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FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR JOLL.

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FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR JOLL.

The funeral of the late Mr T. L. Joll partook largely of a public function. He was interred in the Okaiawa cemetery, and probably the attendance was larger than has been seen at any other funeral in South Taranaki. From Waitara, New Plymouth, Stratford, Eltham and all intervening centres on the railway line there were present men who represented life-long friendships or close business relations; and there was similar representation from Hawera, Manaia, Normanby, Kaponga, Opunake, and in fact all the plains. There was in every part of the crowd the one note of expression of regret at the tragic and premature death of one so highly thought of, and keen sympathy with widow and family. There was a funeral service at the deceased's late residence in the township, and then the cortege moved to the cemetery. There was no attempt at marshalling the gathering into anything approaching processional order, and it was difficult to form an estimate of how many people were present. Probably two thousand would not be far from correct, but by many it was estimated that three thousand persons or more were present. The body was carried by old European friends and associates across the lawn to the roadside, and here a party of Maori bearers took it on their shoulders. In turn they were relieved at intervals by

employees of the late **MIR JOLL**, members of the Okaiawa Football Club, and others, and the pall-bearers were friends, prominent among whom were old settlers and directors of industrial undertakings with which Mr Joll had been associated. The Manaia band led the cortege, playing at intervals the Dead March in Saul. The Maori men and women in their quaint mourning garments and their low moaning chants of sorrow added to the pathos of the remarkable scene. Maoris drew two Cortland waggon loads of wreaths, etc. At the cemetery the first portion of the burial service was read by Rev. Mr Boys, Rev. Mr Hammond offered prayer and Rev. Mr Haddon read part of the service in Maori. An address in English was given by Rev. Mr Boys, in which, after alluding to the tragic suddenness of the event they were all mourning, and to the universal testimony to the high character of Mr Joll, he applied the lesson of the life and death of their friend to the instruction of those present. Rev. Mr Hammond also gave an address in Maori. The concluding portion of the service was then read by Mr Boys, and "Abide with me," very touchingly played by the band, brought the proceedings to a close.

The Maoris of the district had taken a very active part, and were demonstrative of their grief. A number of them had met the train at Normanby, and for a part of the way drew the carriage containing the coffin. At the residence they gave the seldom-heard death chant or putu, the signification of which is, Mr Haddon informs us, a challenge to death: "We challenge the Death God; you have taken our leader, friend and chief. Why not take us?" On Monday morning there was a tangi on the lawn in front of the house. Tauke, a leading native, delivered an oration, and the natives chanted the apakura, a farewell to the departed of high rank.

Among the number wreaths were sent by the Okaiawa Football Club, Okaiawa Hall Committee, Okaiawa Croquet Club, Okaiawa factory staff, Waimate Plains Trotting Club, Department of Agriculture, and by the suppliers to the factories at Mangawhero, Otakeho and Kapuni.

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