

Charles Webb

Isle of Wight County Press – 15 July 1922

DEATH OF ALD. C. WEBB, OF NEWPORT.

We greatly regret to record the death, early on Saturday morning, at his resident, Carisbrooke-road, Newport, of Alderman Charles Webb, at the age of 63. Deceased, who had been long and prominently identified with the business life of the borough, and had nearly a quarter of a century's very useful public service in Newport to his credit, came here from Monmouthshire some 43 years ago. He had been in failing health for a long time, but in spite of the incurable malady which declared itself nearly two years ago, he continued to discharge with conspicuous courage and energy and with remarkable regularity his public and private duties until a few weeks before the end when increasing pain and weakness made it impossible for him longer to continue his brave performance of duty. His public work was chiefly performed as a member of the Corporation, on which he had ably served for 21 years, for 10 of which he was a councillor for the north ward, and three after as an alderman. He was ably serving as deputy mayor to the late Mr. A. Gill-Martin during the latter's 17 months' mayoralty, when Mr. Gill-Martin died in March 1909, and Mr. Webb was then honoured by the Town Council with unanimous election as mayor, a position which he filled for 19 months, till November, 1910, to the complete satisfaction of the Corporation and inhabitants, and with great credit to himself, capably supported by his wife. His mayoralty was made memorable by the death of King Edward VII and the accession of King George. In recognition of his capable services Mr. Webb was elevated to the aldermanic bench, to which honour his record of highly useful work in municipal and educational affairs coupled with his entirely admirable discharge of the duties of mayor, fully entitled him. It was singularly appropriate that he should occupy the seat which his late father-in-law, Ald. John Lock, J.P., one of Newport's worthies of the old school, filled so long, after occupying the office of Mayor. The late Mr. Webb's business qualities were of special value on the Finance Committee, on which he served so long, and, owing to his special aptitude for dealing with financial matters, he served for some time as mayor's auditor. He took a deep interest in educational work in the town, having been a valued member of the Education Committee for some years, and he was also a manager of the National-schools and a trustee of the Newport Grammar-school. He like-wise served for some years as a member of the Cowes Harbour Commission and on the Newport Burial Board. His prominent connection with business life was evidenced by his directorship of the Newport Gas Company and of Messrs. Crouchers, Ltd. The late Ald. Webb, who succeeded to the late Ald. John Lock's business in 1908, worthily carried on the traditions of that family in public and charitable work, notably in the latter by his devoted labours in the Island for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, and for some years one of the able gate stewards. He was an old friend and former hon. secretary of the Newport Rowing Club. The deepest sympathy of the community will go out to his widow and daughters in their irreparable loss.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon amid many manifestations of sorrow and respect. The flag at the Guildhall was at half-mast, as was that at the Conservative Club, and there were many mourning shutters and drawn blinds. A large congregation assembled to pay their last tribute at the Parish Church, where the first part of the service was held. The Mayor, Justices, and members and officials of the Town Council walked in procession from the Guildhall, preceded by the borough maces draped in creps, borne by Town-Sergt. Osborn and Mr. E. Matthews, and headed by Insp. H. Sibbeck.

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