

**DEATH of Mr W. T. CRENNELL**

It is with very deep regret we announce that Mr William Tashman Crennell, representative of the Town of Ramsey in the House of Keys, died at his residence in Ramsey on Tuesday morning. Mr Crennell, on Thursday of last week, attended a meeting of the Isle of Man Wesleyan District Synod held at Castleisles, and at the meeting he was in all appearances in good health. He returned to his home and was preparing to retire for the night, at about 11 o'clock, when he was suddenly seized with paralysis. The seizure resulted in deprivation of the power of speech and rendered one side of his body useless. Dr. Roe, who was immediately summoned, treated the patient, and Dr. Pantin was subsequently called in consultation. For a considerable time Mr Crennell remained in a comatose condition, but on Monday it was announced that there was a change for the better. The improvement was, however, but transient of character, and as stated Mr Crennell passed peacefully away shortly after 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The late William Tashman Crennell was born 51 years ago. He was a son of the late Mr William Crennell, a gentleman who for many years bore a prominent part in the public life of the Isle of Man, and who for a considerable period represented a constituency in the House of Keys. Mr W. T. Crennell was born and educated in Ramsey and served his time as a grocer with his father, to whose business he eventually succeeded, though he acted from it while in the prime of life. Always of a studious disposition, Mr W. T. Crennell was a widely read man, and his reading resulted in him becoming remarkably well-versed upon political, social, and general questions. As a young man he took a great interest in Manx affairs, and more particularly in political matters affecting Ramsey and the North. At a by-election in 1900, he was returned to the House of Keys as one of the representatives of Michael Sheehy, retaining his seat until 1906. In the last-named year he found that his attitude in support of a bill which provided that there should be one Education Authority for the Isle of Man did not commend itself to a large section of his constituents, and he accordingly resigned his membership of the House. At the General Election in 1906, however, he was returned as member for his native town of Ramsey, and at the next General Election (1913) he was again returned for the town after a very close and exciting contest with Mr R. Kaye Colelet. He sat as member for Ramsey to the day of his death. Almost immediately upon his return for Michael Sheehy, Mr Crennell achieved prominence in the House and quickly secured the reputation of being one of the most acute and able members of the Legislature. He served to great purpose in connection with a successful effort to obtain relief for Ramsey from the burdens imposed upon the town in connection with Harbour Works, this achievement being accomplished while he was still one of the representatives of Michael. He also bore a prominent part in the Constitutional Reform agitation, of which he was one of the most ardent supporters. In this connection he on more than one occasion represented the House of Keys on deputations to the Imperial Authorities in London on financial and other matters connected with the Isle of Man. Several important legislative proposals were initiated by Mr Crennell, and with regard to those he demonstrated that he was exceedingly skilful in the drafting of bills and amendments. During the disputes which culminated in the famous deadlock of 1912 between the Legislative Council and the House of Keys, he eloquently and ably championed the position taken up by the House on the subject of financial control, and it was mainly owing to his advocacy that the House maintained their contention that the Governor's previous consent to financial proposals was not necessary. In the many differences that arose from time to time between the Governor and the Council on the one hand, and the Keys on the other, he was always in the van so far as asserting the rights and privileges of the House was concerned. A Liberal-Conservative, he incurred some odium from the Tory party in the House by supporting such measures as the Old Age Pensions Bill, the Estate Duty Bill, and the Income Tax Bill, while his strong opposition to the Workmen's Compensation Bill—an opposition which prevailed—resulted in him being warmly embraced by the more democratic section of the community. The last bill which Mr Crennell piloted through the House of Keys was the Adult Suffrage Bill, though these proposals in the bill which abolished the plural voting were failed to carry. In connection with the bill he opposed successfully amendments having for object a redistribution of seats, though he admitted that Redistribution could not legally be resisted, and indeed he subsequently voted for a resolution that a committee to consider the question should be appointed, the resolution being only lost by one vote. Mr Crennell was invariably appointed to important committees of the House, and he frequently acted as chairman—a position for which his fine knowledge of procedure peculiarly fitted him. So strenuous was his work on committees that it is to be feared he overworked himself, and this contributed to his collapse at a comparatively early age. As from the General Election of 1913, he was acknowledged as the leader of the House of Keys, all sections of the House uniting in admission of his outstanding ability. He was a member of two of the most important boards appointed by the Council of Education and the Harbour Board. For several years he was chairman of the Council of Education and did magnificent work for the advancement of Education in the Isle of Man, though he was seriously handicapped in his aspirations by the reluctance of the House of Keys to go the lengths he desired. He took a patriotic outlook concerning the war, and in this connection he moved the vote of £10,000 from the Imperial Exchequer to the Imperial Government in aid of war expenses, and he also proposed the application of the first Military Service Act to the Isle of Man. As Chairman of the Local Tribunal under the Military Service Acts, he has performed conscientious service to the Island. The greater part of the work of examining the applicants and sifting the evidence devolved upon him, and he never failed to carry out these duties with care and zeal. He was also a member of important war organizations, such as the Prince of Wales' Fund Committee and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and recently he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. Personally, Mr Crennell was a most approachable man, and he had a fine aptitude for making friends, his charm of manner materially aiding him in this respect. He was ever courteous and was always most ready to advise and assist his fellows in their public work. He had also that rare but most useful gift in a public man—a tact. A sincere Christian, though no bigot, Mr Crennell was an adherent of the Wesleyan Methodist body, but he had a kindly feeling to other forms of religion. By all classes in the Island, even by his political opponents, he was respected and esteemed, and there is general mourning that he has been removed by death. Mr Crennell married Miss Lily Gibson, one of the daughters of the late Mr John Gibson of Peel. He is survived by his widow and by the two children of the marriage—a son and a daughter.

The funeral is fixed to take place on Friday (Saturday). It will leave St. Mary's, Ramsey, at 2 o'clock p.m. for the Waterloo Road Wesleyan Methodist Church, where services will be conducted, subsequently proceeding to Andreas Churchyard for interment.