

Michael Colivet (1884-1955)



Born in Windmill Street, Limerick, Michael Colivet worked as manager of Shannon Foundry in the city. His family background illustrates the often confusing loyalties of the time. His English father John served in the British navy while his mother Anne from Askeaton was a staunch Irish nationalist. Michael Colivet was always a moderate who joined the Irish Volunteers to defend the ideal of Home Rule. Later, he was enrolled in the IRB by Sean MacDiarmada and became a republican.

At the time of the Easter Rising, Colivet was Commandant of the Irish Volunteers in Limerick and Clare. Following the Rising, Colivet was imprisoned in various locations, both before and after his election as Sinn Féin MP for Limerick city in the 1918 general election. He sat in the Dáil from 1919 to 1923 and on Limerick City Council from 1920 to 1925. He opposed the Treaty but retired from politics in 1925. He moved to Dublin where he worked in the public service until his death.

Rugadh Michael Colivet i Sráid an Mhuilinn Ghaoithe, Luimneach agus d'oibrigh sé mar bhainisteoir ar an Shannon Foundry sa chathair. Léiríonn cúlra a theaghlaigh dílseachtaí measctha na linne. D'fhreastal a athair Sasanach John i gcabhlach na Breataine agus ba náisiúnaí láidir as Eas Géitine í a mháthair Anne. Ba dhuine stuama i gcónaí é Michael Colivet a chuaigh sna hÓglaigh le hidéal an Rialtais Dúchais. Ina dhiaidh sin thug Seán MacDiarmada isteach san IRB é agus bhí sé ina phoblachtánach.

Le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca, bhí Colivet mar Cheannfort ar na hÓglaigh i Luimneach agus sa Chlár. I ndiaidh an Éirí Amach bhí Colivet i bpríosún in áiteanna éagsúla, roimh agus i ndiaidh é a bheith tofa mar MP Shinn Féin do chathair Luimnigh in olltoghchán 1918. Bhí sé sa Dáil ó 1919 go dtí 1923 agus ar Chomhairle Cathrach Luimnigh ó 1920 go dtí 1925. Bhí sé in aghaidh an Chonartha ach d'éirigh sé as an bpolaitíocht i 1925. D'aistrigh sé go Baile Átha Cliath mar ar oibrigh sé sa tseirbhís phoiblí go dtí go bhfuair sé bás.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

1918 General Election Olltoghchán 1918

SINN FEIN
(LIMERICK CITY)

A MONSTER MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, 1st DEC.
AT 4 P.M., in support of the candidature of
Commandant Colivet
.. IN ..
BANK PLACE

REV. FR. O'CONNOR, P.P. will preside
SEVERAL PROMINENT SPEAKERS WILL ATTEND.

