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PROMINENT FIGURE

Death Of Mr. R. Cussen

HUGE FUNERAL CORTEGE

The death took place at his residence, North Quay, Newcastle West, on Sunday night, after a brief illness of Mr. Robert Cussen, solicitor, and Coroner for West Limerick (writes our Newcastle West correspondent). The deceased gentleman practised at his profession for the past 50 years in Newcastle West and was Coroner for West Limerick for the past 30 years.

In legal circles, as well as by the general public, he was held in the highest esteem as a very able lawyer and a man of fine integrity of character. In sporting circles he was one of the last of that small band of pioneers of the County Limerick who inaugurated and successfully established with Philip O'Sullivan, solicitor, Limerick; J. D. Moylan, Newcastle West; F. Hayes, Callow; J. Fitzgibbon, Askeaton; "Dr. Dick" Downing of Dublin; W. Gleeson, Fedamore; F. Fosherry, Adare; and M. P. O'Shaughnessy, Bruff the Co. Limerick Coursing Club at Mellon on the banks of the Shannon, which was afterwards transferred to the famed Cio-manna by those pioneers, whose aim at that time was to establish there a coursing meeting which would be supreme in Ireland. This eventually became the great Irish Cup meeting, for which the late Mr. Cussen was a nominator and of which he acted as flag steward for a big number of years. The contests for the Irish Cup were intended to be run on the same lines as the Waterloo Cup.

Mr. Cussen, never, however, succeeded in achieving his cherished ambition of winning the Cup himself, although he owned and nominated some famous dogs in his day.

The deceased was also an extensive farmer and on his large holding at Kilcoleman he carried on an extensive dairy business and dry stock feeding. It may be of interest to state that the reservoir which supplies Newcastle West and Rathkeale with their water supplies was erected on his lands.

REQUIEM MASS AND FUNERAL.

There was a large and representative attendance at the Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased, which was celebrated at the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday morning. In the unavoidable absence of Right Rev. Monsignor Hannan, P.P., V.G., Rev. J. Liston, P.P., Ardagh, presided. Rev. M. Quinn, C.C., Newcastle West, was celebrant; Rev. Hugh O'Connor, P.P., Knockaderry, deacon; Rev. T. Costelloe, C.C., Rathkeale, sub-deacon; and Rev. Father Wilmott, C.C., Ardagh, master of ceremonies.

The clergy in the choir were—Rev. P. Coleman, P.P., Glenroe; Rev. J. Connolly, P.P., Athera; Rev. M. Ryan, P.P., Loughill; Rev. T. Wall, P.P., Ballygarry; Rev. M. O'Brien, P.P., Castlemahon; Rev. J. Kelly, P.P., Templeglantine; Rev. P. Carroll, P.P., Ashford; Rev. D. Kelly, P.P., Wooler, Northumberland (uncle-in-law of deceased); Rev. J. Houlihan, C.C., Abbeyfeale; Rev. P. Murphy, C.C., Monegal; Rev. P. C. Lynch, C.C., Rathkeale; Rev. W. Boyce, C.C., Knockaderry; Rev. Louis Page, Garbally Park College, Ballinasloe.

Striking manifestations of public sympathy and regret were witnessed at the funeral, which took place afterwards to Grange Cemetery, Newcastle West. The attendance was one of the biggest ever seen in West Limerick and was representative of all sections of the community. Members of the legal profession from all parts of the county and from the neighbouring counties of Cork and Kerry attended, while the medical and other professions were also fully represented in the cortege, which was over a mile long.

Rev. J. Liston, P.P., recited the prayers at the graveside and he was assisted by the other clergy who had taken part in the Requiem Mass.

The chief mourners—Mrs. Cussen (widow); Dr. M. E. Cussen (brother); Robert Cussen, LL.B.; Michael Cussen, solicitor; Dr. D. Cussen (sons); Mrs. K. O'Farrell, Mrs. M. Cussen (daughters); Mrs. McElligott, Listowel, and Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Kilcoleman (sisters); Mrs. Robert Cussen (daughter-in-law); Mr. P. O'Farrell (son-in-law); D. J. Moylan (brother-in-law); Michael T. Ryan, Munster and Leinster Bank, Cahir; Rev. D. Kelly, P.P. (uncle-in-law).

MASS CARDS.

Mass cards were sent by the following—Mary, Jack, Lillian and Denis; Kitesie and Bertie; Kitty and Clifford; Maura and Mick; Annie Fitzgibbon; Mai Fitzgibbon; Michael F. Cregan; Mrs. R. Nash and family; David and Mrs. Shanahan; Mr. and Mrs. Gorman and family; M. and J. Geaney; Mrs. and J. J. Hough; Michael and Mrs. Dore; Richard Fitzgerald and family; John and Katie Cussen; Burke family, Duxtown; Mary J. Mulcahy; D. J. and M. Moylan; Meg Leonard; Katie Leonard; Michael and Mary Scanlan; Mrs. C. Greany and family; R. J. Nash; John and Mary E. Magner; Minnie Cussen; Michael and Alice Leonard; Kate Condon; J. J. and Mrs. Culhane; Michael Geary and family; Newcastle West R.F.C.; Eileen Connolly; James Mulcahy; Con Mulcahy; Mort Galvin; Charlotte McCarthy; Norah A. Galvin; Mrs. Phil O'Sullivan; Roger and Nancy O'Sullivan; B. McDonagh; Mary J. Galvin and Cis; Mary J. Cussen; E. and M. Neville; David Nash; Mr. and Mrs. Murnane; Mr. and Mrs. J. Musgrave and Uncle H.

RANDOM GOSSIP

Notes And Comments

ON MATTERS OF INTEREST

PERTINENT QUESTION.

