

# LATE MR. JAMES SPICER

## PASSING OF DORSET WORTHY.

### DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

#### A FAMOUS FLOCK-MASTER.

Death has removed in Mr. James Spicer, of Bovington Farm, Bovington Camp, a splendid type of old yeoman who faithfully served his day and generation. A widely-known agriculturist, and one of the oldest justices of the peace for the County of Dorset, his keen interest in public affairs had extended over half a century. Mr. Spicer died on Sunday from pneumonia, which developed following an accident in which he was knocked down by a bicycle. He was aged 82.

Mr. Spicer, who was the only surviving son of the late Mr. William Spicer, had been engaged in farming the whole of his life, and his splendid constitution enabled him to take an active part in his business up till the last. First he had a farm at Tincleton on the Clyffe Estate, and then on the death of his father, who was at Bovington Farm from 1858 to 1888, he succeeded him, so that there has been a continuous family association with that particular farm for 76 years. Mr. Spicer had a reputation second to none for good husbandry, and he was in the front rank as a flockmaster. His registered flock of Dorset Down sheep was one of the finest of its kind in the county, and he did everything possible to encourage the breeding of this type. As a member of the Dorset Down Sheep Breeders' Association he had rendered invaluable service, and in latter years had acted as a judge.

For many years Chairman of the old Winfrith Farmers' Club, it was very seldom that he missed any of the Club's meetings. He had represented the Club on the Central Chamber of Agriculture. When the Farmers' Clubs gave place to the Dorset Farmers' Union he became an active member of that organisation.

#### 40 YEARS A GUARDIAN.

For over 40 years he took the greatest interest in his work as a member of the Board of Guardians, and was no less enthusiastic in that of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council. He became a member of the latter body in January, 1895, and succeeded the late Mr. George Young as chairman in 1911, and for some 15 years carried out the duties associated with the office with conspicuous ability. His resignation, owing to indifferent health, in April, 1926, was accepted with sincere regret, the Clerk being requested to convey him an intimation to that effect, coupled with thanks for his very valuable services. He continued a member, however, until quite recently, when, not seeking reelection, his seat was taken by his son-in-law, Mr. C. E. Hyde.

From 1904 until a year or two ago he was the representative of the Winfrith electoral division on the Dorset County Council, and while having the interests of the whole county at heart, he was zealous in his support of anything that was of benefit to the great industry of which he was such a splendid example. On his retirement here, also, he was succeeded by Mr. Hyde.

In 1924 Mr. Spicer qualified as a Justice of the Peace at the Dorset Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, and he had since adjudicated on the Wareham Bench. A devoted Churchman, he had acted as churchwarden for over 20 years. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council, and a governor of the Wool Church of England Schools. When Bovington Camp became active, Mr. Spicer also served on the Board of Managers at the Bovington Council School.

CRICKET AND HUNTING.  
In his younger days he was captain of the Tincleton Cricket Club. He was one of the oldest members of the South Dorset Conservative and Unionist Association. At one time he was a keen follower of hounds, often being out with the South Dorset Pack when the Master was Mr. Harry Frampton, the then owner of the Alceston Estate, in which Bovington Farm is situated. By his geniality he was held in high esteem at Wool, and he was the popular president of the Reading and Recreation Club.

Mr. Spicer married Miss Lucy Mary Scott, daughter of the late Mr. William Scott, farmer, of Bere Regis, and they celebrated their golden wedding in 1929. Deep sympathy has been extended to Mrs. Spicer and to the six surviving children—four daughters and two sons. The eldest son is Mr. W. S. Spicer, of Dorchester.

#### THE FUNERAL.

The little village church at Wool was filled with mourners on Wednesday, when the funeral took place. Men and women representing every phase of public and social life gathered to pay their last respects, and long before the appointed hour, sympathisers gathered at the Parish Church.

Members of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council included Major Van de Weyer, Mr. H. R. Jesty, Mr. Thos. Hooper, Mr. H. W. Sargeant, Mr. H. R. F. Frampton, Major T. D. Murray, Mr. Lionel Ward (Clerk to the Council), and Mr. Willis (rating and valuation officer).

The Chairman of the Rural District Council (Major M. Holland Swann) and Mr. F. G. A. Lane were among the members who were prevented from being present.

Representatives of the agricultural community included Mrs. Morris, Mr. W. Lock, Mr. Tadman, Mr. J. Sturmer, Mr. A. Dorey, Mr. J. H. Nichols, Messrs. Keith-Hooper, senr. and junr., Mr. E. B. Duke, Mr. J. A. Travers, Mr. S. Wellings, Mr. J. A. Downe, Mr. Butt, Mr. Christopher Hill, Mr. Fred Hounsell, Mr. W. Bedford, Mr. W. Stratton, and Mr. Ben Goodman.

The Military were represented by Brigadier C. A. Bolton C.B.E., commanding the Royal Tank Corps Centre, Bovington Camp, Colonel Hulton, D.S.O. (Colonel on the Staff). An officer from the Depot the Royal Tank Corps also represented that Unit.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Dufall represented the Wool Church of England Schools, and Mr. E. G. Walkling (headmaster) the Bovington Council Schools. The Reading and Recreation Club was represented by Messrs. W. Langford and E. R. Cox. The British Legion was represented by Lieut. E. Cusack, R.N. (hon. secretary).

Among many others present were Mr. Dominay, Mr. B. Godwin, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Gatland, and Mr. R. Slade (Southern Railway), Mrs. A. Whiting (women's section British Legion and Wool Conservative Association), Mr. A. H. Barnes (Liberal Association), Messrs. G. Hodges, W. Bugg (senr. and junr.), G. Thomas, Patience, and Matthews (retired servants), Mrs. E. S. Tarrant, and Mrs. Mitchell.

The family mourners were:—Mrs. J. Spicer (widow), Mr. W. Spicer (son), Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hyde (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Drew (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. White (daughter) and Mr. Bailey, Mr. J. Scott (brother-in-law), Mrs. Alner and Miss Boyt (sister and niece), Masters Humphrey, Geoffrey, and John Drew (grandsons), Mr. James Spicer, junr. (grandson), Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Dowle (cousins), Mr. Kenneth Mitchell, and Miss Eva Leak.

#### EMPLOYEES AS BEARERS.

The service was conducted by the Rev. E. S. Tarrant (vicar), assisted by Colonel the Rev. C. Henslett, B.A.R.A.Ch.D. chaplain to the Royal Tank Corps Centre. Mrs. George Hodges, junr., was at the organ. The Lesson, from the Book of Revelation, was read by the Garrison Chaplain. The hymn sung was an old favourite of Mr. Spicer, "Lead, Kindly Light." As the body was borne from the church the organist played "I know that my Redeemer Liveth" (Handel).

The bearers were all employees from the farm. The coffin was of polished elm, with brass furniture, and bore the inscription: "James Spicer, died 3rd September, 1934. Aged 82 years."

There were a large number of floral tributes, among which were tokens from the Managers Bovington Council Schools; the staff and scholars Bovington Council Schools; employees at Bovington Farm; Bovington Garrison Church; Wool Parochial Church Council; and the Committee and members of the Wool Reading and Recreation Club.

The flag on the church tower flew at half-mast throughout the day.