

LATE MR. J. HALL J.P.

Death in Monte Carlo.

MAGNIFICENT CAREER.

DEVOTION TO BUSINESS AND CHURCH



Mr. John Hall, J.P., of Ball Haye Hall, Leek, a director of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall, Ltd., silk manufacturers, died in Monte Carlo on Sunday, at the age of ninety.

By his passing there has come to an end a life that has been fully employed in the advancement of the town's industry, in the development of education, and in the welfare of Wesleyan Methodism and social services generally. No man's life could have been more usefully given to lasting service, and his memory will long be cherished and revered by those who knew to the full the extent and worth of all that he has accomplished. We sincerely associate ourselves with the feeling of regret and sympathy that swept over Leek when the news of his death was received on Monday morning.

His Last Journey.

He had gone to France in February untroubled by the claims of advancing years. In January he celebrated his ninetieth birthday, and as a nonagenarian continued in active employment in his business. We remember him writing for us at the time a vigorous article upon Technical Education. Death could not have been further from his thoughts. His unswerving zeal and boundless energy was certainly shown in his undertaking that last of his many journeys abroad. Unfortunately it has led to an end, and the town mourns the loss of a Grand Old Man.

Successful Career Commenced.

The son of Mr. Thomas Alexandra Hall, an Ixstone farmer, and the brother of Mrs. Tutton of Westfields, Leek, who died a fortnight ago at the age of 86, he came to Leek after being educated at Cheddle and Ixstone, at the age of 14, to be apprenticed to the firm of Messrs. J. and J.

Visit from Royalty.

In 1895 Mr. Hall had the honour of conducting the Duchess of Teck over some of the departments in the mill, when a loom was arranged for the weaving of silk ribbon, elaborately designed, containing a copy of the duchess's autograph, monogram, and coronet.

On July 28th, 1909, the mills were again visited by royalty, this time by the present King and Queen (then Duke and Duchess of York) who came to Leek and laid the foundation stone of the Carr Gymnasium, and, while here, they were conducted over the different departments of the mills by Mr. Hall and the late Sir Arthur Nicholson, and on that occasion a loom was arranged for the weaving of ribbons, on which appeared the portraits of the Royal visitors. In 1913 the firm were honoured by a second visit by their Majesties the King and Queen.

Mr. Hall, notwithstanding the claims of expanding business, made upon him, devoted time to the public and social life of the town, and, as far as he was able, gave freely to the furtherance of institutions and interests in which he was interested.

An Earnest Wesleyan.

He was, like his father, an earnest Wesleyan. He attended Brunswick Church, and was a generous supporter and contributor to the various church movements. In 1873 he became Superintendent of the West Street Sunday School, a position which he held continuously to the time of his death. During that long period he always took deep interest in the welfare of children and young people, many thousands having received instruction from him, and what they owe to him is evidenced by the regard entertained for him.

Mr. Hall has devoted himself wholeheartedly to the furtherance of the work of his church, which he has represented at Conferences, and served in most of the offices open to a layman.

In 1874 he established the present day school at West Street. It was a mixed school, and the first of its kind in the town, and the attendance increased so rapidly that extensions soon became necessary, towards the cost of which considerable sums of money were raised. All along he kept a fatherly eye, and, where possible, a guiding hand, on the various branches of work in connection with his church. He had a lot to do with the erection of a number of chapels and schools in the Leek Circuit, and sixteen years ago presented the Wesleyan Institute at a cost of £2,000.

Many Appointments.

On the resignation of the late Mr. John Robinson, Mr. Hall was appointed chairman of the School of Art, and shortly afterwards the Leek Urban District Council asked him to take in hand the formation of a Technical School for the town, and it was mainly through his efforts that this was established. He knew something of the Continental schools and their methods, and subsequently visited and inspected the Technical Schools in Berlin, Leipzig, Chemnitz, Dresden, Munich and other places. The last of the new schools erected at Leek, with ample provision for a High School, which still exists, and he had been chairman of both since they were opened, as well as of the new Council School.

Founder of "Marie Hall Home."

For some years Mr. Hall was Chairman of Directors of a Wesleyan College at Condon which, after it was closed, he pur-

He was a prominent member and President of the Literary and Debating Society, which was in existence in Leek many years ago.

An excellent conversationalist and speaker, Mr. Hall's services have always been much sought after, and he had acted as chairman or speaker at numerous functions of all kinds. An abstemious and non-smoker practically all his life, he considered this had contributed to his longevity.

Extensive Traveller.

Mr. Hall had travelled extensively, having visited most countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, parts of Asia Minor, Smyrna, Spitzbergen, Madeira, etc., and of course, the United States and Canada. He had had a wide experience of men and things.

