

WILLIAM OUSELEY

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A REVERED NEWPORT SCHOOLMASTER.

DEATH OF MR. W. OUSELEY, M.B.E., J.P.

The death, late on Friday week, at the age of 75, of Mr. William Ouseley, M.B.E., J.P., of Fairlee-road, Newport, brings to a close a life of public service distinguished by outstanding zeal and integrity. A Devonshire man, Mr Ouesley first came to Newport some 53 years ago as an assistant to the late Mr. A. Gill Martin, headmaster of the Nodehill Council School. A period of teaching at Hythe, near Southampton, followed, and he returned to Newport as headmaster of the Barton Boys' Council School, an appointment which was to last for almost 30 years. During that long period he established a reputation as a builder of character which can rarely have been equalled. To be one of "Mr. Ouseley's boys" was a recommendation in itself. The school discipline was exemplary, and, though he ruled with a rod of iron, he was held in real affection. His old boys never forget their "Skipper," and during the two wars he received hundreds of letters from Barton boys scattered all over the world. Though not himself a musician, his boys excelled in class singing, and he was the one of the most ardent supporters of school gardening, the Barton School garden being always a model. He was held in high esteem by his colleagues of the teaching profession, and was honoured by being thrice chosen as president of the County Teachers' Association. He was also greatly interested in the work of evening classes, and for many years was the correspondent of the Newport Evening Institute.

As honorary secretary both of the County and the Newport War Savings Committee during the 1914-1918 war he rendered outstanding service to the savings movement, and his splendid work in this direction was recognised in 1920, when he received the award of the M.B.E. (civil division). In 1928 Mr. Ouseley was appointed a county Justice of the Peace, a position in which he brought to the Bench the benefit of his wide experience in dealing with youth. He also served as a visiting magistrate at Camp Hill Prison. Towards the end of his teaching career in 1934 he became a County Councillor, and remained a member until the expiry of the term of office of the war-time council, when he did not seek re-election. He was, for much of that time, a member of the Education Committee, and was chairman of the Library Sub-committee during a period of considerable development in the island library facilities, including the introduction of the "open access" system. He was also a member of the Mental Hospital and Longford Sanatorium Committees, and his contributions to debates were always reasoned and constructive.

Politically he was a Socialist of the old school, of decided but moderate views. From 1935 until early in the late war the able hon. Secretary of the I.W. Divisional Labour Party, and he acted as party agent during the 1935 general election. During the war he again took up organising savings efforts among Messrs Saunders-Roe's workers at East Cowes. Although an

extremely busy man in other directions Mr. Ouseley found time to take a leading part in the work of the St. Paul's Church, Barton. During the vicariate of the late Rev. Miles Atkinson he was for 10 years leader of the Junior Brotherhood, a member of the Church Council, and prominent in many other parochial activities. His interest in horticulture was further evinced by his chairmanship for some years of the old St Paul's Barton Horticulture Association. He was also among the oldest members of the I.W. Horticulture Association, and of Newport Literary Society, and a manager of the I.W. Trustee Savings Bank. Sincere sympathy is expressed with Mrs. Ouseley and the family in their bereavement.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service in the Newport Parish Church being attended by representatives of the many organisations with which Mr Ouseley had been connected, including many former-members of the St. Paul's Brotherhood (which has been disbanded). The officiating clergy were the Vicar of Newport (Canon W. B. Hogg) and the Vicar of St Paul's, Barton (the Rev. H.G. Kelsey). Miss K. Lower, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., L.T.C.L. (organist) played "Nimrod" from Elgar's Enigma variations, "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" (Handel), and "Be Thou with me" (Bach). The hymns were "Jerusalem, the golden" and "There is a land of pure delight." Canon Hogg said they were met to pay a last loving tribute to a fine Christian gentleman. Although he had only known Mr. Ouseley a comparatively short time, he admired him for his sterling character, for his views on life, and his unswerving consistency of purpose. Mr Ouseley had rendered excellent service to his age and generation. Nothing was too small and nothing too big to him if it meant the betterment of the community.

The chief mourners were Miss J. Ouseley and Mesdames W. G. James and R. Rashley (daughters), Mr W. G. James (son-in-law), Mrs. W. Reynolds, representing Mr. W. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Minns, Miss M. Reynolds, Mr. W. Hillier, and Mr G. Gregory representing Mrs. G. Gregory (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mesdames D. Hayles, W. Warnes, and F.B. Newnham (nieces), Mrs Newman also representing Miss E.R. Reynolds (niece), Mr A.R. Minns (nephew), and Mrs. Leal. Mr. Ouseley's only son, Mr. W.B. Ouseley, holds the position as education officer under the Colonial Government in Uganda.

Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., D.L., C.A., who was accompanied by Lady Baring, attended as chairman of the County Bench, and other county justices present were Sir Vere Hobart, Bt., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.L., with whom was Lady Hobart, and Messrs. J.H. Brown, F.O. Russell, A.J. Guttridge, C.A., G. Snow, C.A., and W.H. Warrior, C.A., with Mr. J.G. Fardell (clerk to the justices). Other members of the County Council present were Ald. W. Thompson and Messrs. G.C. Russell, J.P. (also representing the Board of Visitors to Camp Hill Prison), F.F. Hollis, and G. Norman, with Mr A.L. Hutchinson, M.A. (director of education). Those also present included Mr. E.G. Morris (head master Newport Council Boys' School), Mr J.T. Collins (head master Carisbrooke Council School) and Mrs. Collins, Mr. W.H.P. Chandler (head master Newport C.E. school), Mr. W.J. Sanders (president, I.W. branch of the National Union of Teachers, also representing Mr. F. Peach), Mrs Morris (Barton Infants' School), Mrs. D. Read, J.P. (also representing Mr. C.E. Read, head master, Parkhurst School), Mr. E. Johnson (representing the Newport Trades Council and Mr. S.A. Porter, and Mrs. Johnson), Ald. W.

Blake, J.P., and Mrs. Blake, Mr. H. Morris and Mrs. Morris (hon. secretary, Newport Nursing Association), Mr. F.E. Witcher, J.P., and Mrs. Witcher, Ald. Mrs. E.R. Chandler, J.P., Mr. F.E. Welsh, J.P., Mrs. K. Lockhart, J.P., Mrs C. Abraham, J.P., Mr W.G. Sibbick, J.P. (editor of the "I.W. County Press"), Mr J. Wyatt (president of the I.W. Divisional Labour Party, also representing the Ryde branch), Mr. L. Bridges (Labour Party secretary and agent), Mrs Reid (Sandown branch), Mrs Kinchington, (representing Mr. A. Kinchington, president, Newport Labour Party), Mr G.D. Pardy (hon. treasurer of the Newport Labour Party), Mrs B. Locke (Carisbrooke), Mrs. Hayter, Mr J.A. Mr W.E. Voaden (hon. secretary. Newport Literary Society), and Messrs, H.W. Lincoln, T.C., A.B. Shaw, M.B.E. T.C., J. Salter, T.C., K.W. Johnston (Wootton), C.A. Westmore (school inquiry officer), T.V. Petty, A.D. Callaway, H.P. James, W. Mathews, J. Toogood (Newport Borough building inspector), H.J. Davies (representing the managers of the Newport Evening Institute), H.E. Waterson (representing the Newport County Secondary Grammar School), J.F. Launder, T.C., E.R. Dore (representing Mr. H.Y. Groundsell), G. Hazard, S.W. Trowell, H.W. Morris (Little Pan), W.L. Bright (chairman, I.W. Trustee Savings Bank), B. Cooper, C.R. Reed (representing I.W. district of the A.E.U.), D. Marshall, F. Chiverton (leader of St. Thomas's Bible Class), P.D. Warder, E.F. Carpenter, C.O. Sprake, and S.F. Moody (churchwardens, St. Paul's, Barton), E. Hazard, L.E. Dore (organist St. Paul's Church), C. Pragnell (representing the Broadlands Allotment holders), A.W. Chiverton (representing Mrs. Chiverton), G.H. Arthur (also representing Mrs. Arthur), A.P. Simmonds, G.H. Smart, H. Jackson, G. Cox, and J. Hunnybun, Mesdames S.F. Moody, E. Hazard, L.E. Dore, Hutton, K. Westmore, Hitchman, and Grahame-Withers, and Hebbes, and Palmer (St. Paul's Mothers' Union), the Misses D.S. Statham, D. Dore, Mullins (county library staff), E.J. Crews (Newport Council Girls' School), Ellis, and I.M. Allen, and Mr. And Mrs. C.J. Ferguson. The interment was at Newport Cemetery. It was Mr Ouseley's wish that there should be no mourning and floral tributes. Messrs. O.C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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