

**DEATH OF
ALD.C. J. DE LAUNAY,
OF RYDE.**

TWICE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH.

We much regret to record the death, which took place at his home in Lind-street, Ryde, in the early hours of Sunday morning, of Ald. **Charles Joseph DE LAUNAY**, ex-Mayor of the borough and for between 30 and 40 years a prominent figure in its civic business, and social life. Ald. DE LAUNAY passed away after a long illness in his 75th year. It was 15 weeks to the day of his death that the Alderman, who was one of the oldest lay readers in the Island, was taken ill while conducting the service in the little church at Ashey, with which he had been associated for so many years. He was able, with some difficulty, to conclude the service, but on his arrival home he was in a state of collapse, and within two or three days his heart affection developed seriously. He bore his illness with great patience, pluck and fortitude, but soon afterwards another serious complication set in and, despite a strong-willed fight, he gradually became weaker, and the end came peacefully on Sunday after much severe pain and suffering.

The late Ald, DE LAUNAY claimed descent from an old Huguenot family. After holding managerial appointments at Gosport and Fareham, he came to Ryde about 40 years ago, where he succeeded Mr. Henry MARTIN, one of the most popular business men of that time in the High-street, as a grocer and corn merchant. Mr. DE LAUNAY developed in business by opening two other branches, one in John-street, and another in the High-street. Those in the High-street he subsequently relinquished, but continued the one in John-street until his death. About 30 years ago he was elected to the Town Council for the East Ward and had continued unbroken service for the municipality, having been elected as alderman nearly six years ago. He was chairman of the Finance Committee for six years and a member of the old Borough Education Committee before the work of the committee was taken over by the county authority. He was also a past master of the East Medina Lodge of Freemasons, his membership of which extended over 50 years, and in addition to being a member of the Rose Croix he had had the distinction of passing through the chairs of the Royal Arch Masons. The beginning of his valuable church work in the office of a lay reader dates back to the time when the late Canon SHEARME was vicar of Ryde. Mr. DE LAUNAY received his first licence from the late Archbishop DAVIDSON when he was Bishop of Winchester, and in 1929 he received his licence for the new diocese from the Bishop of Portsmouth, who paid him a visit during his illness. Mr. DE LAUNAY was a member of the Ryde Rotary Club, an hon. Member of the Court Astrea Ancient Order of Foresters, and of the East Medina Lodge of Oddfellows (Gosport), his membership dating back nearly 45 years. He was also a member of the R.A.O.B., a vice president of the Ryde Philharmonic Society, and an active worker in the Boy Scout movement.

In 1929 his colleagues on the Town Council honoured him by electing him Mayor, and after his year of office had expired he was deservedly paid the compliment by the Council of a unanimous invitation to continue in the mayoralty for another 12 months. He willingly accepted this honour and arduous responsibility, in the untiring discharge of which he had the energetic and efficient support of Mrs. DE LAUNAY. The late Alderman worked tremendously hard in fulfilling his Mayoral duties, no function being too modest to secure his attendance in a civic capacity, and the interests and welfare of every section of the community, as well as the general advancement of the town, had the benefit of his devoted attention and whole-hearted service. It is no exaggeration to say that those two years of constant and unremitting service for the public cost him much in strain on health and strength. Apart from the period of his Mayoralty Ald. DE LAUNAY was not one of those men who figured prominently in debate or leadership. He followed a policy of quiet constructive endeavour which was in keeping with his character-kindly and courteous and careful

not to give offence. He was never drawn into stormy debate, nor did he indulge in gallery rhetoric, but his contribution to public service in public or in committee was marked by thoroughness and openness of purpose. With his widow, one son, and three daughters, the deepest sympathy is felt. On Sunday a muffled peal was rung on the bells of the Parish Church.

