

OBITUARY.

Mr. Richard John Bligh.

There passed away at his residence in Patrick st., last evening at about 8 p.m., a very old and well known resident of Dalby, in the person of Mr. Richard John Bligh, at the age of 76 years. The deceased gentleman underwent an operation (induced by privations suffered in the early days) at Sydney some twelve months back, and he seems never to have overcome the effects of same, succumbing eventually after a keen struggle of 16 weeks.

Mr. Richard John Bligh was the grandson of the famous Captain Bligh of the historic Mutiny of the Bounty incident. The story has been told and retold, and is ever fresh and interesting, and directly connected with it is the famous voyage made by the intrepid captain in the open boat to Timor. Captain Bligh subsequently became Governor of New South Wales and the story of the fight he put up against some of the established powers forms a portion of well known Australian history. The son of the redoubtable Captain returned to the colony in 1838, and settled down in Sydney where the deceased was born in 1849.

After his college days Mr. Bligh came to Queensland for "colonial experience," spending some years on Boombah Station, St. George. Subsequently he took up "Boothalla," on the Paroo River, with Mr. Bullmore, the firm being known as Messrs Bullmore and Bligh. Over 25 years ago, as the effects of the extended drought, the property was lost to Mr. Bligh, who then came into this district. He followed the arduous life of a drover, and was much engaged in various classes of station work, mainly among sheep. He has been a resident of Dalby for over a quarter of a century.

He is survived by a brother, Mr. William Bligh (of Blackheath, Sydney), two sisters, Mrs. J. Oakes (Neutral Bay, Sydney), and Mrs. P. Oakes (of Epping, N.S.W.), and his wife, who is well known as a hard worker and most successful organiser in church work and in any charitable and well intentioned cause. The children still living are Messrs. William Richard, Bertie Ivo, and Maurice O'Connell Bligh, Mrs. T. Hopper, of Coorparoo, Brisbane, Miss Ruby and Kitty Bligh, and Miss Gwendie Bligh, late in charge of the Squarctop school, but now in the teachers' training college. Of the boys, Maurice saw four years' service in the last war in France, while Edward Parnell Bligh, as a member of the 21st battalion, A.I.F., was killed in action in the trenches, at Bouzancourt.

The deceased gentleman was of a retiring disposition, but of a genial and generous nature that laid itself open to all those who demanded help. With such blood in his veins as that

of his renowned ancestor, he had the spirit of the pioneer within him, a bluff conspicuous honesty, and an ingenuousness that appealed to all at the first sight. In his decease Dalby loses yet another link with its own past—and the history of Queensland.

The funeral will take place this afternoon at 3 p.m., at which time the cortege will leave the cottage in Patrick st. for the Dalby Cemetery.