

A FINE PERSONALITY PASSES

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT ERNEST ALCORN

It is hard to realise that a personality which was the very bone and sinew of Kyogle has passed hence. The death occurred at the Memorial Hospital early this morning of Mr. Robert Ernest Alcorn at the age of 62 years. He had been ailing for a considerable time, but with the indomitable spirit of the born fighter he refused to yield until finally a more serious bout sent him to bed from which he was not destined to rise.





LATE R. E. ALCORN

When the historian comes to inscribe the history of this district his dominant note will be the good citizenship of its people. The district was extremely fortunate in its early beginnings in attracting men not only of a high degree of mentality, but who were forever planning some improvement which would contribute to the betterment of the inhabitants. They were all that is connoted by the term "good citizen." And standing out among that band of earnest and indefatigable workers was the man who at six o'clock this morning received his final summons. Right since that first invasion of the district by pioneers looking for a place to pitch their tent, Robert Ernest Alcorn was in the van of every public movement. In association with some of the older generation who long since passed hence—the late William Weary and Robert Walters among others—he lent the dynamic but quiet force which was such a predominant trait of a lovable character in establishing a school at New Park and the first Progress Association. He was born to do things. A man of sparing build and moulded on small lines, his mind was constantly alert and his vision and

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constantly alert and his vigor and energy unquenchable. Kyogle was fortunate in attracting men of his type, and though he has gone hence, nothing can rob us of the fragrant memory of a long life largely given to the service of his fellowmen and a record of many good deeds well done.

The blood of the pioneer coursed through his veins. He was born at

Kangaloon, on the South Coast, where the name of Alcorn was already held in high regard. He was a son of the late Andrew Carson Alcorn, who, in 1889, disposed of his interests on the South Coast, and came to Newrybar, where he selected at a time when the Big Scrub was such in fact as well as name. That early settler was the father of the co-operative movement on the North Coast; he was instrumental in laying the foundations of Norco—one of the biggest concerns of its kind in the world—and a reminder of his activities is found in a monument erected to his memory at Byron Bay. Born in an environment of purposeful work and a constant fight against the encroaching scrub, it can well be supposed the subject of this obituary was stirred to seek fresh fields. So it came about that some 34 years ago he took up an extensive holding at Eden Creek, and here he brought his bride a year later, the two riding to their new home from

Newrybar.

When the first sale of Kyogle land

When the first sale of Kyogle land took place he was one of half a dozen purchasers; he bought the property which he named Omagh, in honor of the birthplace of his father. Here the family has resided ever since. He always had a deep and abiding faith in the future of Kyogle; he realised that the rich soil in the valleys and on the hillsides was destined to give sustenance to a big population. The first evidence of the accuracy of his judgment was with the success of the second Kyogle sale by the Victorian syndicate, when practically the whole of the estate was sold and the town established. In 1903 the late Mr. Alcorn established an auctioneering business here, and it was while in business over a period of 30 years that he came into such close and intimate contact with so many people, and it was as a business man that people had so many opportunities of appreciating the very fine character of the man. Anything shabby or shady was entirely foreign to his nature. He could no more think of wilfully doing a fellow mortal a bad turn than to commit some serious crime. His word was absolutely binding. He had many, many dealings in his lifetime; sometimes his trust was abused, sometimes he found that the assistance he was able to give was mis-placed but through it all his faith in the general goodness and probity of his fellow-men never wavered—he still believed in the beauty and worthiness of the old axiom “to do good by stealth and blush to find it fame.” Many a man in this district



A SKETCH OF DECEASED ON THE BOWLING GREEN.

had his foot placed on the ladder of success through the assistance deceased was able to give, and he himself such was the character of the man, would either forget what he had done or find ample reward in the knowledge that he had helped another mortal on his way to success.

During his life here the deceased had been closely identified with every public movement. He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Kyogle Dairy Company, and was chairman of directors after the departure of Mr J. C. Mackinnon, who first held the post, and remained chairman until the company's amalgamation with Norco. He took an active part in the movement to secure railway connection with Casino, which was realised in 1910, and was associated in an executive capacity with the agitation for railway connection with Brisbane, which was also brought to successful fruition in 1930. He was President of Kyogle Shire Council for several terms and was

one of the provisional councillors appointed in 1906, and was elected in the following year as a representative of B riding—a position he held until his retirement several years ago. On that occasion he was presented with an illuminated address in appreciation of his services. He was a most active worker in patriotic movements during the war, and was president of the War Service Committee. Among other positions he held were those of trustee of the School of Arts and Trustee of the Showground. An enthusiastic bowler, he filled the po-

enthusiastic bowler, he filled the position of President of the local club for a term. In no place will he be missed more than on the green. He was a devout Churchman, and a stalwart of the Methodist Church, of which he was one of the founders at Kyogle, a trustee and senior circuit steward since the first church was erected on the allotment since purchased by the Postal Department. He was also a director of Noreco, a post he was elected to when the amalgamation was effected.

Deceased is survived by Mrs. Alcorn and four daughters—Mesdames W. Marwick (Kyogle), and H. Dare (Bogan Gate) and Misses Winnie and Swannie Alcorn. To them the sincere sympathy of the whole district will be extended in their bereavement.

A good man has passed hence—lovable, upright and forthright. He leaves an enduring monument in much we see about us, but the best of all is the fragrance of a life spent in wholesome Christian charity and endeavour—his life was gentle; and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, This was a man!