Before proceeding with the business of the Borough Bench on Monday the Mayor (Mr. E. C. GOBLE) said he was sure every member present sincerely sympathised with Mrs DE LAUNAY in the loss of her husband and their colleague, - Mr. J. D. FARDELL, on behalf of his father, Mr. John FARDELL (magistrates clerk), associated himself with the expressions of the Mayor, and Mr. E. H. WOOD, on behalf of the solicitors practising in the Court, and Inspector H. ROGERS, on behalf of the police, also joined in the expressions of regret and sympathy.

There was a large assembly of townspeople at the funeral on Wednesday afternoon, when the obsequies were of a civic and masonic character. The first part of the service was held in the Parish Church, where there will be a memorial service on Sunday evening. The Rev. A. W. H. HARLOW officiated, assisted by the Rev. C. M. BARKER. The full choir were in attendance, and while the large congregation were arriving the organist (Mr. O. E. WEARE) played "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Handel) and "O rest in the Lord." (Mendelssohn). Following the chanting of the 23rd Psalm, and the singing of the hymns "The King of love, my Shepherd is," and "Jesu, Lover of my soul," the Rev. A. W. H. HARLOW read the Masonic oration and the brethren sang the Closing Ode. As the coffin was carried from the church the choir chanted the Nunc Dimittis. The chief mourners were Mrs. DE LAUNAY (widow), Mr. and Mrs. C. M. DE LAUNAY (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. D. THOMAS, Mr. and Mrs. R. CURTIS, and Mr. and Mrs. T. PERRETT (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs. J. D. HILL (mother-in-law), Mr. J. H. SPENCER, of Gosport (his oldest friend). Mrs. W. RATSEY (Cowes), Mrs. G. E. MEARS, and Mr. C. B. DE LAUNAY (grandson, representing all the grandchildren). Members of the Corporation walked in procession wearing their robes. Following the town sergeant (Mr. F. W. C. BARRETT) bearing the draped mace, were the Mayor (Mr. E. C. GOBLE), Alderman THIRKELL (who also represented the Philharmonic Society), G. E. MEARS, J.P., J. B. PURNELL, G. A. BLACKALL, J.P., and A. ANDREWS, J.P., Messrs. H. SWEETMAN, P. THELLUSSON, and W. G. DAISH represented the borough magistrates, and Mr. J. G. FARDELL represented Mr. John FARDELL (magistrates' clerk), and the town clerk (Mr. T. J. FAWDRY). Behind them followed Councillors Lieut.-Col. C. L. ELLERY and Messrs. A. J. WILLIAMS, H. P. CHIVERTON, E. HAYDEN, W. R. TAYLOR, J.P., A. W. HILL, A. F. WRIGHT, Walter RUSSELL, H. E. INKER, F. V. GREEN, E. W. POLLARD, B.Sc., H. V. TAYLOR, F. A. SAUNDERS, A. L. HOLLIS, and G. T. CASTLE, together with Mrs. LANDER, Mrs. POLLARD, Miss HENRY and Mr. T. T. SWANNOCK (co-opted members), B. F. HOLNESS (borough surveyor), W. G. MATTHEWS (borough treasurer), A. AINLEY (sanitary inspector), Chief Officer H. JOLLIFFE and Fireman CASS, of the Fire Brigade. Preceding the Corporation procession were the following members of the St. Helens District Council: Messrs. T. F. SHEATH (chairman), F. PLATER, H. A. WOODS, F. W. POWELL, J. L. DYER, W. H. DALLIMBRE, and T. LANDER, and Major A. DENNIS, A. AITCHISON (clerk), and Dr. H. CARPENTER (medical officer of health). Amongst the brethren representing the Rose Croix, the Royal Arch, and the Craft were Messrs. R. LONG, M. J. OSBORNE, E. J. SALTER, J. H. DOWN, O. J. FEBAN, G. J. SPRINGER, A. POLI, H. BASSHAM, A. E. ANTILL, A. PAGE, H. G. JOLLIFFE, H. WORDSWORTH, C. LANGDON, E. R. RATCLIFFE, J. H. JOHNCOX, F. W. C. HARVEY, G. RUSSELL, W. C. PEARCE, E. FRY, O. V. MAINSTONE, R. W. G. RUSSELL, M. BRIDGES, M. M. WILSON, W. L. McISAAC, T. F. BOYD, W. G. SAVAGE, J. P. WATTS, E. O. LOADER, C. W. VINCENT, H. P. GIBSON, E. CRABB, F. A. BRICKELL, E. CASTLE, W. P. FROUD, (Ryde), W. H. LAWLER, Dr. R. J. ROBERTS, F. H. SHEPPARD (Ventnor), H. N. PAYNE, F. W. HANSFORD, and A. KENT (Shanklin), R. C. CHURCHILL, H. J. COOPER, and A. R. LOADER (Sandown), R. F. S. TUFFLEY, and W. T. SMITH (Bembridge), and C. F. ANDREWS (Landport). Amongst others present were the Rev. A. C. DURHAM (St. Michael's), J. GILLSON GILL (St. John's), A. WARDROPER, J. E. THOMAS (Congregational), R. COWIE (Primitive Methodist), Messrs. A. J. HOLMES, J. B. COOMBS, F. P. MELLISH, W.

