

## EXPERT BANDSMAN

### Camborne Death of Mr. F. J. Bawden

A member of Camborne Town Band since the age of 10, Mr. Francis John Bawden, of 28, Dolcoath-road, Camborne, died on Sunday, aged 68. He was taken ill at the Band Room about three weeks ago. A first-class cornet player, Mr. Bawden first took up the instrument when he was nine, and when he was 10 he had had enough experience to be allowed to play Christmas carols with the band. His skill grew, when the famous Beeses of the Barn Band visited Camborne, young Mr. Bawden so impressed the solo cornet players that they recommended him to their bandmaster, who invited him to go on a world tour. Mr. Bawden accepted, and in two years, which ended in December, 1907, he visited, among other countries, the U.S.A., Canada, the Hawaiian Isles, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, and Tasmania, a tour taking him some 50,000 miles. The bandsmen received high praise for their skill, and on one occasion played before a crowd of 30,000 at the Cricket Ground, Melbourne. Mr. Bawden returned to Camborne Band in 1934, and remained a member up to the time of his death.

Like many Cornishmen, when he was a youth Mr. Bawden started work in the tin mines. On coming home after his world tour he found difficulty in getting his old job back, and he left for Pachuca, Mexico, where he was employed in a tin mine for a year. Revolutions were common, so that he went north to the United States, where he gained experience in silver, copper, and gold mines as a pipetter in Montana, Arizona, Utah, and California, and became a bandmaster of three bands. When he returned to Cornwall from Butte City, Montana, in 1934, Mr. Bawden was employed by Messrs. Holman Bros., but in 1937 he took a post at the Bickford Smith factory at Tuckingmill. He retired last year. He was a member of Camborne Literary Institute and the Working Men's Club. Besides a widow, Mr. Bawden leaves four children who are in America, and one in Camborne.

The funeral was one of the most impressive seen in Camborne for years. Traffic on the main A.30 road was held up for nearly half-an-hour when Camborne Band under its musical director Mr. F. J. Roberts, played the "Dead March in Saul," from the Parish Church, through the town to Camborne Cemetery. Members of Camborne Band Committee were the pall-bearers at the funeral service in the Parish Church, when the band played Handel's Largo, and accompanied the singing of the hymn "Love Divine." The Rector of Camborne, the Rev. G. F. Sandfield, conducted the service and officiated at the interment in the Cemetery. Mourners were Mrs. L. P.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tressider, Messrs. C. Edwell, J. Richards (cousins), Mr. M. Luxon (son-in-law), and Messrs. F. Vincent and W. H. Radmore. The bearers, members of the Band Committee, were Messrs. J. Hennyman, W. A. Lampshire, E. Fletcher (rep. L. Fletcher), O. Huse, J. Chappell, and D. Orchard. Others present were Messrs. A. G. Richards (St. Just Town Band), F. Floyd (Stithians Band), J. Eustace (Perranporth Band). Many members of the Camborne Band Committee were present, including Messrs. S. A. Keen, Reg. Warren, W. Uglow, and A. M. Holman. The Bickford Smith Factory was represented by Mr. W. Law. Messrs. H. Eddy and R. S. Rowe represented the former bandsmen. Also present were Messrs. S. Bryant, F. J. Nicholls, T. J. Quick, R. J. Trevaskas, J. H. Thomas, T. G. Dean, W. F. Mayne, W. G. Holman, W. L. Pidwell, S. Vivian, G. W. Pidwell, S. J. Harris, D. Stoddern, J. C. Uren, and C. Trenowden. Mesdames F. Skinner, L. Nicholas, W. J. Clifton, L. Wills (rep. Mr. L. Wills), E. M. Kennett, and L. Harris. Among the many floral tributes were those from Camborne Band; the Committee of the Band; the management, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Bickford Smith's Factory, Tuckingmill; Camborne Undertakers, Messrs. Retallack Bros., Camborne.