Obituary

William McIlraith

Mr. William McIlraith, who was known to Hereford stud cattle breeders throughout the world as the founder and owner of the Windsor Hereford Stud, Myall Creek, Delungra, N.S.W., died in Sydney last month at the age of 79. He was also interested in other pastoral properties and was highly respected in business circles throughout the Commonwealth as chairman of directors of several firms including the largest pastoral firm of producers and graziers in Australia.

The late William McIlraith was born in County Down, Ireland, and came to Australia in 1890. With his eldest brother Hugh, and another brother, the late Sir Martin McIlraith, he founded in Sydney the firm which eventually was to bear his name. The brothers also acquired a number of pastoral holdings, but Mr. William McIlraith's particular interest was Myall Creek, where nearly 23 years ago he established the Windsor Hereford Stud. The foundation sire was Windsor Matchless (Imp.), bred in the Royal stud in England, and it was for this reason that the Australian Hereford Society granted him authority to name his stud "Windsor."

Mr. McIlraith won more major awards at Sydney Royal Shows than any other stud beef cattle breeder in Australia, his outstanding winners and sires including such well known names as Windsor Puritan, David, Illustrious Liberator, Lancaster, Royal Robin, Pathfinder, Byron, March On, Talisman, Conseul, and Trumpeter. Two sires used early in the stud which left their mark were Free Town Eclipse (Imp.) and Paunton Layman (Imp.). Mr. McIlraith rarely brought back a champion a second time to Sydney, nor did he believe in showing aged bulls, which makes his long list of successes all the more notable. When he was 16 months old Windsor Puritan was runner up at Sydney to the great Golf Hill Vulcan, and subsequently Puritan won the championship outright. On another occasion Windsor Illustrious was senior champion at Sydney, the same year that Windsor Liberator won the junior championship. Liberator was purchased by Herbert Field Pty. Ltd. for the firm’s Red Hill Stud, at Adjungbilly, N.S.W., at the then Australasian record price of 3,000 gns.

The Windsor Hereford stud is to be carried on along the same lines which the late Mr. McIlraith so successfully followed since its foundation.

Mr. McIlraith made many substantial grants to science, medicine, and charity. Recently he gave £50,000 to set up a C.S.I.R.O. fellowship, the first William McIlraith Fellow being Dr. M. C. Franklin, the well-known authority on animal nutrition. He also helped to build a new ward at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and was a member of the board of that institution for many years. He was also a member of the Australian and New South Wales Clubs in Sydney, together with the Avondale Golf Club and the Warrawee Bowling Club, and of counter parts of such clubs in the country. His private annual dinner to Hereford breeders at the New South Wales Club at Easter was one of the most enjoyable and notable of the numerous functions held during the Sydney Royal Show.

Mr. McIlraith is survived by his widow, and a daughter, who is the wife of Dr. Winston Smith, of Pymble, Sydney.

Richard Magoffin

One of Queensland's best known graziers, Mr. Richard Magoffin, of Melrose, Winton, died in Brisbane on 7th June. He was only 57 years of age and although he had been ill for health some months before his death—a heart attack—was unexpected.

The late Mr. Magoffin spent his early boyhood years on Melrose, which was selected by his father when the old Epsom paddock was cut up, and he completed his schooling at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. He then returned to the family property to gain further experience under his father before acquiring, with a partner, a station in the Camooweal district. Here he remained for about five years, and then returned to Melrose to take over the management of the sheep and cattle on this 28,000 acre property. On the death of his father, Mr. Magoffin assumed full control of Melrose, and later became the owner of Rosevale (Nelia) and Tanktop (Stoneleigh), as well as having an interest in other grazing properties. He was recognised as an authority on all aspects of the grazing industry, especially the financial side, and his knowledge was readily available to all who sought it.

The public life of Richard Magoffin was devoted chiefly to a lifelong interest in the affairs of the Graziers' Association of Central and Northern Queensland, of which he was president for eight years. He resigned in 1954 to make way for a younger man, and at the annual meeting of the association in April of this year a presentation was made to him in appreciation of his services. He was also a member of the executive council of the United Graziers' Association of Queensland for many years, and at one time was a director of the Winton meatworks.

When at Camooweal Mr. Magoffin married Miss Edith Stone, of Toowoomba, and he is survived by his wife and one son, Gordon, who has a grazing property in the Longreach district.

Mr. Arthur Parker Adams, of Gilgai, Nagambie, Vic., died on 5th July.

Mr. Henry William Vyner, of Tarrengindi, Walcha, N.S.W., died at Walcha last month.

Mr. Eric Lyle Killen, of Stramsaer, Coora, N.S.W., died in February last, left estate valued at £164,890.

Mr. John C. Alford, of Glenroy Station, Ravenswood, Q., was killed last month when he was thrown from a horse while mustering cattle on his station.

Mr. Joseph Franklin Goodchild, a former well known stockman who was associated with the Midland Junction livestock market and Western Australia for over 30 years, died on the 14th June at the age of 74.

Mr. J. G. Hill, one of Victoria's well known graziers, died this month at his home, Derrell Estate, near Heathcote, at the age of 82. He was a successful exhibitor and judge of fat sheep and cattle at agricultural shows, and also bred and raced several horses.

Mr. Arden Seymour Hawker, a member of the well-known pioneer pastoral family in South Australia and a former Lord Mayor of Adelaide, died at his home in Adelaide last month at the age of 74. Mr. Hawker was a son of the late Lt. H. C. Hawker, R.N., and a grandson of the late Mr. G. C. Hawker, M.C., both of Bungaree, Clare, S.A. He was a farmer and grazier, and owned Marola, a part of the Bungaree Estate.

The death occurred on 5th inst. of Mr. Hugh Andrew Stewart, of Fifeild, Yass, N.S.W., who was actively associated with the early pastoral development of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria. He was chief pastoral inspector and store buyer for the late Mr. A. B. Trim, and at one time owned more than 30 properties. Subsequently, Mr. Stewart, who was 82 years of age, became State official values, and later pastoral inspector for the Permanent Trustee Company, Sydney.

Mr. Edward Peter Tapp, of Nunthorping Station, Willemina, N.S.W., who died on 2nd June at the age of 84, was particularly well known in the West Darling. His early experience was gained in the Western District of Victoria, but in 1896 he took over the management of Yancanna Station for the Shaw Brothers. At that time Yancanna was the largest sheep station in Victoria, with 300,000 sheep, and a quarter acres and running 100,000 sheep. Mr. Tapp served in the first World War, and about 1921 purchased Nunthorping, where he resided until returning to Broken Hill a few years ago. Nunthorping is now managed by his son, Mr. E. Tapp.