

## GAEILIC NOTES

(BY EMON.)

What is the meaning of the apathy which pervades the Gaelic clubs in Kerry this year? The annual affiliation fee was due on the 1st of October, and in fact, the County Convention should have been already held; but as yet only half a dozen clubs have sent on the fee. This is very lamentable, and one is naturally inclined to inquire into the cause or causes which have produced this state of things. The manner in which the Association has been conducted in this county for the past year, - considering the conflict of so many different interests, - been fairly satisfactory. No doubt, in adjudicating on the disputes which arose and the objections which were preferred during the progress of the County Championships, the County Board did not please all parties. It was impossible that they could do so, because there being two parties to a dispute, the side which failed to carry its point was sure to feel disappointed and dissatisfied. Nobody, however, I venture to think, can accuse the members of the Board of any display of bias, or the absence of a desire to arrange matters amicably and impartially, and in such a way as would conduce to the prestige of the Association, and the discipline of its members. However, if the falling off this year is in any way due to want of efficiency on the part of old Board, the evil can be easily removed, and I am sure the old hands will not be found anxious to adhere to positions in which they command no confidence, and excite no enthusiasm.

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If the above in any sense indicates the feelings of the majority, my advice to clubs is, affiliate at once, hold the County Convention, and make a complete change in the personnel of the Board. Apart altogether from any other consideration the infusion of new blood would give new vitality to the Association, and that this is necessary nobody will feel disposed to deny.

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The defeat of Kilmolloy, and the Lango Rangers, hurling and football champions respectively of this county, by the representatives of Cork, no doubt, cast a damper over the Association here. We had all entertained very high hopes that the All-Ireland laurels would be brought home in triumph to the "Old Kingdom." Those who went forth to do battle for us, however, met, if not better men, at least more skillful and more cunning players, and our hopes were shattered. But we need not be ashamed of the result. It has been admitted on all sides that the Kerry v. Cork contests were the finest ever witnessed under the auspices of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The matches, as might be expected, were played with the greatest possible determination, but they were, at the same time, characterised by a spirit of friendliness which was a credit alike to the counties engaged, and to all Ireland. The victory was a narrow one, and had to be well-earned, and the consensus of Gaelic opinions seem to be that the victors will wear the All-Ireland medals. I think, then, that Kerry has not done badly, and instead of whining and fretting and torturing themselves with the thought that "It might have been," the different clubs should at once put themselves in working order, and vow their determination to do better next time. When beaten fairly and honourably, let us bear our defeat like men, and thereby prove ourselves deserving of victory. I confess I have not taken a very gloomy view of the defeat of our teams. An unbroken series of successes almost invariably begets vanity and carelessness, and, perhaps, it was no harm to give us a little "taking-down."

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There is another matter that, perhaps, partly accounts for the half-hearted spirit which is being displayed this year, and that is, the expense which clubs incur in pursuit of the laurels of victory. It is not possible to entirely remedy this, but the matter might be easily mitigated. If the twenty-one members of a team are left to bear their own expenses, they will very soon get sick of the business, and come to the conclusion that "the game is not worth the candle;" but if they make an effort to extend the membership of their clubs, and let the expenses be paid out of the club exchequer, which ought in most places to be supplemented by voluntary donations,