

MR. EDWARD CHARLES GOBLE

FIRST MAYOR OF THE NEW
BOROUGH

His entry into civic life in 1920, when he was elected a member of Ryde Town Council for the East ward, was in keeping with a family tradition, as his father was for several years a member of the Bicester U.D.C., of which his brother was chairman in 1933. From then until he retired in 1945 he had unbroken service, being returned top of the poll in 1923 and unopposed in 1926 and 1929. In 1931 he was elected mayor in succession to the late Ald. C. J. de LAUNAY, and held office for two years. In August, 1932, as mayor, he officially opened the extension to the Western Esplanade following the demolition of the Pier Hotel and adjoining properties and the opening of the promenade to the west of the pier. During his mayoralty negotiations were proceeding under the Review of County Districts Order which eventually led to the borough being extended to include St. Helens urban district and a part of the rural district extending as far as Wootton Bridge. He represented Ryde at the public inquiry at Newport and keenly supported the extension of the borough. In the election which followed the review order he was returned for the east ward, and a graceful tribute was paid to his services by his election as first mayor of the new borough and an alderman at the first meeting of the new council. After he relinquished the mayoralty he interested himself mostly in the works of the Parks and Entertainments Committee and was particularly keen on making the esplanade as attractive as possible by floral schemes. The present picturesque layout may largely be traced to his enthusiasm he showed for such projects. He served for some time on the County Valuation Committee.

In other spheres Mr. GOBLE will be remembered for his devoted work at Holy Trinity Church which he had had attended since coming to Ryde. Within a year he was elected church warden, an office he held for a long period. He was also a school manager and the senior sidesman. He was one of the earliest members of Ryde Rotary Club and a past president.

In his teens he played football and won several trophies for shooting. During the 1914-18 war he was a lieutenant in the local Defence Corps, and won a cup presented by the late Mr. John I. BARTON, the then mayor, for the best shot. He was also a member of Ryde Bowling Club.

Mr. GOBLE was twice married and had the rare distinction of having celebrated two silver weddings. His second wife, who died in March, 1948, was a daughter of the late Mr. William, BARTLETT, coxswain of the former Ryde lifeboat crew, and by her he leaves a daughter with whom sympathy is felt.