How is Ireland to fare in the new world likely to arise out of the present war? The question suggests itself to all of us but no one can supply the answer. The future is always uncertain but in this regard it baffles all prophecy. The one point that most people are agreed upon is that the outlook in general will be far different at the end of the conflict from what it was when hostilities began. Old systems are almost sure to disappear altogether or be drastically modified and several new ones to be put into operation.

* * *

FRUIT OF BAD SYSTEM.

When all is said and done it must be admitted that the struggle now going on is the fruit of wrong methods and false principles. This is now being realised with increasing force everywhere, and it is inconceivable, therefore, that peoples will tamely submit to a return to and continuance of the old order with all its faults and blemishes. It is quite true, of course, that great changes for the better were promised as an outcome of the appalling blood-bath of 1914-18 but did not materialise. The masses have learned some lessons in the meantime, however, and they will hardly be in a mood to tolerate a repetition of the deception practised on them on the former occasion.

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A HEALTHY SIGN.

It is a healthy and welcome sign to find people everywhere asking why so many all over the globe should be unemployed and in want while there are abundant means of providing work and a sufficiency of food and other necessities for all. The systems under which huge numbers are cruelly denied a decent means of livelihood are inhuman and unchristian and have no justification in the eyes of men to whom justice and fair-play make an appeal. From the attitude of some on this very question one would think that stark and artificial poverty is something specially indispensable to man's spiritual welfare and is not to be remedied! Pope Pius XI knew better and he wrote in his famous Encyclical on 'The Social Order' that "nowadays the conditions of social and economic life are such that vast multitudes of men can only with great difficulty pay attention to that one thing necessary, namely, their eternal salvation."

* * *

NEW STANDARDS.

That the present war will come to an end is the only thing really certain about it. It is probably quite safe to take for granted, too, that the ringing down of the curtain will begin the adoption of new standards in human values and relationships and the scrapping of much that has been obviously disadvantageous to mankind. Our own country can on no account remain entirely outside the influence of whatever changes are to take place, and it is by no means too soon to be looking ahead to see where our true interests are likely to lie. As regards our political status, the only thing we can do, in addition to remaining vigilant and determined in preserving our neutrality, is to hope that our national position will improve rather than be in any way worsened or endangered. In the economic sphere something more definite is possible, and unless some unexpected development should occur to dash all our hopes and aspirations we can do much as it is to ensure for the future a greater degree of security and prosperity than we have at any stage up to this enjoyed.

* * *

A WISE COURSE.

Ireland's experiences teach no lesson more forcibly than the wisdom of doing all that is feasible to supply our own requirements in manufactured goods and agricultural produce. Only for what was done towards this end under native control we would find ourselves in a very parlous condition at the present moment. The circumstances created by the war are affecting us adversely enough as it is but they would be pressing with far greater severity only for the industrial and tillage drives of recent years. This

as butter and bacon are consumed at home by our own people. From this it is perfectly clear that the entire normal output could be disposed of here if the unemployed and the under-paid and under-fed were put in a position to purchase their requirements in full measure. In other words, purchasing power is what is needed to enable our home market to absorb practically all we are now raising from the land. If those out of work were put into regular and useful occupations the farmers would speedily become better off, our industries and business in general would flourish and new openings would be created for the boys and girls leaving school. These developments, be it remembered, need not in any way interfere with our production for outside markets, but should, on the contrary, very considerably help any efforts that might be made in this direction.

* * *

EXCELLENT WORK.

Excellent work for the Red Cross Society is being done in Limerick City and County. Proof of the fact is furnished by reports appearing in our columns from time to time. The activities going on are worthy of all commendation and merit the fullest measure of co-operation and support. No praise, indeed, can be too great for those who are devoting themselves with such energy and self-sacrifice to the laudable and necessary tasks on hand. These people seek no laudation for themselves but they expect and should get practical support for the eminently deserving cause they have taken up.

* * *

AS IT SHOULD BE.

It is gratifying to find, indeed, that the appeal of the Red Cross is meeting with a ready and hearty response all over the country. This, of course, is but as it should be, for the dangers and circumstances of the time make it urgently desirable to have the organisation speedily placed in as strong a position as possible. It is to be devoutly hoped that the horror of war in any shape or form will never reach our shores. Anything may happen, however, and in such a situation of uncertainty the obviously wise course is to prepare for the worst. Hope alone cannot ward off disaster, and so all arrangements should be perfected in time for meeting a grave emergency should it arise.

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MONEY NEEDED.

Without money it is impossible to build up a really satisfactory Red Cross service which will be equal to any call that may be made upon it. The County Limerick Branch, realising this, naturally looks to the general public to supply the requisite funds for the purpose of reaching and maintaining a continuous state of thorough readiness for fulfilling its noble mission in case the need for doing so should arise. Its appeal in this connection, we are sure, will not go unheard or unheeded for the people of Limerick, judging from past experiences, can be relied upon to do their duty promptly and generously when called upon, as in this instance, in the combined names of charity and patriotism.

* * *

ENTITLED TO LIBERAL HELP.

According to an official report published in our last week-end issue, the Limerick Branch has spent locally all the money it has received and its credit balance is now down to about £11. Those at the head of its affairs "take the view that materials and services should be provided quickly to meet any contingency; hence the shortage of cash." The Branch, it is further explained, "is solely dependent on the generosity of the citizens for whom they are working in making suitable preparation against any unwished for state of distress." The working members of the Society are sacrificing their leisure hours and their own comfort and convenience in order to render an essential public service. The least they are entitled to in their unselfish and praiseworthy efforts is practical assistance in the shape of liberal contributions towards the funds necessary for carrying on the work.