

(5) John Alexander Ewen.

Born; 1828

Died; 1903



Otago Daily Times

1903

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28,

mittee consist of Messrs Annand, Simpson, Hancock, and Dr Coughtrey, and that Mr Hancock take the place of Mr Gore, being defeated. Messrs Hancock, Haslett, Glendinning, and Dr Coughtrey were appointed a Finance Committee; the chairman being appointed a member of all committees.

DEATH OF MR J. A. EWEN.

A cablegram was received yesterday by Messrs Sargood, Son, and Ewen notifying the death on Monday of Mr John Alexander Ewen, a well-known partner of the firm. The news was unexpected, as it was not known that Mr Ewen was suffering from illness.

Mr J. A. Ewen was born at Halkerton, in the parish of Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire, Scotland. He was the second son of the late Mr David Ewen, a man of sterling character and no mean ability, to whose good example, coupled with that of his mother, Mr Ewen had never been slow to acknowledge his indebtedness for much of the success which followed him throughout his business career. After receiving a sound rudimentary education at the parish school of Laurencekirk, young Ewen was apprenticed to an energetic draper at Montrose, and shortly afterwards secured an appointment with a drapery house at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Here his progress was rapid, and he was appointed buyer of a department, but being of an enterprising turn of mind he decided to visit Australia. Landing in Melbourne in October, 1852, he was engaged by Mr Frederick James Sargood, who had already developed an important business. He was shortly appointed Victorian representative of the firm, a most arduous position, but the young Scotchman proved himself equal to the task, and became a most successful and trusted representative of the house. At one time he seriously entertained the idea of entering upon sheep-farming upon his own account. When, however, he made his intention known to the firm, they would not hear of his leaving, but made a counter proposal that if he would undertake to establish a branch house in New Zealand he would be made a partner. This offer Mr Ewen accepted, and in 1855 he was admitted a partner. He at once came to Dunedin, where it was decided to open, and here he laid the foundation of the now important New Zealand business, with its eight branches throughout the colony. In 1855 Mr King, partner in the firm of Sargood, King, and Sargood, retired, and the style of Sargood, Son, and Ewen was adopted for the New Zealand business. Three years later it was arranged that Mr Ewen should take a holiday in London, but the senior partner's health failed, and he subsequently died. Mr Ewen then removed to London, and took over the responsible supervision of the general business of the firm in the great metropolis. At the time of his death Mr Ewen was a partner with the late Sir Frederick Sargood throughout all the partnerships of the house, and he had other substantial interests as well. He was one of the directors of the Bank of New Zealand and one of the London directors of the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand. Outside of business life Mr Ewen, who was a justice of the peace for the County of Middlesex, had always taken an active interest in politics, and had filled the president's chair of the Enfield Liberal Association. He was also a member of the committee of the Congregational Union and a consistent supporter of other good and noble causes. He always took an active interest in everything connected with New Zealand, and was ever ready to assist with his time and services in acclimatisation and other matters. He has paid more than one visit to the colony since he took up his residence in England. He leaves a widow and two sons and two daughters.

ING CHAMPIONSHIPS