

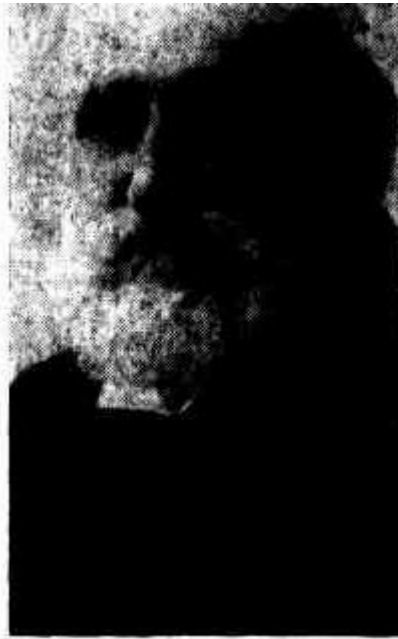
Death of Mr. Ernest Whitfield

PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZEN PASSES.

A LIFE OF MUCH ACTIVITY.

The death occurred yesterday, at his residence, 4 York-street, of Mr. Ernest Whitfield, one of the best-known of Launceston citizens, and a man whose activities have been intimately connected with the affairs of the city over a very long period of years. Mr. Whitfield who was nearly 80 years of age, had latterly been in indifferent health, which compelled his abstention from the numerous public concerns which had so become part and parcel of his life. Born in 1844 at Southport, Southern Tasmania, Mr. Whitfield was the son of the late Mr. Frederic F. Whitfield, Government medical officer of that settlement, and lived with his parents, subsequently at Richmond, and then at Longford, receiving his early education at Miss Murray's school, Christ's College, Bishopsbourne, and R. N. Hebart's school at Longford. At 19 years of age he left for New Zealand, where he followed pastoral pursuits, and nearly 10 years later returned to Tasmania to settle on the North-East Coast. During his seven years residence there he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He came to Launceston in 1886, and principally interested himself in mining. It was in 1886 that he was appointed Acting Police Magistrate and Commissioner of the Court of Requests at Launceston, a position which he held for some time until finally in 1891 he received the definite appointment of Police Magistrate and Commissioner of the Court of Requests, Launceston and Lilydale. His duties as Commissioner of the Court of Requests ended in 1899 and he was relieved from the position of magistrate in January, 1903.

These were but few of Mr. Whitfield's public activities. He will be well remembered as a man whose deep interest in the tourist business, and his active endeavour as chairman of committee and treasurer of the tourist association, did such a great deal to develop this lucrative Tasmanian asset. He was for many years chairman and member of the Launceston Court of General Sessions; was chairman of committee of the City and Suburban Improvement Association; a member of the Board of Advice under the Income Tax Act, and for some time held the position of returning officer for North Launceston. There are many who will remember and appreciate Mr. Whitfield's enthusiastic work on behalf of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute, in recognition of which he had been made a life member. As president and in other offices he contributed liberally in time and effort towards the development of this valuable institution. Mr. Whitfield was a coroner for Tasmania, and for



a very long period of years a member of the Licensing Bench. He was special juror at the International Exhibition in Launceston in 1882, and he held the position of returning officer for the district of Selby, for which also he was Census Enumerator. Appointed a member of the Public Works Commission in 1904, he was elected to the chairmanship of that body, and was also a member of the Royal Commission on Education which was appointed in 1907. He played his part as returning officer in connection with both federal and state elections.

There was hardly a local institution having for its objective the welfare of the city with which Mr. Whitfield was not associated. For a considerable time treasurer of the Literary and Musical Competitions, he was naturally prominent in the early development of the association, and amongst the numerous other offices he held was that of trustee to the Launceston Church Grammar School. Mr. Whitfield was intimately identified with St. John's Church, having been treasurer and warden for a considerable number of years, and for many years a lay reader of the Church of England. He was treasurer of the Church of England Burial Board, and generally a most active worker in the cause of the church. As a member of the District Nursing Association he gave much time to this charitable work; it may in fact be said of him that no call for endeavour in the sphere of public utility and benefit went unheeded. Mr. Whitfield took a great interest in history, and contributed very largely by lectures and articles to the knowledge of Tasmania's early experiences, particularly development in and around Launceston and on the Tamar. He wrote, also, much of the state's church history, and many brief sketches of the pioneer clergymen. A great lover of horticulture, he was an office-bearer of the Horticultural Society, present members of the committee of which will greatly regret his death.

Thus has passed a citizen of broad outlook and public-spiritedness. He made Launceston his home and his concern, and has left the imprint of his earnest, con-



Launceston his home and his concern, and has left the imprint of his earnest, conscientious, and constant endeavour on many institutions of which the city today may be justly proud. Married in 1884 to Miss Dunning, of Launceston, Mr. Whitfeld leaves a widow and two children—Miss Mary Whitfeld and Mr. Rupert Whitfeld, of the Union W.S. Company's Melbourne office staff. The remains will be interred at Carr Villa this afternoon, the funeral leaving 4 York-street at 3 o'clock. A short service will be held at St. John's Church at 3.30.