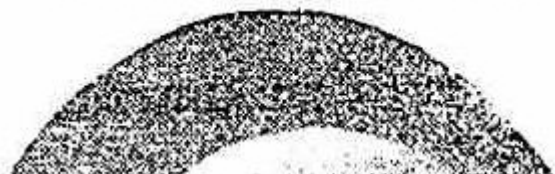


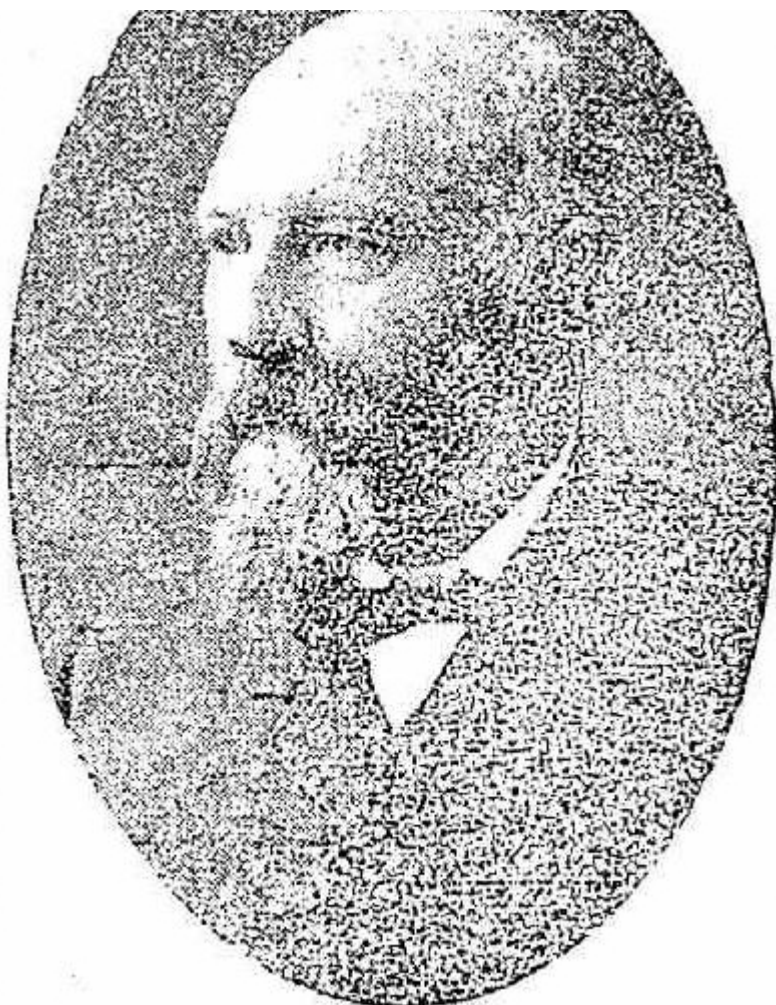
DEATH OF MR. W. HUNTER.

VALUED CITIZEN PASSES.

ANOTHER LOSS TO MINING.

After an illness extending over a period of eight months, Mr. William Hunter, the well-known mining investor, died at his residence, "Hunter House," Queen-street, Bendigo, yesterday morning from an affection of the heart. Death took place at half-past 7 o'clock, and by it one of Bendigo's best citizens has been removed. The loss to mining will be particularly severe. Mr. Hunter bore his lengthy illness with characteristic calmness and fortitude. Throughout he was attended by Dr. Hugh De Ravia. A frequent visitor was the Right Rev. J. Crookston, Mr. Hunter having taken an active interest in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for many years. A widow and family of one son and two daughters are left—Mr. William Hunter, junr., and the Misses Annie Hunter and Mary Hunter. The eldest son, the late Mr. Joseph Hunter, died in 1910, whilst a law student at the University. Since his father's illness, Mr. W. Hunter, junr., has accepted seats on the boards of directors of several mining companies, and it would give great satisfaction to Bendigo to see him retain his interest in Bendigo mining. The funeral takes place to-day, the cortege leaving "Hunter House" for the Bendigo Cemetery at 3 p.m.





(Bartlett Bros., photo.)

The deceased gentleman was the son of the late Mr. Alexander Hunter, a farmer in Letterkenny, Donegal, Ireland. When Mr. William Hunter, who was born on the farm in 1810, arrived in Bendigo in 1860, his brother, Mr. John Hunter, was digging for gold at Kangaroo Flat, and Mr. Joseph Hunter was following the same occupation at Golden Gully. Mr. William Hunter joined forces with the latter, and for six weeks they worked together there. They then came further down the valley into Bendigo proper, where Mr. Joseph Hunter possessed a fairly large puddling machine. The two still worked together, and they kept several horses and carts going to supply the puddling machine, which was situated near where the Bendigo Sav-

was situated near where the Bendigo Savings Bank now stands in Lurgreaves-street. Some time later Mr. William Hunter went to Eaglehawk in connection with a claim in that part of the field. When he first reached Bendigo he knew nothing of mining, but his brother, who had served an excellent apprenticeship, quickly gave him the necessary practical lessons. While at Eaglehawk he was able to work on equal terms with those around him, and he remained there for some time, obtaining fairly good returns. Eventually he joined his brother, Mr. Joseph Hunter, and then followed many months of useful work.

