burke
G. Campbell
J. Clarke
J. Donnelly
Johnston
O. Markey
D. Warren
L. McCormack
J. Morgan
J. Mulligan
P. Reilly
J. Quinn

Referee – Mr. M. McCarthy, Cork.

THE GAME DESCRIBED.

SCORES EQUAL AT INTERVAL.

LOUTH COLLAPSE AT FINISH.

Kerry won the toss, and naturally played with the sun at their backs. There was hardly a breeze to speak of. Louth got down from the throw-in, and Costelloe twice relieved, and then Fitzgerald improved Kerry's position. A kick by Skinner when fairly well placed put the Louth posts in danger, but Shea, who got possession close in sent wide.

This was a glorious chance let slip.

The pace was terrific, and Louth were shaping the better. Fitzgerald led up to a promising attack by Kerry. Skinner, the Killarney light forward, got in a useful punt goalwards, but the ball sailed wide. A great run by Louth was checked by Costelloe of Tralee. Then the Kerry custodian was called on, and brought off a clever save.

After Rice, the Tralee half-back, had miskicked with his left, Campbell, of Ardee, secured in a favourable position. He wheeled cleverly, and scored a good point for the Northerners. Louth still held the upper hand, and Brennan should have scored. The extreme forwards of Louth miskicked the ball often, but Campbell, meeting Costelloe, shot across a fine centre, but the Kerry defence hustled successfully.

Kerry were awarded a free, which left play in mid-field. Campbell led another Louth rush. A fine effort by Rice was nullified by the Drogheda half-back, Burke, but Louth were still in the ascendant. Kerry made a spasmodic rush on the right. The Louth full-back effected a good clearance, but Breen, a sound substitute for Donovan, gained possession, and missed by a small margin.

AN EASY GOAL.

Rice led up to what proved a successful Kerry attack. Breen seized on the ball, and sent in a soft shot. To the amazement of all the Louth custodian misjudged the height of the hop and the ball went into the net. The game underwent a sudden change, Louth running in two points in quick succession per Campbell. Kerry fell away completely, a Louth player being always on the ball. Morgan had the hardest luck with a pivot shot, the wind taking the ball inches wide. A free to Kerry saw Costelloe send to Pat O'Shea, the centre forward, but Louth was well served by Mulligan, who cleared splendidly, and O'Shea came to Kerry's assistance and transferred.

A SPLENDID DEFENCE.

A minute later Kerry came with a tremendous rush, and Skinner looked all over a scorer as he ran speedily across from the right to beat the Louth custodian in a race for possession. Mulligan, a tower of strength for Louth, saved in miraculous fashion, and received a grateful handshake from the custodian. Louth forced their way and Kennelly, a young and wiry athlete, eased the pressure on the Kerry posts. A run by Rice was

improved on by Con Clifford, the speedy Tralee youth, who sent into touch near the centre. Following the throw in the ball came quickly across the field, and Moriarty put Fitzgerald in possession in front of the posts, but the Kerry captain was out for goals instead of points.

It looked at this stage as if Kerry had found their second wind. Their fielding improved. Fitzgerald was grandly placed, and he shot for goal, but having plenty of room, the Louth custodian came out and cleared. Fitzgerald again tried for goal. This time the Louth defence packed to the best advantage, and a clearance was effected. Three minutes from the interval a collision occurred between players of each side, one of these being apparently sorely hurt about the head. This was the veteran Maurice McCarthy, who, to the joy of all, resumed quickly. Kerry came strongly on the right, but were beaten off, and play was in the Kerry half near the centre when the whistle went. The scores were level as follows:-

Louth.....3 points

Kerry.....1 goal

Kerry were away from the restart, but a foul was given against Morgan. Two frees in quick succession – one to each side – left advantage still in the balance. Maurice McCarthy, in the Kerry defence, drew cheers with a couple of very clever clearances.

LOUTH LEAD AGAIN.

Louth came again, and for a foul on the right were awarded a free. As the angle went, Brennan, who took the free, had to kick fifty yards. The ball rose splendidly, and sailed between the posts for Louth's leading point. Kerry quickly pulled themselves together, and Skinner levelled the scores within a minute. There was some dispute about their score before it was allowed. The big crowd so far had excellent value, the game being even and exciting, and full of high class football. The teams maintained the pace in surprising fashion. A four-handed tussle, in which the ball never left the ground, was fought out near the centre, and then Con Murphy secured after a throw in, sending well down. The Louth custodian came out and cleared, but the ball was returned quickly, and Doyle struck the side of the goal net. Rice came to Con Murphy's assistance, and gave Kerry a further footing, but a free to Louth nullified the advantage. Just at this point the erratic throwing in from the side indicated that the pace had begun to tell. From a fierce attack by Louth Costelloe came through and cleared in grand style. A free to Kerry followed and then Fitzgerald got the better of the defence, and sent in a long shot which was wide of the mark.

KERRY'S BEST SCORE.

Kerry took a three-point lead after 14 minutes' play in the second period. O'Shea, from midfield, put Doyle in possession, and the Killarney sharp-shooter drove across cleverly to Skinner, who, with an oblique drive, scored a great goal.

Louth burst away to attack fiercely, but Rice was held, and the free gave Kerry relief. O'Shea soon afterwards once more proved his worth putting Kerry on the attack, and Kennedy had the hardest of luck with a long shot. The ball struck the upright high up and went out of play. The Louth men were now making strenuous efforts to cross the centre, but they had apparently shot their bolt. Smith, their captain, however, made a glorious rally, but putting the ball too far in front of him, lost possession. The Ulster Gaels were not yet done with, and after good passing amongst their forwards a most exciting scrimmage around the Kerry posts ended with the ball going wide.

The Kerry defence was heroic, and Lawlor was applauded loudly for a clearance which seemed to take the heart out of the Louth attackers.

THE COLLAPSE OF LOUTH.

With five minutes to go, Kerry looked very likely winners, and although Louth got up on the right Costelloe found no difficulty in going right round the right winger and clearing off the ground. Amidst great excitement the Louth forwards passed in the surest manner, and Brennan, the Dundalk Ranger, from a free forced a "50" – the first penalty of its kind in the game. This resulted in a point by the Geraldines' captain, Johnston, who got possession from Smyth's kick.

O'Shea – perhaps the most versatile player on the field – placed to Skinner, who scored a point for Kerry and thus restored their three points advantage.

It was the Louth posts on which eyes were turned at the finish. Clifford went near the mark with a high shot. Kerry got yet another score. Skinner being responsible, and yet another followed from Doyle.

These scores following in rapid succession were stimulating to Kerry, and "killed" Louth. The "wee county" were done with during the final ten minutes and Kerry won the greatest encounter ever witnessed at the headquarters of the Gael by 10 points to 5.