

*Press.* 29 August 1940 (Papers Past) [01/10/2016]

## OBITUARY

### MR JOHN ANSTEY

(PRESS ASSOCIATION TELEGRAM.)

TIMARU, August 28.

The death occurred to-day of Mr John Anstey, in his eighty-fifth year. Born in Devon, Mr Anstey came to New Zealand in 1878, settling in South Canterbury, where he took up farming. In 1905 he was appointed a member of the Royal Lands Commission, and as a result of this work was appointed to the Legislative Council, in 1907, being a member until 1916 when, reversing the usual procedure, he entered the House of Representatives as member for Waitaki and served for five years.

He was a member of the Timaru Borough Council, a foundation member of the South Canterbury Power Board, a member of the Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, and a director of the Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association for 30 years.

Mr Anstey is survived by a daughter and three sons.

*Timaru Herald.* 29 August 1940 (Papers Past) [18/03/2025]

## PIONEER PASSES

### Death Of Mr John Anstey

#### Long Association With District

The death occurred at his residence, 12 Craighead Street, yesterday, of Mr John Anstey, in his eighty-fifth year. Mr Anstey was associated with the public life of the community for many years, having served the constituents of Waitaki in Parliament, the citizens of the Dominion as a member of the Legislative Council and the public of Timaru on various local bodies. He was a man of wide vision and marked ability, and the district is the poorer for his passing.

Mr Anstey was born at Tiverton, Devon, on June 11, 1856, and was educated at Tiverton Boys' School and Grosvenor College, Clifton. He came out to New Zealand in 1878 and his first occupation was that of a shearer on the Horsley Downs station in North Canterbury, but after a short time, hearing that there were more opportunities in South Canterbury, he gravitated to this province. He turned his hand to ploughing for a time, but in the early eighties he went on a journey of investigation throughout the greater part of the North Island in search of an opportunity to begin farming on his own account. However, he was unable to find a northern Mecca offering greater opportunities than South Canterbury, with the result that he returned south, and had remained here ever since. On his return he accepted a position as driver of a threshing mill, a business with which he was familiar in his native country, and in this capacity did a considerable amount of work, his wanderings through the province in this capacity enabling him to obtain an excellent grasp of the productive capacity of the country, and consequently, when later he began farming on his own on an area of 180 acres near Pareora, he was by no means a novice regarding the productivity of the country. Later he added to his holding, and the knowledge he had acquired in earlier years enabled him to farm successfully.

Mr Anstey began his political career in the Legislative Council in 1907, being a member for seven years. Reversing the usual procedure, he graduated to the House of Representatives, representing Waitaki for five years during the period of the Great War. He served on the Timaru Borough Council from 1923 to 1924 and for more than 30 years occupied a seat on the Board of Directors of the Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association, during which period he saw it grow from a comparatively small beginning to what it is to-day. He was also a member of the first South Canterbury Power Board in 1922, and was a member of the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce from 1920 until quite recently, when he relinquished his seat on account of his health. One of his greatest contributions to the Dominion was as a member of the Royal Lands Commission, which was set up in 1905. He was one of the founders of Lodge Pareora, 134, was a member and chairman of the Pareora School Committee for some years, and during his retirement in Timaru was a member of the West End Bowling Club. He was one of the oldest Justices of the Peace in South Canterbury, being appointed in 1897.

Mr Anstey, whose wife predeceased him some years ago, is survived by one daughter, Miss M. Anstey, Timaru, and three sons, Mr J. T. Anstey, Makikihi, Mr Henry Anstey, Otipua, and Mr William Anstey, Ealing.