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**The Catholic Press (NSW : 1895 - 1942)**

**28 April 1932**

Mr. M. -T. Burke. :

Through the death of Mr. Martin Talty Burke, of Springsure (Q.), recently, that district has lost one of its leading, oldest and most esteemed residents. Born at Milltown-Malbay, County Clare, Ireland, on November 4, 1854; and educated at an academy in that county, he later served apprenticeship in a drapery business in a large establishment in Ennis. He arrived at Brisbane in 1874, and for a time served with the old firm of Stewart and Hemmant. He then proceeded to Rockhampton, and for a time was with Messrs. Stewart and Lucas. Following on a meeting with a friend of Mr. Samuel Hinton, of Springsure, he visited that town in 1877 and accepted an engagement with Messrs. Hinton Bros. By his capacity and energy he quickly became invaluable to the firm, and when later Mr. Samuel Hinton arranged to reside in Sydney Mr. Burke was granted a partnership in the business, which continued to prosper steadily under his management. The business expanded alike in the original store-keeping departments and also in pastoral interests, which, entered upon in a small way, gradually developed importance, and Mr. Burke acquired 'Pride of the Valley' and other selections, and also the grazing farms, 'Rivertsone' and 'Meteor Park.' Mr. Burke engaged in cattle breeding, fattening and dairying, and introduced to the district a small herd of Illawarra Shorthorns, headed by the well-known sire, “ The Don.”' Influenced, perhaps, by the Irish man's love for a good horse, he decided upon investing in a small stud of blood horses and also of draught horses, meeting with much success in each venture. Mr. Burke was a friend in need to struggling selectors, and assisted them in many ways during difficult times. Numerous families in the district owe their establishment and prosperity in a great degree to his kindly help. Also, for years he took an active and leading part in all movements for the welfare of the town and the district. During the drought period of 1900-1905 it became necessary for Mr. Hinton to dispose of his interest in Hinton Bros., and Mr. Burke, by arrangement, acquired the sole ownership of the business in which he had previously worked up to a half interest.

As a Catholic he will perhaps be best remembered by many of the older residents by reason of his helpfulness and beneficence. Father Byrnes, in a short address following Mr. Burke 's death, very truly said: 'It was Mr. Burke the Catholics of Springsure had to thank for keeping the faith alive during the years that there was no resident priest in the town.' Generous in all matters; he was doubly so in anything connected with his Church. The fine site upon which now stand the Catholic church, the convent and the school was a gift from Mr. Burke. Mr. Burke married in 1882 Miss Mary Ellen Cahill, and of the nine children there are surviving three daughters: Mrs. James Maher, of Sydney; Mrs. Noel Woolcock, of Mostyn dale, Springsure; and Sister Mary Martin, of the Convent of Mercy, Gympie; and one son, Mr. G. H. Burke, now of Hinton Bros., Springsure. The elder son, Martin John Burke, proceeded to France in, the A.I.F., was killed, and is buried there.— R.I..P.

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