

## **LOCAL PREACHER FIFTY -FIVE YEARS**



### **Death of Mr. John Ellmer**

Mr. John Ellmer, who died on Monday, at his home in Westgate Road, Belton, aged 83; was the oldest local preacher in the Epworth (West) Methodist Circuit. He commenced to preach soon after his conversion, fifty-five years ago and had walked thousands of miles in all sorts of weather to fulfil his appointments. One of his long journeys was from Haynes Farm, Thorne Levels to Misson Springs. He had preached in 78 places of worship in the Epworth and Rotherham Circuits, and at services held in cellars, kitchens, mission rooms, common lodging houses,

and Salvation Army huts, moreover, he had proclaimed his message in all the Nonconformist chapels in the Isle of Axholme, except the Methodist (formerly Wesleyan) chapels at Crowle, Epworth and Owston Ferry. He came of Methodist stock. His grandmother entertained the first band of "Roving Ranters," as the early Primitives were called, when they visited Swinefleet. She was made the first class leader there and left in charge of the converts. Up to her death at the age of 91 years, she remained a loyal member of the Primitive Methodist cause. His father, who died at the age of 88, was a local preacher for 62 years.

Mr. Ellmer had been a Sunday School superintendent, president of Band of Hope, and Christian Endeavour Societies, and had held all the offices of the P.M. Society open to a layman, except that of Circuit Steward. He has been a class leader at the Westgate Chapel.

Mr. Ellmer started work at the age of seven and for many years was employed on farms. Before returning to his native place, he was for 23 years at Rotherham, where he was employed as an insurance agent. Then he lived for ten years at the Fruit Farm, Epworth, and on leaving there came to Belton. His wife died sixteen years ago. Of a family of eight, three daughters survive, namely, Mrs. Myatt and Mrs. Jubb (Belton), and Mrs. Knighton (the eldest), who is in Canada.

The funeral takes place at Belton to-day (Friday).