

DEATH OF FAMOUS GALWAY ATHLETE AND I.R.A. VETERAN

Mr. Tom Hynes, "Kilcullen," Newcastle Road, Galway, whose death was briefly reported last week, was aged eighty-eight and was an international athlete, Gaelic enthusiast and often described as the "father of the national movement in Galway."

A native of Moycullen, he joined the Volunteers about 1912, being one of the first in Galway, and a year earlier he had been sworn into the I.R.B. by Thomas McDonagh, one of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation.

A fluent Irish speaker, the late Mr. Hynes taught Irish dancing and piping for many years in the Gaelic League Hall—and he was a member of the Gaelic League pipe band which took part in the now-famous march to Clarenbridge.

He took a very active part in the Fight for Independence and as Quartermaster of the Fourth Battalion, City Brigade Old I.R.A., he was responsible for supplying and delivering arms and ammunition to the various companies operating in Galway and Connemara.

He was on "the run" from 1919 to 1921 and during that time his home was frequently raided by both police and Black and Tans. Accepting the Treaty in 1921, he joined the National Army and retired in 1924 with the rank of captain.

One of Ireland's greatest athletes, he was held to be the greatest Irish distance runner of all time, having won championships in every distance from one to twenty-six miles in Ireland, Great Britain and America from 1900-1910.

During this period he performed the unique feat of winning three Irish marathon championships of twenty-six miles. He also won the Irish senior cross-country championship in 1905 and came second in the following year.

MARATHON

In 1909, fresh from his marathon victory at Jones's Road, he stepped off the train at Galway station to be met by a large crowd of admirers and carried shoulder high through the streets to his home. A fife and drum band led the parade. In the twenty-second mile of that great marathon a cramp which he had experienced on other occasions gave him trouble and he was obliged to walk for some distance until his muscles relaxed. Three miles from home he was in third position but he shot to the front with a sweeping stride and won by over a hundred yards. Owing to the blistered condition of his feet he was unable to take part in the English marathon from Windsor to the Stadium the same year.

The first event in which he figured conspicuously was the Connacht cross-country championship at Athenry on St. Stephen's Day, 1900, and in which teams from Galway, Ballinasloe and Claremorris competed. He was the first to reach the tape.

His principal championship successes were:

International cross-country championship, 1905, at Dublin—second man home; first Irishman home. At Glasgow, 1903—eighth man home; second Irishman home. Irish junior cross-country championship, 1901, at Dublin—first man home. 1903 at Dublin—second man home. 1901—Southern cross-country championship confined to Leinster, Connacht and Munster—first man home. 1905 at Galway—first man home. 1906 at Galway—first man home.

Senior cross-country championship, 1905—first man home. Senior cross-country championship, 1906—second man home. 1903: marathon professional race (Dublin to Naas, 18 miles)—first home. National cross-country championship under G.A.A. (open to all), 1905, at Clonskeagh, Dublin—first man home. 1907 at Clonskeagh—first man home. English cross-country championship at Manchester, 1906—third home; first Irishman in race. Irish flat championship, 1906 (four miles championship of Ireland under I.A.A.A. rules)—first home. Senior cross-country championship, 1907—first man home.

During the 1906 season he won eight firsts and four seconds in handicap events. He also won a number of firsts and seconds in handicap events in the previous year. He won two professional match races against the famous Pat White of Donabate. At Mullingar Sports, 1908, he was first home in the five miles championship of Ireland; and on the same occasion won the mile handicap scratch against a representative field. In the same year he was awarded nine firsts and two seasons at provincial meetings. On New Year's Day, 1909, he was third in a Scottish marathon of 26½ miles from Falkirk to Edinburgh and on St. Patrick's Day of that year he won £10 and a handsome championship belt in a ten miles contest at Carrick-on-Suir.

