

Hugh Kane

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A deep gloom was cast over Rushworth and its immediate neighborhood when it became known that Mr Hugh Kane, of Moora, had, on Sunday morning last, expired at his residence.

For many years past the name of Hugh Kane has been as a household word on mining matters. He has especially identified himself with this subject, upon which he has brought to bear a profound amount of intelligence, carefully garnered by him during his practical experience on the goldfields of Heathcote and Rushworth.

For the past 16 or 17 years he has been one of the representatives of the Rushworth Division on the Sandhurst Mining Board, and his actions during his tenure of office were always so eminently satisfactory as to merit a renewal of confidence from the miners, who, to mark their appreciation of his whole-heartedness in their cause, on every occasion returned him with most substantial majorities.

An opportunity having offered itself of still further showing their confidence in Mr Kane, he was returned as a representative by the Amalgamated Miners' Association on the first Prospecting Board at Sandhurst. His assiduity to the duties pertaining to the latter office may, to a great extent, be regarded as the cause of Mr Kane's death, for some four or five weeks ago, in company with Mr Dolan, of Raywood, essaying to cross some creeks between Graytown and Heathcote, while on a tour of inspection, he became drenched to the skin, and caught a very severe cold. Before properly recovering from this affection he visited Maryborough as a delegate from the Rushworth branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, and catching a further cold, the result was congestion of the lungs, from which he in the following week died.

Mr Kane was a native of Derry County, Ireland, and at the age of 13 sailed for America. After a few years residence in California he determined to seek his fortune in Victoria. His first venture was at Heathcote, where he had a claim on the celebrated Creek Lead, on the working out of which he made his way to Rushworth.

Here he for some years still pursued the vocation of a miner. When the lands were thrown open Mr Kane selected at Moora, and in addition to farming, combined the occupation of contracting, in which he was fairly successful.

The deceased by his energetic actions was mainly instrumental in getting the present Catholic Church completed, after the work had lain in abeyance for some twenty years.

Besides retaining the confidence of the miners for 17 years, Mr Kane was 3 or 4 months ago elected to a seat in the Shire Council, and gave promise to be as successful in that position as in other duties he undertook.

The remains of the deceased were interred in the Rushworth Cemetery on Tuesday last in the presence of a very large assemblage of persons, who met to pay the last homage to one who as far as lay in his power was ever willing to assist in good objects.