

15 MAY 1921

IMPRESSIVE AND UNPRECEDENTED SCENES AT PORT SUNLIGHT.

Route Lined by Sorrowing Crowds.

WONDERFUL CARPET OF WHITE WREATHS.

Port Sunlight on Monday witnessed memorable scenes which deeply stirred all hearts.

Its creator, Viscount Leverhulme, was buried in the centre of his greatest labour with that solemnity and reverence which English people love.

All approaches were lined by schoolchildren, Scouts, and members of various organizations and civic services, and the great works were closed for the day to enable 7,000 workpeople to mourn their late leader.

The church service was perforce confined to ticket-holders only, personal friends, civic, industrial, and social representatives, and the majority of the employees attending at the burial ground.

Two hundred and fifty passengers travelled by the special train which left Euston at 9.25 in the morning for those attending the funeral, these including a number of distinguished personages who desired to pay their last respects.

Wreaths were received from two hundred associated companies in various parts of the world, and a special wreath was received from the King of the Belgians.

In the beautiful village of Port Sunlight, the effective translation of his conception of life, rich in foliage and awakened to the glory of Spring, the body of the late Viscount Leverhulme was placed in its last resting place, on Monday, amidst remarkable manifestations of respect and admiration.

Here, in the centre of the greatest achievement of his various activities, in the family vault at Christ Church, consecrated nearly 12 years ago by the interment of Lady Lever, the simple service of committal was witnessed by many thousands of people of all ages and stations, and there were numerous pathetic incidents.

The village has been a place of mourning since the arrival of the body from Hampstead Heath on Saturday evening, and on Sunday the seven hours set apart for the workpeople to pay their tribute to the memory of their beloved Chairman had to be extended.

Even with these additional facilities there were many disappointed, for they had travelled to Port Sunlight from far and near. Every available form of transport had been chartered, and long before the Lady Lever Art Gallery, where the body was in repose, had opened they were waiting.

TWO-MILE QUEUE.

Upon arrival on Saturday evening the coffin, of massive, burnished oak, with beaten copper furnishings, was borne into the main hall of the Art Gallery by members of the Port Sunlight Fire Brigade and laid under Philip de Laszlo's portrait of the late Viscount, near by which, on the right, is Mrs. Hall Neale's portrait of Lady Lever.

The bier was encircled by a mass of gorgeous floral tributes, and along the centre of the floor a wonderful carpet was formed of wreaths, and on either side men, women and children filed quietly and reverently in what appeared a great, solemn, interminable procession. At times the queue, entering by two doors, stretched down the village to the War Memorial on the one side and away to Bebington Station on the other. It is calculated that nearly 50,000 people walked through the hall, and the queue at one

deeply lined with supports from the Fire Brigade, the Girl Guides and the Port Sunlight Boys' Brigade, a touch indicative of the late peer's devotion to the young people whose Sunday morning service he always attended on the Sunday before leaving on his big journeys and on an early Sunday after his return.

This year, alas, the children had not the opportunity of welcoming their "Uncle" and of hearing an account of his travels, but they gathered in hundreds to see him carried to his rest, for the whole of the great open grass space immediately in front of the church was reserved for them.

At the church gates there were waiting the coffin bearers: Capt. E. E. Stanley, Officer Copeland, Sec. Officer Bellamy, and Fireman Elston, of the Fire Brigade, and the Senior Boat Captains: Capt. M. Vey, Capt. Collister, Capt. O'Connor, and Capt. Gandy. They shouldered the coffin and alongside it walked the pall bearers, four of the oldest employees, all with more than 38 years' service. These were Messrs. T. Peacock, P. McGrath, H. Alston, and E. Barson. Following them were Mr. Geo. Davis, Lord Leverhulme's retired coachman and chauffeur, who carried the Hon. W. Hulme Lever's wreath, and some bunches of flowers gathered in the gardens and fields around the Manor by Ruth, Philip and Rosemary, grandchildren.

The whole of his domestic staff from The Hill, Hampstead, and the Bungalow, Rivington, were also among the privileged thousand in the church, and were also his lordship's private secretarial staff.

EMBLEMS OF ESTEEM.

The keynote of the church service was simplicity. At the foot of the coffin old age and infancy met with floral tributes to their departed chief. The old coachman placed by the coffin, the wreaths he carried, and another was placed, there by two of the youngest children in the Sunday schools of the village, a boy and a girl.

