

University of Notre Dame
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN
March 29, 1933



COLONEL HOYNES MUSTERED OUT

Colonel William J. Hoynes, K.S.G., Dean Emeritus of the College of Law, and last surviving member of the Notre Dame Post, Grand Army of the Republic, died yesterday at St. Joseph's Hospital, South Bend, in his 87th year, and in his fiftieth year of continuous residence at the University.

Perhaps no figure ever connected with the University was more widely or more universally loved by Notre Dame men of present and past generation. His connection with Notre Dame began when he enrolled as a student, in 1868, after a distinguished service in the Civil War—rather, two periods of service, for the Colonel enlisted twice. The youngest infantryman in his Wisconsin regiment (he was fifteen), he was discharged from the service after being seriously wounded; but he reenlisted, this time as a cavalryman, and was not mustered out of service until after the close of the War.

The tenacity and versatility which characterized his army record were evident in every activity of his life. After making preparatory studies at Notre Dame, he studied law at the University of Michigan, where he received the degree of LL.B., in 1877. Notre Dame awarded him an A.M., in 1878, and an LL.D., in 1888. He did newspaper work in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; New Brunswick, N. J., and Peoria, Ill.; he practiced law in Chicago for five years. In 1883 he returned to Notre Dame as professor of law, and later as Dean, a position he held until his retirement in 1918. He was a candidate for Congress in 1888, and because bigotry was used against him in that campaign he refused the nomination in 1904. He served the State of Indiana on several commissions, and the United States Government as a special commissioner on Indian Affairs. In 1912 he was made a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Pius X.

A gentleman of the old school, Col. Hoynes bore himself with unflinching dignity, but he had ever the heart of a boy. He knew the students and loved them, and they reciprocated his affection. It was only in the last few years that he lost contact with actual students; but he maintained his interest in their games and amusements, being an ardent fan in the stadium and in Washington Hall. No figure on the campus was more sought after by the alumni, and "Col. Hoynes reunions" were a feature of commencements of almost a half-century.

But most of all, "the Colonel" was an ardent Catholic. The faith he brought from County Kilkenny as a boy flourished and grew deeper and wider and stronger with the sunshine of Notre Dame life and the rain of bigotry. He had a vast interest in the study of Apologetics, and he had hoped to devote his latter years to the preparation of a treatise on this subject that would sum up his ripe experience. Infirmities prevented his execution of this hope—but the Colonel's life was itself a beautiful chapter in Apologetics. A faithful daily communicant until the infirmities of age prevented daily reception, he drew from the Tabernacle the grace that directed his life in the way of God. The Church meant everything to him: it was his life.

As we said of Professor McCue's passing a few months ago, the Colonel's death is not the breaking of a link with the past, but rather the forging of a new link in the chain that binds Notre Dame together in the Communion of Saints. Col. Hoynes was for a long time the legal adviser of Father Sorin and Father Zahm and other great men who made Notre Dame; he was the bosom friend of McCue, Howard, Stace, Lyons, and other giants of the lay faculty. The ties that bound them were the ties of spiritual friendship; those are ties that hold forever.

You are asked to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion for the repose of his soul at 6:25 tomorrow in Sacred Heart Church. The funeral Mass will be sung Friday morning, at an hour to be announced later.

PRAYERS

Larry O'Neil's father is seriously ill. Fred Morris' grandfather is in a critical condition. A sister of Fr. Haggerty is very ill. Two special intentions.



COL. WILLIAM J. HOYNES