

DEATH OF MR. J. L. KELLY

The death occurred in Brisbane at the week end of Mr. James Lawrence Kelly, well known Ingham resident.

When man migrates from the mortal life to eternity in the dusk of evening, his passing is often much deplored. But, when he crosses the bar in the blaze of noon, grief is accentuated. This is the position which relates to the untimely death of Mr. James Lawrence Kelly, who in the years that he has spent in the North proved himself to be not only an exemplary citizen, but also a great North Queensland.

A graduate of the Taxation Department, "Larry" Kelly, to refer to him as he was best and most affectionately known in the North, entered a new land intent in straining every muscle and nerve to improve the conditions of the area in which he had chosen to live. Setting up in practice as an accountant in Ingham, after a term in the employ of Hardy and Venables, he was not long in becoming intimately associated with public bodies of this province.

In 1936, at the age of 36, he was selected as chairman of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, being the youngest chairman of a local authority.

He became one of that local authority's representative on the Townsville Hospitals Board. In the term to 1943 in which he served in each capacity he made a mark which greatly impressed those with whom he came in contact.

In 1943, he did not seek re-election, having in the meantime been absorbed by the Allied Works Council in the grim years of war. For the three years 1943 to 1946, the services of "Larry" Kelly were lost directly to the people of Ingham and district.

At the 1946 local authority election, Mr. Kelly again contested the position of chairman of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and received a confirmation of his earlier vote of confidence. Shortly after his election, he was chosen as the Hinchinbrook representative on the Townsville Regional Electricity Board. Later, after a series of deadlocks, he was chosen by the Governor-in-Council as chairman of that organisation.

When the 1949 elections became due, "Larry" Kelly was not opposed for the position of chairman of the Shire Council in his area and was again sent to Townsville on the regional board. That time, by a direct majority of the members, he was elected chairman.

During that term, Mr. Kelly did not see eye to eye with the functioning of the Labour Party, under which banner he had earlier been chosen as chairman of the Shire Council at Ingham. Sooner than dance to the tune which Brisbane set, Mr. Kelly decided that the time for parting had arrived and he, with two other members of the Council, resigned from the official Labour Party.

At the elections of 1952, he led a party of independents and was elected to the position of chairman in what

was a party of independents and was elected to the position of chairman in what was regarded on his own stamping ground as a personal Kelly triumph.

A subsequent victory was his re-election as chairman of the Townsville Regional Electricity Board without opposition.

Following his election as chairman of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council for the second time in 1946, "Larry" Kelly was chosen as a delegate to the North Queensland Local Authorities' Association. In June of that year, he was chosen as the vice president of that body.

In 1948, at the annual meeting of the NQLAA—appropriately in his home town of Ingham—"Larry" was elevated as President, a post he held until 1950, when he voluntarily retired to the position of Vice President.

At the annual meeting in 1951 at Atherton, he was again raised to the chair, but ill-health caused him to retire a few months later.

Those who have been associated with the late Mr. Kelly have rightfully extolled that as chairman of a meeting he was without peer in the North. Well versed in the rules of debate, he was able to keep speakers on the prescribed path in a manner that did not offend. This was particularly noticeable in the way he controlled the meetings of the North Queensland Local Authorities Association during his terms as Chairman, while his handling of T.R.E.B. meetings evoked favourable comments.

Since his re-election as Chairman of T.R.E.B. in June of this year, it was known that Mr. Kelly would have liked to have laid down his burden, but a high sense of duty caused him to hope to continue, until at least the time when the new generating station at Townsville would be opened.

Fate, however, has decreed that he, who has done so much to bring about this marked development of the North, has not been spared to see his pipe dream of over six years become a reality.

But his memory will be enshrined in the records of T.R.E.B. as one who helped greatly, by his ability and untiring energy, in the pioneering stages of that body.

To his sorrowing wife and son, the deepest sympathy is extended.



THE LATE MR. J. L. KELLY