This, too, was an emblem of the esteem and regard felt by all the child life of the village for whom he was so solicitous. The hundreds of floral tributes were from all

lodges with which the late Viscount was connected. After the service, in the church the choir proceeded to the graveside singing the Nunc Dimittis. The huge concourse entered sympathetically into the singing of the hymn at the graveside and also in the Te Deum, both of which were unaccompanied.

It was evident that the last rites were making a deep impression on those who were within hearing of the committal sentences, and the service concluded with Stainer's "Sevenfold Amen." After the principal mourners had left the vault there was a constant procession of workpeople and visitors from all parts of the Wirral and Merseyside, and despite the inclemency of the weather, thousands availed themselves of the opportunity to have a last look at the resting place of one whose life had meant so much to the community in this part of the country.

The tomb, a memorial to Lady Lever, is a canopied structure 20ft. high, suggestive of the tabernacle and chantry work of the 15th century. Entrance is allowed by five Tudor arches and the interior ceiling is vaulted in three divisions, each terminating in a star centre and admitting light through lead glazing. The monument to Lady Lever is the famous recumbent effigy in bronze of Sir Goscombe John, R.A., with two figures of children typical of the young life of Port Sunlight.

BOLTON DEPUTATIONS.

Town Council: Mayor (Counc. J. F. Steele, J.P.), Deputy Mayor (Ald. E. Spinall, J.P.), Counc. J. Percy Taylor, P. Ald. F. Cheadle, J.P., and Mr. S. Parker (Town Clerk).

Infirmary: Messrs. Percy Musgrave (Chairman), Thomas Jones (hon. treasurer), Adam F. Greenhalgh (hon. secretary), John Hardman (Chairman of the Hospital Saturday Committee), and Dr. Mothersole (Chairman of the Medical Committee).

Bolton School: Mr. J. H. Hall (Chairman), Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Mr. Fred L. Elliottson, J.P., Mr. Lester L. Haselden, J.P., Mr. E. P. Smith, M.A. (headmaster), Miss Meade (headmistress), with the head boy, J. Lloyd, and head girl, Olive Crowther.

Bolton Liberal Association: Counc. J. P. Taylor, J.P. (President).
Bolton and District Grocers and Pro-

Several members of the Town Council were also in attendance.

The form of service was identical with that at Port Sunlight, including the hymns, "O God, Our Help," and "For all the Saints who from their labours rest," and the Vicar (Rev. S. C. Carpenter) was assisted in the ceremony by the Rev. Canon Elisee, Vicar of St. George's, and Mr. Isaac Edwards, the last named reading the lesson.

In a short address the Vicar added his tribute to the great man whose death was commemorated, and gave a prefatory explanation that the service was not intended to be an official memorial service. It could not well be that, partly because the religious connexions of Lord Leverhulme were elsewhere, and partly because so many of the town's principal citizens were at the moment at Port Sunlight. He supposed that in the common talk and gossip of the street or market place, the thing most conspicuous in what was said was that the great leader of the world of commerce had passed away, yet there, in the House of God, they went a little deeper and thought in prayers and wishes of the human soul having discharged its function faithfully and well through a long and most successful life. When that solemn thought did come, it was always happy to think, as they could now, of a man who had done good service, who to the very end of a long life had preserved that simple, frugal, industrious, public-spirited, generous, benevolent character which was associated with the late Lord Leverhulme.

Prior to the service a full peal of muffled bells was rung by a company of 12 men, chosen from Bolton churches by Mr. P. Crook, secretary of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers.

The town's representative memorial service on Friday evening is to be conducted at St. George's rd. Congregational Church by the Vicar of Bolton (the Rev. S. C. Carpenter, M.A., B.D.), the Mayor's Chaplain (the Rev. E. Barson) and the Rev. R. W. Thompson, M.A., B.D., The Bolton Philharmonic Society, of which Lord Leverhulme was president for 23 years, have intimated a desire to assist in the musical portion of the service, and arrangements are being made accordingly.

IN MEMORIAM.

GREATEST CONGREGATIONAL LAYMAN OF THE CENTURY.

A sense of intimate and personal sorrow permeated the service in memory of the late Lord Leverhulme, which was held in St. George's rd. Congregational Church on Sunday evening. It was not so much to the great captain of industry, the patriot, or the public benefactor, that the large congregation joined in paying their tribute as to a friend, a fellow worshipper, and a brother Congregationalist. As the pastor, the Rev. R. W. Thompson, M.A., B.D., expressed it at the opening of an eloquent and moving appreciation of the personal and religious life of Lord Leverhulme, "Our thoughts turn rather to one who was born and brought up within the circle of this church, and who became the most distinguished Congregational layman of the century."

