

1 Councillor Jack Danagher will carry priceless civic emblem on American tour

# The Mayoral Chain has links with history

ON to-morrow the Mayor of Limerick, Mr. Jack Danagher, will fly from Shannon to the United States on the invitation of the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Iowa and Omaha. The Mayor will be guest of honour for the St. Patrick's Day ceremonies in these two great centres, and he will take with him on his tour a priceless antiquity of the Corporation of Limerick—the Mayoral Chain.

Only on three previous occasions has the Mayoral Chain been taken outside Ireland. The first was in 1875 when Ambrose Hall attended a week's festivities given to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London to all the Mayors of the world; the second in 1901 when Danagher's first Fenian Mayor, John Daly, took it with him on a tour of America, and the third in 1957 when the late Mayor, Alderman G. F. Russell, toured America to inaugurate a fund raising campaign for a memorial to Sir John Bull, Michael O'Callaghan, the Mayor, and Volunteers Joseph O'Donoghue, who died in Ireland's War of Independence.

Its historic value is priceless, and the records inscribed on its links date back to 1822. It has been present at every function of civic importance for over 100 years. It travelled with John Bull on his tour of distinguished speeches in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. With him it participated in New York's great St. Patrick's Day parade of 1861, and with him was present at the great banquet of the Sons of St. Patrick in 1890.

The Mayoral Chain is of solid gold and was originally fashioned by a firm of London goldsmiths about 1850. In its early stages of growth the links were considerably smaller than at present and resemble a flat ring. It was the first time that the chain was taken outside the British Dominions. In 1875, Ambrose Hall was in London during the week's festivities given to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London to all the Mayors of the world, and at the expiry of his term of office he entrusted himself to the responsibility of its safe keeping. Somewhere about the middle of the last century it was very near being lost at the old Newcastle Racecourse during a race meeting—whether as the result of betting transactions or bad whiskey we are not sure. No Mayor ever afterwards or before this occasion wore the chain unless on official occasions and representing the Corporation.

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In three instances are the links wholly solid or medal-like, and attached to the chain as pendants. One of these bears the crest of Martin Honan, the first Reform Mayor, with the City Arms on the other side. Honan, by the way, continued to have his representation on the chain as far as Limerick as possible from those of the old Corporation, which went out of office in 1821. The other medallions, which

were among the latest additions to the chain, were presented by Mr. Michael S. O'Callaghan, solicitor, and the late James M. Casey. The O'Callaghan medallion bears the family crest in relief with motto "Terra Marisque Potens." Casey's medallion commemorates the fact that he was elected first Mayor under the Limerick City Management Act and that he acted as Deputy Mayor from March 7 to 23, 1921, after the murder of George Casey by British forces.

Two links added by the representatives of Limerick's murdered Mayor, George Clancy and Michael O'Callaghan, commemorate the greatest tragedy in the city's 100 years municipal history. The last Mayor to add a link to the chain was Ald. G. E. Russell, who occupied the office for the three consecutive terms, 1934/5, 1935/6 and 1936/7. It commemorates a banquet given by Alderman Russell during his Mayoralty to the 16 surviving former Mayors of Limerick.

The following list of the inscriptions on the links of Limerick's Mayoral chain may be of more than usual interest.

- THE INSCRIPTIONS UP TO 1843**
- Hon. J. P. Voreker, Mayor, 1821-32.
  - Ald. John Voreker, Mayor, 1833. (He was also Mayor in 1836.)
  - Ald. John J. Piercey, Mayor, 1834.
  - Garrett Hugh Fitzgerald, Mayor of Limerick, October 1, 1838.
  - Sir Richard Franklin, M.D., Mayor, 30th Sept. 1839. (He was knighted during his term of office by Earl Fortescue, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.)
  - Hon. Charles Smith Voreker, Mayor, 1841.
  - Martin Honan, the first of the Reform Mayors, initiated the practice of recording outstanding events during the Mayoral term of office. The inscription on each link down through the years to our own time is given below.
- MUNICIPAL REFORM ACT PUT IN OPERATION**
- On a solid medal appears: Martin Honan, Mayor for the years 1842/3. On the back: Municipal Reform Act became law in Limerick, Nov. 9, 1841.
- DIED IN HIS MAJORITY**
- Piercey, Shannon, Corbally House, Mayor, Jan. 1st, 1844. On back: Died in Mayoralty, June 6th, 1844.
- ABBOT RIVER BRIDGE**
- William J. Casey, M.D., 1844/5. First arch stone of the Abbey River Bridge laid, 24th Nov. 1843.
- THE FLOATING DOCKS—THE POTATO CROP FAILED**
- Edmund F. G. Ryan, Mayor,

1845. Floating docks completed. Total failure of the potato crop. 1846 collected for the city for the poor.

**ISLAND BANK FOR THE CITY**  
Michael Quin, 1848. Got possession of the Island Bank for the citizens. Railway communication opened by Mr. May between Dublin and Limerick.

**EARL OF ARUNDEN**  
Thaddeus McDermott, 1851. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey was elected Mayor of the city.

