

Thomas Bartholomew Curran

Thomas Bartholomew Curran (1870 - 1929) was a Barrister and an Anti-Parnellite/Irish National Federation M.P. for the constituencies of Kilkenny City (1892 - 1895) and North Donegal (1895 - 1900) at the Westminster Parliament.

He was the son on **Thomas Curran**, M.P. for South Sligo (1892 to 1900) and Mary Coll (born 1847) of Derryfad, Creeslough, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Thomas Bartholomew and his father owed their election to the Irish National Federation to whom Thomas senior made an unsecured loan of £10,000 to fund their campaign in the 1892 General Election. According to Tim Healy:

Thomas Curran, an hotel-keeper in Sydney (New South Wales), came to our rescue by lending £10,000 without security. Although he was repaid, his generosity deserves remembrance. He was a man by no means sentimentally moulded. When I learnt to know him I thought him of the type least likely to make a sacrifice. We put his son (then a law student in London) up for the City of Kilkenny, and himself for Sligo, and both were elected.^[1]

He was succeeded as M.P. for Kilkenny City by Pat O'Brien.

His photographic portrait ^[2] taken on 22 September 1897 by Sir (John) Benjamin Stone, is in the National Portrait Gallery, London.

It seems he went back to Australia and stood as a Progressive candidate in the constituency of Paddington, New South Wales in the 1904 elections. he was defeated on that occasion. He got 36% of the vote compared to 64% for the incumbent Liberal Party member, Charles William Oakes.

References

[1] Letters and Leaders of My Day, T. M. Healy, K. C., Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 15 Bedford Street, London, W.C.

[2] <http://www.npg.org.uk/live/search/person.asp?LinkID=mp84800>

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