Δ ΔΙΑ ΣΑΟΡ ÉIRE

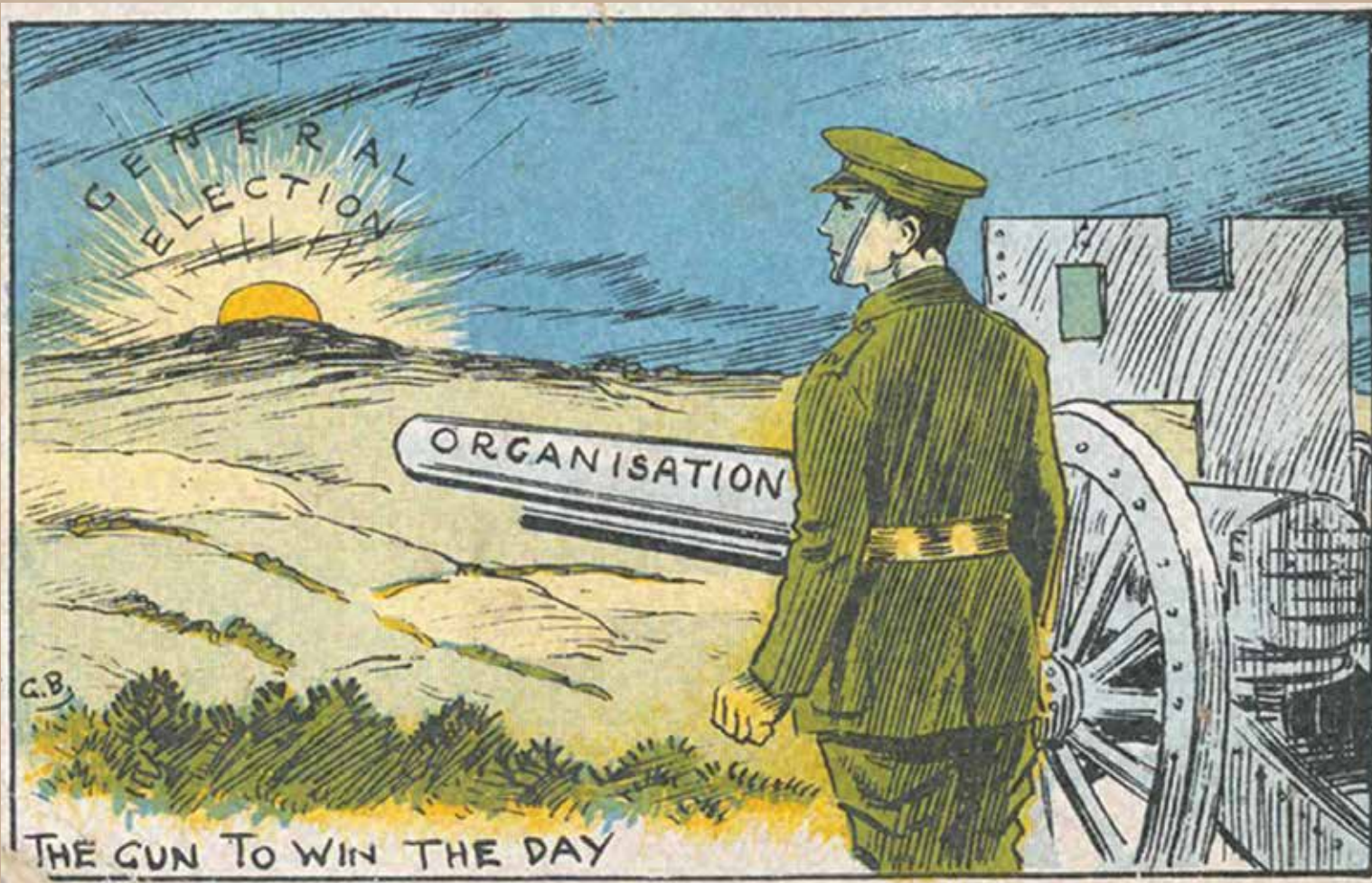
LIMERICK ECHO, Printers, Sarsfield Street.

CONSCRIPTION!

VOTE FOR
DE VALERA

THE MAN
who kept Conscription
from your Doors.

CITY PRINTING CO., LIMERICK.



On 14 December 1918, Ireland and Britain voted in the first general election since 1910. Before 1918, the vote in parliamentary elections was confined to men with property, while no woman could vote. The Representation of the People Act extended the vote to all men over 21 and all women over 30. This increased the Irish electorate from 700,000 to about two million. In Limerick, the number of voters increased from 21,297 to 60,778.

The 1918 election was one of the most important in Irish history. Sinn Fein led by Eamon de Valera won a crushing victory winning seventy-three seats, while the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) which had dominated the country since 1874 was decimated and won only six.

All three Limerick constituencies changed from Irish Party to Sinn Fein. Both Michael Colivet in Limerick City and Con Collins in West Limerick were returned unopposed, as the two sitting MPs Michael Joyce (City) and Patrick O'Shaughnessy (West) did not contest the election. In East Limerick, Dr Richard Hayes defeated sitting MP Thomas Lundon (who had succeeded his father William in 1909) having received 78 per cent of votes cast.

Since 1900, Michael Joyce, Patrick O'Shaughnessy and the Lundon family had represented the three Limerick constituencies in the British Parliament but in 1918 none of them were unable to stem the Sinn Fein tide.

