

FORMER BUSINESSMAN

DEATH OF MR. C. CARTER

WIDE AND VARIED INTERESTS

The death of Mr. Christopher Carter, which took place in New Plymouth early this morning, after a short illness, brings to an end his close association with the development of New Plymouth extending over a period of more than 60 years.

Mr. Carter was in his 85th year. His health had been failing for some little time, but it is only about two weeks since he was able to be about and maintain his business contacts. He was one of the most familiar personalities in New Plymouth and was widely known through his several business associations and his connection with public and semi-public bodies. He was a very highly-esteemed citizen and member of the community, in the welfare and advancement of which he took a keen interest.

Mr. Carter was a native of Lincolnshire, England. He was educated at Trinity School, Louth, and afterwards became connected with the grocery trade in Ludborough. He came to New Zealand with his wife in the ship *Hermione* in 1884, the voyage occupying five months. They soon settled in New Plymouth and Mr. Carter went into business in Devon Street in the early 'nineties in the trade he had followed in England. He was for some years a partner of Mr. John Veale in a grocery business and later with Mr. S. B. White in a general store business at the corner of Eliot and Devon Streets.

When the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Carter commenced a grocery business on his own account in Devon Street and later bought the premises now occupied by Hughsons (N.P.) Ltd., in which he carried on the business until he sold out about 15 years ago. At one stage the firm also had businesses at the corner of Watson and Devon Streets and at Moturoa.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT.

In addition to his business interests, Mr. Carter took an active part in the general development of the district. He was a school committeeman and at one time a member of the district Licensing Committee. He was for some time a member of the Taranaki County Council and in later years a very active member of the Citizens' Ratepayers' Association of New Plymouth. He was also closely associated with the oil research projects in New Plymouth, being a member and chairman for many years of the New Plymouth Oil Refinery Company, in connection with the floatation of which he paid a visit to England in 1911.

When Mr. Carter retired from the grocery business, he still maintained other business connections in the district. He was one of the founders of the New Plymouth Finance Company, of which he was chairman for more than 21 years. He was also managing director of Fitzroy Quarries Ltd.

BOWLING ASSOCIATIONS.

In sport Mr. Carter was one of the best-known bowlers in New Plymouth. He was a member of the New Plymouth Club, for his services to which he was recently made a life member. He was president of the club from 1923 to 1925 inclusive, secretary from 1919 to 1922, and had been treasurer for a number of years up to two years ago. He played an important part in the affairs of the club in connection with the change-over from the Brougham Street property to that now occupied by the club in Courtenay Street and in the development and extension of the greens on that property.

Mr. Carter was a life-long member of the Methodist Church and in New Plymouth was a devoted member and officer of Whiteley Memorial Church, which he served in many directions. He was a society and circuit steward for many years and also served a long term as Sunday school superintendent. He had represented the church and circuit of New Plymouth at district synods and annual conferences of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. He was a trustee of Whiteley Church and a member of the Powderham Street and Grey Institute Trusts right up to the time of his death. As a member of the latter body he took an active part in the securing of the new property at Spotswood for the future development of the

"REFRESHING"

STATEMENT OF FACTS

RAILWAY COAL SUPPLIES

P.A. WELLINGTON, This Day.

"It is refreshing to find someone in authority who can state the actual facts even though they are unpalatable to the acting Minister of Mines."

This was said by Mr. T. H. Stephenson, general secretary of Enginedrivers, Firemen, and Cleaners' Association, in a statement endorsing the remarks of Mr. J. Sawers, general manager of the railways, regarding the coal situation and criticising the reply of the acting-Minister, the Hon. J. O'Brien.

"The true facts," said Mr. Stephenson, "are that the railways are in the gravest position they have ever been in their history, and the general manager has done a service by drawing attention to it. Far from improving, the position has steadily deteriorated and, judged by present-day supplies, when the mines closed down for the Christmas holidays the railways will come to a standstill within 48 hours."

Discussing the quality of open-cast coal, he referred to the continued complaints of locomotive men about the large proportion of rock and mud. The Minister had quoted laboratory tests showing the calorific value, but these tests were based on tests of selected coal. The decision of railwaymen not to handle this coal was a more correct indication of the quality than any statement by the Minister or a laboratory analysis.

"The Railways Department is being robbed of thousands of pounds by having to pay a coal price for spoil that is worthless and on which the companies or the Mines Department should on the balance have been charged for the use of the wagons," said Mr. Stephenson.

The statement said that six months ago the Price Tribunal asked the Standards Institute to prepare a standard specification for coal as a basis for price fixing, but nothing had been done beyond contacting those concerned.

"It will be noted that the Minister of Railways takes a more sober view and has never associated himself with the optimism of his colleagues, the Minister and acting Minister of Mines."

FATAL REVOLVER SHOT

17-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLBOY'S DEATH

AUCKLAND, Wednesday.

A pupil of Seddon Memorial Technical College was rushed by ambulance to the Auckland hospital from the Domain this afternoon after he had received a bullet wound in the head from a .22 revolver. He died soon after he was admitted. He was William Turner, aged 17 years, son of Mr. William Alfred Turner, Mount Eden.

The boy had been taking part in cadet drill at the Domain, and the cadets had been disbanded when at about 3.30 p.m. he is stated to have pulled a .22 American revolver from his trouser pocket. A shot was heard, and the boy fell to the ground. A Domain groundsman, hearing the shot rushed up, and when he saw what had happened he telephoned for an ambulance. The boy was taken to the hospital, where he died at 4.45 p.m.

The principal of the college, Mr. G. J. Park, said revolvers were not used in any part of the boys' drill.

Methodist Maori Girls' College in New Plymouth.

He was also a member of the Mt. Egmont Lodge of Freemasons and one of the oldest New Plymouth members of the Order of Richabites, to which he had belonged for more than 50 years. He also held a commission as a Justice of the Peace.

Mrs. Carter died in 1926 and Mr. Carter is survived by one son and three daughters. They are Mr. Edgar H. Carter, New Plymouth, Miss E. M. Carter, New Plymouth, Mrs. F. Jones, Wellington, and Mrs. J. Shaw, Wellington. There is one grandson.

The funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon after a service in Whiteley Church.