

LATE MR. P. S. PHILLIPS

Monmouthshire Steel Magnate Passes Away.

Many of the older members of the iron and tinsmith trades of South Wales and Monmouthshire will regret to learn of the death, which took place on Tuesday afternoon at Trynygraig, near Bulth Wells, of Mr. Philip, Samuel Phillips, who for nearly half a century was a prominent figure in the staple trades of Monmouthshire. At various times, whilst living at Crumlin Hall, he was the proprietor of the Pontymister Iron and Steel Works, Nantglo Tinsmith Works, Blaens Tinsmith Works, Aberdillery Tinsmith Works, and the Waterloo (Mason) Tinsmith Works. In fact, he was regarded as the leading maker in the whole of the western division of South Wales.

Mr. Phillips, who was 73 years of age, gave up his great industrial concerns one by one to other proprietors, and went some twelve years ago or so to live in retirement at Trynygraig, near Bulth Wells, with his wife and some of the younger members of his family. He became seriously ill about a fortnight ago, and passed away on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased gentleman was a Midlander, and, following the example of a number of other Staffordshire men, emigrated something over 30 years ago to Monmouthshire to engage in the local industries. Mr. Phillips went to Monmouthshire to assist his brother-in-law the late Mr. David W. Johnson, who was the owner of the Aberdillery Tinsmith Works.

Some years later Mr. Phillips took the Aberdillery Works on his own account, and from that period began to spread out his operations till they were in nearly all the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire. He purchased Crumlin Hall from the late Mr. Martin Kennell who owned Crumlin Ironworks and built the famous residence, as original founder. But Mr. Phillips greatly enlarged it, and brought up a considerable family there.

He was a man of affairs in the best and wisest sense. Along with his good commercial capacity he had leanings towards sports and recreation of a useful kind. He was very fond of cricket, and encouraged it in many ways. The Volunteer movement found in him a good friend and supporter. Along with the late Colonel Charles Lyne, he was one of the promoters in Monmouthshire of the Volunteer Militia. Colonel Lyne took the command, and Mr. Phillips and Mr. Williams, of Maesodid, were the chief officers in the ranks. He was a justice of the peace for Monmouthshire, and man of the South Wales Colliery Company, and chairman of the Welsh Sheep Shearing Machine Company.

The deceased gentleman's family consisted of six sons and four daughters. Of the sons none of them took to the business which their father was so successful in. They became known as keen sportsmen both in Monmouthshire and further afield. The eldest is Mr. Cecil Phillips. Mr. F. A. Phillips was well known as an Oxford and Somerset county cricketer. Three of his others, Mr. Clive Phillips, Mr. Gerald Phillips, and Mr. Edmund Phillips still survive. The other, Mr. Lindsey Phillips, died a few years ago in Nigeria. Two of them are in India, one is in the Navy, one is farming in Cardiganshire, and one is at home at Bulth. Of the four daughters, one is married, living at home.

The interment takes place at Maestymyr, near Bulth Wells, on Friday afternoon.