

# Prominent Citizen's Death

## Passing of Mr. P. Bourke, B.C.

By the death of Mr Patrick, B.C., which took place rather unexpectedly at his residence, Denmark street, on Saturday morning last, Limerick has lost a public-spirited citizen, and a splendid type of public representative, who was for some 40 years a member of the Limerick Corporation. The deceased, who in his young days was a widely travelled man, worked for some years in Russia, and had reached his 61st year. He was connected all his life with national politics, and was associated with the United Irish League; later the All-For-Ireland League as a keen supporter of the late Mr Wm. O'Brien, and subsequently of the Sinn Fein Party. He represented the Cumann na nGaedheal Party in the old Corporation, and at the time of his death was Chairman of the Limerick Executive of Fine Gael. Deceased also took a keen interest in cultural activities, and in his younger days was a very talented singer and actor. Of late years he was an active member of the Limerick Literary and Economics Society, as well as being a life long member of the Catholic Literary Institute. As a member of the Limerick District Mental Hospital Committee he devoted himself to mental hospital reform, and in application of modern methods of treatment. He was responsible for organising the annual sports at the Mental Hospital, as well as initiating a bowling green, arranging for excursions, plays, etc. to brighten the lives of the patients.

He was a member of the old Limerick Board of Guardians from 1889 to 1922, and after the amalgamation scheme he was elected Chairman of the Limerick City Board of Health and Public Assistance until the abolition of that body on the advent of the Managerial system. He was a regular visitor to the poor at the City Home and Hospital, and the inmates of that institution will miss a kind benefactor who never came to visit them empty-handed.

The late Mr Bourke was a stone mason by trade, then acted as clerk of works in many important contracts, and later became a master builder, and completed many big jobs in the city, etc. A monument to his industry is the substantial building which housed the Limerick Corporation Electricity Department at O'Quay street, prior to the Shannon scheme.

The funeral took place on Sunday last from St. Michael's Church to Kilmurry Cemetery, and as was only to be expected for one who had given the best of his life to the service of the people, it was a very large and most representative gathering. The members of the City Fire Brigade, under Captain Hogan, formed a guard of honour at each side of the coffin, while the officiating included the Mayor and all the members of the Corporation. The singing of the national hymn in the Cathedral and the playing of the national anthem were among the features of the funeral. The late Mr Bourke was a man of high character and a true patriot.