



The late Mr Charles George Ziele, whose death on March 1 we record in this issue, has been for many years well known and respected in the business circles of this city. Mr Ziele has been long in the colony, and is one of that number of the earlier pioneers — alas, rapidly diminishing — whose youth and strong manhood have been expended in this country, and who, by their toil and endurance in the face of hardships, have, while their years declined with the growing strength of the land of their adoption, been the important units that have brought the colony to its present condition.

Mr Ziele left Germany in 1856, at the age of 26, in the sailing vessel *Europa*, and landed in Victoria, in November of that year, where he took up a situation with his uncle, a general merchant, in Creswick. Three years later he took charge of a branch of that business at Redbank. At this time the discovery of gold in Otago attracted him here, and he landed from the steamer *Ladybird* on the 1st day of January, 1861.

After inspecting many of the then active goldfields, he finally selected Wetherstones where he started the business of a general merchant. This business prospered, but when the famous discovery of gold by Hartley and Reilley caused a big rush to what was then known as the Dunstan, he removed his entire stock there. Success continued to reward his energies, and his business flourished and extended till 1869, when he removed to Dunedin, where he purchased the wholesale business of Pole, Dodds, and Cameron, in Rattray street. This he conducted successfully till 1883, when he disposed of it to two of his employees — Messrs Liggins and Gibson.

In July of that year, in conjunction with Mr **James** Rattray, of this city, he purchased the well known works of McLeod Brothers [soap manufacturers], and formed it into the present limited liability company. Much competition existed in this industry, at times resulting in loss to all engaged in it, but under his management and by reason of his untiring energy, the business, which, when he took it up, was practically a bankrupt concern, was gradually raised to one of the most flourishing in the colony.

Those who were associated with Mr Ziele in business were impressed with his high character for general and commercial honesty, his great zeal, industry, and whole-hearted devotion to his work; while those who knew him more in a private capacity, and the poor and sick who needed him, appreciated him still more for his unfailing kindness and his unostentatious liberality. He was always too much engrossed with his business to take much active part in public affairs, once only endeavouring, unsuccessfully, to gain a seat in the City Council.

He held a commission of the peace for a number of years, and was a member of the Benevolent Board until his resignation prior to his departure to Europe in January, 1901. During the visit to Europe his health commenced to fail. A severe operation performed in London ameliorated but did not cure his ailment, which he endured with uncomplaining fortitude till the end.

Mr Ziele had married in Clyde in 1868, and is survived by his widow and three sons and two married daughters, one of whom is Mrs W S. Roberts, of this city and the other Mrs I H. H. Russell, of Sydney.

Charles George Ziele is buried in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery in the family grave.

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