**LIMERICK M.P.**  
Thomas Kane, M.D., J.P., 1852 and 1853. Robert Pettice and Francis W. Russell, 1854, served as members for Limerick at the General Election.

**DRIVING BUSKS OPENED**  
William Henry Hall elected Mayor 1855. Great Market and outdoor docks opened by the Earl of St. Germaine.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS**  
Henry O'Casey, 1856. Public buildings erected for the past 20 years.

**EMERSON WAR**  
Henry Watson Mayor, 1857, 1858-59 and 1860. Irish War embodied. The Mayor this year traversed the land and water boundaries of the Corporation Municipality. War with Russia declared.

**SILVER CRADLE**  
Michael Robert Ryan, J.P., M. J. Jones, Election, 18th May. W. Russell elected third time. Major Galvin elected for the second time M.P. for the city. Silver cradle presented to Mrs. Ryan by the Town Council and corporate officials of the city according to the ancient custom of the city to commemorate the birth of the son and heir on the 26th of January in the year of his Mayoralty. Mayor Ryan invited to record that he retained the ancient Arms of Limerick according to the Corporation.

**ST. ALPHONSE'S CHURCH BY ST. ALPHONSE'S**  
Robert McManis, J.P., Mayor, elected Mayor, 1st December, 1862. For the year 1862, New Church of St. Alphonsus dedicated 7th of same month. The Prince of Wales married, 24th of March, 1863. An address of congratulation presented by the Mayor at Marlborough House. The Mayor presented at the Queen's levee at St. James' Palace, 24th June, 1864 and Corbally transferred to the County of the Corporation, 24th June, 1864.

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Councillor Jack Danagher, Mayor of Limerick, with the civic chain which he will wear during his visit to the United States next week.





Mayor, 1831. Presented address to Lord Lieutenant on assuming the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland. Birth of a son to the Prince of Wales. The Corporation Gas Works renovated. Bill for Corkwater embankment promoted by the Corporation.

**TWILIGHT STORM**

Alfred J. E. Tinsley, J.P. Mayor, 1835. General Election—Russell and Gavin were elected for the city. £5,000 expended on sewerage. Distress among the working classes and outdoor relief obtained. The ancient Treaty Stone raised on pedestal. Telt Testimonial Tower commenced. Jubilee fountain erected in St. John's Parish.

**CHURCH OF IRELAND**

Thomas Boyce, Mayor, 1839. Judges of Assize attended Mass in State with the Mayor and Corporation in their robes, being the first occasion of the kind since the Reformation. Election petition against the city M.P. defeated. Protestant Church disestablished in Ireland.

**FIRST EXPERIMENT OF LIMERICK BOAT CLUB**

William Spillane, J.P. Mayor, 1870. President of the Limerick Athenaeum and School of Art. Public Free Library and Limerick Boat Club, unanimously elected to each office. Declaration of war between France and Prussia, July 18. Irish Land Act became law, August 1. Corkwater embankment opened October 14, and the first Public Free Library in Limerick opened December 13.

**WAR OF PARIS**

Robert MacDonnell, J.P. Mayor, 1871. Siege and surrender of Paris and termination of the Franco-Prussian War. Visit of Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant, June 19. Presentation of an address at the Town Hall by the Mayor and Corporation to Colonel M. Maunsell, M.P. for Co. Limerick, on his appointment as Postmaster General.

**ISRAELI'S GOVERNMENT**

J. J. Cleary, Mayor, 1872. Visit of Earl and Countess Spencer, Lord Lieutenant; address presented from Corporation. Resignation of the Ministry. Formation of a Conservative Government by Mr. Disraeli.

**SCATTERY ISLAND**

J. J. Cleary unanimously elected Mayor, 1873. Opening of Graving Docks by Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant, May 14th. Vote by ballot became law in Ireland. Over 300 citizens invited by the Mayor to accompany his Excellency and Countess Spencer to Scattery Island. Dejeuner on board. Ashantee War broke out. The Irish Eight won the Shield at Wimbledon.

**THE BALLOT ACT**

J. J. Cleary elected for the third time, 1874. Gladstone's Ministry resigned. Mayor attended banquet June 5 to the Lord Mayor of London. Address of congratulation to his Grace, the Duke of Abercorn, presented by Mayor and deputation of the Corporation at Vice Regal Lodge. First Parliamentary Election under the Ballot Act. Isaac Butt and R.

and George... the ceremony... M.P. for the city, died. Prince Imperial of France killed in Zululand. Waterworks celebration held in Limerick. Under 1880 Limerick Gas Company Works acquired by Corporation. General Election. Legislation of Beaconsfield. Gladstone appointed Prime Minister. Address to his Excellency Earl Cowper, Lord Lieutenant, presented by Mayor and Corporation. Foundation stone of the Clock Tower at the Dock laid by Miss O'Gorman, daughter of the Mayor. Great agitation for the Reform of the Land Laws throughout Ireland.