Ar an 14ú Nollaig 1918, vótáil Éire agus an Bhreatain sa chéad olltoghchán ó 1910. Roimh 1918, bhí vótáil i dtoghcháin pharlaiminte teoranta d'fhir a raibh maoin acu, agus ní raibh cead vótála ag mná. Thug an tAcht um Ionadaíocht an Phobail cead vótála do gach fear os cionn 21 agus do gach bean os cionn 30. Rinne seo líon na dtoghthóirí in Éirinn a mhéadú ó 700,000 go dtí timpeall dhá mhilliún duine. Tháinig méadú ar an lucht vótála i Luimneach ó 21,297 go dtí 60,778.

Bhí toghchán 1918 ar cheann de na toghcháin ba thábhachtaí i stair na hÉireann. Bhain Sinn Féin, faoi cheannas Éamon de Valera, bua cuimsitheach amach le trí shuíochán is seachtó faighte acu, agus ní bhfuair Pairtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann (PPÉ), a bhí in uachtar sa tír ó 1874, ach sé shuíochán.

D'aistrigh na trí toghcheantar i Luimneach ó Phairtí Parlaiminteach na hÉireann go Sinn Féin. Toghadh Michael Colivet i gCathair Luimnigh agus Con Collins i Luimneach Thiar gan iomaíocht, toisc nach raibh an dá MP reatha, Michael Joyce (Cathair) agus Patrick O'Shaughnessy (Iarthar) san iomaíocht sa toghchán. I Luimneach Thoir, fuair an Dr Richard Hayes an bua ar an MP reatha Thomas Lundon (a tháinig i gcomharbacht ar a athair William i 1909) nuair a fuair sé 78 faoin gcéad de na vótaí a caitheadh.

Ó 1900, bhí Michael Joyce, Patrick O'Shaughnessy agus muintir Lundon tar éis ionadaíocht a thabhairt do thrí thoghcheantar Luimnigh i bParlaimint na Breataine ach i 1918 ní raibh duine ar bith acu in ann cosc a chur le rabharta Shinn Féin.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Con Collins (1881-1937)



Cornelius "Con" Collins was born in Arranagh, Newcastle West into a staunchly nationalist family. He worked in the Post Office in Dublin, where he joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians) and Gaelic League. He became acquainted with Sean MacDiarmada, with whom he produced *Irish Freedom*, a nationalist journal.

At the time of the Easter Rising, Collins was sent to Kerry to rendezvous with Tralee's Austin Stack in order to co-ordinate the landing of both the German arms shipment on the *Aud* steamship and Roger Casement in a German submarine at the rendezvous point on Banna Strand. However, messages between Casement and the IRB had been intercepted by British authorities and both Stack and Collins were captured en route from Tralee to Banna Strand. Collins was subsequently held in Richmond Barracks and deported to Frongoch prison in Wales.

Released in 1917, Con Collins was elected Sinn Fein TD for West Limerick in 1918, and became a member of the First Dáil. He voted against the Treaty, but took no part in the fighting during the Civil War. Later, he was offered the post of Ministry of Post and Telegraphs if he changed sides, but refused to do so. He retired from the Dáil and from politics in 1923 and worked as superintendent of Limerick Post Office for the rest of his life.

*Rugadh Cornelius "Con" Collins in Aránach, An Caisleán Nua i dteaghlach a bhí diongbháilte ar son an náisiúnachais. D'oibrigh sé in Oifig an Phoist i mBaile Átha Cliath, mara ndeachaidh sé i mBráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann (na Fíníní) agus i gConradh na Gaeilge. Chuir sé aithne ar Sheán MacDiarmada, agus chuir an bheirt acu in éineacht *Irish Freedom*, an t-irisleabhar náisiúnach, ar fáil.*