He had been a widower twenty-six years. Many of the older residents will remember the late Mrs. Hall was an active personality in a long list of philanthropic movements in Leek and district, not only in connection with the Wesleyan Commission, with which the Hall family are so prominently identified, but also for the general welfare of the town; and her generous hand was sorely missed by many dwellers on the Green and in other less favoured parts of the town. Her loss to the Wesleyan body was well-nigh irreparable.

For some years she was leader of a Society class, where her kindly counsels and wisely exercised influence were productive of greatest good; whilst she had few equals in earlier years as a Sunday-school teacher, a work to which she brought unbounded enthusiasm and the treasures of an unusually wide experience. First at Ball Haye Street Sunday-school, and later at West Street, she was an untiring worker, and an almost untold power for good in the wide sphere open to the Sunday-school worker. She was a liberal supporter of all the various departments of Christian work connected with Wesleyanism, the Zenana Mission and ladies' sewing meeting having her warmest sympathies, and many gatherings on their behalf have taken place at Ball Haye Hall. The great Boys' Home conducted by Dr. Stephenson, and to which Wesleyan Methodism contributed so largely, was also amongst her cherished schemes, and she not only liberally assisted its funds herself, but as a collector aroused a wide interest in the work and obtained much support for it from others.

In November, 1922, Mr. Hall presided at the unveiling of the memorial on Ball Haye Green, erected to perpetuate the memory of the men belonging to the Green who fell in the Great War. He made a touching reference to the object, and showed his practical sympathy by giving a very liberal subscription.

An Active Man.

Although so advanced in years, Mr. Hall was at the mill regularly, and carried out public duties as far as he was able, and up to a few months ago could be seen in the street active in gait and rearing energy that was astonishing in a man of his years.

Magistrates' Sympathy.

At the Leek Petty Sessions on Wednesday Mr. W. Bassett, who presided, made a reference to the death of Mr. John Hall, and in the progress of the court he said they were all no doubt aware that since the last meeting of the court one of their colleagues had passed away. Mr. Hall was appointed a J.P. in 1894, so that at the time of his death he was not only the oldest member of that Bench, but the oldest member of the Leek Petty Sessions Division. For many years Mr. Hall, owing no doubt, to his growing age, had taken

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an Ipswich farmer, and the brother of
Mrs. Tatten, of Westfields, Leek, who died
a fortnight ago at the age of 86, he came
to Leek after being educated at Cheddle
and Ipswich, at the age of 14, to be ap-
prenticed to the firm of Messrs. J. and J.
Brough and Co., sewing silk manufactur-
ers. At that time there were three bro-
thers conducting the business, and they
had a warehouse in Union Street. Mr.
Hall studied his work thoroughly, and
eventually travelled for the firm, meeting
with a marked success that was to accom-
pany most of his undertakings in later life.
He detected the possibilities of developing
the silk trade in Leek, and urged his em-
ployers to branch out in the manufacture
of other than sewing silk goods. A com-
mitment to the value of his abilities was
the adoption of his ideas, and progress fol-
lowed so rapidly that he became too valu-
able an adjunct to Messrs. Brough and
Co., and was called inside to superintend the
new departures.

A Partnership.

About sixty years ago he became a part-
ner, and largely due to his untiring and
systematic work, business expanded and
new premises were acquired.

Mainly under his supervision, new cot-
tages were created for the workpeople.

The Silk Mills at Cheddle were pur-
chased, and a new mill, planned and de-
signed by Mr. Hall, was built, finding em-
ployment for over three hundred persons.
Mr. Hall designed the new mill in Ash-
bourne Road; entirely planned the exten-
sions and dwellings owned by the firm, and
he also planned and designed the exten-
sion of the new mill at Cheddle.

He became a director of the firm in
1876, when it was formed into a limited
company, and, along with his colleagues,
was untiring in his efforts to carry the
firm to a higher pinnacle of success. About
this time, trade was opened up in London,
which extended so rapidly that a ware-
house became necessary, and extensions
carried out later.

The progress of the firm was phenom-
enal. At the outset they employed from
sixty to seventy hands, but so extensive
had the firm's connections become that the
number of employees grew apace, and to-
day, something like three thousand are now
in their employ at Leek, Cheddle and Lon-
don.

Many Appointments.

On the resignation of the late Mr. John
Robinson, Mr. Hall was appointed chair-
man of the School of Art, and shortly
afterwards the Leek Urban District Coun-
cil asked him to take in hand the forma-
tion of a Technical School for the town,
and it was mainly through his efforts that
this was established. He knew something
of the Continental schools and their
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spected the Technical Schools in Berlin,
Leipzig, Chemnitz, Dresden, Munich and
other places. The two buildings were
erected at Leek, with ample provision for
a High School, which still exists, and he
had been chairman of both since they were
opened, as well as of the new Council
School.

