Distinguished Limerickman

Death of Mr T St John Gaffney

Mr Thomas St John Gaffney, who was born in Limerick and held a number of posts in the U S Consular Service, has died in New Jersey, aged 81. He was son of the late Mr T Gaffney, J P, Limerick and uncle of Mr N Gaffney, solicitor, the present Limerick representative of the family.

Mr St John Gaffney went to America in 1882, and later became a member of the New York Bar. In 1902 President Loubet of France named him Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and in 1905 King Leopold of the Belgians conferred on him the Officer's Cross of the Order of Leopold II. In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt nominated him Consul-General to Dresden. In 1913 he was removed to Munich by President Wilson. After the outbreak of the Great War Mr Gaffney repeatedly protested to the State Department against what he called the lies appearing in the English, French and American Press as to conditions in Germany and the origin of the war.

The English Government took exception to Mr Gaffney's attitude and influenced President Wilson to demand his resignation in November, 1915. Mr Gaffney requested a hearing at Washington or a copy of the charges against him, which were refused under Wilson's orders. In December, 1915, and again in August, 1916, Mr Gaffney returned to the U S to demand an investigation of the case, but without success.

After his resignation from the Consular service King Ludwig III of Bavaria conferred on Mr Gaffney the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his work in founding the American hospital in Munich.