**IRISH TIERCE ON MILITARY ROAD**

Alderman Jerome Conahan, Mayor 1882-83. Address of welcome presented by the Mayor and Corporation in Dublin to Earl Spencer on his appointment as Lord Lieutenant. Opening of Dublin Exhibition attended by the Mayor and wife abroad. The new Church of St. Michael's built, and St. John's Cathedral spire finished. Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Lord Bishop. The first tree in the Military Road planted by the Mayor. Wellesley Bridge opened free of toll. Gold key presented to Mayor by Harbour Board. Athlunkard Bridge opened. Waterworks taken over. Royal Agricultural Society show and exhibition opened during visit of Lord Lieutenant and Countess Spencer. Bill passed freeing Athlunkard Bridge from toll. Waterworks purchased and taken over by the Mayor.

**FIRST NATIONALIST MAYOR**

S. O'Mara, Mayor, 1885. Failure of Munster Bank. Visit of Prince of Wales to the Railway Station. Not received by the Mayor and citizens. Resistance to police tax brought to a successful issue. On a supplementary list appears: Stephen O'Mara, Mayor of Limerick, elected M.P. for Queen's County. Osgrey division. Home Rule Bill introduced by W. E. Gladstone. The Most Rev. Dr. Butler, Bishop, died, and the Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer consecrated Bishop.

**ARTIZANS' DWELLINGS**

Francis O'Reilly, Mayor of Limerick three years, 1887-89. Elected M.P. for the City of Limerick, 15th April, 1888. Introduced the Public Libraries Act into Limerick. Turned the first sod of the new Waterworks 5th September, 1888. The Corporation Artizans' Dwellings first created.

**YOUNGEST MAYOR**

William J. O'Donnell, J.P. Mayor, 1890. Sheriff, 1889. Youngest Mayor on record.

**DEATH OF PARNELL**

Alderman Patrick Riordan, M.P. The leader of the Irish people, Charles Stewart Parnell, died October 6th 1891. (The Treaty Stone is engraved on one side of this gold medal, Parnell's head being in relief on the other.)

**DEATH OF CARDINAL MANNING**

D. F. McNamara, 1892. Cardinal Manning died January 14, 1902. Gladstone elected to power on the Home Rule ticket.

All-Ireland Industrial Conference in the Town Hall, Nov. 28. Opened the Tuberculosis Exhibition in the Athenaeum, Nov. 30. Attended the consecration of the Most Rev. Dr. Boylan as Bishop of Limerick in Cavan Cathedral with sword and mace bearers; also Alderman MacNeice and J. H. Roche, Esq., J.P.

**ISLAND FIELD HOUSING**

P. F. Quinlan, Mayor, 1887/88. Elected Mayor of Limerick 24th of June, 1888. Inaugurated poor children's excursion to Youghal, 20th July, 1888. Pres de Valera opened Civic Carnival, 2nd Oct. 1888. Entertained Atlantic flyers, Capt. Ford, Lieut. Sabell, 17th May, 1888, who conveyed Mayor's petition to Holy Father, Pope Pius XI. G.A.A. Jubilee Year. Limerick City. Turned sod Limerick's largest housing scheme (330 houses), Island Field, 7th June, '84. Messrs. J. Molloy and Sons and M. Doyle and Son, Builders. Entertained French engineers, 2nd July, 1891. Unanimously re-elected Mayor, 9th July, '84. Apostolic Benediction received from Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, 13th July, 1884. Mayoral Banquet, 13th October, '84, to Limerick's team on victory All-Ireland Hurling Final. Management Act became law, 8th September, 1884. This Mark has the Quinlan Arms in enamel on the back.

**MICHAEL B. O'MALLEY**

Michael B. O'Malley, Meire, 1948-5. Dligheada. (On the opposite side of this handsome medallion the family crest is magnificently worked in relief, with the motto "Terre Marique Potens".)

**FIRST MAYOR UNDER THE LIMERICK CITY MANAGEMENT ACT**

Alderman James M. Casey. Elected first Mayor under the Limerick City Management Act, 1934-'36. Alderman James M. Casey acted as Deputy Mayor from 7th to 23rd March, 1921, after the murder of the Mayor by British Crown Forces.

**LIMERICK'S MURDERED MAYORS**

MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN. Micheal O'Ceallaigh, Meire, 1920. Go siuama calma, stuirigh se gnothae na cathrach sa bhian ba deiba comhrad agus ba mbe ufas i gcecaidh na Seoirse. Eilain glomhar a chruthaigh se clackeacht agus ce-anact. I goim na heiche Marta 7, 1921. In a thigh fein don mhairbiodh e ag Galloigh i lathair a bheineille. Beldh buan-chuimhae ar a anam's ar a oidhe i measc na ndaoine.

**1870-1921**

**SEOIRSE CLANCY**

Do bhuanu cuimhne Seoirse Mhic Fianncadha. Oglach agus Oigheach d'arm-na Poblachta. Meire Luimhighe. 1921, a d'ua marbhu iad le Galloigh no thigh fein i lathair a bheineille. an Tadh Marta, 1921. Cuimhigidh ar Luimhig.

**G. E. RUSSELL**

Seoirse E. Russell, 1954-'5. 1955/'6, 1966/'7 "By the 16 surviving former Mayors."