

**Frederick James Wray**

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**DEATH OF MR. F.J. WRAY OF NEWPORT**

**A PROMINENT ISLAND GROCER**

The death occurred on Wednesday of Mr. Frederick James Wray, aged 69, of Vale Meade, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, managing director of Messrs. Wray and Sons, Ltd. A well known business man and a greatly respected and popular employer, Mr. Wray had suffered only a brief illness, though for some years his health had not been robust. He was the genial head of a family business which was established over 150 years ago on the present site of the firm's premises and head office at 4 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, and he had been largely responsible for the great expansion in the business which has taken place during the last half century. During that period branches have been opened at East Cowes, Sandown, Totland, Bembridge, and Ryde, and, some 16 years ago, the main premises at Newport, including the bakery, were rebuilt and greatly enlarged. In addition, the firm took over the retail side of another old established family business, that of Messrs. Jordan and Stanley, following the death of Mr. Leonard Jordan in 1947, and have since carried on Messrs. Jordan and Stanley's former grocery store in St. James's Square, Newport.

Mr. Wray took a great interest in trade organisations, and succeeded his father, the late Mr. E. J. Wray, as hon. treasurer of the Island Master Bakers' Association. He was a very active member of the I.W Grocers' Council, to which he rendered outstanding service, being honorary treasurer, a past president, representative on the National Federation of Grocers' Associations, and a member of the National Council. He was always ready to champion the interests of the small shopkeeper. Mr. Wray had for some years been a member of the Newport Food Control Committee, where his knowledge of the trade was of great value. He served on the Newport Town Council from November, 1930, to 1944, being a member of the Waterworks, Finance, Rating and Valuation, and Allotments Committees, and during the war of the special committees for communal feeding. He was a past master of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons and held the provincial rank of P.A.G.D.C., and was also a member of the Newport Court of Foresters.

Throughout his life he had been keenly interested in sports and pastimes. In his younger days he was a keen member of the Newport Rowing Club and a footballer. A skilled bowler, Mr. Wray was a member of the old Carisbrooke Bowling Club, and was subsequently a founder member of the County Bowling Association, a member of the Newport Bowling Club, and a very successful player. He was also a billiards player of more than average amateur skill, and in late years had fostered the game through his active interest in the Rural District Billiards League, of which he was president, and to which he generously contributed many trophies. He was a vice-president and a keen committee member of the Newport Conservative Club. For health reasons he made a trip to South Africa last year with his friend, Mr. A. O. Purdy, C.C. He leaves a widow and five sons, four of whom are engaged in the business. Cremation at Southampton on Monday will be preceded by a service at the Newport Parish Church at 11.30 a.m. It is requested that there shall be no flowers.

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