

A BATLEY TENOR'S DEATH IN CANADA.

The Late Mr. John H.
B. Redfearn.

MEMORIES OF A LOCAL JUNIOR CRICKET TEAM.

The death has taken place at Toronto, Canada, of a former well-known Batley man, Mr. James Thomas Brearley Redfearn, who, in his sixtieth year, had been ill for several months.

Only last Christmas his only brother, Mr. Joseph Henry Brearley Redfearn, Dark Lane, Batley, died very suddenly. Their sister, Mrs. Fred Oldroyd, Almondsbury, Huddersfield, lies seriously ill at her home and is unaware of the death of Mr. James Redfearn.

Mr. Redfearn was son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sheard Redfearn, Batley, and in his youth was a member of the Hick Lane Methodist cricket team. He worked in Messrs. G. and J. Stubley's finishing department and subsequently for Mr. Briggs, a grocer in Wilton Street, Batley. He was still a young man when he removed to Preston, Lancashire, to take an office post with Messrs. Harding, hackney carriage makers. He married a Preston lady, who survives, and twenty years ago they emigrated to Toronto, where Mr. Redfearn was appointed buyer for a gas company.

It was as a vocalist that he was best known in Batley. He was a member of the Parish Church choir and one of the best tenors in the district. He was very popular on the local concert platform and had won many prizes at musical festivals, including the Blackpool festival.

Mr. Willie S. Whitaker, a well-known Hick Lane Methodist, recalls the days when Mr. Redfearn assisted Hick Lane cricket team in the local junior league, and says Mr. Redfearn was a fine character and one of the most popular members of the club.

During the latter months of last year Mr. Whitaker secured an old picture of the Hick Lane team, taken on one of the occasions when they won the Blackburn Challenge Cup. He had reproductions made of the group and sent copies to all members of the old team, now in many parts of the world. Mr. Redfearn's family received a picture and an old scoring book, which, Mr. Whitaker calculated would bring pleasant memories to Mr. Redfearn.

But when the picture was received some months ago Mr. Redfearn was very ill and his relatives could not show it to him. The book and picture has been returned to Mr. Whitaker by Mr. Redfearn's son, who expresses gratitude for Mr. Whitaker's kindness.

The personnel of the picture was: Mr. Whitaker, Elm Cottage, Dark Lane, who was captain; Mr. Willie Shaw, Scunthorpe, Lincs.; Mr. Herbert Coulter, Ilkley; Mr. Louis Bootcock, Healey Lane, Batley; Mr. Tom Taylor, Australia; Mr. John Walker Newsome, Canada; Mr. Chas. Clifton, Mr. Luther Appleyard, the late Mr. Joe Burnley, Mr. Harry Clifton, Batley; Mr. H. Shaw, Australia; Mr. Geo. Briggs and Mr. Willie Briggs, Batley; and Mr. Dick Pickles, Ravensthorpe. Replies have been received from all of them.

Mr. Redfearn leaves a widow, a son and a daughter.