

TH 6/9/1954

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DEATH OF MR. A. LILE

WELL KNOWN PUBLICAN AND SPORTSMAN

Probably the oldest hotelkeeper to have held a licence continuously in one hotel in Taranaki, Mr. Adam Lile, the proprietor of the State Hotel, New Plymouth, died on Saturday night after a long illness. Widely known in business and sporting circles, he was one of the most prominent players of Rugby League football when that code was first established in the country, and twice represented New Zealand overseas. He also took a keen and active interest in racing.

Born at Waitara 69 years ago, Mr. Lile started work at an early age in the bakery business conducted by his father, Mr. Adam Lile, at Waitara, where he had been educated.

It was from Waitara that he proceeded to stowaway on one of the troopships taking New Zealand soldiers to the South African War. Then only a youth of about 17, Mr. Lile found that the war had ended before his arrival in South Africa. His association with the troops was to lead to his desire to join the forces in New Zealand, and he served for some years with the permanent artillery.

Later he entered business on his own account as a baker in Inglewood, before coming to New Plymouth and purchasing the State Hotel 29 years ago. He greatly improved and enlarged the hotel over the years.

THE "ALL GOLDS"

Outdoor sport has always been supported and encouraged by Mr. Lile, who had a distinguished career at the time of the foundation of the Rugby League code in New Zealand. He learned his early football while at Inglewood, and later was a prominent member of the Goldfields representative team at Waihi.

Most of his football, however, was played in Wellington during the time he was a member of the artillery. It was there that he was one of the surprise selections in the first New Zealand Rugby League team ever to leave to tour Britain. The "All Golds," the name under which Baskerville's side toured Britain in 1906 and 1907, included some famous football figures, probably the most notable being "Dally" Messenger, who died recently. Mr. Lile knew of his selection only a few hours before the team's departure, but he managed to secure leave from his unit, and, during the tour, proved to be one of the most versatile forwards in the side.

RETURN TO FAMILY WORSHIP

N.Z.'s GREATEST NEED, SAYS ARCHBISHOP

New Zealand's greatest need today was a return to family worship by parents and their children on Sunday, said the Archbishop of New Zealand and the Bishop of Wellington, the Rt. Rev. R. H. Owen, speaking in St. Mary's Anglican Church, New Plymouth, last night.

The archbishop, who spoke to a crowded church, said that one of the several reasons why he was happy to be in New Plymouth was that he had a great affection for Plymouth, England, where he had served as a naval chaplain during the Second World War.

He had been in Plymouth when St. Andrew's Church was destroyed during the blitz and had been interested to see the piece of marble from that church now housed in St. Mary's.

Because of his affection for Plymouth, New Plymouth had been one of the first cities he had visited when he arrived in New Zealand more than seven years ago. He knew that New Plymouth's early settlers had been men and women of Plymouth and the "good county" of Devon.

"Today is the first time I have worshipped in this church, and what a lovely church it is, how dignified and how rich in its associations with the past," continued His Grace. "I am sure you are all very fond and very proud of your church. The parish church has a very special place in the hearts of all British people, and I am sure that even the people who do not worship in St. Mary's respect it."

"BREAK DOWN BARRIER"

The archbishop urged the congregation to break down the barrier between the churchgoer and non-churchgoer. That barrier, he said, would not be broken if churchgoers were self-centred, narrow-minded and saw no good in the men and women who passed by the doors of St. Mary's. It would be broken only by generosity and good sense.

"I wonder if we church people realise what a hindrance church differences and quarrels are in stopping the attracting into the church of non-churchgoers," continued the archbishop. "I have been distressed and abocked by the pettiness of the quarrels sometimes submitted to me as archbishop. I can understand

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Two years after returning to New Zealand, he was again selected in a New Zealand League side which toured Australia with a considerable measure of success. Mr. Lile saw the establish- ment of the League code in Taranaki in 1908 when he travelled from Wellington at the invitation of the Taranaki players to strengthen their side for the first representative game ever played here. Taranaki's win by five points to three over Auckland created more than passing interest at the time because Auckland had become established as the strong- hold of the code.

In later years, Mr. Lile was a keen golfer as a member of the New Plymouth Golf Club and devoted some of his leisure to bowls, being a member of the New Plymouth Bowling Club.

Mr. Lile was a prominent Taranaki racing owner for many years. One of the first horses to carry his colours was the competent jumper Paraoa. Omeo, a product of the Taranaki hunting field, was a good winner for Mr. Lile and scored his most important success in the 1933 Wellington Steeplechase. Another brilliant jumper who gained suc- cess for Mr. Lile on metropolitan courses was the speedy Illuminate.

Mr. Lile was a good buyer at the National sales, one of his best yearling purchases being Huatoki, who estab- lished a New Zealand 10-furlong record in the 1952 Summer Cup at Ellerslie. Huatoki and the promising novice Ngatoki, who was recently placed, remain in the Lile interests. Other gallopers raced by Mr. Lile include Trig Station, Silver Sam, Royal Bengal, Brookland and Sly Robin.

Mrs. Lile died two years ago, and Mr. Lile is survived by two daughters and two sons, Mesdames T. Allen (Hamilton) and D. Waldie (New Plymouth) and Messrs. Addie and Pat Lile (New Ply- mouth). The funeral will leave St. Joseph's Church, New Plymouth, to- morrow morning for Te Henui cemetery.

INQUEST ADJOURNED

An inquest into the death of Christian

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In churchgoers there must be some- thing to attract the outsider, he con- tinued. That was how the church had grown all over New Zealand, because people could not help respecting, liking and wanting to follow the early mission- aries.

In many parishes, continued the arch- bishop, he had noticed a quickening of interest in spiritual things and a greater respect for worship. This was not universal, but where there was a vigorous church life there was a greater respect for worship, which so many of the present generation had lost. He knew the parish of St. Mary's could give great service to the city of New Plymouth.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

"Tonight, at the beginning of this parish festival, I bid you to look back to the men who built up the church life of this parish and be grateful to them," said His Grace. "I bid you look back to the men and women who built up Chris- tianity in New Zealand and be grateful to them; I bid you enjoy to the full all the privileges of this parish and look beyond them to the city in which you live. I bid you use these privileges to equip yourselves for service to others, to discipline your character to enable God to develop in you that attractive charac- ter that will draw others in this city to seek what you have found in your church life."

After Evensong, the archbishop met members of the congregation at a social in St. Mary's hall. He celebrated Holy Communion yesterday morning, and left New Plymouth this morning.

His visit began the annual patronal festival of St. Mary's.

BANK'S INSPECTOR-ELECT VISITS NEW PLYMOUTH

Mr. R. S. Brittain, inspector-elect of the Bank of New South Wales in New Zealand, visited New Plymouth today during a Dominion-wide tour of branches of the bank in which he is also making