

Some time ago I once again wrote to Mr. E.F. Laver, former director of J. Sloper & Co., asking more impertinent questions about Slopers and mentioning the directors whose names appeared on the Advert Letters which have surfaced. The list of names was M.M. Firminger, W.O. Hawkins, S.J. Derden, E.F. Laver, A.W. Slater and W.E. Cokayne. Mr. Laver very kindly wrote back with the following information.

"Percy Sloper died in the 1930's when Mr. Rowley was Works Manager and a Mr. Steadman (Stedman?) was Company Secretary and in control of the then City Office. On the death of Percy Sloper (the only other known Sloper survivor, Eustace, having evidently preceded by death), the accountants and solicitors to the Company, which really meant Percy Sloper, quickly arranged the sale of the business to another client of theirs - viz Mr. R.T. Firminger.

At the outbreak of World War II Mr. Firminger, wishing to take some active part, took over the control of the Works in West Hampstead and Mr. Rowley retired. A further change took place when Mr. W.O. Hawkins took over Mr. Steadman's position as Company Secretary at the City Offices.

Mr. Firminger died in the mid 1950's when Mrs. M. Firminger assumed the position of Governing Director though she never took any active participation in the daily running of the business at either the City Office or the Works. She died sometime in the 1970's. Mr. Marshall retired at the end of 1977 (another director whose name had not been on any of the leaflets we had seen - Ed) and of the other directors, whose names you stated in your letter, only Bill Cokayne and myself remain.

Concerning the closure of the New Bridge Street Offices, I think this took place in 1972."

Our thanks are extended to Mr. Laver for these further pieces of information. One question I am asked by members:- "Is there a photograph or portrait of Joseph Sloper?" Nothing has yet come to light but we can live in hope.

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