

Obituary

An Esteemed Citizen

Passing of Mr R. P. O'Connor.

It is with feelings of very sincere regret that we place on record the death of an old and highly-revered citizen in the person of Mr R. P. O'Connor at an advanced age. By vocation a compositor, the deceased from early in life took an active and highly intelligent part in public affairs, with a democratic, national and Christian outlook. He was firstly, in his young manhood, deeply immersed in the trade union movement, and was at different periods either President or Secretary of the Limerick Branch of the Typographical Association, as well its representation on the Trades Council and the Delegates Board of the Mechanics' Institute, of which he was President for eight years. He was also for some years the All Ireland representative of his own organisation to the Executive Council of the Typographical Association in Manchester. In fact he was one of the oldest members of that Society, his membership dating back to 1879. He was also a member of the Limerick Corporation, representing the Dock Ward and Glasthrough Ward at different periods. An ardent industrial revivalist, Sunday after Sunday since 30 years ago saw him as a member of the then Limerick Industrial Association engaged speaking on behalf of home-manufactured goods. He was accompanied on these journeyings by the late Messrs Michael O'Callaghan, the ex-Mayor, who was murdered by British Crown Forces; the late T. S. Lawler, and J. A. Hennessy, and Robert Dorman, with Messrs P. O'Brien and Mr M. P. Riordan, who are still happily with us. Deceased was an early disciple of Arthur Griffith, and was one of the foundation members of the Sinn Féin movement in Limerick. Later, at their inception, he joined the Irish Volunteers, and was a regular attendant at the parades of the Limerick City Regiment, being one of those who took part in the march to Kilmoran on that memorable Easter Sunday in 1916. He was on terms of intimacy with P. H. Pearse, The O'Riadhilly and Sean McDermott, and his brother and three nephews fought in Dublin in the Easter Rising. He himself was arrested and imprisoned in Wormwood Scrubs, where with the other Irishmen imprisoned there he went on hunger strike. During the latter stages of the fight for freedom his home at 23 Upper Mallow st. was frequently raided by British forces. The late Mr O'Connor was a most devout Catholic, and for very many years up to the time his health began to fail, he was Prefect of St Agnes's section of the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Family. In social life he was most entertaining, ever kind and of a most charitable disposition. Small wonder was it then that the attendance at his funeral reached such very large proportions on the journey from Saint Munchie's Church, where the remains had lain overnight, to St. Lawrence Cemetery on Sunday last, the coffin being draped with the Tricolour.

The clergy present were—Very Rev Canon O'Neill, D.D., P.P., &c., St. Munchie's; Rev Fr McLaughlin, D.D., &c.; Rev Fr Gaffney, D.D., &c.; and Rev Fr Griffin, D.D., &c.

The chief mourners were—Messrs John B. O'Connor and Frank O'Connor, Dublin (nephews), Patrick O'Connor (grand nephew), Messrs Jerry, Frank, Joe and Jack O'Leary (relatives).