

Samuel Ralphs, Mr. John Smith, Mr. A. Bellamy, Mr. W. G. Ward, Mr. F. Connell, Mr. G. F. Tatton and Mr. W. E. Carrington. All these were members of the borough magisterial bench, and in that and other ways, social and religious, contributed to the welfare of the community.

Progress and change have been especially prominent in the history of the municipal departments of the Stockport Corporation during the past ten years. During the period nearly all the chief official positions have had a change in personnel, and the town through retirement and death has lost the services of several officials who have been closely associated with the administrative work of the town during the past thirty years.

A change calling for special mention was the retirement of the Town Clerk, Mr. Robert Hyde, who had served the town for 32 years. During his term of office Mr. Hyde had done much important work, including the promotion of the Act authorising the construction of the Kinder Waterworks and Goyt Valley waterworks scheme, the arrangements for the opening of the Town Hall by the present King in 1908, and several borough extension schemes, in each of which he was successful in winning the day for the Borough. Mr. Hyde retired on June 30 of last year and was succeeded by Mr. Frank Knowles, who had been Assistant Town Clerk.

The period also saw three changes in the position of Borough Treasurer. Mr. Harry Grundy retired after fifty years' service on December 5, 1928, and was succeeded by Mr. Arthur Henshall, who had been his assistant, and who died on July 16, 1929. The present Borough Treasurer, Mr. Arthur Thatcher, was appointed on October 3, 1929.

Another important official position which has had a change of personnel is that of Borough Surveyor. Mr. Herbert Hamer, who succeeded Mr. John Atkinson to this position, in 1920, resigned early in 1931, on being appointed to a similar position at Hull, and was succeeded by Mr. W. F. Gardner, of Wigan.

No department of the Corporation has had larger responsibilities than that of the Borough Surveyor's, which appears to be a clearing-house for the successful solution of all problems or schemes undertaken by the various Corporation departments.

The biggest scheme undertaken by the Borough Surveyor's department during the period is the reconstruction of the Sewage Works at Cheadle Heath, at a cost of £250,000. Other work undertaken has been the extension of the Electricity Works and the culverting of the underground waterway, the building of the Bann Street Wash-house, the erection of nearly a thousand municipal houses, the building of the new Cleansing Depot at Edgeley, the new Tram Offices, Tram Shed, Omnibus Garage, and extension of the old tram shed, the new steps, shelter and offices in Mersey Square, the erection of police boxes, the re-surfacing of roads with concrete at a cost of £135,000 (this being an unemployment relief scheme), the erection of shelters and bowl-houses in the public parks, the re-modelling of Mile End Hall and Woodbank Hall, respectively, the first as a maternity home and the latter as a museum. etc., and the new Georges Road Depot for the Highways Department.