

Death of Mr. James McManus

Widespread and genuine regret was expressed on Wednesday when it became known that Mr. James McManus had died that morning at Fermoy Hospital, after an illness which had extended over a period of some nine weeks.

The late Mr. McManus was a native of this district, having been born at Irishtown on September 30, 1853. His father came from Ireland in 1805, and two years later settled in the Irishtown district, where he was engaged in farming until his death some years ago. Mr. McManus was brought up to farm work from his boyhood and, with the exception of a couple of years station experience in the north in his early manhood, spent his life in the Irishtown district. He started farming on his own account over thirty years ago, and gradually extended his interests until of recent years he has been one of the largest farmers in these districts. In 1908 he purchased from Mr. John Cooke the beautiful "Minathorpe" property, three miles from Northam, where he has since resided, and a year or two later he acquired another large farm at Wongamine. He has always been a pioneer in farming methods. In 1891 he imported and worked the first steam travelling chaff-cutter in these districts, and in 1899, whilst on a visit to Melbourne he purchased a "Sunshine" harvester, which was the first machine of its kind to find its way to the Northam district. More recently, in 1912, he led the way in the matter of the bulk handling of wheat from the farm to the mill, and his achievements in this direction excited much attention from the Royal Commission that dealt with the general question of bulk handling in the following year.

bulk handling in the following year. He was also an extensive breeder of stock, draught horses, sheep and pigs—and his farms have been among the best conducted in the district. During the past few years he has added to his extensive farming interests the duties of Chairman of Directors of the Northam Brewing Company, a concern which he has administered with great energy and ability.

Whilst handling private concerns of sufficient magnitude to tax the energies of two or three ordinary men, Mr. McManus has devoted much time to public affairs, and in this respect has rendered important services to the district. He was a member of the Northam Road Board for over twenty years, being in office up to the time of his death, and was for two years a member of the Land Board for the district. For twelve years he held the position of Secretary of the Irishtown Farmers' Club and, with Mr. John French, he was chiefly instrumental in securing the erection of the Irishtown Agricultural Hall, opened by Sir John Forrest in 1894, this being the first hall of the kind in the Eastern districts. He was for many years a committee-man of the Northam Agricultural Society, and was repeatedly elected to the office of Vice-President. In his younger days he was for many years a trustee of the Ancient Order of Foresters. He took a deep interest in both State and Federal politics, particularly in their application to the agricultural interests. For many years he was a tower of strength to the Liberal cause, and for the past two or three years he has played the leading part in the Farmers and Settlers' Association in this district. In every one of his public offices Mr. McManus was a tireless and unselfish worker, giving freely both time and money to the advancement of any good cause.

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Socially he commanded the affection and esteem of all who knew him. He was a member of the Northam Club almost from its inception, and for many years was senior Vice-President of the Northam Bowling Club. He had a bowling green laid down at his own home, and no team of visiting bowlers from the city considered their trip complete without a game on the Irishdown green, where they were always entertained with lavish hospitality by Mr. and Mrs. McManus. Hundreds of city bowlers will deplore his death, as removing one of the most valued members of the fraternity in the State.

By the people of Northam and district the death of Mr. McManus will be regarded as little short of a calamity. At the present time of stress

and difficulty men of his enterprise, energy, and public spirit are invaluable. A few months ago his friends would have regarded him as good for another twenty years of active work. It is more than probable that his untimely end was largely due to overwork extending over a long period of years and performed as much in the public interest as in his own. By his death the agricultural industry of the State has lost one of its most skillful and most progressive exponents, and this district has been deprived of one of its very best men. In all matters of business Mr. McManus was the soul of honour, in public affairs he was singularly self-sacrificing—always willing to do the hard work without bothering who got the praise—and in private life he was a generous hearted, open minded man. In 1887 he married Honora, daughter of the late Mr. James Foley, of Wungamine, and sister of Mr. James Foley, of Northam. He leaves five

Foley, of Northam. He leaves five sons and one daughter, and to his widow and children the deepest sympathy will be extended.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, and was one of the largest that has ever been seen in the district. The cortege proceeded from "Minathorpe" to St. Joseph's Church, Northam, where portion of the burial service was read, and then re-formed and proceeded to the Roman Catholic portion of the Northam cemetery, where the interment took place, the Rev. Father O'Donnell officiating at the graveside. The chief mourners were Mrs. McManus (widow), Messrs. Stephen, Ernest, Vernon and William McManus (sons), Miss McManus (daughter), Mr. Bernard McManus (brother), Mrs. Atkins (sister), Mr. J. Foley (brother-in-law), and Miss A. Foley (sister-in-law). The pall bearers were Messrs. John French and H. W. Cotton (representing the Northam Road Board), Mr. A. W. Byfield (representing Northam Municipal Council), W. Nind, F. Rewell, J. Sermon, A. J. Cathie, and P. Ryan.

Numerous messages and telegrams of sympathy, and wreaths, were forwarded by the following—Members of the Family, Northam Road Board, Arnold and Margie, Sister Maggie and family, Brother Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. White and family, Mrs. Hastings and family, Little Grandchildren, Ness and Jim, Miss F. Benn, Stephen and Marie, Miss Millard and Miss Pickett, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Nicholson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Quindland, Joy and Ethel Quindland, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. French, Northam Bowling Club, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. McKinnell, Mr. and Mrs. Sadgrove, Nieces and Nephews Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Crock, Mr. and Mrs. Cathie, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, Throssell, Sou and Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. B. P.

and Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Chidlow, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. C. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Wilhelm, Mr. and Miss Stempel and Mrs. Howard, Jim and Alice, Mr. and Mrs. U. W. Viveash, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Leeder, Mary Lawrence and Rodley, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nind, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lyon, Mrs. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. G. Crampton, Northam Brewery, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Colbatch, Mr. and Mrs. Addicoat, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thackrah, Dr. and Mrs. Rockett, Elder, Sleaton & Co., Mr. and Mrs. Grave, Mr. and Miss French, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. French, Mr. and Mrs. W. Morrill, Goomalling Farmers' Club, Mrs. Frost, Mrs. J. O'Hara, Mr. and Mrs. Malvin, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Forward, Mrs. Atkinson (sent), Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Broomhall, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Meares, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lockyer, Mr. and Mrs. Logan, Mrs. McBride and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ison, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Byfield, Thomas and Co. The mortuary arrangements were conducted by Mr. J. W. Parslow.