Other victories—12 miles at Enfield; 22 miles at Moate; 15 miles at Galway; 15 miles at Jones's Road (all in 1909); 26

miles marathon at Jones's Road in 1910; 15 miles at Galway in 1910; 12 miles at Galway in 1910. His time for the 26 miles marathon at Jones's Road in May, 1909, was 2 hours, 51 mins. and 51 secs.—still an Irish record. Time for 15 miles at Jones's Road in 1909 was 1 hour, 25 mins and 1 sec.—still an Irish record.

This great Irishman, who blazed a glorious trail throughout Ireland, Great Britain and America, continued to take a deep interest in athletics and in later years he used to act as handicapper and starter at sports in Galway.

A founder, member of Galway Boxing Club, he competed in amateur boxing himself and was father of Sean Hynes, the famous Galwayman who represented Ireland in the Golden Gloves boxing competitions in New York and Buffalo in 1938-'39, winning both competitions.

For fifty-seven years the late Mr. Hynes was employed as a technician in U.C.G. and he was a member of the Sacred Heart Sodality attached to the Pro-Cathedral for fifty years.

He is survived by his sons, Larry and Martin, Galway; Sean, New York; Tommy, New Jersey; Peter, London; daughters, Bridget, Southampton, and Maureen, Galway; sisters, Delia, Mexico, and Barbara, California; brother, James, Galway; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives.

MILITARY MONOURS

Old I.R.A. veterans provided a guard of honour for the removal of the remains to St. Joseph's Church on Friday and the funeral next day to the New Cemetery where, with the coffin draped in a Tricolour, a unit from Renmore Barracks provided full military honours.

Present at the graveside were: Monsignor T. Fahy, Venerable Archdeacon P. Glynn, P.P., V.F., St. Joseph's; Very Rev. M. Canon McDonough, P.P., Craughwell; Rev. E. Andrews, S.J.; Rev. F. McSwiggan, S.J.; Rev. P. Kelly, S.J., and Rev. P. Cashman, S.J.

The attendance also included Mr. P. J. Lindsay, T.D., representing Mr. Liam Cosgrave, T.D., Leader of the Opposition; Ald. F. Coogan, T.D.; Mr. R. Molloy, T.D.; Ald. M. Walshe; Mr. G. Bartley; Lieut.-Colonel J. Griffin, O.C., Cead Cath; representatives from U.C.G., and all walks of life in the city.

THE IDEALS OF CONNOLLY NOT REALISED

DR. JOHN O'CONNELL, T.D.; spoke on "Connolly and Socialism" at a meeting in the Warwick Hotel, Salthill last Thursday night.

The meeting was organised by the Students' and Galway branches of the Labour Party to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of James Connolly.

Dr. O'Connell said Connolly founded the Labour Party in 1912 to bring about a political and social revolution. They had a political revolution, but there was still no sign of the social one.

Connolly had preached that to rid Ireland of British domination was not enough, if there were still people in the country who were denied equal rights and equal opportunities.

Dr. O'Connell said that Ireland, next to Portugal, had the lowest number of people in proportion to the total population attending university. A youngster's right to attend university did not depend—as in Northern Ireland—on ability, but on money.

Those graduating from university were destined to lead the country. But when some of the best brains in Ireland were denied higher education, the country was bound to suffer. And it was suffering at the moment from the lack of creative leadership.

Dr. O'Connell said there were also glaring inequalities in wages in this country. The Clerk of the Dail earned £105 per week. The Government had given higher civil servants rises of up to £20 per week. Yet, Ministers of this very same Government could lecture trade unionists, who wanted a £1 per week rise and ignore the plight of workers earning between £5 and £9 per week.

Councillor Michael Smyth and the Chairman of the Students' Branch of the Labour Party also spoke.



Members of St. Brigid's Old Folks Home who were presented with reflectorised armbands by the Galway Safety First Committee at Ozanam House. The arm-bands reflect the lights of oncoming cars and reduce considerably the night hazards of the roads for wearers.