

## Death Of Mr James Kessey

As briefly stated in our last issue Mr. James Kessey, who collapsed at the Palais Royal on Thursday of last week was taken to the Bourke Hospital, where it was found he had burst a blood vessel and small hopes were held for his recovery. He passed away at 4.50 p.m. on Monday afternoon, at the age of 89 years.

The late Mr. Kessey spent the greatest part of his life in the Bathurst district. He was for a number of years connected with an auctioneering firm that did good business in and around Bathurst at such places as Rockley, Rydal, Oberon and Mt. David. He built and conducted an hotel at Mt. David for a time, and owned considerable property at the above places mentioned when he came to Bourke.

The deceased and his wife came to Bourke 26 years ago. This was not his first visit to this town as he visited here on the historic occasion of the opening of the Railway. A week after coming to town he purchased the Union Hotel which he conducted for about 12 months. He then purchased the Oxford Hotel, and conducted same for a good many years. That was when the building was a two-storey structure. This he sold to Toohey's Ltd., and again entered private life. Disposing of his properties in the Bathurst district, he purchased quite a number of properties in Bourke, and was one of the largest ratepayers in town.

He took a keen interest in Municipal affairs and was an Alderman of the Bourke Council for twelve years, occupying the Mayoral chair

years, occupying the Mayoral chair for nine years. It was whilst he was Mayor that he achieved one of the most successful undertakings that this town has secured, viz., the electric light. He was instrumental in the town getting this modern facility.

Deceased went on a world tour whilst Mayor, and was given the privilege of travelling as Mayor of Bourke and carried a letter of introduction from the Premier of N.S.W. He was received by Lord Mayors in every city visited. He interviewed De Valera in Ireland. Interesting letters, giving full accounts of his travels, appeared in this paper at the time.

He was a great follower of the Labor movement, and took an active part in League matters wherever residing.

Deceased played cricket against Noble's team of internationals, and also played in first grade football.

He was a great sport, and played bowls right up to a few days before his death.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and proceeded from the Catholic Church to the Cemetery; Father Maher conducting the last sad rites at the graveside.

As a token of esteem for their departed member the bowlers marched at the funeral, and the following acted as pall-bearers: Messrs J. Duggan, J. Jackson, R. Davis and J. Green.

Deceased leaves a wife and a grown-up family of nine children, viz.: Mrs. H. J. Martin (Woollongong), Mrs. W. Grady (Melbourne), Mrs. Hay (Sydney), Mrs. L. Dugan (Bourke), Joseph, John, Halvar, Harold and Hilton. He also leaves 28 grand-children and 7 great-grand-children.

Also one sister, Mrs. Pender.

Also one sister, Mrs. Pender, survives him.

We join with the large circle of friends of the deceased in extending our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife and family in the sad loss they have sustained.