

interest in agricultural matters, and is Chairman of the Canterbury branch of the National Farmers' Union and an active member of the old-established Canterbury Farmers' Club. A forceful and humorous speaker, contributions from "The Admiral" are always welcomed by his fellow members.

The Great Old Man

Bridge is justly proud of Mr. Charles Wills, the village's Grand Old Man, who will celebrate his 84th birthday next week. He has earned the gratitude of the residents by reason of his long career of useful public service. As a boy, he attended the Commercial School at Canterbury and later the Dane John Academy. He then entered his father's bakery business, of which he assumed control on his father's death in 1896.

O charming and sympathetic disposition, he has prominently identified himself with nearly every phase of the village life. For some 70 years he assisted the St. Peter's Church Choir, and in the years gone by was always a popular entertainer in the district.

Perhaps, however, Mr. Wills' chief claim to distinction is his connection for over 50 years with the Bridge Fire Brigade, of which he was Chief Officer for over 30 years. Upon his retirement he was elected Hon. Chief Officer. At the recent Fire Brigades Tournament at Canterbury his health was enthusiastically honoured by the officers of the South Eastern District.

Among his official activities may be mentioned his long service on the Bridge R.D.C. and the old Board of Guardians, his chairmanship of the Parish Council, of which he had been a member since its inception, and his secretaryship for nearly half-a-century of the Bridge Gas, Coal and Coke Co.

During the war he was nightly on duty at the canteen run at the Reading Room for the benefit of the troops stationed at Bourne Park.

In his youth he was a keen cricketer and turned out for the local club for many years, while upon his ceasing to take an active part in the game, he assumed the duties of scorer. Despite his 84 years, "Old Charlie" is remarkably active and vigorous. He comes of a long-lived family. His aunt, the late Mrs. Hayzen, who lived with him, was a centenarian, and it is the sincere hope of everybody in the village that he himself will keep up his wicket and run into three figures.

DIED AGED 94.