*Le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca, cuireadh Collins go Ciarraí bualadh le Austin Stack ó Thrá Lí d'fhonn comhordú a dhéanamh ar lastas arm Gearmánach ar an ngaltán an *Aud*, mar aon le Roger Casement, a bhí i bhfomhuireán Gearmánach, a thabhairt i dtír ag Trá na Beannaí. Bhí teachtaireachtaí idir Casement agus an IRB idircheaptha ag údaráis na Breataine, áfach, agus gabhadh Stack agus Collins agus iad ar a mbealach ó Thrá Lí go Trá na Beannaí. Ina dhiaidh sin coimeádadh Collins i mBeairic Richmond agus cuireadh chuig príosún Frongoch sa Bhreatain Bheag é.*

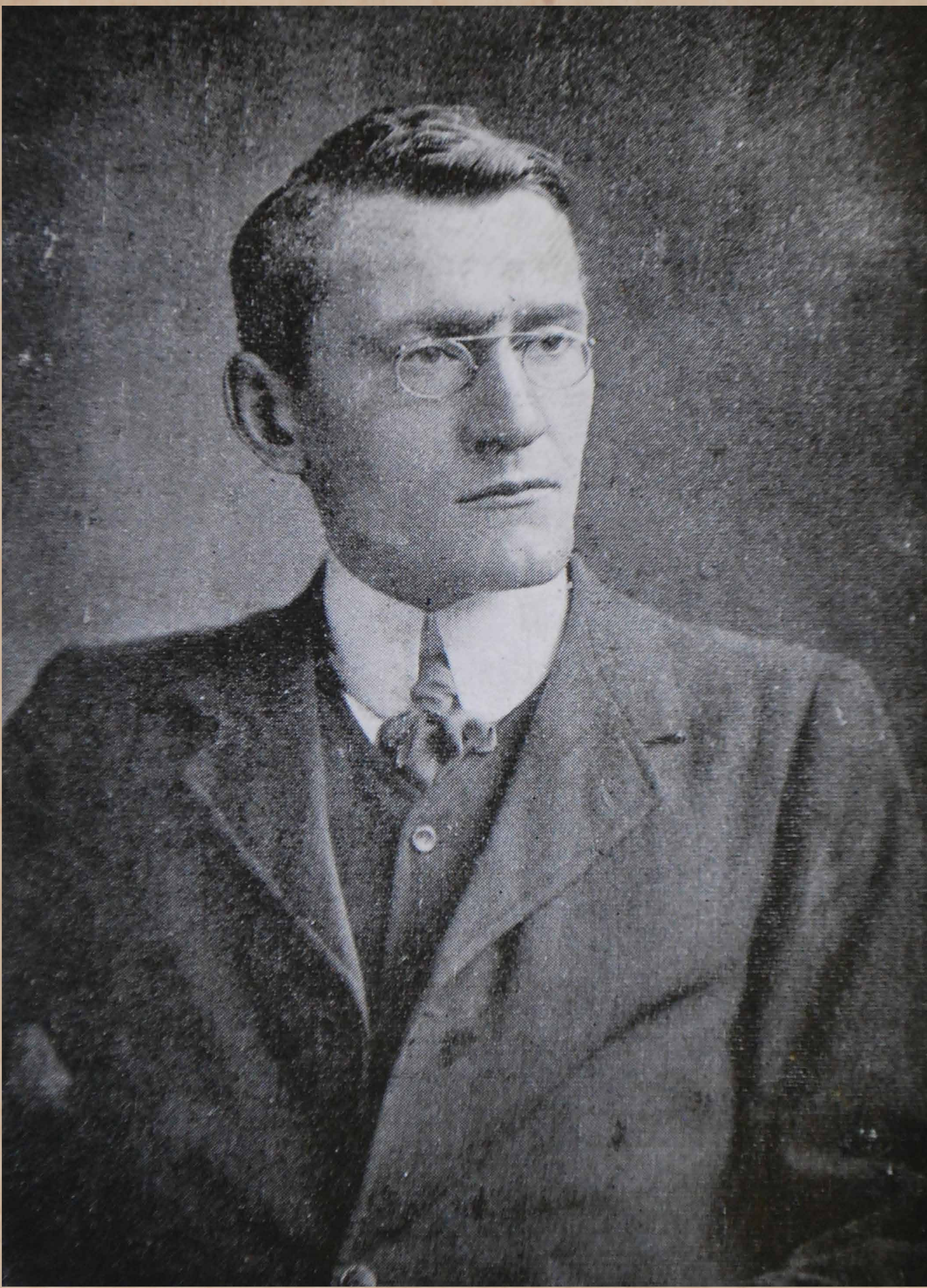
Scaoileadh saor é i 1917, agus toghadh mar TD Shinn Féin é do Luimneach Thiar i 1918, agus bhí sé mar bhall den Chéad Dáil. Chaith sé vóta in aghaidh an Chonartha, ach níor ghlac sé páirt sa troid le linn an Choghaidh Chathartha. Níos déanaí, déanadh post Ministéireachta Poist agus Teileagraf a thairiscint dó dá dtacódh sé leis an taobh eile, ach dhiúltaigh sé sin a dhéanamh. D'éirigh sé as an Dáil agus as an bpolaitíocht i 1923 agus d'oibrigh sé mar stiúrthóir ar Oifig Phoist Luimnigh don chuid eile dá shaol.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Dr Richard Hayes (1882-1958)



