

DEATH OF ALDERMAN E. T. MINTER, J.P., OF RYDE.

FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

We much regret to have to record the death of County Alderman **Ernest Thanet MINTER, J.P.**, which occurred at his home, 30 Argyll-street, Ryde, on Monday, at the advanced age of 83. Ald. MINTER had found the severe wintry weather very trying, but so passionately was he devoted to his public work that he fulfilled his many engagements to the last. Towards the end of the week he was compelled to take to his bed, and he passed away in his sleep.

The late Ald. MINTER had continuously engaged in the public life of the Island for over 40 years. He was the oldest member of the Public Assistance Committee which succeeded the Board of Guardians. For years he was chairman of the Classification Committee, and his expert knowledge of the grocery trade was of great value to the House Committee in considering contracts. He was the recognised tea-tasting expert for the inmates of the Public Institution, in whose welfare he took a profound interest. In 1900 he was elected for the south-western division of Ryde on the County Council and from that time onwards he has rendered conspicuous and ungrudging service. For a long time until he resigned two years ago, he was the painstaking chairman of the General Purposes Committee. He was also chairman of the Valuation Committee, and a member of the Standing Joint, Education, Pensions, and Staff Committees and a member of the Agricultural Education Sub-committee. In December, 1933, he was elected an alderman. Ald. MINTER was one of the most punctilious members of the county authority. All brought into contact with him recognised his sincere desire to be of service. For many years he served on the committee of the I.W. Blind Society. In 1907 he was appointed to the Commission of the Peace for Ryde, and when the Children's Act came into force he was appointed to the Juvenile Panel. Ald. MINTER took a keen interest in the Channel Island breed of cattle in the Island and was a past president of the Guernsey Cattle Society. He was always a generous benefactor, especially to boys and youths. Many a poor orphan boy has been piloted through an apprenticeship and placed on the threshold of a useful career entirely because of his deep interest and practical sympathy, and although on more than one occasion his confidence and kindness were badly abused, it never shook his faith in the young, and the helping hand continued to uplift and the kindly advice was still tendered with fatherly feeling. In politics he was a pronounced Liberal of the old school and ever ready, without rancour, to advocate its principles. In business he was a grocer, having established himself in the shop at 85 High-street in the year of the great snowstorm, 1881. When he retired in 1931 the business was carried on by Mr. James COOPER, who had been with him as boy and man since 1884. His death removes one who was held in high regard, who sought with high motive and honourable intention to serve his day and generation, and succeeded in that commendable aim with far greater results than he probably realised.

There was a representative gathering at the funeral on Thursday. The first part of the service was held in the High-street Methodist Church. The Rev. E. S. WILLIAMSON officiated and made eloquent reference to the alderman's long public services and a great influence for good. The choir, accompanied by Miss M. DIBBENS, led the singing of "O God, our help in ages past," and "Christ will gather in His own." The mourners were Mr. Alec MINTER (brother), Messrs. Alec MINTER, junior, Alfred, Charles, Ernest, and Percy MINTER (nephews), Mr. W. PRAIN (cousin), Mr. and Mrs. T. COLLINS and Mr. A. NORRIS. The County Council was represented by Sir Godfrey BARING, Bt., DL., J.P. (chairman), Aldermen A. ANDREWS, J.P. (vice-chairman), Lieut.-Col. S. CHATFEILD-CLARKE, Major A. DENNIS, G. R. BRIGSTOCKE, W. COULDREY, J.P., G. E. MEARS, J.P., and B. SANDERS, and Councillors H. E. WARDER, J.H. BROWN, W. H. WARRIOR, F. F. HOLLIS, E. R. DORE, W. OUSELEY, O.B.E., J.P., J. L. RAWCLIFFE, E. O. KIRK, E. HAYDEN, G. SNOW, J.P., W. WHEELER, J.P. COLLINS (also representing the I.W. Guernsey Cattle Society), and Miss M. O'CONNOR, Dr. J. FAIRLEY (county medical officer), Messrs. P. E. WHITE (county clerk), J. DUFTON (former clerk), A. H. HUGHES (accountant), S. GREGSON (architect), B. JENKINS (agricultural education officer), and C. P. BARRETT (horticultural instructor). The Public Assistance Committee were represented by Mr. G. MOODY (chairman), Mrs. M. C. BARTON, Mr. H. WALKER (public assistance officer), Mr. J. McKEOWN (master), Mrs. M. LANCE (matron), and Mr. F. J. ROGERS (relieving officers' staff). The Ryde magistrates present were Sir Henry SWEETMAN, Messrs. P. THELLUSSON, W. G. DAISH, A. E. WEEKS, and G. FARDELL (magistrates

