

**DEATH OF
ALD. A. ANDREWS, J.P.**

A LONG CAREER IN THE ISLAND'S PUBLIC LIFE.

The death took place early on Saturday morning at his residence, Southfield, Ryde, of **County Alderman Arthur ANDREWS, J.P.**, at the age of 80. The alderman had been in failing health for some time and had in consequence recently resigned a number of public offices. By his passing the Island has lost one of its most prominent public men of the last 35 years. On retiring from the position of head master of the Upper Grade School under the old Ryde School Board Ald. ANDREWS devoted himself largely to religious work a connection with the Y.M.C.A. and later in conjunction with the late Mr. CROSSLEY M.P. for the Sowerby district of Yorkshire, carried on a chapel in Newport-street. Later Mr. ANDREWS embarked on a career of public life which included a very interesting variety of administrative activity. To each office to which he was elected he brought gifts of sound judgment, clear-sightedness, a capacity for grasping detail, and good leadership. He first came into public prominence as a member of the old Board of Guardians in 1907 and continued in that work as a member of the Public Assistance Committee. He entered the Town Council in 1912 and in the following year joined the County Council as a representative of the south-eastern division of Ryde. On the same day in 1920 he was elected an alderman and Mayor of Ryde, and served with distinction in the latter capacity for four successive years. He continued his valued service on the Council until the general election following the review of districts, and then failed to gain election. At a special meeting of the County Council in 1934, just prior to the triennial elections, he was elected an alderman in succession to the late Ald. E. JAMES, of Binstead. He has also filled the positions of chairman of the Local Government and Staff Committees and the Higher Education Sub-committee. Until March last he was vice-chairman of the Island Council, and also, until recently, of the Standing Joint Committee. He had given much valuable service to the work of administration of the Royal I.W. County Hospital and for many years had been chairman of the governing body. He was also chairman and a staunch supporter of the Ryde District Nursing Association. For 33 years he had been a county magistrate and in 1932 he was added to the Commission of the Peace for Ryde, the holding of two such offices being a somewhat rare distinction. On the coming into operation of the latest Children's and Young Persons' Act he was appointed chairman of the juvenile panel of magistrates, one of the positions from which he recently retired. He was also chairman of the County Licensing Committee. He followed up his duties as a magistrate by taking an active interest in convict and preventive detention prisons, being chairman of the Board of Visitors at Parkhurst and Portsmouth, chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Borstal Institution at Camp Hill, and of the Advisory Committee for Preventive Detention. For five years he was chairman of the annual conference of Prison Justices. Among his other appointments were chairman of the Island branch of the British Red Cross Society, a vice-president of the Island Liberal Association, and a former president of the Ryde and District Liberal Association, and a member of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. He was chairman of directors of the Vectis Steam Laundry Company and the Vectis Building Society. In earlier days of political activity in the Island the Liberal Party had no more active or vigorous exponent of their principles than the alderman, who allied to his administrative abilities the power of forceful speech, but at the last general election he actively supported the National Government and spoke in its support. Throughout his busy and valuable career Ald. ANDREWS never tired of his responsibilities. He met the rebuffs which inevitably so often fall to men in public life with a good grace and a determination to recover his position, and he took success with moderation. He married in 1887 Miss Harriett PEARSTALL, of Bilston, Staffs, and they celebrated their golden wedding on December 26th 1937. With Mrs. ANDREWS, so closely but unobtrusively associated with her husband's many activities, the deepest sympathy is felt. Capt. N. ANDREWS (son) and Mrs. KEEVIL (daughter) also survive him.

The funeral took place privately on Wednesday, the service being conducted by the Rev. H. B. WORTHINGTON, incumbent of St. Thomas's Church, Ryde. There were no flowers, by request.

PUBLIC TRIBUTES.

At the County Petty Sessions at Newport on Saturday Sit Godfrey BARING (chairman), in referring to Ald. ANDREW's death, said he was one of the most prominent figures in the public life of the Island. He had been a county magistrate of 32 years and possessed a profound and sound knowledge of magisterial work which was always at the service of the Bench. He had been the vice-chairman for eight years and during that time had always given him the most loyal support. His devotion to duty was extraordinary as, even after his health began to decline, he thought nothing of coming from Ryde to attend a single case. When he (Sir Godfrey) suggested to him that he should curtail his activities he replied that he wished to work on and die in harness. He had now gone to his rest and they greatly deplored his loss and offered their sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

At the sitting of the Ryde Petty Sessions on Monday the Mayor referred to Ald. ANDREWS's long years of service in many fields of labour, and said that at no time did he spare himself; he was always willing to do what he could for his fellow men. They had lost a great public figure who would be hard to replace in the public work of the Island.

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