

SELKA, SOLOMON

## LOSS TO BRADFORD TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

### DEATH OF MR. SOLOMON SELKA.

### A REMARKABLE CAREER.

The death occurred last night at his residence, Upper Syke, Clayton, of Mr. Solomon Selka, a prominent member of the wool textile industry.

Mr. Selka was born in 1880 at Butschowitz, in Moravia. Coming to England in his early twenties, he spent a number of years in the service of a Bradford shipping house, in which he ultimately rose to a position of responsibility and trust.

In 1912 he became a naturalised Englishman, and after the war he formally renounced the Czechoslovakian nationality. In the meantime he had anchored himself more firmly to his new homeland by marrying an English wife, the daughter of the late Dr. Vinter, then head master of Woodhouse Grove School.

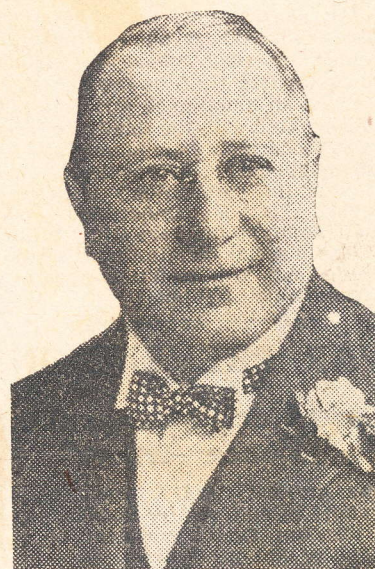
#### ENTERPRISE REWARDED.

It was in 1916 that Mr. Selka set up in business for himself, at first as a piece goods merchant. In a few years, by dint of enterprise and hard work, he had firmly established himself both in the home and export trade, and had launched out into spinning and manufacturing.

He acquired successively the businesses of Henry Briggs and Company, Limited, worsted spinners, of Highgate Mills, Clayton Heights, and Cranbrook Mills, Norwood Green, and finally, in 1931, he acquired control of James Drummond and Sons, Limited, of Lumb Lane Mills, Bradford.

His successful rehabilitation of this extensive and old-established business, which during the period of severe trade depression had fallen into difficulties and was in danger of extinction, was the crowning achievement of a remarkable career. The plant at Lumb Lane Mills is one of the largest worsted plants in Yorkshire. Since it came under Mr. Selka's direction it has given practically uninterrupted employment to over 800 workpeople.

The business established in his own name had acquired too valuable a good-will in the world's markets to allow its identity to be merged on his taking over James Drummond and Sons, Limited, so he carried it on side by side with the latter, transferring the office and warehouse which had formerly been located in Bond Street



to the more roomy premises at Lumb Lane Mills, but still retaining the looms he had at Norwood Green, as well as the spinning plant of Henry Briggs and Company, Limited.

#### CAPABLE LEADER.

Mr. Selka's rise was the more notable in that it was achieved in a time of unparalleled industrial and economic difficulty.

He was a just and a generous employer, and understood well how to get the best out of his staff by himself setting an admirable example of industry and efficiency.

Proud of his Jewish race and faith, Mr. Selka was one of the earliest supporters of the Zionist movement founded by Dr. Hertz, and was always a generous contributor to Jewish causes—particularly in recent years to the many appeals on behalf of Jews expatriated from the countries of their birth or adoption. He was a liberal giver to charitable causes generally, and there were few appeals that he allowed to pass unheeded.

He was not actively a politician and resolutely refused membership of any party.

Mr. Selka leaves a widow and five sons, two of whom are already in the business. His eldest son, Mr. Joseph Arthur Selka, came of age three months ago.

The funeral service will be held at Spring Gardens Synagogue, Bradford, to-day.

*Brad. Telegraph & Argus*  
*Nov. 6 '36*



SELKA, Soloma

TELEGRAPH AND ARGU

LATEST WILLS.

MR. S. SELKA LEAVES  
£119,049.

BRADFORD SPINNER AND  
MANUFACTURER.

SHARES FOR AGENT.

