

DEATH OF MAJOR FLUX

One of the best known residents in the town of Ryde, and we might say the Island, has passed away since our last issue; we refer to the death of Major James FLUX; we regret deeply the loss the family and community at large have sustained by his death. He was a public servant well tried, and his ability was unquestioned. Anything that Major FLUX took in hand, whether Parish, School board, or Volunteering, he did well, and no better tribute could we possibly give. His death took place on Saturday morning last, about 8 o'clock at the residence of his son's, Councillor F.G. FLUX'S, West-street. It appears that he and Mrs. FLUX came to Ryde from Haven Street to spend Christmas with their son. On that day, after dinner, he felt unwell and went to bed, and although he occasionally rallied his friends were to a certain extent prepared for the worst. About four years since the deceased had a serious illness, bronchitis and influenza, and never properly recovered, leaving a weak action of the heart and susceptibility to bronchial affection. He passed away peacefully as we have stated above, on Saturday morning. Major FLUX was a printer by trade; he was born at Newport, March, 1837, and was therefore in his 59th year. He came to Ryde in 1857, and joined the Volunteers on the 28th November, 1859, and gradually rose from the ranks. He was captain in the Ryde detachment, and retired as Major after 34 years active service, which took place in 1894, but up to the time of his death continued to act as paymaster. He held the Volunteer officer's decoration for long service, from the Queen the Jubilee medal. He was appointed Assistant-overseer of the Parish of Ryde, on the retirement of the late Mr. James FAIRALL, in 1837. When the Ryde School Board was formed, he was appointed Clerk in 1871, and how zealous and painstaking he was in his duties, and how he loved the work the public know full well. For many years he was an auditor of the town accounts, and a director in the Building Societies of the town. The present generation do not remember the old Working Men's Club, of which he was secretary. And the interest he took in the work; on his retirement he was presented with a handsome marble clock. He was one of the Highway Commissioners for the Parish of Ryde, and was instrumental in Bettsworth-road being taken over by the authority, and also in the formation of the new road between Binstead and Haven Street, which was almost one of his last acts. The interest he took in the Upper Boys' School is well-known, always maintaining that it would be a blessing to the town, and which it undoubtedly has been; and at the presentation of prizes just before Christmas, he spoke for the last time in public. He leaves a widow, four sons, and two daughters, to mourn their irreparable loss.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

The head and assistant teachers met on Tuesday evening, and passed a vote of condolence with the widow and family of the late Mr. Jas. FLUX.

A "Memorial-proposition" has also been sent bearing the signatures of all the "head" and "assistants" (total 30) in the service of the Ryde School Board.

THE FUNERAL.

Owing to his wish, the funeral was not a military one, but the vast number of friends wishing to attend as a mark of respect, this Wednesday afternoon, from the Mayor, downwards, made it an essentially public one. The service, a most impressive one took place at the Parish Church, being conducted by the Vicar (Rev. J. SHEARME, M.A.). The building was filled and the numbers at the Cemetery were unusually large, the representatives from all the schools of the town being present.

Messrs. A.J. and W. COOMBES were the undertakers. (Further details held over).

A TEACHER'S TRIBUTE.

Silent grief is seemly when one loses a staunch friend, yet "out of the heart the mouth speaketh," and my excuse for speech lies in the fact that I feel the true worth of James FLUX was not adequately and thoroughly known. Mr first friend in this town, he was ever urbanely genial and kind in official and social intercourse with me. His grasp of the Education Act and Codes was perhaps uniquely perfect. Few could have displayed an equally excellent knowledge of the details and minutiae of administrative School Board and Educational work as that shown by the late clerk of the School Board of Ryde. A crowning proof of his methodically accurate style of work, is evidenced by the fact that during the whole course of his long connection with the School Board of this town its administration has never been involved in litigation. His

genial presence always made him a welcome visitor to scholars and teachers, and he was ever ready to assist, to advise and sympathise.

His last words to me were "I want a good rest, perhaps I shall get a long one, but I should live the same life if I had to begin again."

He has gone to his eternal rest, and many deeds of kindness will imprint themselves on his mourners' minds.

As the formulator of the idea of the Upper Grade School, Ryde, he naturally took a keen interest in its welfare. None rejoiced more than he at any of its scholars' successes.

Of him it may be said that he worked to the end, denying himself holidays, he remained faithfully at his post until the hand of the shadow was laid upon him, and he was stricken low.

A large number of Ryde townspeople will miss him from an educational point of view, and 'tis not too much to say that the great strides made in Elementary Education in this town during the past twenty-five years are mainly due to the efforts of the late James FLUX.

CHAS. D. CRISP.