Richard Hayes was born in Bruree, County Limerick and trained as a medical doctor. He joined the Irish Volunteers and became Officer Commanding the 5th Battalion of the Dublin Brigade. On the outbreak of the Easter Rising, he transferred this command to Kerryman Thomas Ashe. Hayes served under Ashe in North County Dublin, when Swords and Donanabate RIC barracks were captured.

Richard Hayes also took part in the Battle of Ashbourne, County Meath on 28 April 1916 where Ashe's forces won a great victory. Outside Dublin, this was the biggest action of the Rising. Hayes' main role was in treating the wounded on both sides.

After the Rising, Hayes was imprisoned for a time. In 1918, he was elected Sinn Fein MP for East Limerick and became a member of the First Dáil. He was again imprisoned in 1920-21. He supported the Treaty but took no part in the Civil War. He resigned from the Dáil and from politics in 1924. Hayes continued to be active in public life. He became a respected historian; sat on the board of the Abbey Theatre (1934-58) and served as Irish film censor (1941-54).

Rugadh Richard Hayes i mBrú Rí, Contae Luimnigh agus cuireadh oiliúint air mar dhochtúir leighis. Chuaigh sé sna hÓglaigh agus bhí sé mar Oifigeach ceannais ar an 5ú Cathlán de Bhriogáid Bhaile Átha Cliath. Nuair a thosaigh Éirí Amach na Cásca, d'aistrigh sé an ceannas seo chuig an Ciarraíoch Tomás Ághas. D'fhreastal Hayes faoin Ághasach i dTuaisceart Chontae Bhaile Átha Cliath, nuair a gabhadh bearaicí Shoird agus Dhomhnach Bat.

Ghlac Richard Hayes páirt freisin i gCath Chill Dhéagláin, Contae na Mí ar an 28 Aibreán 1916 mar a raibh bua iontach ag buíon an Ásaigh. Lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath, ba é seo an gníomh ba mhó san Éirí Amach. Ba é an cúram ba mhó a bhí ar Hayes ná cóir leighis a chur ar na daoine a goineadh ar an dá thaobh.

I ndiaidh an Éirí Amach chaith Hayes seal sa phríosún. I 1918, toghadh mar TD Shinn Féin é do Luimneach Thoir agus bhí sé mar bhall den Chéad Dáil. Cuireadh sa phríosún arís é i 1920-21. Thug sé tacaíocht don Chonradh ach níor ghlac sé páirt sa Chogadh Cathartha. D'éirigh sé as an Dáil agus as an bpolaitíocht i 1924. Lean Hayes air le bheith gníomhach sa tsaol poiblí. Bhí meas air mar staraí; bhí sé ar bhord Amharclann na Mainistreach (1934-58) agus d'fheastal sé mar chinsire scannán na hÉireann (1941-54).



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council