Mr. Solomon Selka, of Upper Syke, Clayton, Bradford; spinner and manufacturer, head of James Drummond and Sons, Ltd., Henry Briggs and Co., Ltd., and Cranbrook Mills, Norwood Green, near Halifax, left £119,049 (net personalty £103,021), on which estate duty of £20,722 has been paid.

His bequests included £100 to Thomas William Smith; 1,000 Ordinary shares in James Drummond and Sons, Ltd., to Albert Fishman, of Cairo, for many years his traveller and agent; £700 to his trustees for disposal in accordance with instructions communicated to them; an annuity of £1,500 to his wife during widowhood and so long as she maintains a home for his children, otherwise a life annuity of £750, and the residue of the property to his children attaining majority. He desired his trustees to carry on the businesses of James Drummond and Sons, Ltd., Bradford, and Messrs. S. Selka, at Norwood Green, and to wind-up or sell as a going concern the business of Henry Briggs and Co., Ltd., at Clayton Heights.

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE  
NOVEMBER 13, 1936

SELKA.—On Thursday evening, the 5th of November, 1936—Marcheshvan 21st, 5697, at "Upper Syke," Clayton, Bradford, Solomon Selka, aged 56. Sadly missed by his wife Helen, and his sons Joseph, Michael, David, Raphael and Max.

Telegraph & Argus 1-2-1937

THE YORKSHIRE OBSERVER,  
FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER, 1936

SELKA.—On November 5th, at "Upper Syke," Clayton, Bradford, Solomon, the beloved husband of Helen Selka, aged 56. Service at the Synagogue, Spring Gardens, Manningham Lane, Bradford, To-day (Friday) at 1.30 p.m., prior to interment at Scholemoor Cemetery (lower end), Bradford. This is the only intimation. [No flowers, by request.]

Pto



SELKA, SOLOMON

## Slavian Dead.

### MR. SOLOMON SELKA.

#### Head Of Noted Concerns.

#### A REMARKABLE CAREER.



Photo: Walter Scott.

Mr. SOLOMON SELKA.

WE regret to announce the death, which occurred at his residence, Upper Syke, Clayton, last night, of Mr. Solomon Selka, a prominent member of the wool textile industry.

Mr. Selka's illness began about a year ago. He spent most of the spring and summer of this year undergoing treatment abroad, but it was not until a month ago that the malady took a serious turn.

Mr. Selka was born in 1880 at Dutschowitz, in Moravia, then part of the Austrian Empire, but now in Czecho-Slovakia. Coming to England in his early twenties, he spent a number of years in the service of a Bradford shipping house, in which he ultimately rose to a position of responsibility and trust, and where he gained the thorough knowledge of the textile trade, and especially of the export branch, which he was afterwards to turn to such good account.

In 1912—two years before the war—he became a naturalised Englishman, and after the war he formally renounced the Czecho-Slovakian nationality, which, by the law of that country, he had technically acquired as the result of the treaty of peace. In the meantime he had anchored himself more firmly to his new homeland by marrying an English wife, the daughter of the late Dr. Vinter, then head master of Woodhouse Grove School.

#### ENTERPRISE REWARDED.

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His successful rehabilitation of this extensive and old-established business, which during the period of severe trade depression had fallen into difficulties and was in danger of extinction, was the crowning achievement of a remarkable career. The plant at Lumb Lane Mills is one of the largest worsted plants in Yorkshire. Since it came under Mr. Selka's direction it has given practically

uninterrupted employment to over 800 workpeople.

The business established in his own name had acquired too valuable a good-will in the world's markets to allow its identity to be merged on his taking over James Drummond and Sons, Limited, so he carried it on side by side with the latter, transferring the office and warehouse which had formerly been located in Bond Street to the more roomy premises at Lumb Lane Mills, but still retaining the looms he had at Norwood Green, as well as the spinning plant of Henry Briggs and Company, Limited.

PTO

Yorkshire Observer  
6-11-1936



## TRIBUTE TO LATE MR. S. SELKA.

### CROWDS LINE ROUTE OF FUNERAL.

The esteem in which Mr. Solomon Selka, of Upper Syke, Clayton, was held was reflected at the funeral yesterday when crowds lined the approach to the Spring Gardens synagogue, where the service was held.

