

DEATH OF MR. DOUGLAS HANDLEY, OF SEAVIEW.

TRAGIC END ON A SOUTHERN RAILWAY STEAMER.

With very deep regret we have to record the death of Mr. George Douglas HANDLEY, a prominent Island resident and business man, of Oak-hill, Springvale, Seaview, which occurred with painful suddenness on board a Southern Railway steamer when crossing from Portsmouth to Ryde at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday. Mr. HANDLEY, who with his brother, Mr. Trevor HANDLEY, was joint managing director of HANDLEYS, Ltd., Southsea, had been at business as usual and was returning home. When sitting with several other gentlemen in the saloon he complained to Mr. A.C. OSBORN, of Ryde, managing director of CURTISS and Co., of feeling unwell and asked him to accompany him on deck. Here Mr. HANDLEY suddenly collapsed and passed away shortly afterwards. On arrival at Ryde Pier he was taken to the waiting-room and Dr. PRIDMORE was summoned, but could only pronounce life extinct. The deepest sympathy is felt with Mrs. HANDLEY, who had motored in from Seaview to meet her husband. The circumstances are rendered all the more poignant by the fact that Mr. HANDLEY's twin daughters, the Misses Barbara and Margaret HANDLEY, left three weeks ago on a cruise to South Africa, where they were due to land on Wednesday morning. Mr. HANDLEY had not enjoyed robust health for some time. A post-mortem was held on Wednesday.

The news of Mr. HANDLEY's passing was received with sincere regret in Ryde and Seaview. He had practically been a resident there throughout his life, had identified himself with several local institutions, and took great interest in the welfare of the district. Last week he attended the British Legion dinner at Seaview and in a witty and clever speech replied to the toast of "The Visitors." On the day of his death he had been present at the luncheon of the Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club.

George Douglas HANDLEY was 65 years of age. He was the elder son of the late Mr. George HANDLEY, of Springfield, Seaview. For over 40 years he was one of the most prominent business men in the South of England and devoted his life to building up the firm of HANDLEYS, Ltd., which was founded by his father. He watched it grow from a small beginning to one of the finest and best known business houses on the South Coast. On his father's death he and his brother took over control of the firm, and it is entirely due to their business acumen and progressive outlook that the name of HANDLEYS is a household word and the business is one of which anyone could be justly proud. The deceased gentleman was an astute business man and was a kind and exemplary employer. He could have no finer epitaph than the words of a member of his staff on Wednesday morning "We have lost a great friend with whom we always knew how we stood."

In public life Mr. HANDLEY did a great amount of work in a quiet way. In the early days of the war he raised a volunteer battalion in Portsmouth and served as an officer in a volunteer regiment in the Island and was in charge of the men who guarded Seaview Point. He took a leading part in organising War Savings Week, when the ground floor of his shop was converted into an office, and the firm sold no fewer than 21,000 certificates. He was one of the founder members of Portsmouth Rotary Club, and in 1922 was its president.

While his business life was spent on the mainland, to which Mr. HANDLEY had travelled from his home almost daily for 40 years, he found his recreation in the Island. He was particularly keen on golf and most of his spare moments were spent in playing over the links of the Sandown and Shanklin Club, of which he was a former captain. He was also keen on cricket and was a vice-president of the Hampshire County Cricket Club. Yachting,

too, was a sport of which he was very fond, and he owned the aux.-cutter Grebe. He was a member of the Royal Victoria and Seaview Yacht Clubs and a Past Master of East Medina (698) Lodge of Freemasons. Mr. HANDLEY was a member of Seaview branch of the British Legion. An ardent and progressive Conservative, Mr. HANDLEY was a prominent member of Seaview branch of the Island Association. He was a subtle and witty speaker and usually took part in the post-prandial proceedings at the Ryde municipal banquet. His wife, a Ryde lady, formerly Miss Madge GREEN, is prominent in Island musical circles. The sincerest sympathy is felt with her and her daughters in their irreparable loss.

The funeral takes place at St. John's, Oakfield, to-day (Saturday) at 3 o'clock. The Bishop of Portsmouth will conduct a memorial service at the same hour at St. Simon's, Southsea.

Researched & typed by
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