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Hawera &amp; Normanby Star, Volume LIII, 1 May 1908, Page 5

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With very great regret we have to record that Mr T. L. Joll died at the Wellington Hospital this morning as the result of the terrible accident he met with a fortnight ago. Soon after the telegraph office opened this morning we received the following special wire from Wellington:—

Mr Thomas L. Joll died at twenty minutes to nine this morning.

The news will come as a very great shock to the majority of people in the district, because the early telegrams yesterday spoke so very confidently of an improvement, which raised hopes that he would recover; but evidently a change set in, for in the afternoon it was known that a private telegram had been received stating that he was sinking. In the faint hope that this might prove to be too gloomy a view we only mentioned in a general way that the afternoon's news was unsatisfactory. Indeed from the outset, by those who knew the nature of the injuries sustained, it has been said that recovery was impossible; but Mr Joll's splendid constitution, it was thought by most people, would give him a chance which a less robust man could not have, and while there was life there was hope. However, the worst fears have unfortunately been realised.

We need not say that the untoward death of Mr Joll will be the occasion

of very deep sorrow throughout Taranaki, and particularly in this district, where he has lived so long and gained so prominent a position, and that there will be very general sympathy with his family and relations. He was one of those cheery, genial men whom it was a pleasure to know, and from his youth up he has been a general favorite. And with all his easy manners he was strenuous. The boy is father to the man. In his early days he could work hard and play hard. As with increasing business wider responsibilities came to rest on him his character came out. He always "played the game," but he was an excellent man of business. One of his strongest characteristics was his power to judge men. He has put large numbers of men on farms and trusted them wholly, and has made few mistakes. His business transactions, it is common knowledge, have been very considerable, and he has taken many risks, but we do not remember any case in which there has come before the public a record of any dispute. He trusted and was trusted, and on both sides the trust has been justified.

Thomas Langdon Joll was the eldest son of the late Mr Samuel Joll, and was 53 years of age. His father arrived in New Zealand by one of the first ships to arrive in New Plymouth, probably the third which came to anchor in February of 1842. Old identities remember well both Mr Samuel Joll and also his father in New Plymouth. The former married Miss Jonas, and there were either twelve or thirteen children. Mr T. L. Joll received the little education that was then available in New Plymouth. He was an athlete of considerable merit, and played football for the province about the year 1887. His earlier life was spent in contracting, and he came to South Taranaki before the Plains were opened up. He accepted road

work and general heavy work; and it was no unusual sight for him to be out early and late with bullock teams. Later on he purchased the Okaiawa store, and there it was probably that his first ideas of the dairying industry arose. It was the usual custom to purchase butter from farmers' wives, generally paying about 3d per lb, which, however, was to be taken out in goods. A small factory was one day opened on the site of the present Okaiawa factory, and butter was made on a very small scale. Gradually—very gradually—the business extended and a number of outlying creameries were established, the first being on the Skeet road. From that the progress has probably been more rapid, and the development of business in connection with it very considerable. In 1906, in answer to the wish of his suppliers, he built a cheese factory at Kapuni, and last year he erected up-to-date factories at most of his creameries at an expenditure of about £10,000.

There is not the slightest doubt but that Mr Joll's death will have a very far-reaching effect. It is the business in connection with the factory in which this will be most seriously felt. Among the more self-contained of men, he rarely told anyone his business, and it is the general belief in the country that he carried a great deal of it entirely in his head. In connection with finance it was his custom to tell a man to arrange with an agent to buy a certain place, and he would arrange later. This has been done during the present season. It is also well known that he dealt with a great number of people solely as the result of his idea of them at a glance. A poor man had equal chance, the want of money, it is understood, being little hindrance provided that he could work.

Mr Joll was universally looked upon as a "white" man in the truest and fullest acceptation of the term. With co-opera-

lative companies with whom he entered into competition there was at times strained relations, but almost to a man the directors were agreed that Mr Joll was a straight, clean man. Of his kindly acts there are numbers in the country, and probably with his death they will be widely circulated. One we know of, and it is but a repetition of others, refers to a purchasing clause in a lease which had run out, but six months after Mr Joll allowed this clause to become operative. This made a present of thousands to a man with no legal rights.

Mr Joll, as has been indicated, was born at or quite near to New Plymouth. His wife was a Miss Newsham, and she with one son (Bruce), aged 16, are left to mourn their loss. Mr Joll's mother is still living at Waitara, and he has numerous brothers and sisters.

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