Years went by, and in 1865 the Bendigo Borough Council determined to call for tenders to prospect the Pall Mall reserve. Messrs. Joseph and William Hunter, W. D. C. Denovan, James M'Auley, W. H. Kelso, and W. McFeeters entered into an agreement to negotiate the work in a partnership. Some of them tendered. Mr. Denovan was the successful tenderer for No. 1 block, nearest View Point, at £61; Mr. McFeeters for the No. 2, or middle, block, from Williamson-street to Bull-street, at £38; and Messrs. J. and W. Hunter for the third block, between Bull and Mundy streets, at £81. All the gentlemen then joined together, and erected puddling machines on the banks of the creek, so as to have the advantages of water and to comply with the council's demand that the tailings be used to level the reserve after it was prospected. Fifty men were employed, and work proceeded energetically. This was, of course, long before the erection of the public buildings was mooted. Rosalind Park was but sparsely planted, and day by day Pall Mall was uprooted, and pits were dug over the whole surface. The proprietary party worked among the men. The party, in addition, obtained the right to work in other streets, including Market-square, M'Ivor-road, and High-street, and was also allowed to cart away that surface soil from several allotments.

the surface soil from several allotments, and from this and from the streets they received what was at that time considered a very fair return for their toil.

The Hunter Bros. had done well in Bendigo, and in 1866 they took up a selection at Corop, near Lake Cooper, where they proposed at some future time to make an Australian home. Two of the brothers settled on the property, but Mr. William Hunter remained in Bendigo.

The Garden Gully United mine laid the foundation of the fortune of the deceased gentleman, as well as those of his brothers. Mr. Joseph Hunter, who died in 1871, at the age of 35, was one of the originators of the company, and soon after coming to Victoria Mr. William Hunter purchased shares in the mine at a small price. His other brothers did likewise. During the following years they regretted the investment, for threepenny calls were made too frequently to please them. But they were men of faith in the resources of the property, and though the shares went begging the family held most of them, Mr. George Laasell even, in order to get rid of 5000 shares, paying the late Mr. Joseph Hunter £2/10/ to take over the liability on them. The wonderfully rich discoveries of the tribute companies forms one of the brightest chapters in Bendigo mining, and the Garden Gully United Company became the leading mine on the field, and placed the shareholders in affluent circumstances. The Hunter family benefited more than most others, for they held large interests in the mine.

Before the Garden Gully struck it rich, Mr. William Hunter, in 1873, returned and took up his residence in Ireland, and he was there when the famous Bendigo mine burst forth into all its golden greatness. In 1882 he was married to a daughter of Mr. Joseph Chambers, of Brockagh, Donegal, and in the following year again came out to Victoria. Two or three weeks after his return in connection with his brother

his return, in conjunction with his brother

Robert, he purchased the Burnewang Park Estate at Limore, comprising 30,000 acres, for which £95,000 was paid. Mr. Robert Hunter established his home on the estate, but Mr. William Hunter settled in Bendigo. He then entered upon an extensive connection with the Bendigo mining industry. He did not confine his attention to one reef, but placed his capital where it would assist mines scattered all over the field. He became closely associated with the directorates of many companies, and next to the late Mr. George Lansell was the principal director of mines in the district. Mr. Hunter had been a very heavy callpayer right up to the present time, but for many years past had received very little in return for his enterprise.

The deceased at the time of his death was a director in the following mining companies:—Garden Gully United, Sea, South New Moon, Clarence United, New Shenandoah, New Chum Consolidated, Heron's and Energetic, Pearl, New Nil, New St. Mungo, United Devonshire, Williams's United, Goldfields South, Goldfields Consolidated, Goldfields North, Goldfields Extended, United Ulster, South Garden United, Cornish United, Carrisle, Windmill Hill, Specimen Hill, New Argus, North New Moon, New Moon Consolidated, and New Moon United. The late Mr. Hunter was also a director of several investment institutions in the city. He took an active interest in his directoral duties, and like the late Mr. George Lansell and the late Mr. Erast Mueller, frequently visited the mines. Of late years he seldom made underground inspections of the mines, being content to discuss in a conversational way with the managers the important questions affecting the interests of the companies. He was exceedingly popular with all sections of the community, and his demise will be sincerely regretted.

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In racing circles the late Mr Hunter was well known. He was amongst the oldest members of the Bendigo Jockey Club, and took a lively interest in the sport. Although frequently urged to assume the position of an office-bearer in the club, Mr. Hunter always declined.

The late Mr. Hunter also took a keen interest in the local charitable institutions, and was a life-governor and member of the Bendigo Hospital committee, a life-governor of the Art Gallery, and a trustee and member of the board of management of St. Andrew's Church. Mr. Hunter was a generous contributor to every deserving cause, and performed many kindly charitable acts in an unostentatious manner.