

# CAPTAIN F. L. HARTNELL

## DEATH AT NEW PLYMOUTH

### INTEREST IN R.S.A. WORK

### NOTED CROQUET CHAMPION

The death occurred at the New Plymouth Hospital this morning of Frank Locke Hartnell, aged 64 years, who was well known throughout the Dominion in connection with the Returned Soldiers' Association and national rifle shooting, and who was one of New Zealand's most prominent croquet players.

Only last week the late Captain Hartnell won the North Island open championship, and with Mrs. Morgan as his partner, retained the doubles championship.

Born at Fort Albert, North Auckland, the late Captain Hartnell came to New Plymouth 42 years ago and commenced in the carpentry trade as an employee of Messrs. Boon Bros. He was later promoted to foreman, which position he held until the Great War.

He had joined the Taranaki Guards in about 1899, and when the volunteer system was discontinued he was granted a commission in the Taranaki Regiment. He left New Zealand for the war in 1915 as a second-lieutenant in the 3rd New Zealand Reinforcements (Wellington Regiment) and was later promoted to the rank of captain, seeing active service in France and Gallipoli. He was discharged in 1919 and on returning to New Plymouth was on the reserve of officers of the Taranaki Regiment for a number of years, and was then posted to the retired list. He had been awarded medals for long and efficient service for periods of 12, 16 and 18 years.

### R.S.A. WORK.

Upon returning from the war Captain Hartnell was elected to the executive of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association and held executive office until a year ago. He was president of the New Plymouth branch from 1923 to 1932. This year he was granted the honour of having his name placed on the special honours list of the New Zealand Association.

Captain Hartnell's birthday fell on April 25 (Anzac Day), and part of the procedure at the afternoon tea given for "Diggers" by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Burgess at New Plymouth on that day every year was for those present to wish him birthday greetings.

During its existence after the war he served on the committee of the Repatriation Association.

The late Captain Hartnell always took a great interest in rifle shooting, being one of the foundation members of the New Plymouth Defence Rifle Club. He was also patron and a life-member, as well as president of the Taranaki Rifle Association and vice-president of the National Rifle Association of New Zealand. He spent a considerable amount of time in coaching shooting teams at the New Plymouth Boys' High School.

He retired from active rifle shooting in 1925, but was chief range officer at the Taranaki Association's annual meeting at New Plymouth, and was for many years a range officer at the national meeting at Trentham.

### CROQUET PLAYER.

One of the Dominion's best known and most popular croquet players, Captain Hartnell commenced the game in 1926. He held many executive offices on the West End Croquet Club, having been president

the committee simply could not carry on and pay a man a reasonable wage with the capitation at present received from the Education Department. A caretaker for the school was essential and there was no denying that in winter time his work constituted a full-time job.

### WORK IN BOROUGH.

The New Plymouth Borough Council employs a total of 83 men under Scheme 13 subsidy, as well as a further 23 under Scheme 5, under which men are employed for two days a week on general work on the beach reserves at Fitzroy, East End and Ngamotu, at the Rotokare Domain, at the Cemetery, Marsland Hill Reserve and Pukekura Park.

Of the 83 Scheme 13 subsidised men 39 are engaged in the reconditioning and tar-sealing of footpaths, ten in levelling work and the prevention of sand drift at Fitzroy Beach, six in general improvements at Ngamotu Beach, four in forest work at Brooklands, two in general work at Kawarua Park, 12 in general cleaning up and developmental work in the Paritutu Centennial Park, and ten in work, such as lifting the track and tightening joints, with the Tramways Department.

Just how many of these works will be "closed down" or "tailed off" officials of the engineer's department of the Borough Council were unable to say this morning. It was thought, however, that a goodly proportion would be affected.

## THEFT FROM LINER

### RANGITATA MYSTERY

### INVESTIGATIONS AT LONDON

Independent Cable Service.

(Received 2 p.m.)

LONDON, Jan. 18.

Detectives boarded the Rangitata when she berthed at London to-day to investigate the theft of £1500 from the captain's cabin at Auckland.

for some time. Up to his death he was president of the Taranaki Croquet Association and an officer on the New Zealand Croquet Council. He was a vice-president of the Dominion council till this year, and held the presidency from 1923 to 1936. He was also an associate member of the English Croquet Association. He won the New Zealand croquet title in 1934 and also the men's championship. Partnered by Mrs. Caldwell, Wellington, he won the New Zealand championship doubles. He also won the doubles title with Mrs. Morgan in 1938.

In 1935 he was manager and a member of the New Zealand team which visited Australia. He won the men's title again in 1937 and for some years had been a member of the North Island team. In 1936 he secured the English Croquet Association's silver medal and the following year won the New Zealand Association's silver mallet. He has also won many minor associations' championships.

Captain Hartnell was a member of the Druids' Lodge and a prominent Mason. For many years he was president of the Western Park committee and was president of the Sanders Park committee.

For several years he took a commendable interest in the welfare of young men on probation.

He is survived by a widow and three children, Miss Beulah Hartnell (New Plymouth) and Messrs. Harry Hartnell (Levin) and Sydney Hartnell (New Plymouth).

The funeral takes place at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

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