

LOWERS, the butchers

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NEWPORT FAMILY BUSINESS CLOSES AFTER 80 YEARS

Lower's, the well-known family pork butchery and grocery establishment in the High Street, Newport, ceases trading today after being successfully conducted by the family for 80 years.

Among its early specialities were home-made pork pies at 2½d. each or five for a shilling. Today similar pies (but not home-made) cost nine new pence, nearly 2s. in the old money!

The premises have been sold through a London agency and the nature of their future use has not yet been announced.

Lower's was one of the smallest but busiest shops in the town and is yet another of the fast dwindling family businesses in the Island capital to close its doors.

It was started as a pork butcher's shop by Mr. Benjamin Lower, a Cornishman, in 1893. On his death, in 1908, it passed to his son, the late Mr. Herbert Lower, a former town councillor, who carried it on until he died in 1940, since when it has been conducted by his sons Herbert and Horace, with the assistance of the former's son, Godfrey.

Throughout this long period Lower's enjoyed deserved popularity as a typical family concern where the vast majority of customers from the town and a wide area of the surrounding country were known and addressed by name and were served with unfailing cheerfulness, courtesy and friendliness.

Originally it was confined to pig products, notably dairy-fed pork, sausages of a distinctive flavour, cooked legs of pork and hocks and "trotters," and faggots, but in recent years it has also traded in a wide variety of groceries.

The two partners retire with the esteem and good wishes of their many customers and other friends.

Happily, the closing of the business will not mean the end of other appreciated activities by members of the family. They have a unique reputation in music as well as meat!

Horace Lower has for many years been the organist at St. John's Church, where he also conducts a service for children on Sunday mornings.

Herbert was for some years churchwarden at St. Thomas's Parish Church and formerly organist to the St. John's men's bible class, his son is a chorister at St. Thomas's, and the brothers' sister, Miss Kathleen Lower, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., L.T.C.L., is prominent in Island musical circles as the talented organist of Newport Parish Church and is teacher of music privately and at Ryde School.

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