And so the pastor went on to sketch the real Lord Leverhulme as he revealed himself to his friends; a man who never forgot the scenes of his early days or his friends, a man who, within the space of a few weeks before his death, having enjoyed the high privilege of dining with the King and Queen of the Belgians, hastened from that visit to speak to the boys and girls in a Congregational Sunday School in Bolton. Those who only knew him in business or in the realm of politics, and art scarcely realized how deep and intense was Lord Leverhulme's personal religious life, and his interest in his mother church and in his own denomination. He

chance that nearly 500 people, and through the hall, and the queue at one period stretched for almost two miles round the winding village roads.

All day wreaths of massive proportions, and others simpler in design but all of great beauty, were arriving at the Art Gallery, and before the evening every room and available table had been utilized to hold them. Inscriptions of sympathy, sorrow, and admiration were contained on the tokens accompanying the wreaths, and were a remarkable tribute to the influence the late Viscount had wielded in all spheres of commercial, social, national, and international activities.

The simple inscription on the coffin was set out on a silver lid:—

William Hesketh, Viscount Leverhulme. At Rest, 7th May, 1925.

Later in the evening the remains were conveyed to his old home in the Warral, Thornton Manor, where they were lying in state until one o'clock on Monday.

SERVICE AT THE MANOR.

Prior to the obsequies at Christ Church, at 1.45 on Monday, a private service was held in the chapel at the Manor. From there the cortege proceeded along the main road into the village, and the scenes en route were of a deeply impressive and unprecedented character. Many thousands lined the roadway, and guards of honour were provided by ex-Service men, Scouts and representatives of the various social and educational organizations in the village.

The cortege, after leaving Thornton Manor, approached Port Sunlight by the road past Bebington's ancient Norman church, and down the Wiend to Ellen's Lane, a continuation of the old path that 40 years ago travelled through the unkempt, marshy land which afterwards developed into Port Sunlight as the world now knows it.

It was in this lane that there began the long double-lining of the road which continued to the church, by lads of the Bebington C.L.B., smartly attired in their khaki uniforms, and in charge of Major B. Ormrod.

GUARDS EN ROUTE.

Passing under the railway bridge the cortege entered Port Sunlight, and was received by a uniformed detachment of Lever Bros. boatmen in seafaring costume of navy-blue and brass buttons, and the members of the Port Sunlight band in full uniform. In Greendale rd. there was a guard of Birkenhead Sea Scouts. The residents of Greendale rd. workers in the employ of the firm, had made brave efforts to put their neat front gardens into the most beautiful order for the last journey past them of their old chief. Turning from Greendale rd. towards God's Acre, where the creator of the village was to find his last home in a spot consecrated for him by many sacred memories, and now so dearly treasured by his thousands of friends, the road down to the barriers surrounding the church was guarded by members of the United Comrades' Federation of Lever Bros. Ltd. (ex-Service men) and members of the Go-Partners' "Get Together" Club. Passing the beautiful War Memorial erected to the 500 of Lever Bros. employees who fell in the war and on to the barriers erected round the churchyard one found at these barriers a contingent of the Cheshire Regiment, and here, as throughout the route, were members of the Fire and Ambulance Brigades ready for emergencies.

VANTAGE POINT FOR CHILDREN.

From the lych-gate of the church yard to the door of the church the path was

hundreds of floral tributes were from all sections of the community and almost every form of social and business activity.

PRINCIPAL MOURNERS.

The chief mourners were the new Viscount Leverhulme (son) and Lady Leverhulme (daughter-in-law); Master Philip Lever and Miss Ruth Lever (grandchildren); Mrs. James Lever (sister-in-law), Mr. J. Darcy Lever (nephew), and Mrs. J. D. Lever, Mr. Robin Lever (nephew), Mr. McGrath, and Mrs. McGrath (niece), Miss Nan Lever (niece), Mr. John Hulme (brother-in-law), Mr. Lever Tillotson (nephew) and Mrs. Lever Tillotson, Mr. F. L. Tillotson (nephew) and Mrs. F. L. Tillotson, Mr. W. Atherton and Mrs. Atherton (niece), Mr. Haselden and Mrs. Haselden (niece), Mr. J. L. Ferguson (nephew), Mr. Alex Paul (brother-in-law), Mr. Russell Paul (nephew) and Mrs. R. Paul, Dr. and Mrs. D. MacDonald (niece), Mr. Arthur Greenslade (great nephew), Mr. W. Greenslade (great nephew), Mr. Sydney Tillotson and Mr. R. Tillotson (great nephews), Mrs. Bryce Smith, Mr. Jonathan Simpson and Miss Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Prestwich, Mr. M. Bryce Smith and Mr. Howard Warrington, and members of the late Viscount Leverhulme's personal staff at Lever House and Port Sunlight.

