

An Taoiseach Bereaved

Death of Mr Patrick Coll

The death has occurred at his residence in Bruce, Co. Limerick, of Mr Patrick Coll, uncle of Mr De Valera. Deceased gentleman, who was 74 years of age, had been ill for some time, and An Taoiseach was a frequent visitor to him, and again saw him last Sunday.

Accompanied by his A.D.C., Capt. Sean Brennan, Mr De Valera motored to Bruce early on Wednesday morning, and was present on Wednesday evening when the remains were removed to Bruce Church, Mr De Valera being one of those who shouldered the coffin to the hearse.

There was a big concourse present, and the remains were received at the church by Rev D O'Connell, O.C.; Rev Fr Collier, O.S.A.; and Rev Fr. O'Regan, O.S.A. The Rosary was recited by Rev Fr. Collier.

The coffin was attended by a guard of honour of old I.R.A. and was draped in the Tricolour.

The chief mourners were—Mr Patrick Coll (son), Miss Lizzie Coll, M.T. (daughter), and An Taoiseach (nephew).

When Mr De Valera was a mere child he was taken by his mother to her home at Bruce, where he lived with his uncle and grandmother before going to college.

The late Mr Coll, who was a splendid type of Irishman, standing 6ft. 4ins. in height, was an ardent Nationalist. As a young man he took an active part in the Land War, and when victory was won, he was one of the founders and organisers of the Trade and Labour Association, which had for its objects the cause of landless men, agricultural labourers, cottiers and town traders.

Mr Coll was chairman of the Bruce branch for many years, and was elected to the Kilmallock District Council and Board of Guardians as its nominee, of which bodies he was a member until their abolition by the amalgamation scheme.

Deceased was president of the Bruce Sinn Féin Club, and later of the Fianna Fáil Club in that town. It is stated of him that never did he miss attendance at as much as one meeting of the bodies of which he was a member.

The late Mr Coll had also the distinction of presiding at Mr De Valera's first public meeting after his release from prison in 1917, which was held in Bruce on the eve of the East Clare Election.

The family have received hundreds of messages of sympathy, amongst which is one from the Mayor of Limerick (Alderman D Banks, T.D.), voicing the sentiments of the citizens of Limerick.

The funeral took place from the Parish Church to Shanavesta and was very largely attended.

The coffin was draped in the Tricolour and Old I.R.A. men formed a guard of honour.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev J P Collier, O.S.A.

Amongst the clergy present were:—Very Rev Canon Breen, P.P.; Rev D O'Connell, O.C.; Rev J O'Regan, O.S.A.; Very Rev J Dolan, Limerick; Very Rev J Coleman, P.P.; Rev J Wilmot, O.C.; Rev J White, and Rev J Carroll.

Those present at the removal of the remains and at the funeral included:—Mr Buland, Minister for Lands; Mr P J Little, Parliamentary Secretary to Mr de Valera; Ald D Bourke, T.D., Mayor of Limerick; J McCormack, chairman, Limerick County Council; D O Brian, T.D.; M Colbart, T.D.; R Ryan, T.D.