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Apropos of the seeming desire on the part of the Gaelic clubs of Mayo to let their game become a thing of the past, A GAEL writes:-

Now that Co Galway is up and doing, and are about electing their officers for coming year, probably the question will be popped, 'What has happened old Mayo, where many a hard-fought as well as scientific match was witnessed some years ago? So earnest were the Co Committee in their desire at the inception of the game to further the movement that they carried glory and fame with every argument. Men of sporting proclivities, actuated by the proverbial desire to make the movement increase in numbers and strength yearly, found an enjoyment also in attending the various tournaments held throughout the county. Everything passed off fairly well until '91 when the 'passing knell' of football was sounded, caused by the idiosyncrasies of pessimistic individuals, as the succeeding paragraph will show. Unjust decisions were rendered by referees in this way—if a player happened to commit a foul, accidental or on purpose, the opposing side would be given the match; and imbued with the idea that there was no fair play to be given in future on the award, there was a remarkable falling off of players. To make matters even worse, parents grumbled long and loudly at the 'large' sums of money they had to pay for our hire and many were the voices raised about getting free conveyance to the different venues, the money to be taken out of the affiliation fees. If the funds were to be misappropriated in this manner, it is evident it would be making confusion worse confounded, and put an end to tournaments in short order. If a youth chooses to be provident and hoard up all his earnings, according to the old-fashioned, nonsensical precepts which guided and directed our forefathers, surely he is not so gullible to fancy for a moment that he can enjoy himself when he reaches the allocated span.

Suffice to say, the game is beyond resuscitation in the county, and the parties who will shoulder the responsibility for its demise—the outside Public, unquestionably, might now essay and introduce a game more to their taste.

A GAEL,

(Castlebar).

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Ref: W. P. /8/4 1885

Football appears just now to be a doomed sport about here. It is unusual to hear of a match being played, either under Gaelic or Association rules. The roughness and alleged brutality at the pig-skin, which parents are wont to grumble long and loudly about, is by no means the only argument brought against it. The notoriety the players enjoy during the season, the great expense attached to bringing off matches, and the time spent by youths who leave their legitimate business behind them in order that they may be fully fit to bear the strain on match days, are all urged as reasons why an entire metamorphosing should take place if ever the quill is dipped again by the Co. Committee.

CASTLEBAR SPORTS

Judges—Athletics—M O'M Knott, M.D; F Ellison, M.D;
A.C. Larminie, Robert Kilkelly, Jas Faulkner, Francis O'Donnell,
Jas Bourke, MJ Heverin.

Timekeepers—Wm J Sheridan, J Hobbs.

Call Stewards—J Sheridan, Thos Thornton, J St Leger Bennett.

Telegraph Stewards—Francis O'Donel, Ml J Sheridan.

Lap Keepers—Dr Brabazon, Dr Jordan, J T Kelly, F O'Donel,
J Bourke, J H Peyton.

Marksman—Luke Malley, T M Quinn.

Judges of Jumping—J H Peyton, M Costello, P M Flannelly.

Press Steward—Martin Sheridan.

Judges of Tug of War—J Horrigan, A Hawkshaw.

Umpire—Major Maclean.

Handicapper and starter—J Walsh, Dublin.

The Castlebar Annual Sports came off on Thursday in the Demesne of the Earl of Lucan. The manner in which the grounds were laid out and the general management of the sports, were extremely creditable to Castlebar and to the committee and stewards who left nothing undone to make them the splendid success which they undoubtedly were. The grand stand and enclosure were well filled and there were thousands of enthusiastic and orderly spectators around the paling. Competition was good and the finishes close and exciting. In the afternoon the proceedings were enlivened by the militia band. The prizes which were valuable, were distributed by Mrs Maclean.

Details:—

100 yards Open Handicap—First Heat—C W Clynnnes, Foxford, 10 yds, 1; J T McGee, HH, 2½ yds, 2. Five Ran. Won by a yard. Time—10½ secs. Second Heat—B Rowan, 10 yds, 1; WF Madden, Ballymoe,

7 yds 2, five ran. Won by a yard. Time- $10\frac{1}{2}$ secs. Third Heat-
J A Cooney, 10 yds. 1; JC Hobbs, Castlebar, 10 yds, 2. Five ran.
won by a yard. Time- $10\frac{1}{2}$ secs. Fourth heat- C S King, Cleggan, 6yds,
walked over. Final Heat- T J McGreal; J Cooney, 2, GW Clynnes, 3.
Won on the tape, third inches off. Time- $10\frac{1}{2}$ secs.

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