

OBITUARY.

MR. EDMUND STIRLING.

A VETERAN COLONIST.

Mr. Edmund Stirling, one of the oldest residents of Western Australia, and founder of the firm of Stirling Bros. and Co., Ltd., died at his residence, Avon-terrace, York, at 10 o'clock on Nov 2 morning. Up to the beginning of the present year Mr. Stirling had enjoyed excellent health, considering his advanced years. About a month ago he was overtaken with sickness, culminating in an issue of blood from the brain. From this, however, he seemed to have recovered, but other complications afterwards arose, and caused heart trouble. Dr. Johnson was assiduous in his attention to his patient, and was aided by consultations with Dr. Davies, the Government medical officer for the district. For about three days before his death Mr. Stirling was in a semi-comatose condition, and it was evident to his friends that the end was approaching. The funeral is appointed to leave the Perth railway station at 4 o'clock this afternoon for the Anglican cemetery.

Mr. Edmund Stirling was born near the town of Worsted, Norfolk, England, in 1815, and came to Fremantle in 1830 in the ship *Edward Lombe*. Among the other passengers were the late Messrs. Thomas and Henry Carter, under whose care Mr. Stirling was placed. Shortly after his arrival Mr. Stirling associated himself with the first effort that was made to bring out a newspaper in the new settlement, the early issues being in manuscript, and being sold at 2s. 6d. per copy. A site for the office—a bush humpy—was chosen at a spot about two miles from Fremantle, still known as Hamilton Hill. The plant was subsequently removed to Cantonment-road, and housed in a building which stood somewhere near the present railway bridge and Richmond Hotel. In those days local journalism was severely on its trial, as may be imagined in the circumstances attending the little colony, whose development,

little colony, whose development, fitful and tardy, inspired so little hope that few remained who had the means with which to remove to other fields wherein to invest their fortunes and employ their energies. In spite of reverse, however, prosperity was gradually achieved, and with it journalism kept alive. In the year 1840 we find the name of Mr. Stirling associated with that of Mr. Macfaul in founding *The Inquirer*, which was printed on an Imperial press, which is still preserved on the premises of this journal. Mr. Macfaul died soon afterwards, and the property ultimately fell into the hands of Mr. Stirling. In 1855 *The Inquirer* absorbed the *Commercial News*, the first of the many journalistic ventures at Fremantle.

Retiring from active business pursuits about the year 1879, Mr. Stirling was succeeded by his sons. In the early days of Perth Mr. Stirling took an active interest in all public matters. For many years he occupied a seat on the Town Trust. Subsequently he became a member of the Municipal Council. The planting of shade trees in the streets was with him a special hobby. We believe that to Mr. Stirling's energy, and the co-operation of Mr. George Glyde and the late Mr. Bernard Smith and Mr. James Dyer, the people of Perth are indebted for the formation of what is known as the Forrest-avenue.