Other mourners gathered in crowds on the route to Scholemoor Cemetery, while the service itself was attended by many of Mr. Selka's personal and business friends.

Mr. Selka, who died on Thursday, was a prominent figure in the West Riding textile industry. Starting in business for himself in 1916, he acquired successively the businesses of Henry Briggs and Company, Ltd., worsted spinners, of Highgate Mills, Clayton Heights, and Cranbrook Mills, Norwood Green, and finally, in 1931, control of James Drummond and Sons, Ltd., of Lumb Lane Mills, Bradford.

Many members of the staff and work-people of the firms with which Mr. Selka was associated were also present at the funeral.

The service was conducted by the Jewish ministers, the Rev. J. R. Israelstam and the Rev. I. Levine.

Mr. Israelstam said that Mr. Selka had the gift of visualising his aims, and had the force of character to surmount obstacles that would have intimidated lesser men.

It had been said of him by business rivals that by a particularly courageous action a few years ago he put new life into the city's industry when there was a slump not only in trade but also in the self-confidence of many engaged in trade.

All who knew him spoke generously about him and his scrupulous fairness.

The family mourners were Mrs. Selka (widow), Mr. Selka's five sons, Joseph, Michael, David, Raphael, Max, and Mr. Maurice L. Selka (nephew), Mr. Reginald Vinter and Mr. Con. Curteen (brothers-in-law).

Those representing Mr. Selka's business concerns included: James Drummond and Sons, Ltd., Mr. Norman Baxter (managing director), Mr. J. Douglas Drummond and Mr. Albert Alty (directors), Mr. Arnold Bradshaw (London representative), and Mr. Jeffrey Appieton.

S. Selka, Lumb Lane Mills.—Mr. W. Harbutt, Mr. M. Levi, Mr. H. Mustill, Mr. A. W. Demaine, Mr. T. A. Oxtoby (manager, Cranbrook Mills, Norwood Green), Mr. J. Coc, and Mr. S. Holdsworth.