TROUGHTON, B. HOLBROOK (Ryde Rotary Club), R. J. ELDRIDGE and L. JORDAN, J.P. (Newport Rotary Club), Dr. K. W. I. MACKENZIE (deceased's medical attendant), Col. P. MURRAY, and Messrs. G. JANAWAY (the N.E. Wight Boy Scouts' Association), J. B. ALDERSLADE, Newport (Provincial G.S., I.W. District of Oddfellows), E. J. BEDFORD, A. T. HODGES, and A. J. POWELL (Ryde Horticultural Society), G. SPRACK, W. H. RHODES, and A. E. LANGDORR (Court Astrea A.O.F.), E. R. SAUNDERS, G. J. EVANS, F. TURNER, and E. C. LOADER (local branch of the British Legion), Miss Andrews (vice-chairman), Mrs. F. G. TURNER (hon. Secretary), and members of the women's section of the British Legion, members of the Lion and Clarence Lodges R.A.O.B., Capt. H. A. DRUDGE (representing Capt. P. D. MACDONALD M.P.), Mr. E. J. MEREDITH, of Southsea, an apprentice with deceased when he opened business in Ryde in 1895, Messrs. J. P. CLARKE and G. G. KERRIDGE (former employees), W. H. NOBLE, W. BROOKER, and Mrs. SPURGEON (representing the Missions to Seamen), Dr. Roberson DAY, Mr. G. R. BRIGSTOCKE, C.A., Mr. E. SOTHCOTT (late Town-hall keeper) and Mrs. SOTHCOTT, Mr. and Mrs. W. SWEETMAN, Mr. A. J. LOCKE, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. ROGERS (representing Mrs. G. H. V. BONNER), Messrs. A. L. BROWNE (National Provincial Bank), P. J. MONK (Lloyds Bank), F. C. CHEESEWRIGHT, Y. ADAMS and L. J. SOUTER, C.C.(Wooton), Capt. CROWHURST (Salvation Army), Capt. H. J. EVANS (N.S.P.C.C.), Messrs. E. H. WOOD (Sandown), F. D. ROBINSON, F. BOGER, G. H. FRENCH, B. J. JOLLIFFE, and A. J. BALLARD, Mr. and Mrs. W. RUSSELL Lieut.-Col. J. E. RHODES (the Royal Victoria Yacht Club), Messrs. R. L. PURNELL (the Mead Lawn Tennis Club), R. P. ADAMS and J. DAVIE (the Round Table), E. L. S. HORSBURGH (captain), E. P. TOPP, and C. WARNE (the Ryde Bowling Club), J. H. ADAMS, J. CURRALL, E. CHANDLER, W. N. PATON, A. E. SMITH, C. D. MUCKLOW, J. GALLAWAY, W. J. BIGGS, W. WARNE (Ashey Manor), W. J. CALLAWAY, M. C. RIDDETT, C. A. KING, F. WOODFORD, and H. D. MABEY, Police-Inspector ROGERS, Miss LOADER, Mrs. MORPHEY, Mrs. A. ANDREWS, Mrs. C. L. ELLERY, Mrs. PETTITT, Mrs. H. E. INKER, Mrs. E. EWEN, Mrs. M. WILLIAMSON, Mr. Francis BURTON, Mr. J. BUTCHER, Mrs. G. COOPER, Mrs. D. WHEELER, Mrs. and Miss BARBER, Mr. and Mrs. C. WHITFIELD, Mr. W. LASBY, J.P., Miss A RUSSELL, Mrs. A. SAVAGE, Mr. W. DORE, Mrs. S. CONNOR, Mrs. D. JONES, Mrs. F. GUY, Mrs. E. A. BAKER, Mrs. M. SELLWOOD, Nurse M. WOODFORD, Miss BONE, Mrs. LONG, Mrs. L. STEWART, Mrs. T. TRUCKEL, Mrs. H. C. BIGGS, Mr. F. G. WHITTINGTON, Mr. W. G. BOWLEY (postmaster), Mr. and Mrs. L. C. YOUNG, Mr. W. A. KNAPP (representing Messrs. Thomas GATER, Bradfield, and Co., Newport), Mr. W. WHEELER, Mr. G. WHITE, Mrs. E. EARWICKER, Mrs. C. LOADER, Mr. G. RICHARDS, Mrs. J. B. PURNELL, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. RUNSEY, Miss TILLY, Mr. C. H. COLLIS, Mr. H. R. PALMER, Mr. J. WOODFORD, Capt. and Mrs C. H. PURVIS, Mrs. W. WHEAT, Mrs. M. DAVIS, Mrs. N. NEWNHAM, Mrs. B. HOLBROOK, Miss I. PANNELL, and Lieut. G. H. WOODNUTT, R.N. Members of the deceased's staff attending included Miss G. LOADER and Messrs. L. PEARSON, W. NORRIS, and R. DAVIS. Among those who were prevented from attending were the Rev. C. W. Hampton WEEKES (Warden of the Lay Readers Association), Mr. Rowland RUSSELL, J.P., and Mr. W. H. DANN, J.P. Members of the Grammar School and St. George's School Boy Scouts formed a guard of honour at the north door of the church.

