

**DEATH OF MR. EUGENE SILVESTER.**

USEFUL CAREER CLOSED.

(By Telephone From Our Correspondent.)

COLERAINE, Sunday.

It was with profound and widespread regret that the news of the death of Mr. Eugene Silvester was received in Coleraine yesterday morning. Within the last twelve months Mr. Silvester, who had lived an active life, was beset with weakness of the heart, and whilst enjoying a recovery—unfortunately only temporary—he was seen to age perceptibly. In December he took a trip to Melbourne on business, and at the same time became an inmate of Dr. Murray's private hospital, where he received the most careful and skilful attention. Notwithstanding all that was done his complaint continued to get worse, and about a fortnight ago the alarming news came to hand that his condition was hopeless. Although his demise was therefore not unexpected its comparative suddenness and the removal of one whose activities was so closely associated and interwoven with the public life and progress of Coleraine created a sense of gloom, and at once the prevailing opinion was expressed in symbols of mourning, which marked the places of business.

Mr. Silvester was born on the 29th January, 1868, at Balmoral. He was educated at the Hamilton College, where he was a successful student under the late Mr. Wall. As a schoolboy he achieved the double distinction of being both successful and popular, and he is said to have been called by his contemporaries "Sunny face." In physical as well as mental exercises he was to the fore, and when he entered upon his studies for the legal profession it was with a mens sana in corpore sano. In equipping himself for the last stages of his course he became articled clerk to Mr. A. C. Palmer, of Hamilton.

About thirty years ago the death of Mr. Wade, solicitor, of Coleraine, gave Mr. Silvester an opening, and he took over and carried on the business subsequently known as Wade and Silvester. His practice was so successful that his services were sought for throughout this district. His ability in municipal law was recognised to such an extent that he was appointed solicitor to the shires of Wannon, Kowree, Glenelg and Portland. He also enjoyed the unbounded confidence of a wide range of private clients, but though a good lawyer, he was by nature averse from litigation if it could be avoided, and many clients who went to him with a grievance came away with a settlement amicably arrived at, without the painful and public process of the law courts. With the extension of business, Mr. Silvester found it necessary to open a branch at Casterton. This was carried on by him until his son, Grenville, was admitted to the profession, and took charge of that place. The firm then changed the title to Silvester and Silvester.

Some three years after commencing to practise at Coleraine, Mr. Silvester was united in wedlock to the third daughter of Mr. Archer, who was then manager of the Bank of Victoria at Portland, and after-

wards at Hamilton and Ballarat. As a private citizen, Mr. Silvester was most genial, hospitable, generous and popular, and his personal merit brought him into prominence in connection with every movement for the welfare of the town and district. His legal knowledge was generally and gratuitously utilised in the service of various institutions and to detail the public societies, which received the benefit of his advice, would necessitate mentioning nearly all the public organizations. He was a vestryman of Holy Trinity church, and later a church warden. Though Anglican, he was a man of liberal religious views. In his public capacity he belonged to the Wannon shire council, once as member for Balmoral riding, and once as member for the Coleraine riding. It was largely through his influence that street tree planting was entered upon. He was the first president of the progress association. The P. and A. Society appointed him one of the trustees of the new show grounds. He was a director of the Coleraine butter factory, and prominently identified with the mechanics' institute, freemasons, and other societies. In all forms of sport he had a place. He was fond of a good horse, and liked to possess a peaceful trotter. He was amongst the principal officers of the race club, though not a betting man. In golf and tennis he may fairly be described as an enthusiast, being in the earlier days among the champions of the latter game. Cricket he had also played, and football received his support.

By Mr. Silvester's death Coleraine loses a public citizen, whose place it can hardly be expected that any other one man will ever adequately fill. He was ever courteous and sociable, and in his dealings with others he was markedly unselfish. He leaves a widow, three sons—Grenville Eric and Clive—and three daughters, for all of whom the sincerest sympathy is felt. To-day at Holy Trinity church the Rev. F. H. Ingamells asked for the prayers of the congregation for the bereaved family. The rev. gentleman intends to preach a memorial service next Sunday.

The remains will be interred in the Brighton cemetery to-morrow (Monday).

In Hamilton, as well as Coleraine, the sincerest regret was expressed on all hands when the news of Mr. Silvester's death was received. He was well and popularly known here, his genial characteristics appealing to all classes with whom he came in contact. In the old days Mr. Silvester, on account of his all-round athletic abilities, was considered a "pocket Hercules," and even when he reached the more staid stage of life there was obvious evidence of stamina. The older football players will remember with almost feelings of reverence his association with the Hamilton football team, with which he went to Ballarat as captain. This was the team which had such a wonderful run of victories, laurels which have now to be regained. On this occasion the whole of the Ballarat clubs sent in to the field a representative team, but could do no better than make a

but could do no better than make a drawn game against the Hamilton players. It was considered a memorable match in many respects, but particularly because towards the end of the contest Hamilton had perforce to play two men short. He also stood out in those days as a tennis player, and every department of athletics had his strongest support. He was also one of the most prominent members of the Hamilton College Old Boys' Association, and the flag at the college on Saturday was flying at half-mast in respect for his memory.

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In a motor driving case at Ballarat on Thursday the point was raised that the Police Offences Act prescribed no right or wrong side of the road for driving, and failing a provision in the by-laws, no prosecution would lie. The case was adjourned.