All these mourners were present during the morning at a private service in Thornton Manor, at which there were also present Mrs. J. S. Ferguson and Miss Lever, sisters of the late Viscount Leverhulme; Miss Alice Lever and Miss H. Lever, were unable to be present. The board of directors of Lever Bros., Ltd. was represented by Mr. S. Darcy Cooper and Mr. H. R. Greenhalgh, joint vice-chairmen, and Major-General S. S. Long, C.B., Messrs. J. McDowell, C. E. Tatlow, J. L. Simpson, H. D. Hart, E. Walls, C. R. Baker, R. Baker, L. H. Moseley, C. W. Barnish, J. Cheshire, L. H. Hartland-Swann, C. B. E. W. L. Helme (directors), and L. V. Fildes (secretary). There were also present the following former directors of the Company: Messrs. John Gray, J. K. Greenhalgh, C. C. Knowles, and J. Inglis.

CHURCH AND GRAVESIDE.

At the church admission was by ticket (for there is only accommodation for about 1,000), and the tickets had been allocated to the principal and most representative mourners, whilst provision had been made for the oldest employees of the Company. Accommodation was found also in the church yard. The service in church was of the simplest character, conducted by the Rev. R. W. T. Middleton, minister at Christ Church, Port Sunlight, assisted by the Rev. R. W. Thompson, M.A., of St. George's rd. Congregational Church, Bolton; the Rev. T. Langford Burrows, of Thornton House Congregational Church, which the late Viscount built; and the Rev. H. E. Boulthbee, rector of Bebington.

As the congregation assembled the organist, Mr. A. H. Dudley, F.R.C.O., played an adagio by Beethoven, and Handel's "I know that my Redeemer liveth." In addition to the "Nunc Dimittis," the hymns, "O God our Help" and "God moves in a mysterious way," were very feelingly sung.

At the graveside, where the committal sentences were read by the Rev. R. W. Thompson, the congregation sang the "De Deum" and the hymn, "For all the Saints." A choir of 60 voices, equally composed of men, women and boys led the singing in the church and at the graveside.

On the coffin were sprigs of acacia representing the three principal Masonic

Bolton and District Grocers' and Provision Dealers' Association; Messrs. Wm. Dore, (President), and R. Beck (treasurer).

St. George's rd. Congregational Church, School, and Kay-st. Mission; Rev. R. W. Thompson, M.A., B.D. (minister), Mr. J. W. Sefton (treasurer), and Mr. C. E. Garn, (secretary).

Bolton, Farnworth and District Congregational Group Churches; Rev. J. A. Townson, Mr. Colin Cooper (trustee), Mr. J. H. Morris, Mr. J. W. Sefton (treasurer), Mr. C. E. Garn (secretary).

Blackburn rd. Congregational Church; Rev. H. A. Hamilton, and Messrs. Geo. Pye and Colin Cooper.

Mawdsley-st. Congregational Church; Rev. A. Le Marchant, M.A., and Mr. W. A. Hilton, J.P. (representing Mawdsley-st. P.S.A.).

Bolton and District Congregational Ministers; Rev. A. Le Marchant, Rev. H. A. Hamilton, Rev. D. Cooke, Rev. H. Stock.

Horwich Urban District Council; Counc. F. Taylor, J.P. (chairman), Counc. J. Carr, (vice-chairman).

Horwich Combined Charities Committee; Mr. J. H. Brocklehurst (chairman).

Messrs. W. H. S. Taylor and Co., Ltd.; Messrs. Robert Hilton (chairman of directors), T. Worthington (vice-chairman), and S. Greenlees (managing director).

Lancashire Congregational Union; Mr. E. E. Pemberton, J.P. (chairman), Rev. W. J. Collier, M.A., formerly of Blackburn rd. Congregational Church, (secretary of the Manchester District).

Messrs. Joseph Jackson and Sons; Mr. C. Thompson, Agent and Surveyor of Lord Leverhulme's Bolton and Rivington estate.

