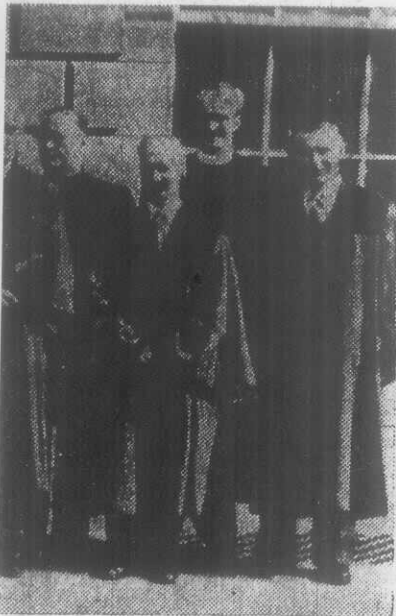


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LABOUR PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER MINISTER

MR. M. J. KEYES, former Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, was presented with an illuminated address, to mark his retirement from public life, by the Limerick Labour Party at a special function.

Mr. D. Clancy, P.C., Chairman of the Branch, made the presentation, and his Worship the Mayor, Mr. C. P. Keyes, was amongst the large attendance present.

"It is a great honour for me to be chosen to make this presentation to my old friend and colleague, Mick Keyes," said Mr. Clancy. "They had watched the growth of Labour over the years and were proud that their efforts had helped to bring the Trade Union Movement to its present powerful position."

HIS SERVICES TO LABOUR

Mick Keyes had played, Mr. Clancy continued, a big part in bringing about that happy state of affairs for the workers in general. Mr. Keyes had become Limerick's first Labour Mayor, and was the first Limerick man to attain to Ministerial rank in a native Government.

Mr. Clancy also paid tribute to Mr. Keyes for his efforts in Dail Eireann on behalf of his Constituents and the country as a whole.

Receiving the address, Mr. Keyes thanked the members for their wonderful tribute. He had received, he said, several addresses during his career, but the one given to him on his retirement was the sweetest of them all.

Recalling events in his public life, Mr. Keyes said he first stood for the Dail in 1923 as the nominee of the Limerick Trades and Labour Council. He was defeated

Sale Of Mattersons To Dublin Firm Under Discussion

NEGOTIATIONS at present are taking place for the sale of the old-established Limerick bacon curing firm of Messrs. J. Matterson & Sons, Ltd., to Messrs. Batchelor & Company, Dublin. Though the negotiations have not, as yet, been finalised, there is much speculation amongst the employees of Messrs. Matterson as to the future of the bacon curing and canning industries.

THIS week, negotiations for the sale of the bacon curing and canning business carried on by Messrs. Matterson and Sons, Ltd., Limerick, to Messrs. Batchelor and Co., Cabra, Dublin, equally well-known as food manufacturers and produce distributors, approached the finality stage. It is almost certain, writes a "Limerick Leader" reporter, who made several enquiries to-day in connection with the proposed transfer, that Messrs. Batchelor and Company will take over the premises and interests of Messrs. Matterson, who have branches of the firm also in Waterford and Dublin.

SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE INFORMED.

The Executive members of the Limerick Amalgamated Porkbutchers' Society were informed by Mr. Christopher Davis, Manager and Secretary of Messrs. Matterson, that the sale of the business was taking place. Tributes were paid at that meeting to the good relations existing down through the years between the Society and the firm.

The Society's Executive is awaiting development and is much concerned as to the future of the factory, which, incidentally, will be the second big industry in Limerick to change hands within a matter of months, the other being Messrs. Spillane's Tobacco Factory.

Mr. John Bennis, Chairman of the Society, told our reporter to-day:—

"We are greatly concerned as to the outcome of the sale and are awaiting developments. We are anxious that the continuity of employment of our members and the other trade unionists there will not be affected."

Mr. George Judge, Secretary of the Society, spoke in similar vein, and said:—"We are hoping that

the sale will not affect the employment of our members, who number close on 100. We are also naturally hoping that the other trade unionists in the factory will be kept on. Many of our members in Matterson's have given a lifetime of service as did their fathers and other relations before them."

MUCH SPECULATION.

There is much speculation among the employees of Mattersons as to the future of the bacon curing and canning industries. The fact that those in authority are reticent to comment on the rumour of the sale has given rise to the speculation.

Our reporter learned to-day that while negotiations between Messrs. Matterson and Messrs. Batchelor are going on, nothing, as yet, has been decided on. Mr. Christopher Davis, Manager and Secretary of Messrs. Matterson, declined to comment when told that the rumour of the sale was a topic of conversation among the Limerick public.

MANY DEPENDENTS.

Between 250 and 300 persons are employed in Messrs. Mattersons' factory, and about 1,000 people by way of dependents of employees, as well as shopkeepers, pig breeders, pig buyers and others associated with the bacon curing industry, are vitally interested in the outcome of the negotiations and the future of the concern.

At the moment, Matterson's are working at top pressure.

Industry For Limerick?

Developments are going ahead in connection with the setting up of a horse meat processing industry, the location of which is likely to be in Limerick if it materialises. If a licence is granted by the Government the project will go ahead.

People Not As Absent- Minded As Formerly

ARE people becoming more careful of their personal