

WHEN WHITEHEAD WAS YOUNG.

DEATH OF MR. J. MONTGOMERY

34 YEARS AS STATIONMASTER.

The death took place on Thursday afternoon at his residence Station Villa, Whitehead, of Mr. Joseph Montgomery, agent at Whitehead of the Midland Railway Company, Northern Counties Committee. The news will be received with feelings of deep regret not only in Whitehead, where the deceased was such a popular official, but also by thousands of visitors who have patronised the town since it developed into a summer and health resort.

The late Mr. Montgomery had filled with great credit to himself, the position of stationmaster at Whitehead for the long period of 34 years, and his entire railway service, which began at the Limavady section of the old Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company, extended over a period of 46 years. No more courteous official ever occupied the responsible position of station agent, Mr. Montgomery's urbanity being proverbial amongst the travelling public.

He was selected for the Whitehead Railway Station by the late Mr. E. J. Cotton, manager, and at that time Whitehead consisted of a couple of cottages on the esplanade, and a few cottages at Castle Chester. He watched the growth of Whitehead with pardonable pride, and served the interests not only of his employers but also of the residents of the rising town with rare fidelity and success. In the year 1908, when the Railway Company built a new residence for Mr. Montgomery's use, the occasion was taken advantage of to express to Mr. Montgomery in tangible terms the high feelings of respect in which he was held in the community, and had he been spared to retire on pension during the present year no doubt he would have received another testimonial alike worthy of Whitehead and of the recipient.

FROM LIMAVADY TO BELFAST.

Mr. Montgomery was a native of Limavady, where, as already stated, he joined the railway service. Subsequently he was transferred to the Belfast Station, where his undoubted abilities, and that keen conscientious manner in which he discharged his duties brought him under official notice, and he was selected for the appointment at Whitehead, where the greater part of his official career has been spent.

A warm supporter of the Masonic Order, the late Mr. Montgomery took an active interest in 313 Chichester Masonic Lodge at Whitehead, of which he was a P.M. and one of the foundation members. He was also a P.M. of the Masonic Lodge at Carrickfergus. He was a devoted member of the Church of Ireland, and for many years was a member of the Select Vestry of St. Patrick's Church, Whitehead.

Mr. Montgomery, who was predeceased by his wife three years ago, leaves a family of eight sons, the youngest being ten years of age, and two daughters to mourn his demise. His eldest son, Mr. Joseph C. Montgomery, is well-known as postmaster of Whitehead, a position which he has filled since a separate office was established in the town. His second son, Mr. James M. Montgomery, is manager of the Dunmurry branch of the Milford Weaving Company, Limited, while his third son, Mr. John Montgomery, who served in the war, is now an official of the Ministry of Labour in Belfast. Mr. Montgomery was laid aside from official duties at Christmas by a severe illness, and was under the care of Dr. Wm. Martin, Whitehead, with Dr. Andrew Fullerton, Dr. Gaussen, and Dr. M'Ilwaine as consultants, but despite the attention of the medical gentlemen and the devoted nursing of his two daughters he never rallied.

**LATE MR. J. MONTGOMERY,
FUNERAL AT WHITEHEAD.**

The funeral of the late Mr. Joseph Montgomery, who for the long period of 34 years was the railway stationmaster at Whitehead, took place on Saturday afternoon to the family burying ground at St. John's Church, Ballycarry. The funeral cortege was of imposing dimensions, being probably the largest ever seen in Whitehead. All grades of the railway service were represented from Belfast and various parts of the North of Ireland, and representatives of the shipping interests from Belfast were also present. There was also a large concourse of brethren of the Masonic Order from various district lodges. Signs of mourning were everywhere apparent at Whitehead, and during the time of the funeral all business was suspended.

Prior to the removal of the remains from the deceased's late residence, Station Villa, a funeral service was conducted by Rev. D. B. Knox, Whitehead Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Jas. Richardson, M.A., rector of St. Patrick's Church, Whitehead, Rev. R. Cole, minister of the Methodist Church, Whitehead, being also in attendance.

The chief mourners were Messrs. Joseph C. Montgomery, James Montgomery, John Montgomery, William Montgomery, Robert Montgomery, Herbert Montgomery, and David Montgomery (sons); Christopher Montgomery (brother); Joseph Mitchell and James Martin (brothers-in-law); James Mitchell and Hugh Montgomery (nephews).

On arrival at St. John's Church, Ballycarry, the remains were carried into the sacred edifice, where a short service was conducted by Rev. James Richardson, who also officiated at the graveside.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. T. Johnson & Sons, Bedford Street, Belfast.