Founder of "Marie Hall Home."

For some years Mr. Hall was Chairman
of Directors of a Wesleyan College at Con-
gleton, which, after it was closed, he pur-
chased, with the extensive grounds. He
had the place remodelled and very largely
extended for use as a home for poor boys.
It is now known as the National Children's
Home. There is accommodation for 170
boys, residence for the Governor and
family, and fourteen Sisters. It was desig-
nated "The Marie Hall Home," and dedi-
cated to Mr. Hall's late wife, who always
took a deep interest in the welfare of poor
children. Though mainly supported by
Wesleyans, it is conducted on undenom-
inational lines. On the board at the en-
trance to the Home appears the words
"Need not Creed." Mr. Hall expended
over £20,000 on this excellent charity.

As a mark of high appreciation for this
splendid work, he received the following
letter from the Wesleyan Methodist Con-
ference, sitting at Middlesbrough in July,
1921:—"Dear Mr. Hall,—We have much
pleasure in sending you the following res-
olution, which was heartily and unani-
mously adopted in the Representative Ses-
sion:—

"The Conference expresses its grateful
appreciation of the gift by Mr. John Hall,
of the Congleton Branch to the National
Children's Home and Orphanage. We re-
joice in your generous help to a cause
which is so precious to us all, and feel con-
fident that it will give you growing satis-
faction.—Believe us, dear Mr. Hall, yours
sincerely, J. Alfred Sharp (President),
John E. Wakerley (Secretary)."

Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Hall was appointed a Justice of the
Peace thirty-six years ago, and for long
took a keen interest in magisterial work.

A matter that always made a stirring
appeal to Mr. Hall was the subject of Edu-
cation, and in furtherance of this he spared
no effort and gave liberally. He had been
chairman of the Leek Higher Education
Committee for a considerable time, and,
when he was able, made a point of attend-
ing Speech Days in connection with Leek
High School, and frequently presided on
those occasions.

(Continued at top of next column.)

very liberal subscription.

An Active Man.

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was at the mill regularly, and carried out
public duties as far as he was able, and up
to a few months ago could be seen in the
street active in gait and revealing energy
that was astonishing in a man of his years.

Magistrates' Sympathy.

At the Leek Petty Sessions on Wednes-
day Mr. W. Harnall, who presided, made a
reference to the death of Mr. John Hall,
and to the business of the court. He said
they were all so much aware that even
the last meeting of the court one of their
colleagues had passed away. Mr. Hall
was appointed a J.P. in 1891, so that at
the time of his death he was not only the
oldest member of that Bench, but the
oldest member of the Leek Petty Sessions
Division. For many years Mr. Hall, owing
no doubt, to his growing age, had taken
little part in the work of the court, but in
years gone by he not only was a frequent
attender, but took a great interest in the
work of the Court.

Mr. Hall was also a great asset to Leek.
He was a man of extraordinary human
ability, and there was not the least doubt
that his work helped to build up that great
enterprise, Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and
Hall, which has employed hundreds of
Leek men and women and has been a great
benefit to the town.

In many other directions, Mr. Hall, in
spite of his age, took a prominent part in
religious and philanthropic work of the
district, and was a great advocate and
supporter of the spread of education
amongst the people, taking the greatest
interest in primary and secondary educa-
tion, not only in Leek but in other parts
of the country.

Mr. Hall had lived a long and useful
life, and he expressed, not only on behalf
of the Bench but of all associated with
that Court, their deep regret at the loss
of a colleague and their sympathy with the
members of the family and of the firm,
and all those who had been associated with
him in his work.

Those present in Court stood in silence
as a mark of respect.

THE FUNERAL.

An announcement of the funeral
arrangements will appear on page 8.

Mrs. Lewis expressed her thanks for the
gift of the lamp, saying she had antici-
pated electricity in Longsdon for the last
twenty years.

The toast to the visitors was presented
by Councillor V. C. P. Cowlshaw.

In response, Mr. Albert Cook said it
seemed strange Longsdon had not had
very many public services. He felt sure
the Leek U.D.C. would do their best for
the consumers of electricity in maintaining
a cheap and efficient supply. He congrat-
ulated the Lighting Committee on the inno-
vation.

The Rev. A. E. Hurst, also replying,
said the new supply would lighten his task
on Sunday, for he had hitherto been ac-
customed to running about the church, turn-
ing out lights after service.

Councillor Swindells, in giving the toast
to the contractors, Messrs. Crompton,
Parkinson, Ltd. and Metropolitan Vickers
Ltd., expressed in eulogistic terms their
appreciation of the work that had been
done. They had added lustre to their re-
putation by giving their best to Longsdon.

