

William Lyon Bright

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 4th July 1959

NEWPORT OCTOGENARIAN'S SUDDEN DEATH

We regret to announce that Mr. William Lyon Bright, a director of Messrs. Bright and Minns, dyers and cleaners, was found dead at his residence 42 St. John's Road, Newport, on Thursdays evening. The discovery was made by Mr. and Mrs. Owers, who have apartments in the house. The facts have been reported to the Coroner but it is considered that an inquest will not be necessary. Mr. Bright, who was 87, was the father of Mr. F. W. Bright (secretary of the Chamber of Commerce) and he also leaves a daughter.

In his early days he was a prominent cyclist and continued to cycle until a few years ago. In spite of his age and failing sight, Mr. Bright had continued active work with his firm. He was the second eldest member and a past master of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 11th July 1959

THE LATE MR. W. LYON BRIGHT

OF NEWPORT

MANY BUSINESS, SOCIAL AND SPORTING INTERESTS

As briefly announced in our last issue, the death occurred suddenly on Thursday week of Mr. William Lyon Bright, aged 87, of Desford, St. John's Road, Newport. Mr. Bright was well-known and much esteemed in the business life of the Island because of his long connection with the firm of Bright & Minns, which he joined as a youth. Educated at Portland House Academy Mr. Bright had been associated with the firm, which was founded by his grandfather and the late Mr. William Minns in 1833, for 75 years, and at the time of his death he was senior director of Messrs. Bright & Minns (Holdings) Ltd., the parent company. Formerly the firm had ramifications throughout Hampshire, but of late years, due to transport difficulties, they have concentrated on the Island. In the whole of his association with the firm he had only suffered a week's illness and was at work as usual on the day of his death. Mr. Bright was also a member of the committee of management of Island Cottages Ltd., and had been associated with the I.W. Trustee Savings Bank for nearly 50 years, having been chairman, manager for 46 years, and a trustee.

SPORTING AND SOCIAL INTERESTS

Keen on any forms of sport in his younger days, Mr. Bright was an excellent marksman and competed several times at Bisley. He was a member of the Newport Rowing Club, a keen cyclist in road racing in the Island half a century ago, and he cycled both for business and pleasure until 10 years ago, including Continental tours. A skilled photographer, he had won many awards for his work. For many years he was honorary secretary of the original I.W. Photographic Society and was the last chairman and a keen supporter over a long period of the former I.W. Literary Society carried on at premises in Quay Street. He took great interest in the affairs of his native town, and in particular of its charities, being a member for many years and chairman of the Bluecoat School Charity, a trustee of the Newport Charities, and a trustee of the King James I Grammar School. In Freemasonry he was a past master of Albany Lodge, a member of Albany Royal Arch Chapter, and had held provincial rank. He was also a member of the Earl of Yarborough Lodge of Odd Fellows. He served in the I.W. Volunteers and during the 1914-18 war was a special constable.

The funeral took place at the Newport Parish Church on Tuesday when the Vicar (the Rev. A.P. Lumley), who officiated, paid tribute to Mr. Bright's long life of service to the community. The service included the hymns "For all the saints" and "O strength and stay", and the 23rd Psalm. The mourners were Miss J.S. Bright (daughter), Mr. F.W. Bright (son), Mrs. E.M. Bright (daughter-in-law), the Misses M. and K. Bright (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. S.C. Wadham and Mr. W. Wadham (nephews and niece), Mrs. E.M. Toms and Mr. V.S. Toms, Mr. and Mrs. A. Minns, and Mrs. W.M. Holmes (secretary, Messrs. Bright & Minns (Holdings) Ltd.).

The large congregation included representatives of the directors and staff (past and present) of Messrs. Bright & Minns Ltd., Messrs. F.W. Bright & Co., Messrs. Cave & Sherwood, Messrs. Wadham & Sons, I.W. Savings Bank, Bluecoat School Foundation, Albany Lodge of Freemasons, Albany Royal Arch Chapter, Messrs. A.E. Hook & Co., Messrs. Upward & Rich Ltd., I.W. Grocers' Association, Messrs. W. Hurst & Son, Newport Charity Trustees, Messrs. W.J. Rugg & Co. Ltd., Messrs H. Scott & Son, Messrs. W.C. Black & Co., Messrs. Purkis & Sons, Messrs. J.W.C. Gill, and the County Council.

There were numerous floral tributes. Interment followed in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. & F. Damp.

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