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A POPULAR PEER

Viscount Valentia's Long Career

Viscount Valentia, whose death is recorded in another column, had long been a popular figure in social, sporting, and political circles. He represented Oxford City in Parliament as a Conservative for twenty-two years, being then an Irish Peer, and was created Baron Annesley in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1917.

He was Comptroller of the Household and a Conservative Whip for seven years, and a Lord-in-Waiting to the King for nine years.

He was born at Inveresk, near Edinburgh, in 1843; succeeded his grandfather in the Irish title in 1863, and in the following year joined the 10th Hussars, in which regiment he served for eight years. Subsequently he became Hon. Colonel of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, and he served with the Yeomanry Cavalry in South Africa during the Boer War, being mentioned in despatches.

In 1895 he was returned to the House of Commons for Oxford, and represented that constituency till he entered the House of Lords. He was for many years Chairman of the Oxfordshire County Council and a J.P. for Oxon (being High Sheriff in 1874). Agriculture, as well as many other national interests and causes, has lost by his death an earnest and steadfast supporter.

KEEN SPORTSMAN

A keen sportsman Lord Valentia was long a regular follower of the Bicester and Warden Hill Hounds. Being a Bicester man it was only natural that when in 1872 the mastership of that Hunt fell vacant he should accede to a general request that he should fill the breach. As Master of the Bicester for twelve years he rendered valuable service to sport in that part of Oxfordshire and Northants.

Lord Valentia was a good shot with both gun and rifle, and was devoted to deer-stalking; but in his younger days polo ran hunting a very close second in his affection. Indeed, he never lost his admiration for "the galloping game," and he was one of the three authorities chosen in 1910 to act as an advisory committee to assist in organising the attempt to win back the international-cup from America.

On his resignation of the Chairmanship of the Oxfordshire County Council in May, 1911, Lord Valentia was presented with his portrait painted by Mr. P. A. Laszlo, and replicas were hung in the County Hall and the municipal buildings at Oxford. He retired from the post of Unionist Whip in the same year, but resumed his duties soon after the outbreak of the European War. He was installed as Grand Master of Freemasons of Oxfordshire in 1915, and was appointed a Lord-in-Waiting the following year.

Lord Valentia married in 1878 Laura Sarah, daughter of the late Mr. Daniel Hale Webb, of Wykeham Park, and widow of Sir Algernon W. Peyton; and he is succeeded by his younger son, Captain the Hon. Caryl Arthur Annesley, late Major in the 1st Royal Dragoons and Private Secretary to Prince Arthur of Connaught. His elder son was killed in action in France in November, 1914.