

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN NORTH TIPPERARY MAN

Mr. Martin Cunningham, ex-M.C.C., Roscrea

The news of the death of Mr. Martin Cunningham, Streamstown, Roscrea, was learned with very sincere regret in his native town and throughout North Tipperary on Tuesday last. The late Mr. Cunningham, who was aged 81 years died at the County Hospital, Nenagh, after a short illness.

Martin Cunningham was one of the best known figures in Roscrea and district for the past 60 years, during the greater part of which he was prominent in the Labour movement and was a member of North Tipperary Co. Council and its subsidiary bodies. At all times he was a keen supporter of Gaelic games and he followed the fortunes of Roscrea teams almost up to the time of his last illness. He was president of Roscrea Hurling Club down the years and was one of the founders of the local minor hurling team in 1925.

Keenly interested in everything calculated to promote the welfare of the workers, he was also identified with the question of land division in the early years of the State and for these activities he was imprisoned for a period. In 1927 he was one of 20 Labour members to visit Russia where they spent six weeks studying conditions in the Soviet Union. Among his friends in the Labour movement were Connolly and Larkin.

He contributed in many ways to the general advancement of his native town. A recognised leader, he organised the workers of Roscrea by whose voluntary labour the road was laid to the now very

progressive meat factory in town. He was a member of the local Old Age Pensions Committee.

A devout Catholic, he attended Mass daily in the Cistercian Abbey church near his home at Streamstown and in his last illness he was visited in Nenagh hospital by Dom Colmcille O'Toole, O.C.S.O., Lord Abbot of Mount St. Joseph's; Rev. Fr. Thomas and Rev. Fr. Benignus, O.C.S.O.

His many fine traits of character endeared him to all and his neighbourly disposition was summed up in the word "neighbour." As "neighbour" he addressed all his acquaintances and when the news of his passing reached Roscrea on Tuesday last the universal expression was "Neighbour is dead." May he rest in peace.

The remains were removed to St. Cronan's Church, Roscrea, on Tuesday evening and were followed by one of the largest corteges seen in the district for a long time. The Rosary was recited by Very Rev. J. Sexton, Adm., Roscrea. After Requiem High Mass on Wednesday, at which the parish clergy and members of Mount St. Joseph's Community officiated, the funeral took place to Dungar cemetery and was again largely attended.

The late Mr. Cunningham is survived by two sons, Joe and Tom; two daughters, Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Donlon; and by two sisters, to whom sympathy is extended in their bereavement.

Roscrea Cumann Fianna Fail at the monthly meeting on Tuesday night, Mr. M. Murphy presiding, adjourned as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Cunningham.