

EVENING TELEGRAPH (S. S. ES.)

AND A PART OF
OLD ENGLAND

Odd Man Out

GOSSIP OF THE DAY

WHEN Mr. Parsons Wright of Wold Newton was buried yesterday it is perhaps not too fanciful to think that a way of life and a social order were buried with him, and a part of Lincolnshire is gone. For Parsons Wright was surely the last of the squires. It is hard to

If that day is now over, let us not too readily despise the heritage it left us. Peace be with all he Wright and with all he represented.

imagine any future occupant of that quiet dignified and pleasant old house being "Squire" to Wold Newton people in the way that Parsons Wright and his brother before him, and their predecessors before them, were.

They had this title quite naturally and indeed inevitably because that was just what they were — country gentlemen and landowners in the English way, living in the old English way, on their estates, forming an essential part of local life, and known and respected beyond the boundaries of their own parish precisely because of it.

They represented an order which has now passed almost completely away and a social pattern which is not likely to recur.

It was not faultless, but it had immense virtues — a sense of responsibility for one's neighborhood and one's fellow-citizens, an acceptance of unpaid public service as part of a gentleman's duty, a belief in continuity and "rootedness" — for which we have not yet found an adequate substitute. The squires served the country well in their day.