Mr. Hermon Crook (architect).

Among the late Lord Leverhulme's many close personal friends in Bolton there were present at the funeral Messrs. R. W. Kenyon, Arthur Entwisle, J.P., J. B. Gass, J.P., and Mr. Oswald Simpson.

SERVICE AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES CLOSED.

There were many evidences in Bolton this afternoon that thoughts of Bolton people were stealing away to Port Sunlight, where the funeral was taking place. Flags were flying at half-mast from all the public buildings and banks and many business houses. A number of the shops, particularly the grocery stores, in the centre of the town, closed for half an hour.

At the boys' department of the Bolton School the scholars assembled to hear a beautiful tribute of appreciation of the late Viscount Leverhulme delivered by the Head Master, Mr. Percival Smith, M.A., who was supported on the platform by Mr. L. L. Haselden, representing the Governors, and by Lloyd, the captain of the School. Afterwards the School disbanded for the day. In the Girls' School the students took part in a brief service during which the hymn, "Now let us praise famous men," was sung.

It was a happy thought on the part of the Vicar of Bolton that for the many townspeople who desired, yet were unable to pay their last tribute of respect to the late Viscount by attending the obsequies at Port Sunlight, the opportunity was provided by a funeral service at the Parish Church, simultaneous with the impressive ceremony in Cheshire. The congregation, though not a large one, was representative of most religious denominations, particularly the Congregational body, and a number of the older Church Institute boys were accompanied by their Head Master,

church and in his own denomination. He loved that church, he loved to come to read the lessons there, and he loved the Sunday school partly because of his early associations and partly because he knew and never failed to acknowledge the immense influence it exercised upon the young people, and partly because of his intense affection for little children.

They knew how generous he was in aiding all good causes, Mr. Thompson said, and he told how the late Viscount had rendered a great service to Congregationalism in Bolton by his wise counsel, his wide vision and his brotherly encouragement as well as by his substantial financial help.

HIS FAVOURITE BOOKS.

He had a wide and accurate knowledge of the scriptures based on constant personal reading of them and Mr. Thompson related how he had seen that afternoon the little group of books that was never absent from his bedside. Out of 12 or so two were books of prayer and meditation, two were books on religion and one was the Bible. He owed much to Samuel Smiles' "Self Help," he loved and knew the works of Shakespeare and Charles Dickens, but the book he knew best was the Bible.

Mr. Thompson spoke of Lord Leverhulme's passion for serving his fellow-men as one of the outstanding features of his later life. And another side was his real tact and consideration for others. An evidence of this was the intense affection he aroused in those who served him. One of his employees said to me, Mr. Thompson related, "We have not lost an employer, we have lost a pal," and at Port Sunlight another who had grown grey in his service said, "Sir, our best friend has gone." He used to trust those who were about him and that evoked an intense desire to be worthy of that trust at all costs. Of Lord Leverhulme's sympathy with the sick and suffering, his human kindness and lovable traits, Mr. Thompson spoke with affectionate regard and in Lord Leverhulme's own words, he set out the ideals which he had ever striven to attain.

"Loving liberty without coercion, he enabled others to live for themselves."

Before the service, which was impressive in its simplicity, the organist, Mr. Thornley played "I know that my Redeemer liveth" and the choir sang, "I heard a Voice from Heaven," an anthem written by a former choir-master at St. George's rd. Church, Mr. C. E. Sneathurst.

LORD LEVERHULME'S BIBLE.

A good attendance of the Bungalow staff, and friends of the late Lord Leverhulme, was present at a memorial service at Roynton Cottage on Sunday afternoon. The rites consisted mainly of the burial service, conducted by the Rev. R. W. Thompson, M.A., B.D., assisted by the Rev. D. Cook, of Lee Congregational Church, and the hymns, "O God, our Help in Ages Past" and "Captain and Saviour of the Host," were sung. The lessons were read out of his lordship's own Bible, which he kept regularly by his bedside. Mr. J. Reding was the pianist. In a short address, the Rev. R. W. Thompson said they were assembled as friends and servants of his lordship to show their esteem for him, and to thank God for his long and useful life. Some of his finest characteristics were known only to those most intimate with him. Referring to the Bible from which the lessons were read, the preacher said it showed how familiar his lordship was with the Scriptures by the frequent markings of its text. Practically his last public appearance, it was also interesting to recall, was as chairman of a meeting connected with the anniversary of Blackburn rd. Congregational Church, which he had built in memory of his parents,