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JAMES CASEY AND ~~STEPHEN O'MARA~~

Immediately after the murder of George Clancy Councillor James Casey bravely stepped in and acted as deputy mayor until Stephen O'Mara was elected. He boldly made all arrangements for the funerals of the murdered mayors and Joseph O'Donoghue. Though the military authorities ordered that no undue ostentation or speech making was to take place, James Casey delivered an impassioned oration at the graveside, condemning the murderers and the system that condoned their actions. O'Mara too was a brave man, already a number of attempts had been made on his life. James Casey again stepped into the breach after Mr. Patrick Quinlan had to step down as mayor after the passing of the Managerial Act in 1935. Mr. Casey was elected for the remainder of the term. It was a belated honour when he was elected for a full term in 1935/36.

When he died in 1953, Mr. Casey, who had represented Labour interests in the city for the greater part of his life, evoked the following tribute from local historian, Mr. Ernest Bennis: "Jim Casey, always thinking how he could help the 'down and outs', organised an annual Christmas treat for the prisoners in the gaol. He also organised treats and entertainments for the inmates of the City Home; but his greatest achievement was the organising of the Blind People's Club, where he got together these lonely, isolated, helpless people, introduced them to each other, and gave them a right good social time together."

Jim Casey, one of our great local heroes, is forgotten to-day, while some nonentities are remembered in streets or parks.

Kevin Hannan