

EX-DISTRICT ENGINEER,

A.J. ISBESTER DIES

Alexander John Isbester, 62, former district engineer, department of highways, who supervised construction of from \$6,000,000 to \$8,000,000 of roads in this district, died suddenly early yesterday morning at the family residence, 559 Red River Road.

A resident of Port Arthur for 33 years, Mr. Isbester began his work as an engineer here as supervisor of construction for the Port Arthur - Hornepayne branch of the C.N.R. Later he was employed by Barnett-McQueen Company, a concern that built a number of the large grain elevators in the Lakehead district.

Mr. Isbester was appointed district engineer for the provincial department of highways, then known as the Northern Development Branch, in 1929 at a time when the Government was on the threshold of initiating its biggest road program, the building of the Ontario link of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Fifty camps employing 7,000 men were set up between Schreiber and English River under the supervision of Mr. Isbester to clear brush, fill in muskeg land and eventually to build the north-western Ontario link in Canada's coast-to-coast road. When Mr. Isbester relinquished his post as engineer in 1934 due to ill health, the road had been virtually completed although subsequent improvement work was done.

It was estimated today that he had a direct supervision of \$4,000,000 in roads between here and Schreiber and a hand in the construction of many district highways. It was during his tenure of office that the Nipigon road was improved.

In the early days of railroad construction he also supervised construction of the C.P.R. line from Toronto to Sudbury.

Mr. Isbester was a member of Nickle Lodge, A.F. & A.M., Sudbury. Latterly he had been associated with the firm of Chambers, McQuigge & McCaffrey. He was born at Ottawa.

Surviving are his wife, two sons, two brothers and a sister. Sons are Lieut. James Isbester, of the Royal Engineers, now overseas, and Alex, at home. Brothers Colin, Ottawa; and Lt.-Col. Malcolm Isbester, Kingston. The sister is Mrs. J.G. McLaren, Montreal.

The body was removed from the chapel, 21 North Court Street at 10 o'clock this morning to the family residence where a private service for the family will be held tonight. The body will be taken to Ottawa tomorrow morning accompanied by Mrs. Isbester and son, Alex. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon from the Rogers Funeral Chapel to Beechwood Cemetary, Ottawa. He was educated in the public and high schools of Ottawa and the University of Toronto.