

Another Pioneer Gone.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN MARTIN.

Almost every year sees another gap made in the steadily diminishing band of the old pioneers whose enterprise and hardihood paved the way to the high standard of comfort now enjoyed by the people of Western Australia. On Wednesday last there died at his home "Sandgate," Seabrook, Mr John Martin, senr., one of the very oldest residents of this district. He had lived at Sandgate for no less than 60 years and had reached the ripe age of 76 years. He had been ailing for some years past and the immediate cause of death was cancer on the liver. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow, five sons, two daughters, and many grandchildren, and his life history is closely interwoven with the records of the early settlement of this portion of the State. His father, Mr. William Martin, came to Western Australia away back in the twenties. He had been engaged in farming in England, and was one of the plucky band of immigrants who came out at the instance of Mr. Peel, who had secured a grant of 250,000 acres from the Imperial Government in consideration of his investing upon it a certain amount of capital and taking out a certain number of people. The hardships experienced by these early settlers is matter of history. The land near the coast proved poor in quality and heavily timbered. Provisions were soon at famine prices, and quite a number of the people took ship to Sydney and Hobart. Old Mr. Martin was one of those who stuck to Western Australia. He married and settled in the Swan district, and about sixty years ago came over the ranges with his wife and children, travelling with a bullock dray. His family included Mr. John Martin, who died on Wednesday last, Mr. Edward Martin, who lives on the York Road, Mr. George Martin, of Jennapullen, Mr. Samuel Martin of Meenaar, two other sons who have died, and six daughters—Mrs. James Forward, Mrs. Harry Forward, Mrs. Minchin, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Chas Christmas. Mr. John Martin married Miss Emma Forward, daughter of the late Mr. William Forward, who came to the colony in the Gilmour—the sec-

to the colony in the Gilmour—the second ship to arrive at Fremantle from the old country—and sister to Mr William Forward, of Northam. The deceased's sons are Messrs. Andrew, George, John, Newland, and Harry Martin, all well-known farmers in the Seabrook district, and his daughters Mrs. M. Sermon and Mrs. W. Biddle.

When old Mr. Martin came to the district he started farming the Sandgate property, then owned by Mr. Drake Brockman, and subsequently purchased by Messrs. Martin Bros. The old gentleman lived to the age of 82, and was a fine type of the old English farmer. His sons all followed in his footsteps, and now the third generation of Martins is worthily upholding the family traditions. Amongst those who on Thursday followed the remains of the late Mr John Martin to their last resting place were a few of the old pioneers, and many of the children of the old pioneers who had heard tales of the early days of hardship from their father's lips.

Those gathered about the graveside could scarcely avoid drawing a contrast between the conditions prevailing in these districts when the deceased—then a youth of about 16—crossed the ranges with his father to settle in an almost uninhabited country, and those that obtain to-day. The usefulness of his sixty years of labor can only be properly appreciated when it is remembered that he and his fellow pioneers paved the way for the larger growth of recent years, and made possible a development beyond their greatest expectations.