

# EARLY BUSINESSMAN

## MR. G. CORNEY'S DEATH

### WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT

The death occurred last night at his late residence, Mount Edgecombe Street, New Plymouth, in his 81st year, of Mr. George Corney, who had lived all his life in New Plymouth. He had been in poor health for some years, but it was not until Saturday morning that he was overtaken by his last illness.

Though he ceased to take an active part three years ago in the drapery business called by his name, Mr. Corney was one of the best known of New Plymouth's business men. He had the distinction of serving all his commercial life in Devon Street premises.

Commencing his career as an apprentice in the drapery shop of Mr. Cudd on the site of Collier's music warehouse, he was later employed by Mrs. M. Hood at her shop on the corner of Devon and Currie Streets now occupied by Sole's building. On leaving there he established and managed a business for Mr. C. C. Ward under the name of the Excelsior Drapery. Four years afterwards, in 1896, Mr. Corney started the Devon Street drapery business that bears his name.

Three years ago Mr. Corney retired from active control of the business, transferring it to his step-son, Mr. V. H. Beal, but he continued to show interest in it by visiting the shop every afternoon. It was only last Friday that he was there.

### EARLY SETTLERS.

Mr. Corney's parents were among the early settlers of the town. The house in which he was born was in James Lane, but they later removed to a house on the corner of Robe and Devon Streets, which has since been replaced by the Bank of Australasia. Mr. Corney had a life interest in Maoris and was a recognised authority on Maori lore. In earlier years Mr. Corney was an enthusiastic golfer, but his main sporting interest was bowls. He was one of the founders of the West End Bowling Club, which some years ago made him a life member. He was also a director of the New Plymouth Gas Company and of the Mortgage Loan and Agency Company.

Mr. Corney's wife died four years ago. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. C. E. Perkins, Devonport, Auckland, and Mrs. J. O. Bowden, Roxburgh, two step-children, Mr. V. H. Beal, New Plymouth, and Mrs. T. Cooke, Darfield, a sister, Mrs. E. Chatterton, Powderham Street, New Plymouth, and a brother, Mr. R. M. Corney, Frankleigh Park.