

T. H. 16/10/1926.

OBITUARY

MR. THOMAS AVERY.

Many of our readers will join with us in feelings of regret and personal loss on the death of Mr. Thomas Avery, who passed away at the age of 75 years, on Friday night after a very brief illness. Mr. Avery, during his 50 years residence, had become almost an institution of New Plymouth, so closely had he been associated with the business life and the progress of the town. Born at Coventry (England), he was apprenticed as a boy to the printing and stationery trade at Tipton, South Staffordshire, a Mr. Britain being his employer. Later the business was removed to West Bromwich. On completing his apprenticeship he proceeded to Paris and obtained a position on the European News, an American journal published there. Relinquishing this appointment he next found employment with the great London firm of manufacturing stationers, Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, with whom he served 18 months, gaining very valuable experience and a thorough knowledge of his trade. There, too, he made the acquaintance of Mr. Edmondson, a fellow worker, and the two of them came out to New Plymouth together by the ship Howrah in 1875. Mr. Avery found employment in the office of the Taranaki News and Mr. Edmondson in that of the Taranaki Herald, but they had not been here very long before they joined forces and purchased the News from Major Brown. They carried it on as a weekly paper until about 1884, when they sold it to a new firm. Mr. Avery then set up a printing and stationery business of his own in Brougham Street, subsequently removing to Devon Street, where, in conjunction with his brother, the late Mr. John Avery, he built the premises now occupied by Messrs. Sanders and Mawkes, opposite Everybody's Theatre. Here Mr. Avery, by faithful work and honest dealing, built up a business which outgrew the premises after a few years, and the brothers built larger premises on the opposite side of the street, still occupied by the firm. The business continued to grow and develop, and with the introduction of his sons into it further extensions became necessary, until at the present time it is of a size and importance worthy of a city.

With increasing years Mr. Avery left the conduct of his business more and more to his sons, though up to the last he had taken a more or less active interest in it. A year or two ago he went for a trip to the Old Country, and since his return indifferent health compelled him to slacken his activities a little and he found much enjoyment and relaxation on the New Plymouth Bowling Club's green, having been one of the oldest and most popular members of the club. Though, as already stated, his health has been indifferent for some time, he was out and about until a few days ago, and the news of his death comes somewhat as a shock.

He leaves a widow and a family of four, Mrs. Avery, Messrs. T. M. Avery, J. E. Avery and A. H. Avery, all of New Plymouth and associated in the business, and F. S. Avery, of Auckland.