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MR. EDWARD CHARLES GOBLE

RYDE MOURNS AN EX-MAYOR  
A NOTED HORTICULTURIST

Mr. E. C. GOBLE, F.R.H.S., whose death occurred at Walcott Lodge, Monkton Street, Ryde, on Sunday, in his 90<sup>th</sup> year, was the last mayor of the old borough of Ryde and the first mayor of the enlarged borough under the provisions of the review of County Districts Order, 1933. For about a quarter of a century he had been a member of the town council and a prominent figure in public life. In business circles he was perhaps the best known of Island nurserymen. He retired only three years ago. His health had been failing for several months.

Edward Charles GOBLE was born at Bicester, Oxon., in 1862, the eldest of a family of 12, whose father and grandfather were in business as nurserymen. He was apprenticed at John FRASER's Lea Bridge nurseries, later taking over the management of a section of his father's business. In February, 1899, he acquired the nursery at Ryde which was to be his life's interest and where he gained a reputation as a leading florist and seedsman. His carnations, daffodils, and dahlias secured many gold medals and other awards locally and in London, and in 1930 he won outright the Gilbert Challenge Cup for a group of dahlias at Portsmouth Horticultural Show. Not only in his business but his leisure hours were spent in improving his knowledge of horticulture. His hobby was what he described as "seeing the world horticulturally" and he had on several occasions visited different parts of Europe in its pursuit. In October, 1942, he produced a magnificent scarlet dahlia which was named "Stalingrad in honour of the gallant Russian stand there during the second world war." Blooms were sent to M. MAISKY, the then Soviet ambassador in London, and in 1943 seedlings were sent to Moscow and later the flowers adorned the big square at Stalingrad. Mr. GOBLE's services as a judge at local horticultural shows were frequently sought. He was a former chairman of the I.W. Horticultural Association and a committee member of the former I.W. Rose Society and the old Ryde Horticultural Association. For some years until 1939 he contributed weekly gardening notes to the "County Press." Mr. GOBLE was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and a member of the National Carnation and Dahlia Society.

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