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Bee Moynihan & Co., Ltd
2, O'CONNELL STREET,
LIMERICK.

O'Callaghan Link For Mayoral Chain Presented By Widow

MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN, Mayor of Limerick in 1920—the year that the Republican local authorities came into power—was murdered in his home, and in the presence of his wife, by British agents in March, 1921.

These stirring events were recalled by a ceremony that took place in the Town Hall yesterday, when a gold medallion for the Mayoral Chain was presented to the Mayor (Ald. G. E. Russell) by Mrs. Kate O'Callaghan, widow of the martyr of 1921.

The medallion, richly embossed with Celtic tracery, has appropriate inscriptions in Irish on the obverse and reverse. The translation of the inscription on the front is as follows:

"Michael O'Callaghan, Mayor, 1920. With dignity and outstanding courage he directed the affairs of Limerick in 1920, that peak year of terror and most bitter fighting in the War of Independence—the year made glorious by the unity and indomitable spirit of the nation."

The inscription on the back reads: "On the night of March 7th, 1921, he was murdered by the English in his own home in the presence of his wife. His name and his tragic fate will long be remembered—1879-1921."

Making the presentation to the Mayor, Mrs. O'Callaghan said:

Like most citizens of Limerick interested in the matter, I know that since the year 1822 the custom has grown up for each mayor to mark the end of his year of office by the addition of a link to the Mayoral Chain, I am aware that on each link or medallion is noted some event of the year deemed worth recording for posterity.

I have always had the intention to mark my husband's year of office in the customary way, but, over the troubled years of the youth and growth of the State, I waited. I waited for a time in which the country might appear to be settling down to her real fulfilment, really settling down in an atmosphere of freedom and harmony, to the development of all her many potentialities, a time to which my husband always looked forward with confident hope and for which, as a lover of his country and an Irish industrialist, he worked and planned.

I think you will agree with me that to-day we are at such a period in our development, and so I have

had the link prepared to present to you.

The stirring events of that year, 1920, have passed into history, for, as I have stated in the inscription, it was the peak year of terror and most bitter fighting in the War of Independence, a year made glorious by the unity and indomitable spirit of the whole people. As Mayor of this ancient city, Michael O'Callaghan played his part worthily.

In his memory and in memory of that year of office, I ask you to accept the medallion for addition to the chain.

The Mayor, in accepting the medallion, said:—

The addition of this medallion to the Mayoral Chain will make that appendage of the mayoralty all the more historic. I thank you on behalf of the citizens for your most valued gift and I can assure you that I regard it as a great honour that your presentation should coincide with my year of office.

The Mayor proceeded to say that Michael O'Callaghan was a member of a generation that worked and died for the upliftment and advancement of their native land. Michael O'Callaghan paid the supreme sacrifice; he had gone, but his memory and his spirit were with them as were the memories of all the other great men who did not wait to count the cost. During the intervening years great changes had taken place in their beloved land—great changes in the political and social spheres. The people and their leaders irrespective of party had come together to build up the country's prosperity. Their aim should be to recapture the unity of the period of 1918 to 1921—a direction in which considerable progress was being made.

Concluding, the Mayor said that the different political groups in the City Council eschewed politics when the interests of the city were concerned.

SPECIAL ARTICLE.

A special article dealing with the year 1920 will be published in Monday's issue and pictures of the medallion will appear in next week-end issue.