clerk). The Town Council representatives were the Mayor (Mr. WEEKS), Aldermen LOADER, WRIGHT, and Capt. W. S. RUSSELL and Councillors A. J. WILLIAMS, H. V. TAYLOR, A. E. SMITH, and Mrs. NEEDHAM. Among others present were Mr. W. A. WRIGHT (Wroxall), Mr. and Mrs. E. W. POLLARD, Mrs. J. L. RAWCLIFFE, Mrs. E. C. LOADER, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. TAYLOR, Mr. and Mrs. A. BLACKBURN, Mrs. MIDLANE, Mrs. GALE, Mrs. GUY, Mr. and Mrs. SWEETMAN, Mrs. LEEDER, Mrs. and Miss CHAPPELL, Mrs. RYALL, Miss ADAMS, Mrs. WHEELER, Miss GALLOP, Messrs. A. L. BROWNE, Oliver JAMES, R. LOFTS, N. LONG, A. J. GALE, T. HUBBARD, Miss JENVEY, Mrs. G. COOPER, Supt. A. MORRISON (representing the Chief Constable, Mr. R. G. E. SPICER, C.M.G.), and Inspector ROGERS, Mr. A. J. GUTTRIDGE (vice-chairman of the Public Assistance Committee) was prevented by illness from attending, and among others absent owing to unavoidable causes were Mr. R. ACHESON WEBB, O.B.E. C.C., and Mrs. LANDER. The interment was at the Cemetery by the side of his parents. The large collection of flowers included tributes from the Public Assistance Committee, the Ryde Liberal Association, the staff of Parkhurst Institution, the I.W. Blind Society, and the I.W. Guernsey Cattle Society.

Mr. C. LANGDON was the undertaker.

Public Tributes.

At the sitting of the Borough Petty Sessions on Monday Sir Henry SWEETMAN, as the senior magistrate, made sympathetic reference to Ald. MINTER's death. He said the Bench and the majority of the townspeople felt the deepest regret at such a sad loss. MINTER was a man whom to know was to respect. He went to school with him when less than 6 years of age and had known him every since. He was a man of great integrity and, although at times his opinions were a trifle extreme, he was always earnest and sincere. In deploring his death they would remember the splendid services he had rendered to the town and Island.

At the annual meeting of the County Council on Wednesday the members stood as a tribute of respect to the late Alderman, after eulogies of his work and worth by the Chairman (Sir Godfrey BARING) and the Vice-chairman (Ald. ANDREWS). – Sir Godfrey said the members would have heard of Ald. MINTER's passing with the deepest grief as he was a very valued and esteemed colleague. He was indeed faithful unto death, as he continued to attend meetings and to take a lively interest in everything even after it was obvious that the sword of the spirit had been worn out by the scabbard of the body. His work on the Public Assistance Committee had been outstanding. He was one of that noble band of pioneers who turned Forest House from a harsh and grim prison into a restful home. It was often said of those who had been taken after a long life, not always truthfully, that they had no enemies, but he believed they could say it with complete truth of the late Ald. MINTER because kindness and compassion for the sufferings of others were dominant traits in his character.

Ald. MINTER was referred to at the meeting of the Public Assistance Committee on Thursday as a dear old friend when Mr. G. MOODY, senior, spoke of his long and valued service to the Public Assistance Committee, and in former days to the old Boar of Guardians. They very much regretted losing his happy face, said Mr. MOODY. He was the member with the longest experience of that work, an honour which now fell to Ald. W. COULDREY. He had been very closely connected with Mr. MINTER for over 20 years and he knew something of the good he did, particularly for the young, and he knew of the homes which benefited by his generosity. For years Mr. MINTER had come to him at Christmas and asked if he knew of anyone in want, especially homes where there were children. Last Christmas he had to give away something for Mr. MINTER. No one else knew where it came from as he was told to say nothing. He had given his life to that kind of thing and he would be missed all over the Island. Members stood in silence and it was agreed to send a letter expressing sympathy with Mr. MINTER's relatives.