The interment was at the Cemetery, where the Rev. A. W. H. HARLOW performed the last rites of the church of Freemasonry. At the close the brethren dropped their sprigs of acacia into the open grave, which was draped with the Craft colours. On the coffin lay a large cross of golden, blue and cream irises from the widow and family.

There were numerous flowers, including tokens from the Mayor and Corporation of Ryde: the Primitive Methodist Church; St. George's School; Ryde Philharmonic Society; Ryde Parochial Church Council; the staff at John-street; W. Master and brethren of the East Medina Lodge; St. James's Men's Service; Ryde Rovers' F.C.; directors and staff of Fred TRIM Ltd.; Ryde C.E. Junior School; Ryde Rowing Club; East Medina Chapter; the Lion and Clarence Lodges R.A.O.B.; churchwardens and sidesmen of All Saints'; the congregation of Ashey Church; the Boys Scouts

Association; Messrs. C. B. YATES and Sons; employees of the Ryde Corporation; Ryde Rotary Club; Ryde Grammar School. Mr. D. THOMAS, of Cowes, was the undertaker.

The bells at the Parish Church were rung half-muffled for evensong on Sunday and on Tuesday, instead of the usual practice, the ringers rang continuous touches of muffled Grandsire Triples as a token of their esteem and sympathy. The flag at the Town-hall was flown at half mast from Sunday onwards until after the funeral.

Mrs. C. J. DE LAUNAY and family wish to express their very sincere thanks for the sympathy given them in their bereavement; also for the floral tributes sent.

Researched & typed by
Ann Barrett
Kate MacDonell