

mayorality of Mr. O'Brien's father, the late Paul A. O'Brien, for the two successive terms 1925-26 and 1926-27,

# Another link to Limerick's golden history

**A**N APPEAL to young citizens to activate themselves in civic affairs was made this Friday morning by the Mayor, Senator G. E. Russell, when he accepted a medallion for the Mayoral Chain to commemorate the Mayorality of the late Councillor Paul A. O'Brien in the two successive years, 1925-26 and 1926-27.

The medallion was presented on behalf of the O'Brien family by Mr. Paul R. O'Brien at a pleasant ceremony in the Mayoral Chamber of the City Hall. A unique feature is that it was fashioned from pieces of gold which were donated for its manufacture by Mr. J. J. Kennecally, jeweller, by each member of the O'Brien family.

Senator Russell, remarking on his fifth term as first citizen, said: "The longer I remain the greater regard I have for the men who contested election to the City Council and contributed to the progress of the city and the happiness of the citizens."

## Uncharitable

Deploring the "critical and uncharitable" observations which were too often made concerning people in public life, he said: "It seems more and more the 'in thing' to criticise public men. I hope the time has come when young men and young women will offer themselves for election and serve a few years in the interests of their fellow-citizens."

It was a great privilege and a great joy, he said, to accept on behalf of the citizens this Mayoral link on the 50th anniversary of the late Mr. O'Brien's Mayoraty.

"In his term of office he was associated with a number of outstanding civic, religious and sporting events," he added. He made particular reference to Bohemian R.F.C.'s first win in the Munster Cup and added: "This is a pleasant

significance, as I am approaching my 50th anniversary as a member of the same club."

He was delighted that the O'Brien family had decided to commemorate the Mayorality of such a great citizen as the late Councillor Paul A. O'Brien in this manner, and he thanked them on behalf of the citizens. As a memento of the occasion, he presented Mr. Paul R. O'Brien with a history of the Mayoral Chain and a list of all the Mayors of Limerick from the first holder of the office, Adam Sarvant, in 1197.

## Family

Mr. Paul R. O'Brien said he was presenting the solid gold medallion on behalf of the members of the family. "Fifty years is a long time after an event, but the family decided that they would like to have their father associated permanently in this way with those distinguished members of the City Council who have held this high office and who have made their contribution to the welfare of the citizens of this city."

They had inscribed on the medallion some of the important events which took place during his terms of office in 1925-'26 and 1926-'27, covering national, civic, religious and sporting events. These were, he said, the beginning of the Shannon Hydro - Electric Scheme, the conferring of the Freedom of the City on Most Rev. Dr. Mannix, the Sept-Centenary of the Dominican Order in Limerick, the completion of the A.B.C. Clubhouse, the purchase of the Ennis Rd. C.A.A. Grounds and Bohemians first win in the Munster Cup.

He concluded: "On behalf of the family, I hand over this piece of golden history for the citizens of Limerick to further adorn this historic chain of office."

Also present at the ceremony were Messrs. Colm and Christopher O'Brien (sons of the late Cllr. P. A. O'Brien), Angela and Rachel (daughters), Messrs. David and Paul O'Brien (grandsons) and Mr. Tom O'Donnell (husband of Angela). Mr. Conal O'Brien (son) was unavoidably absent. Another son, Aidan, is resident in Canada.

