George Ernest Weeks

Isle of Wight County Press 12 April 1941

DEATH OF MR. G. E. WEEKS, OF NEWPORT

Newport lost a prominent townsman, much esteemed as a business man, churchman, and sportsman, by the death at his residence, Eynsham, Wilver-road, on Sunday of Mr. George Ernest Weeks, aged 71, managing director of Weeks Ltd., bakers, confectioners, and caterers. Mr. Weeks, after a life of varied activities, had been in failing health for about two years, but the end came rather unexpectedly, and aroused much sympathy for his widow, five sons, and daughter. A native of Newport, son of the late Mr. Walter Weeks, and an old Grammarian, be was trained for his vocation locally and in London, and had engaged in business on his own account at Oxford before he returned to his native town about 30 years ago. He opened a business as a baker and confectioner at 51 High-street, and a few years later the concern became a company, of which he had been the managing director ever since. In 1928 the business was transferred to its present premises at 115 High-street, facing St. James's-square, and under his able direction it prospered and extended until it became one of the best known establishments of its kind in the Island. Although a busy man, Mr. Weeks found time to serve the Church, and take an active interest in many sports. He was a sidesman at St. John's Church for many years, served it as churchwarden from 1918 to 1925, and often read the lessons. A keen angler, he was one of the founder members of the I.W. Angling Society; he played football and cricket, and engaged in rowing on the Medina in his younger days, and continued his interest in these sports as a vice-president of the Newport Cricket and Football Clubs; he was also fond of coursing and billiards and pigeon and rabbit breeding. In connection with his business he was a familiar figure as the caterer at such events as the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society's exhibitions and many village horticultural shows and other outdoor public functions, and in all his activities his anxiety to please and his cheerfulness won hosts of friends. He was a member of the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, the Newport Rotary Club, and the Newport Literary Society, and at one time was a popular member of the Conservative Club. He was also a director of the Needles Hotel Co. and the Medina Café Co.

The funeral service was at St. John's Church on Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering of fellow Freemasons, business associates, and other friends. The Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) officiated, and read the Masonic funeral oration, and the brethren of Albany Lodge sang their closing ode.

The principal mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. B., Mr. and Mrs. W. G. B., and Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Weeks, and Messrs. F. E. and A. J. Weeks (sons and daughters-in-law), Miss F. B. Weeks (sister), Ald. W. Blake, J.P., and Mrs. Blake (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs. H. Morris and Miss C. A. Blake (nieces), Messrs. J. B. Alderslade, P. F. Wadham, and W. G. Bartlett (executor), Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Core, and Miss Kennedy.

Interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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Page 1 of 1 29 May 2024