

Richard Percy Mew

Isle of Wight County Press 16 July 1960

VETERAN FARMER AND SPORTSMAN

DEATH OF MR. R. P. MEW, OF NEWPORT

The death occurred at his home, New Fairlee Farm, Newport, yesterday morning, of Mr. Richard Percy Mew, aged 91, the Island's doyen farmer – sportsman. Mr. Mew could trace his ancestry back for 650 years to the reign of Edward I, and a French Knight, Sir Walter Mewes (or Meaux), whose descendants owned the manor of Kingston, Chale. Mr. Mew was known as a tall, tough, courageous, outspoken, yet kindly man; a prominent and popular figure in agricultural and sporting circles---a keen farmer and a hard rider. He regularly rode into town on horseback until he was 88. His horses were so well trained that they waited patiently at the pavement while he made calls, unperturbed by town noises. His grandfather was at one time proprietor of the Island's leading posting establishment at the Bugle Hotel, Newport.

Mr. Mew was educated at Cranleigh, and went to Canada at the age of 17 to gain farming experience in Ontario. He returned when he was 19 to take over the management of New Fairlee Farm. He was the first Island farmer to use a mechanical mower. A keen point-to-point rider, he won races three years in succession on one of his mounts, Miss Cronge. For a time he was clerk of the course for I.W. Hunt Point-to-point meetings. For 16 years he was hon. huntsman of the late Mr. F. Templeman Mew's pack of harriers. In the first world war he was a member of the War Agricultural Executive Committee. He leaves three sons, Mr. Peter Mew, who lives at New Fairlee Farm, and Messrs. Richard and John, who are in business in Toronto.

The funeral service will be held at St. Paul's Church on Tuesday, at 3 p.m.

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THE LATE MR. R. P. MEW

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT NEWPORT FUNERAL

The esteem in which Mr. Richard Percy Mew, of New Fairlee Farm, Newport, was held, was reflected in the attendance at the funeral, at St. Paul's Church, Barton, on Tuesday, of many

members of the agricultural and sporting communities and other friends, among them members of the church at which the Mew family have worshipped for so long.

The family mourners were Mrs. Mew (widow) and Mr. Peter Mew (son).

Among the many organisations represented were the Parochial Church Council, the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society, I.W. branch of the National Farmers` Union, I.W. Agricultural Executive Council, Fatstock Marketing Corporation, Farmers` Trading Society, I.W. Hunt, County Club, Albany Lodge of Freemasons, R. Silcock and Co., Ltd., of Liverpool, Frank Cheverton, Ltd., Fred Trim and Co., Ltd., J. H. Linington, Ltd., Sir Francis Pittis and Co., Messrs. Roach Pittis and Co., and the I.W. County Press. The domestic and farm staff of New Fairlee Farm were present.

A DEEPER LIFE

The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley). The hymns "The Lord's my Shepherd," "Jesu, Lover of my soul," and "Sunset and evening star" were sung, and the Masonic brethren sang their closing ode. Miss Kathleen Lower was the organist. In a tribute, the Vicar said Mr. Mew was blessed with a long and active life. As an enthusiastic sportsman and keen farmer, he brought joy to the community; the refreshment of the spirit which sport provided, and usefulness in the cultivation of the land. There was something deeper in his life, however, in worship at that church. It was really very moving, when his hearing was failing, that he still attended when he was physically able. They were sorry to lose such a man, and they thanked God for his life. He was one of the last of a group who belonged to past days, and they bade him good-bye wistfully and with regret. Sympathy was expressed with the family, particularly to the two of Mr. Mew`s sons who were so many thousands of miles away.

The interment was at St. Paul`s Cemetery. H. and F. Damp, Ltd., made the arrangements.

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