

Stockport Advertiser History of Stockport.

CHAPTER I.

Municipal and Social Service—Public-spirited men who have died during the decade—Changes in the personnel of Corporation Officials—Some big schemes—Public Health—Public Assistance—Education—Library Progress—Parks Facilities—Baths and Washhouses—Waterworks Developments.

STOCKPORT has been well served by its city fathers, both in the past and present, and it is fitting that tribute should be paid to those who have carried on their shoulders the onerous work of reconstruction, in quite a voluntary capacity, during the ten years under review. Since 1922 Stockport has had five Mayors, and they have all upheld the high traditions of public service which are inseparably linked with the highest civic office. In 1922 Alderman Charles Royle retired from office after having achieved a record by holding it for four consecutive years. His place was taken by Alderman Hy. Patten, who remained in office two years; then came Mr. John Greenhalgh (1925-6), Mr. Joshua Preston (1927-8-9), and lastly the present Mayor, Councillor James Penny, who is serving his second year.

We remember also the public-spirited men whose services have been lost to the town, either through death or retirement, in that period. They have filled their own particular niche in the town's affairs and are honoured for the achievements they have left behind them. Death has deprived the town of seven ex-Mayors since 1922—Mr. Arthur Henry Sykes, a member of a family which has been identified with the public life of Stockport for over a hundred years; Mr. F. R. Robinson, one of the founders of the Stockport Technical School; Mr. Giles Atherton, who did much to bring into being the new Town Hall in the early years of the century; Mr. George Nelstrop, one of the town's foremost business men; Mr. James Fernley, Chairman for many years of the Corporation Finance Committee; Mr. Arthur Briggs, one of the most brilliant men of public affairs that Stockport has ever had; and Mr. T. W. Potts, who will be remembered for his war-time mayoralty and his able handling of the affairs of the Tramways undertaking whilst he was its Chairman.

The town has also lost by death such highly esteemed public men as Dr. R. A. Murray, O.B.E., J.P., Stockport's oldest medical practitioner and senior magistrate, who did much in the Town Council and elsewhere for the benefit of the town and its people; Aldermen John Barrodale, J.P., John Burgon, W. E. Hamnett, and William Thomas, Councillors Edward Clarke, J.P., A. E. Ferns, J.P., Mrs. Helen Henderson, William H. Hollis, J.P., F. W. Plant, J.P., and William Slack, who was Chairman of the Waterworks Committee when plans for the new Goyt Valley water scheme were brought before Parliament.

The town has lost many well-known figures whose public work was done outside the Council Chamber. To name but a few, there were:—Mr.