

The Guardian

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DANIEL
QUINN, J.P.

WALTHAMSTOW'S
NEW CHIEF

SOLDIER AND WORKER

By "The Camera Fiend."

Councillor Daniel Joseph Quinn, Walthamstow's new chief citizen, belongs to a race of fighters, is a member of a fighting family, and has devoted the greater part of a life that has not by any means been devoid of adventure to fighting for what he has believed to be just.

Like many another young Irishman, the new Chairman of the Walthamstow Urban Council was destined for the Church, but feeling that he had no vocation for the priestly office he abandoned a collage career, and was the first of four brothers to follow their father's calling of a soldier.

YOUTHFUL ADVENTURES

Young Quinn, from the moment of his birth, was brought under military influence. His father and mother were both of Irish nationality, and the former enlisted in the 68th Durham Light Infantry and fought in the Maori War of 1864.

Councillor Quinn first saw the light of day amid the martial surroundings of Aldershot in July, 1867. His father, it may be added, for 19 years was the sergeant-master shoemaker of his regiment. The son, the eldest of the family, at an early age went to India, travelling via the Cape, in the days before the Suez Canal was opened. For seven years he was at Poona, Bombay, and other military stations, and has still vivid recollections of them, one being of an adventure of those boyish days when he fell from a tree into Ramsahia house or temple.

THE CALL OF THE COLOURS.

His father finally received his discharge and settled at Templemore, Tipperary, where his son obtained the highest standard of Irish national education that could be accrued. The next stage in an eventful career was at Thurles College, where he studied for the priesthood, but the British Army, rather than the Roman Church, was to be the scene of his youthful activities. Enlisting in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Mr. Quinn saw active service in Egypt, under General Stephenson, in 1886. Once more he went to India, and in 1889 he was engaged in the Black Mountain Expedition on the North-West Frontier. Returning to England, and placed upon the Reserve, Mr. Quinn found employment with the Dunlop Rubber Company, Birmingham, until the outbreak of the Boer War, when he rejoined the colours. He took his share in the stirring events of that war, being in the Tugula Battle and in the relief of Ladysmith and Mafeking.

AN ENTHUSIAST

What he saw in Africa had a powerful influence upon his political ideas, and he espoused the creed of the Socialist. When finally he resumed civilian work at Birmingham, he became an active member of the Socialist Party, and took a prominent part in political, municipal and trade union work, becoming chairman of his branch of the General Worker's Union. He was unsuccessful in obtaining a seat upon the Aston Borough Council, since incorporated in the larger City of Birmingham.

So earnest were his efforts in the Labour and Socialist movement that he had difficulty in securing employment, and resolved to seek his fortune in Walthamstow. Here for two years he worked at the Premier Rubber Company, now the Stepany Rubber Company, Removing to St. Albans, and obtaining employment with the Brimstone Tyre Company, the outbreak of war found him back once more in Walthamstow, where he worked at Messrs. Peter Hooker's. Since the Armistice he has been engaged as a fitter's mate with the Co-operative Society.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Since living in this locality, Councillor Quinn has identified himself with the Trades Council movement and with Socialist and political work. He polled 401 votes at his first election for St. James' Street Ward on the Council, and regards the increase to 1,280 votes, when he was recently re-elected, as a vote of confidence in him for his work upon the Council. Upon the day of his re-election, his wife, who is a native of Leicester, was chosen as a Guardian for the High Street Ward.

During his second year of office upon the Council, although a member of the minority, he was appointed Chairman of the Shops Act Committee. When the Socialist obtained power they placed Councillor Quinn in the vice-chair, and on Tuesday they showed their appreciation of his services by electing him to the most coveted position within their gift.

He was the second Chairman of the Profiteering Committee, is a member of both the Walthamstow Education Committee and of the Higher Education Sub-Committee, and has been appointed to represent Labour among the governors of the Monour Grammar School.

Councillor Quinn has three sons and one daughter. From the age of seven he has been an ardent cricketer, an enthusiastic football follower too, but without interest in racing. He has always discountenanced anything in the nature of gambling, as being detrimental to the interests of the working classes.

HIS AMBITIONS

"My aim and ambition in life," he concluded, "is to see the condition of the women and children altered. I was revolted at their conditions in South Africa during the Boer War. Since then I have seen their conditions in the chain-work district around

Birmingham, and have done my best to alter these."

"I should also like to see more solitariness among the workers than there is at the present time."

"So far as I am concerned I shall do my best to do my duty as Chairman of the Council, and shall do everything I can for the town irrespective of party feeling or anything else."

PARTY FEUD AT WALTHAMSTOW

HOUSING DEBATE

Councillor D. J. Quinn was on Tuesday elected to the chair of the Walthamstow Urban District Council.

Councillor McGuffie presided pro tem., and Councillor McEntee moved the appointment of Councillor D. J. Quinn to the chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor Sweeting seconded the motion.

Councillor Hyde Stokes said his side of the house supported the election.

The election was carried unanimously, and Councillor Quinn took the chair amid applause.

Councillor McGuffie, vacating the chair in favour of Councillor Quinn, said he trusted he would be granted good health to carry out the heavy and exacting duties of his office. He hoped, too, the dark clouds of the industrial difficulties would brighten during his term of office, and that his year of service would be for the good of all the people in Walthamstow.

A GOOD OMEN

Councillor Quinn said the unanimity of his election was a good omen, as it showed that as chairman he would have the loyal co-operation of every member of the Council during his term of office.

Concluding, the Chairman added: "I shall have something to do to conduct the business of this Council with the same ability and qualifications as my predecessor. My best endeavour will be to serve the community to the best of my ability without prejudice, politics or creed.

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