

Death of Cr. Greenwood.

The death of Councillor Thomas Greenwood, J.P., while not altogether unexpected on account of his recent severe illness and his generally failing health, came as a shock to the community of Coburg in the suddenness with which the end came to a useful and honourable life. At the election of Mayor on Monday morning Cr. Greenwood was present and by common consent was voted to the chair during the proceedings. On Tuesday he paid a visit to Melbourne, but on Wednesday evening when the Public Works and other committees of the Coburg Council met an apology was tendered by Cr. Richards for the absence of his colleague on the ground of ill-health. It was then generally believed that he was merely suffering from a cold and that on account of his previous illness it had been deemed inadvisable for him to face the night air. Few had any idea of the serious nature of this second attack of illness and even on the Saturday Mr. Greenwood seemed to be a little improved. The end, however, as we have before stated came rapidly and taking a turn for the worse the patient sank speedily and died about half past seven on Sunday morning. The cause of death was broncho-pneumonia, at all times a most serious complaint but almost necessarily fatal in a patient of Cr. Greenwood's age and weak heart. So sudden was the end of this last brief illness that it was impossible for the whole of the family to be assembled at the bedside.

Councillor Thomas Greenwood was born near Leeds, Yorkshire in 1837, his father being engaged in the woollen manufacture. His youth was passed at Leeds and Leicester and at the age of 33 he came to Australia and for a time lived at Footscray, where he engaged in the woollen industry, being also for some time a member of the Footscray Council. Thirty-four years ago he was appointed by the Government to the position of Overseer to the woollen factory at the Pentridge Penal Establishment and for twenty-five years he filled that post, his work proving so eminently satisfactory that his services were retained for five years subsequent to his reaching the prescribed age for retirement. As an officer of the Penal Establishment he was a strict disciplinarian, while absolutely fair to those placed under his charge. On leaving the public service Mr. Greenwood had the opportunity presented of enjoying complete rest and ease for the remainder of his days, but he elected to

complete rest and ease for the remainder of his days, but he elected to devote his services to the good of the community in which he had made his home. Entering the Coburg Shire Council he speedily became known as an energetic and conscientious representative of the people at the council table, and in the discharge of his municipal duties he gained the respect, esteem and affection of his colleagues. He had the honor of being the first to fill the Mayoral office in the Borough of Coburg and only on last Monday he was again offered the honor, which he declined on the ground of failing health. He also represented the council on the committee of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fairfield and in that connection did a lot of strenuous work under the trying circumstances of an extraordinary outbreak of infectious diseases such as scarlet fever and diphtheria. Cr. Greenwood was also one of the Board of Trustees of the Coburg Cemetery and only a few days ago took a leading part in the ceremonies incidental to the laying of the foundation stone of the new office buildings at the cemetery. On that occasion he commented on the efforts of the trustees and officers to render the cemetery a beautiful resting place for the dead. No one there present could have anticipated within how short a time the speaker would himself be laid to rest in the same God's Acre.

If there was one predominant note in Thomas Greenwood's character it was his absolute "straightness." The course he felt persuaded was the best in the interests of the public he pursued regardless of its temporary unpopularity. He was always prepared to give a reason for the faith that was in him in matters municipal and while extending genuine courtesy to those whose views were opposed to his, it took the very soundest reasoning to induce him to alter his own. Unquestionably towards the last he worked when he should have rested and occupied himself with public affairs when he might and certainly should have better studied his own health and comfort. Beneath a quiet,

at times almost stern exterior there was a kindly heart, in full sympathy with hardship and suffering and one of his keenest pleasures was to do something for the benefit of those children in whose hands will rest the future of Australia. He was a sound, zealous and energetic member of the Presbyterian Church in which at his death he held the position of Elder. He

death he held the position of Elder. He was also superintendent of the Coburg Presbyterian Sunday School and honorary treasurer of the congregation. Like many born in the old country he was not one to wear his heart upon his sleeve but those who knew Cr. Greenwood best loved and respected him. His honesty and integrity were above suspicion and in his public life ~~he was never~~ ~~self~~ ~~interest.~~ When firmly convinced that he was acting for the best in the interests of the community he was somewhat intolerant of the carping criticism and incessant cavilling to which he and some of his colleagues were subjected. He was a good man, a kind and loyal friend, an exemplary citizen and one whom Coburg could ill spare even at his advanced age. In his domestic life he was a kind and affectionate husband and father and he left a widow, two sons and five daughters, all grown up and married, to mourn their loss.

Expressions of regret at Cr. Greenwood's death and tributes to his memory by the Coburg Council, the Coburg bench and the Brunswick Council are reported elsewhere.