

DEATH OF MR. D. J.

DE VILLIERS

UNION MINISTER AT THE HAGUE

(The Argus Correspondent)

London, Thursday.

A British United Press message says that Mr. D. J. de Villiers, Union Minister Plenipotentiary at the Hague, died there this morning.

The news of the death of Mr. de Villiers was received with great regret in parliamentary and official circles, where his representation and administration are regarded as having been an unqualified success.



Mr. D. J. de Villiers.

Dr. van der Merwe, the member for Bethlehem, who knew Mr. de Villiers intimately, in an interview with a representative of The Argus,

paid the following tribute:

"The death of Mr. de Villiers," said Dr. van der Merwe, "will be deeply felt in the Free State, and especially in the eastern districts, where he spent the greater part of his life. He had a strong and charming personality and rendered yeoman service to the Free State as member of the provincial executive.

"In the council itself he was looked upon as chief financial expert. When he was called upon to serve South Africa as special envoy in Holland it was undoubtedly a great loss to the Free State, especially in these days of depression.

"We were, however, happy to know that the way in which he fulfilled his duties in Holland reflected honour on the province from which he came," concluded Dr. van der Merwe.

SERVICES TO FREE STATE

Before Mr. de Villiers went to the Hague he was Trade Commissioner for the Union on the Continent for nearly two years, having succeeded Mr. Charles Blenkar in that post.

DE VILLIERS

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT THE HAGUE

HIGH STATE OFFICIALS ATTEND

The Hague, Saturday.

The funeral of Mr. D. J. de Villiers, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Union, who died early on Thursday morning, took place at eleven o'clock this morning in the Klooster Kerk, one of the oldest and finest churches in The Hague.

The Reverend Mr. van Leeuwen, a friend of Mr. de Villiers, paid eloquent tribute to the personality of the dead Minister.

Queen Wilhelmina was represented by Jonkheer van Suchtelen van de Haare and by her aide-de-camp Lieutenant Col de Jonge van Ellemeet.

The Prince Consort and the Queen Mother were also represented. Amongst others present were the Dutch Foreign Minister, Jonkheer de Graeff, all the members of the Diplomatic Corps and Legations, the Dutch Minister of National Defence, Dr. Deckers, the Minister of Justice, Dr. van Schaik, the Governor of the Province of South Holland, Jonkheer van Karnebeek, the Military Governor at The Hague, General Roell, the Burgomaster of The Hague, the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Dr. Muller, former Consul-General of the Oranje Vrij Staat, and Dr. Leyds, a former Minister of the Transvaal.

Others present included delegates of the Dutch South African Society, the Commercial Committee for South Africa, and South African students studying at Dutch universities.

MILITARY ESCORT

When the coffin was carried out of the church the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr. Adler Creutz, the Swedish Minister who is doyen of the diplomatic corps, the Swiss Minister, and the Belgian Minister performed the duties of pall-bearers.

A large military escort was provided, under the command of Colonel Nauta Pleter, commanding The Hague garrison, and including detachments of infantry, cavalry, and field artillery.

Half an hour after leaving the church the procession arrived at the municipal cemetery, the route being lined by crowds.

At the cemetery the provisional interment took place, and religious ceremonies were performed by the Rev. Mr. van Leeuwen. When the coffin was lowered into the grave the Royal Military Band played a South African hymn.

After the ceremony the charge d'affaires, Mr. A. J. Bosman, returned thanks in the name of the South African Government for the great honour rendered to the memory of Mr. de Villiers.

Among the wreaths was one from the Queen Mother.—(Reuter.)