

THE LATE MR PETER HEDRICK A VETERAN BUNINYONG COUNCILLOR.

Regret was general and sincere in Ballarat and still more so in Buninyong yesterday upon the announcement of the death of Cr Peter Hedrick, of Learmonth street, Buninyong. Mr Hedrick had been a resident of the district for over 49 years, and had been prominently connected with the mining industry and several public institutions. He became seriously ill on Saturday, the 19th inst., but it was not until Sunday last that his condition became so critical as to occasion his friends anxiety. Dr Longden was called in, and found the patient to be suffering from pleurisy and bronchitis. On Monday evening a consultation was held with Dr Woinarski, and the case was pronounced to be hopeless. Thereafter Mr Hedrick gradually sank, and died at 10.30 yesterday morning, in the presence of the members of his family. The deceased gentleman was a native of the parish of Dumblane, Perthshire, Scotland, and was 62 years of age at the time of his death. He came to the colony in 1854, in the ship Lightning, which was afterwards burned to the water's edge whilst lying in Corio Bay. He settled in Geelong and entered into business with his brother John, who had arrived 16 months previously. Two years later he opened a branch of the business in Ballarat, and then another in Buninyong. This latter he purchased in 1858, and carried on for some years. In 1857 he was appointed chairman of the first road board constituted in Buninyong, and upon the district being declared a borough with six councillors he was appointed chairman. He continued in this position until 1865, when the borough was constituted a municipality under the present Act, with nine councillors, and he became its first mayor. Thence onward to his death Mr Hedrick continued to occupy a seat at the council table and thrice held office as mayor. No better tribute to his high sense of duty as a councillor and assiduity and zeal in discharging it could have been furnished than the remark of one of the councillors at the last meeting of the council, that he could not recall to mind an occasion on which Cr Hedrick had been absent from the council table when the municipal body was sitting. The deceased was one of the pioneer members of the Buninyong branch of the Independent Order of Odd-fellows, and for many years filled the position of treasurer to the lodge. He was a trustee of the Lal Lal and Mount Buninyong reserves, and a member of the Lal Lal Turf Club. For many years he was a member of the Ballarat Mining Board, where his intimate knowledge of the requirements of the mining industry enabled him to render valuable service to the district, and in February last he was elected chairman of that body. He was also an esteemed member of the Old Colonists' Association. In addition to his many other public positions, he acted as returning officer for the Grenville electorate. He was a prominent member of the Buninyong Presbyterian Church, and took an active part in promoting anything that had for its object the advancement of the district and the welfare of its inhabitants, to whom his genial and kindly disposition greatly endeared him. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow and 10 children. The remains will be interred in the Buninyong Cemetery on Thursday, at 3.30 o'clock.