



Mr. John Wesley Jago has held the important position of Manager of the "Evening Star" Company, Limited, since 1872, during the full period of its rise and prosperity He was born at Nailsworth, near Stroud, in Gloucestershire, England, in 1830. and removed at an early age to Glasgow, where he was educated. There he entered the office of the "North British Railway and Shipping Journal," which was published by Mr. George Mills, son of a Lord Provost of Glasgow, and was subsequently connected with the "Glasgow Examiner." He afterwards entered the service of the Caledonian Railway Company, and eventually that of the firm of William Baird and Co., iron masters, by whom he was employed as cashier at their Lugar ironworks. On returning to Glasgow, he accepted the position of cashier in the firm of Messrs Schrader and Mitchell, leather, bark, and hide factors. From his youth Mr. Jago took an active interest in the Total Abstinence movement, and he was engaged to proceed to New Zealand as lecturer to the Dunedin Total Abstinence Society. Accordingly he arrived at Port Chalmers in 1862, by the ship "Cheviot." Having fulfilled his mission, he commenced business in Dunedin, and, in 1872, was appointed to his present position. Mr. Jago has always been a moving spirit in the cause of Total Abstinence and Prohibition, and social reforms generally. During the whole period of its existence, from 1873 to 1900, he was editor of the "Temperance Herald." He also served on the Dunedin school committee in the early days, and, in later years, was a member of the Otago Education Board. Mr. Jago also took a great interest in the Dunedin Athenacum, and was a member of its committee when the present building was erected.

Otago Witness , Issue 2645, 23 November 1904, Page 32

It is with much regret we have to announce the sudden and unexpected death on Friday evening, 19th November 1904, of Mr John Wesley Jago, for many years the manager of the

Dunedin Evening Star, and a well-known citizen. Mr Jago was at the Evening Star Office as usual on Friday and transacted a little business, but, not feeling well, he remained at home in the afternoon. He had been advised by his medical attendant to take a week's rest in bed, but this was the last thing he was likely to do unless compelled by sheer weakness, and he spent Friday afternoon in his favourite work preparing a letter to children on the subject of temperance. In the evening his condition led to the members of his family being summoned, and, surrounded by those who loved and admired him, he passed away quietly but suddenly from heart weakness.

Mr Jago was born in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, England, on March 15, 1830. When about eight years of age he was taken by his parents to Glasgow to be educated. After residing for some years in Glasgow Mr Jago took an active part in the work of the Glasgow Abstainers' Union, of which he was for some years a director. He also resided for several years in Greenock, and at Lugar, in Ayrshire.

After the discovery of gold in Otago took place, the Dunedin Total Abstinence Society determined to send to Scotland for a man who should be employed as the society's agent in the work of temperance reform, and Mr Jago was the man unanimously selected for the appointment. He resigned a comfortable situation in an important mercantile house in Glasgow, and, in 1862 embarked in the good ship *Cheviot*, Captain Orkney, arriving at Port Chalmers at the latter end of the following October. The arrangement with the Total Abstinence Society was not long sustained, and Mr Jago again entered into business. He engaged in several branches of commercial pursuits before he finally took the position of manager of the Evening Star, which he had at the time of his death held for a period of 34-years.

In the old provincial days Mr Jago took a great interest in politics, especially those affecting the province of Otago, warmly supporting Mr Donald Reid when that gentleman contested the Superintendency against the late Mr James Macandrew. In the interest of views then represented by Mr Reid, Mr Jago went to Port Chalmers and contested that seat in the House of Representatives with Mr Macandrew. He also stood for the representation of the City of Dunedin in the Provincial Council, but did not secure either seat. Since the abolition of the provinces Mr Jago did not take much part in political matters, his business and other engagements leaving him little time for so doing. He, however, took some part in the educational work of the city. He was a member of the George Street School Committee for some years, and was three times in succession elected its chairman. He also occupied a seat on the Otago Education Board.

It would take long indeed to deal completely with the good work done by Mr Jago in the temperance cause, but it may be mentioned that the first Good Templars Lodge in Dunedin was opened on the 30th October, 1872, and that Mr. Jago was chosen as Chief Templar, and held the office during the first six months. On retiring from the chair he received a testimonial from the lodge in recognition of his very competent ruling during his term of office.

Mr Jago always took a deep interest in all musical matters, and in years gone by was a prominent and active member of the Choral Society and also of the Moray Place Congregational Church choir.

The deceased gentleman leaves a widow and a family of eight— namely, Mrs J. F. Peake, Mrs G. C. Israel. Mrs Justice Williams, Mrs P. Kahlenberg Mrs J. W. Smith, Mr J. Jago, Mr A. Jago. And Mr F Jago.

The funeral took place on Monday, the remains of the deceased gentleman being laid to rest in the Northern Cemetery. The cortege, which was a very lengthy one, included a large number of representative citizens, who availed themselves of the opportunity of paying their last tribute of respect to the memory of one whose efforts for the public weal and sterling uprightness had won hosts of warm friends and many admirers.

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In December, 1877, at the annual session of the Grand Lodge held at Christchurch, Mr Jago was chosen **G.W.C.T.**, and held office for three years, during which period he did a great amount of work for the good of the order.

Of Mr Jago's qualities it is scarcely necessary to speak, he was so widely and so well known, and the unassuming- uprightness, benevolence, and fine simplicity of character so prominent in his long and useful life might well be an example to many. His loss to the community will be much felt, and the greatest sympathy felt for those bereaved.

On June 4, 1902, Mr and Mrs Jago celebrated their golden wedding at a social held in the Agricultural Hall, Dunedin. There was a very large gathering of friends and relatives, and a host of well-known citizens present, and congratulatory messages were received in very large numbers from absentees. Mr J. A. Park, the then Mayor of Dunedin, presented Mr Jago with a very handsome illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns. Congratulatory and complimentary addresses, in which reference was made to both Mr and Mrs Jago, were delivered by Mr A. S. Adams, on behalf of the Temperance party ; the Rev. W. Saunders on behalf of the Moray Place Congregational Church ; Mr G. Fenwick, on behalf of the press; and Mr A. Sligo, on behalf of old friends. Hearty and prolonged cheers were given for Mr and Mrs Jago and their descendants. Mr Jago, in replying, referred to the fact that it was the fortieth anniversary of his arrival in the province and the thirtieth of his entering upon the management of the Evening Star.

He also referred to his long friendship and intimate relations with the late Mr George Bell, to the fineness of whose character he bore testimony. The proceedings closed with the hearty singing of a verse of "Auld lang syne."

At the session of the Grand Lodge held at Wellington in 1880, Mr Jago, to mark the services rendered by him to the order and to the cause of temperance, was presented with a substantial testimonial and a handsomely-framed address. Mr Jago maintained his close connection with the Good Templar movement from that period up to the time of his death. It was mainly owing to the indefatigable efforts of Mr Jago that the existence and maintenance of the *Temperance Herald*, the official organ of the lodge, was due, and was, for some considerable time editor. Mr Jago also contributed to other temperance journals in other parts of the world.

He was an active member of the Congregational Church body, and was officially connected with the Moray Place Congregational Church, Dunedin, since its formation, holding in 1899 the honourable office of chairman of the Congregational Union of New Zealand.