

Obituary.

MR. A. H. BURBANK.

The death took place at Chinchilla, South-Western Queensland, on September 5, of Mr. Alfred Harry Burbank, Government Surveyor, of Chinchilla, in his 80th year. There was only a brief illness in hospital before the passing of this pioneer and citizen, who was a much esteemed man. The late Mr. Burbank (writes a contributor) was the second son of the late Ednott Burbank, of Spalding Banking Co., Hull (England), and was born at Emerald Hill (Vic.), being the first white child born there. Articled to J. A. Griffith, engineer, who built the Varner and Rustock railway in Turkey, at an early age of 18 years Mr. Burbank was assistant engineer to the Harrow Shire Council, under Engineer Crawley, who was the chief engineer of Victoria. Passing his examination as a Government surveyor in Victoria in 1875, he effected many surveys in that State, and in 1882 he decided to make his home in North Queensland. After spending some time in the sugar-growing industry at Mackay, he again decided to take up his former occupation, qualifying for his Queensland diploma in surveying in 1886. Here he did extensive surveys in cutting up runs in the Rockhampton, Bowen, and Mackay districts, also in the Clermont district, and on the coast. Later he was appointed Government surveyor in the Brisbane district, and laid out roads and sections in the Springbrook plateau. In 1909 he was transferred to the South-Western Queensland, with Chinchilla as headquarters, where he carried on the practice of his profession until within a few weeks of his demise. The late Mr. Burbank was the eldest practising member of the Queensland Institute of Surveyors, and one of its life members. He held a licence to survey longer than any other member—some 60 years—a record which has not been exceeded in Australia. It has been placed on record by that institute that during that long period all his work was a credit to the profession; he set a high standard for the younger men to follow. A strict sense of loyalty to the profession, and the high code of honor which were his, have always commanded the admiration of his brother surveyors. Wherever the deceased resided he took the greatest interest and a prominent part in all public affairs. He was a member of the Mackay Divisional Board (now Shire Council) between Mackay and the northern boundary, including Burbank's Inlet. Later he was elected Chairman of the Tingalpa Shire Council, holding the position for many years. For the past 12 or 14 years he had been a member of the Chinchilla Shire Council, and sat at the last meeting, held in August. He was Freemason of long standing. A record reads: "He was made a Mason at the age of 18, in a Lewis lodge, of which his father was Master, and he (the

age of 18, in a Lewis lodge, of which his father was Master, and he (the father) made his son and brother Master Masons. Mr. Burbank was the foundation president of the Chinchilla Chamber of Commerce, holding the position for a great many years. Always a great advocate for the future of the Chinchilla district, he was a most active member in the movement some years ago for the building of a most up-to-date butter factory; and he assisted greatly with regard to the establishment of the District Hospital, and was Government representative on the board, as well as being a committeeman for many years. The late Mr. Burbank, in fact, was always a keen supporter of every movement for the betterment of the town and district, and during the Great War many times lent the picturesque and spacious grounds of his pretty suburban home, "Burlo," for functions held to aid patriotic funds, both he and his wife being ideal host and hostess. A keen supporter of the Church of England, of which he was an adherent, their home gave hospitality to some of the most illustrious dignitaries of the Church, included amongst their guests being the now Archbishop of Salisbury (Eng.), then Archbishop of Brisbane; also the late Archbishop of Brisbane (Dr. Sharp), and the Primate of Australasia (the Lord Archbishop Le Fanu of Perth, W.A.). The late Mr. Burbank was a keen educationalist, a man of honor, one to whom those in trouble and distress could turn for help at all times. He was a warm friend and adviser to many young English migrants in the district, and was loved and respected by all who came under the magnetic influence of his wonderful personality, and his passing is regretted by all who were privileged to call him "friend." By his wish his body was cremated. The service at the Brisbane Crematorium took place the Saturday forenoon following his demise. The service was impressively taken by the Dean of Brisbane (Very Rev. W. E. C. Barrett), a friend of many years' standing. Besides immediate relations and friends, there were present Messrs. F. D. Fraser (Survey Office), P. Brunstall (Surveyors' Board), R. M. Browne (Real Property Office), and A. McKinnon (Institute of Surveyors).

The late Mr. Burbank is survived by his widow (nee Miss L. H. Herring), one son (Mr. H. H. Burbank, Brisbane), and Miss (Sister) Hilda Burbank, Chinchilla; three granddaughters, one brother (Mr. O. E. Burbank, Melbourne), and one sister (Mrs. R. Crooke, also of Melbourne). There are many members of the Survey Department who served under the late Mr. Burbank, who have in later years esteemed it a privilege to have had this very fine chief, often thanking him warmly for giving them such a splendid grounding in the profession, and they always deemed him their wise counsellor, mentor, and friend. Amongst these may be mentioned Major C. J. Perkins, who, at the time of his retirement, was Deputy Sur-

Major C. J. Perkins, who, at the time of his retirement, was Deputy Surveyor-General in the Federated Malay States, Lieut. W. Hamilton (now Main Roads Survey) was also one of his pupils. The late Mr. Burbank was one of the oldest Justices of the Peace in the State, and a J.P. to give consent to minors.
