

Gaelic Speaker

Death of Well-Known West Limerick Man

One of the few that were left of the old Gaelic speakers, which linked his generation with an earlier one when Irish was almost generally used in West Limerick, died, when Mr John Harnett, of Dromtraana Harnett, Abbeyfeale, succumbed after a few weeks illness at the age of 85. Prior to his knowledge of the language he was ever ready for an argument in the old tongue, which he used on all possible occasions. He was the eldest of four stalwart members of the family, a quartette who were associated with the first Gaelic athletic association of hurlers and footballers in West Limerick more than half a century ago, when the late patriot pastor of Abbeyfeale, Father Casey, had a combination of hurlers and footballers ready for affiliation with the G.A.A. was launched at Thurles by Maurice Davin and his contemporaries.

A very large funeral procession accompanied the remains of the deceased to the Abbeyfeale Parish Church, and the attendance of sympathisers was equally large at their interment next day.