



Employment

Slaughterford

Over 40 Years of Service in the Paper Mills Retirement of Mr. B. Tuck of Slaughterford

After 41 years' service at Slaughterford Paper Mills, Mr. Bert Tuck, of Slaughterford is about to retire. A conscientious workman he is held in high esteem by his employers and workmates alike.

Born at Hawkesbury Upton, Mr. Tuck was taken as a boy of 6 years to Slaughterford, his father Robert Tuck having found work as a carter at the Paper Mills. At the age of 13 young Bert started work as a shepherd at Sheldon Farm, at a weekly wage of 1s. 6d. rising to 4s. In 1900 he started work in the Paper Mill for ? 6d. a day and ultimately followed his father as a carter. In 1912 the firm acquired a motor lorry and Mr. Tuck was proud to be selected to be the one to be trained to drive it. The war of 1914-1918 proved to be a strenuous time for him. As in addition to driving the lorry he also worked in the mill as under beaterman. With his wife and family he also found time to collect herbs, which were in

great demand for medicinal purposes, and by this means the family raised over £8 for the wounded soldiers, to whom they devoted their proceeds.



Mr. Tuck recalled that immediately following the last war the firm purchased a speed at 12 on this he often did journeys to all parts of England up to trips of 300 miles sleeping in the lorry cab more often than in a bed. He enjoyed seeing the country, and it is his proud boast that he was never involved in any accident, "Safety First" having always been his motto.

Mr. Tuck is being followed as a lorry driver by his eldest son, the third generation in the family to be responsible for the transport at the mill. He has been with the firm for 26 years, and another son has 16 years' service. There are ... other sons and two daughters.

It was Mr. Tuck who discovered the disastrous fire in 1925, and he summoned the Fire Brigade from Chippenham. With flames all round him he got two lorries out of the burning garage, the firemen playing their hoses on him meanwhile. Just as one lorry was coming out the engine stopped, and he had to get out of the cab and restart it - under the dual handicaps of fire and water! But he saved his lorries! Lately he has been a member of the fire squad at the mills. Mr. Tuck has a great love for the ancient little church nestling in the valley at Slaughterford, where he is a sidesman, and where for ten years his younger daughter was organist. The Rector, Canon H. E. Ketchley, has given him £2 a retiring present, representing one shilling for each year of his service. Mr. Tuck's hobby is gardening and beekeeping, and he was a prominent exhibitor of honey at Chippenham and Biddestone shows. **From an Unknown Newspaper 1941**

[NB Please note that there are some gaps in the text above as the news cutting was illegible in places where a word appears in brackets this is a best guess as to what the text should read as.]