

Sudden Death Ends Service To Education

Mr. P. J. H. White collapses
on bowling green.

Well known for his long association with Taranaki educational bodies and held in high regard as a business man over a long period of years, Mr. Percy James Hoyland White, governing director of White's Ltd., New Plymouth, died suddenly yesterday afternoon. He collapsed while playing in a singles match in club championships on the Fitzroy bowling green. Dr. E. F. Fookes was called but death had apparently been immediate.

Mr. White had served many years in the interests of education in New Zealand and particularly in Taranaki, having been closely associated with educational interests for 43 years. He was born at Great Grimsby, England, in 1874, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. White. He came to New Zealand at an early age and was educated at the New Plymouth Central school and the Boys' High School. Afterwards he went to Auckland for business training and experience. In 1896 Mr. White married Miss Edith Griffiths, daughter of Mr. W. Griffiths, Auckland

Joined School Committee.

On his return to New Plymouth Mr. White interested himself in school work. He became a member of the Central school committee in 1899, and was at one time its chairman. He was chosen by a large number of school committees as their nominee for a seat on the Taranaki Education Board to which he was elected in 1918 as a representative of the north ward, holding that position until 1922, the last two years as chairman.

Mr. White took a prominent part in the establishment of technical education at New Plymouth about 1903. The present college building was erected in 1906, Mr.



Mr. P. J. H. White.

White becoming a member and chairman of the Technical College board of managers. He retained that position until the college was amalgamated with the high schools about 15 years ago. He was one of the prime movers in the amalgamation proposal. Mr. White then became a member of the board of governors of the High Schools and retained his seat as Government nominee on the board until May, 1942. He was for some time chairman of the old boys' association and was chairman of the citizens' committee that organised the appeal for funds for the erection of an assembly hall at the new school to replace the building destroyed by fire.

Interest in Library.

Mr. White took a keen interest in library matters and was a member and chairman of the New Plymouth library committee. He was a member of the council of Victoria University College, Wellington. The study of New Zealand history was one of his many interests.

Mr. White began his business career at an early age, being associated almost from boyhood with his father's drapery business, which was established in 1888. In 1920 a private company was formed and Mr. White, who had succeeded his father in the business, became governing director.

Despite his responsible position in the business world and his activities for the advancement of education, Mr. White had many other business and social interests. He was a foundation member of the New Plymouth Rotary Club and a member of the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce and the Taranaki Agricultural and Pastoral Society. As a keen bowler he played for many years with the Fitzroy Bowling Club, bowling being his chief recreation.

Mr. White was one of the first presidents of the New Zealand Drapers' Federation and was a member of the Grey Institute Trust. He was associated with the Polynesian Society, being treasurer for many years. He was keenly interested in the Boy Scouts' Association and was on the advisory board, and he was associated with the affairs of the Methodist Church for many years.

Mr. White is survived by his widow and two sons and three daughters, Mr. E. H. White, New Plymouth, and Pilot Officer S. M. White and Mrs. Ray Hawkins, Lower Hutt, Mrs. A. Isdale, Opotiki, and Mrs. G. Duff, New Plymouth.