

Death of Mr Thos. Rowe

We deeply regret to have to record the death of Mr Thomas Rowe, which after a long illness occurred on Sunday morning last. Mr Rowe had been an invalid for the previous two years owing to a stroke of paralysis, and the end, though sudden, was not unexpected. On Sunday morning he partook of some food, as usual, and at 10 o'clock passed off almost imperceptibly, heart failure being the immediate cause of death. Mr Rowe was 65 years of age. He arrived in W.A. at the close of 1837, in charge of Fenian prisoners. In 1879 Mr Rowe, at the request of the New South Wales Government, was despatched to Sydney as one of the detectives of the Exhibition, for his services at which he was highly commended by the Press of that colony. He also received a gold medal for services rendered at the Perth International Exhibition of 1881. He retired from the Civil Service an Inspector in July 1892. He was living at Albany at the time, but on his retirement, took up his residence in Geraldton, where he settled and acquired landed property. Mr Rowe, while his health permitted, took an active part in our municipal affairs, and for many years was a Councillor of our Municipality, in which office his ability and experience were employed to the advantage of the town. Some years ago, Mr Rowe was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London. Deceased was married twice. His first wife died many years ago, but his second wife survives him. He leaves three sons and two daughters—Mr Sam Rowe of Perth, and Mr George Rowe and Mr Tom Rowe of Geraldton. Mrs Chester (Miss Huguemont [*sic*] Rowe) of Albany, and Mrs Gourley (Miss Lily Rowe) of New Zealand.

The funeral took place at 5 p.m. today, the remains being conveyed to Geraldton Railway Station, whence they will be taken to-morrow to Perth for interment, The Rev. Mr Henn officiated, the chief mourners being Messrs G. and T. Rowe, sons of the deceased, and the pall-bearers were Messrs A. H. du Boulay, H. Carson, T. W. Stroud, and J. McNamara.

Reverting to Mr Rowe's career in the Government service, he did 32 years of police work in London and in this colony, and always had the reputation of being a skilful officer. On retiring he received six months' leave of absence, and a gratuity of £175. Below we give interesting particulars of Mr Rowe's career as set forth in his application for leave to retire :—

On the 30th of May, 1861, I joined the Metropolitan Police Force, London, as a constable, and resigned on the 1st October, 1867. On the 28th of September, 1807, I was appointed to the convict service. The convict authorities having applied to the police authorities for an officer to come out in the convict ship Huguemont with the Fenian convicts, I was the officer selected by Sir Richard Mayne (then Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police), and was sent by Sir Richard with a letter to Downing street — which I presume was concerning my selection to accompany the Fenians—where I saw (now) Sir Y. W. Henderson, Inspector-General of Prisons, by whom I was sent with a letter to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos' office. His Grace informed me that I should be appointed to the convict service in due course. I replied that I was not aware of the contents of the letter I had brought, but that I could not accept the appointment unless my services were transferred from the police to the convict service (nearly seven years' service). His Grace said there was no precedent for such a thing, and I replied, " Perhaps not, Your Grace, neither, perhaps, is there any precedent for the convict authorities applying for a police officer to accompany Fenians to Western Australia." On my remarking that I could not afford to lose my seven years' service, His Grace said he would give his word that my services in the Metropolitan Police should not be lost on joining the convict service, thus saving that time with a view to seniority and in other respects, and that I should be transferred to the convict service on that understanding. I therefore accepted the appointment.

The Fenian convicts were safely landed under my charge on the 10th of January, 1868, and handed over to the officers at Fremantle Prison. I was then put on duty at Fremantle as assistant warder, and I found I was placed as the junior officer on the establishment, notwithstanding my services were years longer than many who were then my seniors, and I complained to the then Comptroller-General of Convicts, Henry Wakeford, Esq , of being told off for the most offensive of officers' duties, going out with the prison night-soil cart was one—in consequence of a rumor that I was sent out from the police to enquire into and report upon the mode of conduct of the prison, in fact, that I was a spy on the establishment.

A few days after I arrived it was given out that I had resigned, but I was really absent by authority of the Comptroller-General doing detective work in Perth, by order of His Excellency Governor Hampton under the direction of the Comptroller-General, Mr Wakeford. I really resigned from the convict service on the 29th February, 1868, and was appointed as temporary warder on the 20th of July, 1868, and remained in that service up till the 22nd of September, 1868, and on that date was sworn in as constable of the local police force by the late Superintendent of Police, G. E. C. Hare, Esq., to do detective work for the colony without being shown (although on the strength of the force) until October, 1868, when I requested to be allowed to do ordinary police duties. During the breach of my service, between the 29th February and 20th of July, 1868, I was privately employed under the directions of Sub-Inspector Snook at Fremantle in various police matters, but principally concerning Fenianism. Except that little breach I have been continuously in the service of the Government from the 20th May, 1861, to the present time.

In 1873, I was selected by the late Captain Smyth [sic], Superintendent of Police, and made Detective Sergeant, to initiate and organise a detective system, which I did, and worked it for nearly twelve years. In 1876 I was entrusted with the compilation of the 'Police Gazette,' which saved a lot more than the cost of its production in stationery, besides its extra efficiency, and keeping pace with the times.

I was promoted to the rank of Acting-Inspector of Police by His Excellency Governor Broome, on the 1st May, 1884, vide 'Government Gazette,' 1884, page 71, to take charge of the Southern District, with full pay of the substantive rank.

In July 1884. I was transferred to the charge of the North District and stationed at Geraldton. I was appointed Inspector of Police on the 1st of August, 1885. On the 27th May, 1886, I received a gratuity of £269 3s 4d. from the Police Benefit Fund, to which I had been a subscriber from 1868 to August 1885. My pay and allowances as an Inspector of Police have been various, rising from £250 to £300 per annum in money besides house allowance, £50 per annum.

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The Geraldton Express and Murchison and Yalgo [sic] Goldfields Chronicler.

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