

# All fell but "Tipperary Tim"

THE Grand National of March, 1928, must rank as one of the most amazing races ever run over the famous Aintree course.

Of the forty-two starters, the only one to finish the course was "Tipperary Tim". That in itself was surprising, but when one looks up the hitherto unspectacular career of the Irish winner, and realises that the horse was tubed, it is difficult to imagine that the world's greatest steeplechase should be won so. But then everything about that National was astounding. It was a nightmare race, with the unexpected happening all the time!

Casualties are taken as being nothing unusual at Aintree. There were few gasps, when "Scraptoff" came down at the first fence. Even the refusal, at the fourth fence, of fancied "Amberwave" did not cause any consternation, particularly when his rider remounted and got away at the second attempt. There was local dismay when "Sprig", who always seemed to love the course, hit the fence before Beecher's and came a cropper.

It was the fence at the Canal turn, that the first debacle occurred.

Very early in the race, "Easter Hero" had broken away from the field and gained a good lead. At Beecher's he was well in front and maintained this position coming to the Canal turn. Then, for no apparent reason, he side-stepped, got partly across the fence, and then slipped back. His next move was disastrous. He ran across the ditch straight in front of the approaching field. Like ninepins, horses and riders fell headlong.

Half the field were involved. Down went the favourite "Master Billie", "Ruddyman", "Trump Card", "Carfax", "Goshlin", "Amberwave" — all rated possible winners — hit the turf. The place was a mass of struggling horses and men.

This first disaster set a headline. Beecher's claimed "Koko" as a victim. "The Ace" avoided crashing into "Koko" by inches, but somehow managed to get clear, only to come down at Valentine's. "Bright Boy", who had taken over the lead after the Canal turn was soon added to the casualties.

And so the eliminations went on, until four fences from home, only six of the forty-two starters remained. "Billy Barton" was in the lead at this stage, with "De Combat" and "May King" close behind. "Great Span", "Tipperary Tim" and the French challenger, "Maguelonne" were grouped a few lengths behind. The last named looked the freshest, while "Tipperary Tim"

gave every sign of distress. "De Combat" misjudged the fence and reduced the field to five. At the next fence, "May King" jumped short and came down in front of "Maguelonne". Apparently startled by "May King's" fall, the French mare also went down.

Now there were only three left! Two fences from home and "Billy Barton" is still in the lead, but "Great Span" is gaining ground. Almost level at the second last fence, both horses rise together. "Billy Barton" clears it well, but challenging "Great Span" is down. Several lengths behind, the tired "Tipperary Tim" looks a poor second. Now there is only one fence to go, almost everybody is cheering an American victory. "Billy Barton" rises for the fence, clears it well but then slips and is down. And so "Tipperary Tim", only one of the starters left, wins the race to the extreme joy of all the bookies on the course. The winner, owned by H. S. Kenyon, was ridden by W. P. Dutton. — *Mayo News*, March 26, 1960.

## 40 years ago (1960)

■ **MAYO PEOPLE DREW HORSES:** In the Grand National Sweepstake draw three horses were drawn by Mayo ticket holders. Mr. H. J. Staunton, Trafalgar, Westport, drew the English acceptor "JonJo". "Silver Stream", a non-runner, was drawn by four shareholders, Mrs. D. Sweeney, Cashel; Mr. John O'Donnell, Ballycroy and Miss Lynott, Cashel, whose father, Mr. M. P. Lynott, publican, was the seller. "Dondrosa", acceptor, was drawn by John and Marie Brady, Carnaham, Balla. — *Mayo News*, March 26, 1960.

■ **NEW SCHOOL FOR PLOVERVALE:** The 115-year-old one room National School, at Plovervale, Turlough, is being replaced after many years of agitation by local parents. It is expected the school will be ready after the summer recess for the 40 pupils in the district. The contractor is Mr. Jimmy Gordon, a former pupil. — *Mayo News*, March 26, 1960.