

## **BUILT BIG BUSINESS**

### **DEATH OF MR. HAROLD GOULD, OF NEWPORT**

By the death on Friday week of Mr. Harold Henry Gould, at the age of 77, the Island lost one of its most prominent and highly esteemed business men. Mr Gould was chairman and managing director of H.W. Morey and Sons, Ltd., timber importers, joinery manufacturers, and builders' merchants, of Newport and Sandown; chairman of Gould, Hibberd, and Randall, Ltd., mineral water producers; and chairman of the Vectis Shipping Co, Ltd. It was with Messrs. Morey's, however, that his main interest lay. He had a proud record of 54 years with the firm, and was in the office the day before his death. Lately under his guiding genius, the company grew from a small private firm to a concern with extensive premises, and a high reputation in the Island and on the mainland.

Mr. Gould was keenly interested in farming, and for some years engaged in it as a hobby. He was a regular worshipper and generous supporter of St John's Church, Newport. His great business ability was combined with a rare graciousness of manner and disposition. He was distinguished in Freemasonry, as an officer of the Grand Lodge of England, and of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, a past master of the Albany Lodge No 151, a past first principal of the Albany Royal Arch Chapter, and a member of the Vectis Chapter, Rose Croix, and the Vectis Preceptory and Priory.

### **APPRENTICED AS A JOINER**

Mr Gould was proud that he was an Islander - he was born in Pyle Street, Newport, in 1882 - and that he began his career as a joiner. He started with Messrs. H. and F. Damp, and after completing his apprenticeship served two years as a journeyman. He came to Morey's first as a traveller, and because of his practical training was able to approach clients with helpful knowledge. In those early days he travelled the Island on a bicycle, later on a motor-cycle, and then drove one of the old vintage cars. He worked long hours with unflagging energy. Individual business relationships were then on a far closer personal basis than they usually are to-day. The measure of his business acumen and practical grasp of affairs is indicated in the fact that while controlling the business he continued outside representation up to 1939, and conducted many deals "on the road" by telephone, including importing cargoes and chartering ships.

### **A FRIENDLY FIRM**

The company was founded as timber merchants in 1860 by Henry William Morey. It was still trading in that style when Mr Gould was invited by Mr. Henry William Morey, jun. (then managing the business), to join it in August, 1905. The premises, in the vicinity of Trafalgar Road, then comprised a small sawmill, a small office, and a yard. To-day the company have a modern sawmill, a large joinery works, ample office accommodation, storage sheds at West Street, Cross Street, and Newport Quay, commodious modern premises at Sandown, and a wage bill over 60 times the 1905 figure. Mr. Gould had been principally responsible for the management since 1910. The company, as at present constituted was established in 1919, when he was appointed chairman and managing director. Mr. Gould was never sparing in praise of his colleagues, and to him the term "colleague" embraced the humblest employee. He took a great interest in the Albion Helping Hand Fund, a staff welfare association. On the occasion of a celebration in December, 1955, to mark his jubilee with the firm, members of the fund presented him with a gift as a token of esteem and regard, and he also received gifts from his co-directors and the company executives. References were then made to a happy family spirit which had always pervaded the firm under his wise control.

In 1908 Mr Gould married Miss Ada Buckler, a daughter of Thomas Shipman Buckler, of Union Street, Newport, an alderman of the Town Council. She died in 1951. In 1955 he married Miss Edith Dolan, who was matron of the Victoria Hospital, Winchester. She survives him. He is also survived by his only son, Mr. Alan B. Gould, who is joint managing director. Mr Gould was very proud of his three grandchildren, and was looking forward to joining in the celebration next week of the 21st birthday of Sheila and Mary Gould (twins). Their brother is 15-year-old Peter.

## **FARMING HOBBY**

Some 13 years ago Mr. Gould took up farming as a hobby, as a relaxation from his business interests, and owned first Dingers, near Carisbrooke, and later Norris Castle Farm. Unfortunately he was forced to give up the hobby two or three years ago owing to his health. He resided at Wootton for many years until, after the death of first wife, he took up residence at Ebbisham, Cypress Road, Newport. He had a heart attack on the night of Thursday week, and another the following morning, and, in spite of all medical efforts, he died early on Friday afternoon.

## **LARGE GATHERING AT FUNERAL**

Every seat in St. John's Church, Newport, was occupied by friends, business associates, Freemasons, and the employees of Messrs. Morey and Sons when the funeral service was held there on Tuesday afternoon. It was conducted by the Archdeacon (the Ven. Alexander Cory), who said they were gathered to pay respect to the memory of a truly great man - one of the kindest men he had ever met. Harold Gould was greatly respected, and deservedly so. He was a man of outstanding business ability, straight in all his dealings, held in true affection by all who worked with him and for him. He brought to bear in all his activities the graciousness, courtesy, and generosity of a true English gentleman.

A guard of honour was formed outside the church by about 50 Masonic brethren of the Albany Lodge. The service included the hymn "The Lord's my Shepherd," and the closing ode was sung by the Freemasons. Before the service Mr. A.W. Faulkner (organist) played "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and at the conclusion "O rest in the Lord."

The chief mourners were Mrs. Gould (widow), Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Gould (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. A.W. Gould (brother, also representing Mr. J.C. Gould, brother, and Mrs. M.E. Humphries, sister), Miss M.E. Gould (sister, also representing Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Humphries, brother-in-law and sister, of New Zealand), Mr. D.T. Walters (also representing Mrs. F.A. Gould, sister-in-law), Mr. J.S. Baker (also representing Mr. F.B. Baker, of H.W. Morey and Son, Ltd., and Mrs. Baker), Mr. and Mrs. T. Buckler (brother-in-law and sister-in-law, also representing Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Brudenell, brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs. R. Goodger, and Mrs. M. Jupe.

Those present included representatives of practically every building firm and firm allied to the building industry in the Island and of their mainland agents, and the companies with which Mr. Gould was associated, and numerous other business concerns. Other organisations represented included the I.W. Society of Building Trades' Employers, H.M. Forestry Commission, Newport Rotary Club, King James I Grammar School Old Boys' Association, the Salvation Army, and the Cowes Conservative Club. The Freemasons attending included members of the Albany, Albany Mark, East Medina, Yarborough, Chine, Chine Chapter, Needles, Vectis Chapter, Osborne, Ryde, Medina, Rose Croix, and Knight Templar lodges.

There were over 70 floral tributes, including those from Mr. F.B. Baker (co-director of Messrs. Morey's) and Mrs Baker; Mr. W.S. Warne, J.P., Mr. A. Denham, Mr. G.E.S. Denham, and Mr. W Wearne (members of the executive of Morey's); the committee and members of the Albion Helping Hand Fund; directors of Gould, Hibberd, and Randall; Vectis Shipping Co.; Rose Croix Chapter and the Knights Templar Preceptory; Albany Lodge of Freemasons; principals and companions of Albany Chapter; Osborne Lodge; King James I Grammar School Old Boys' Association; Newport Carnival Committee; and many from business firms with which Mr. Gould had been associated.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The arrangements were made by Messrs. H. and F. Damp, Ltd.