Mr. E. W. Walker, of Messrs. Crompton,
Parkinson, Ltd., replying, said there
was no possible reason to fear the use of
electricity. The Home Office stipulated cer-
tain rules which ensured absolute safety,
and contractors were bound to conform to
them.

He thanked Mr. Tulloch for his kind
associates in this and in previous works.
He had always been willing to help them
to the best of his ability.

Colonel Worthington said, in conclusion,
that he hoped this, the first direct mat-
terial link between Leek and Longsdon,
would lead to a closer cementing of the
connection in future.



THE "MARIE HALL" HOME.

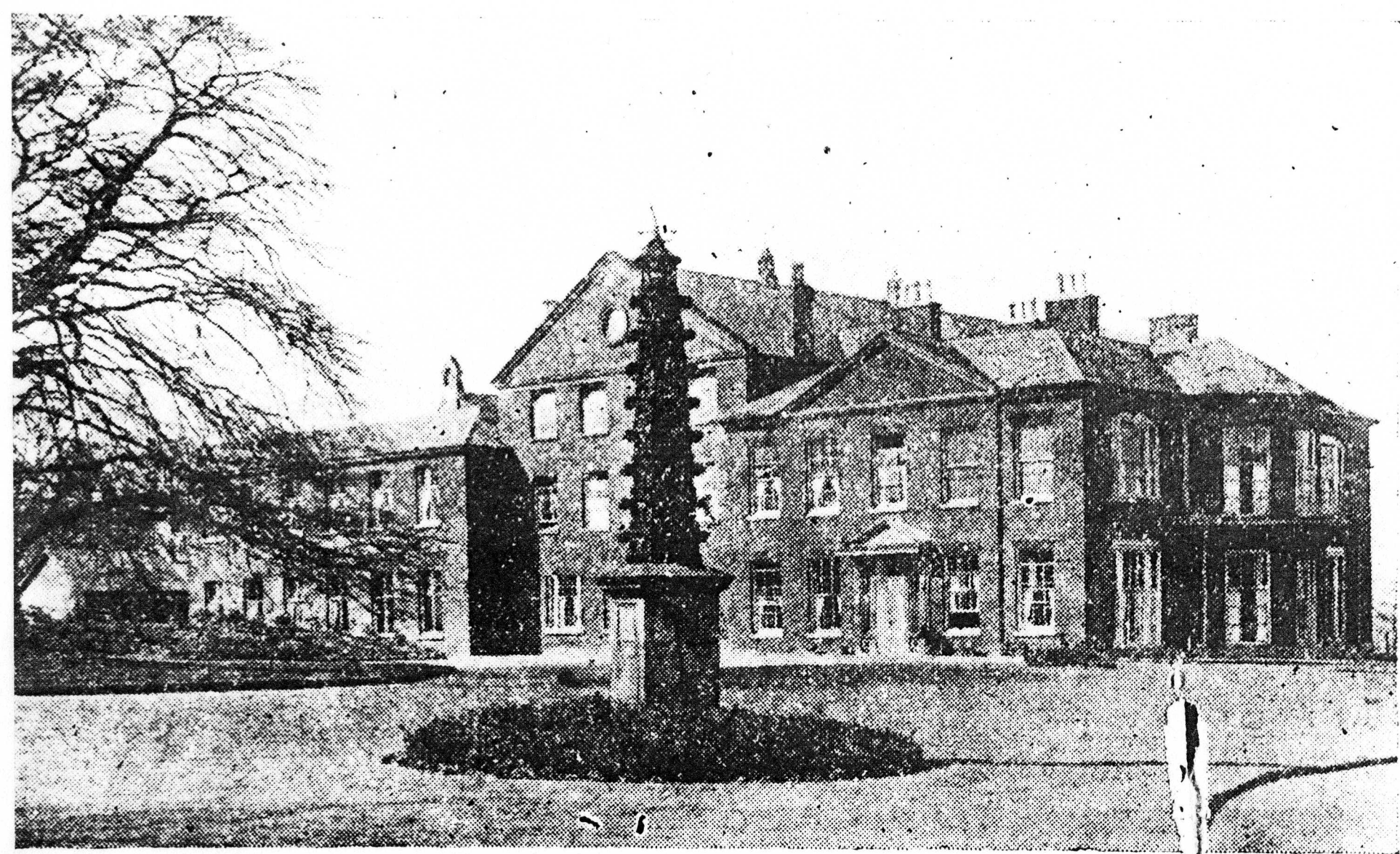




Mr. John Hall, J.P. of Ball Have Hall,



THE "MARIE HALL" HOME.



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