Personal and business friends present, included Messrs. L. B. Mitchell and John Sharpe (directors, Balme and Pritchard, Ltd., Halifax), Rowland L. Whitley (Bulmer and Lumb, Ltd., Bradford), Thos. H. L. Coster, Herbert F. Sharp, Frank C. Forsyth (representing Sir Henry Butcliffe Smith, B.D.A., Ltd.), R. S. Brailsford, R. F. Holt (Record Oil and Grease Co., Ltd.), T. W. Irving (Henry Ayrton and Co., Ltd., Bradford), Alderman W. Hindle, H. R. Kemp (W. N. Pollack, Ltd., Bradford), Eric Bastow and G. Barker (Barker and Smith, Bradford), A. Ludman, Arthur R. Bentley, A. Sharp and A. H. Appleyard (Laycock, Son and Co., Ltd., Bradford), James Wainhouse (James Wainhouse and Son, Cleckheaton), C. L. Brayschaw (Windeler and Co., Bradford), Carl E. R. Mellor, S. P. Mellor, and C. E. M. Haigh (directors, B. Mellor and Sons, Ltd., Holmfirth), G. Dobson (G. Dobson and Co., Ltd., Birkenshaw), F. W. Roberts, D. Reddough and M. H. Pickles (John Reddough, Ltd., Bradford), J. Taylor (director, James Tankard, Ltd., Bradford), J. H. Roberts (representing Herbert Roberts, Ltd., Keighley), Edwin Bell (Robert Jowitt and Son, Ltd., Bradford), R. E. Nobbs (Robert Aired and Sons, Ltd.), John H. Bates (Wakefield), Ernest Bates (Thos. Ambler and Sons, Ltd., Ardsley), L. Hindle (representing Mr. Bertram Parkinson, Cresfield Hall, Arthington), William Fisher (Royal Insurance Co., Ltd.), P. M. Crowther (Watson, Son and Smith, Bradford), Paul Nathan, S. Rayner (representing T. Howarth, junr., Ltd., Bradford), E. W. Wood (representing F. A. Aykroyd and Co., Ltd.), Sidney E. Wertheimer (representing W. Wertheimer), Luther Shackleton, J. Lester (Vice-Consul for Czechoslovakia, Bradford), W. H. Watts (Houlder Bros., and Co., Bradford), Mr. Merrill (representing Mr. S. W. Broadhead and Broadhead, Revell and Co., Ltd., Bradford), M. Arensberg, A. P. Ellerbeck (manager, Midland Bank, Ltd., Market Street, Bradford), H. W. Thompson (J. N. Cockroft, Ltd., Bradford), Alan Sowden (George Hattersley and Sons, Ltd., Keighley), A. Maizels, A. Butterworth (Butterworth Yarns, Ltd., Elland), A. C. Hammond (Joseph Dawson, Cashmere Works, Bradford), F. W. Brearley, E. C. Conway, D. F. Whalley (John Lee Walker and Sons, Ltd., Huddersfield), Calvin Topham (representing Mr. Douglas Hamilton), Henry Swarbrick (E. S. Dawson and Co., Bradford), Edgar F. Hudson, S. J. Nathan, W. Knowles, S. Frazer, G. Helliwell, J. Richardson, H. Kelly and A. Walton (Ferrand and Kelly, Ltd., Bradford), Miss E. L. Kelly, J. W. Boyd (Scott and Rhodes, Bradford), F. S. Abbott (J. L. Williams, Ltd., Bradford), Mr. and Mrs. J. Helliwell, E. Shackleton, J. W. Waterhouse, W. Auty (J. Auty and Co., Ltd., Bradford), L. Hyman, V. Whittam (Shipley), E. W. Lockwood (J. W. Holroyd and Co.), H. Savage, G. Falkenstein, T. Crabtree, W. Barracough, M. Hustler, M. Hannam, Alderman T. Canby (T. Canby, Ltd., Huddersfield), C. Atkinson, G. K. Trass, A. Heidan, T. Morris (chairman, Bradford Jewish Institute), W. G. Johnson, L. Morris, J. L. Lumb (J. Lumb and Sons, Huddersfield), H. F. Goldschmidt (representing May and Hammel, Ltd., and Mr. and Mrs. R. Hammel).

Messrs. E. A. Andrews, W. K. Whitehead (representing Mr. William and Commander Whitehead), S. Willrid Auty (Joseph Auty and Co., Ltd., Batley), E. Yechona (Bradford), K. L. Dickinson (Longwood Finishing Company, Huddersfield), S. Jerome, T. R. Renton, J. Herschel, H. Greenwood (representing William Wright, Henry Briggs and Co., Ltd.), L. Jerome (Geo. Priestley and Sons, Ltd.), L. M. Hickson, J. B. Harrop (Illingworth, Morris and Co. and Mr. James Preston, Harrogate), Brooke Pickard (representing Mr. Henry Ellison, Cleckheaton), C. Atkinson, M. Levin (representing the Hebrew Congregation), E. Brodie, R. C. Hilt, J. H. Thomas (Bradford Cinderella Club), A. B. Hardy (A. B. Hardy and Co., Ltd.), H. W. Peel (Robinson and Peel, Ltd.), L. P. Leven, N. Birch (T. S. Tetley, Ltd., and Mr. W. S. Tetley), Dr. and Mrs. Rose, Mr. Gordon Sagar, Mr. J. H. Roberts (Herbert Roberts, Bradford), Mr. J. Bailey, Mr. H. Sheppard, Mr. Wagenheim, Dr. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hamer, Mrs. Douglas Drummond, Mrs. Norman Baxter, Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. E. Holcroft (Elland Dyeing Co., Ltd.), Mrs. Israelstam.

Mr. Stanley J. Rhodes (representing Bradford Rugby Union Football Club).

SELKA, Solomon

## THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 13, 1936

### MR. SOLOMON SELKA (Bradford)

The death occurred last week, after a short illness, of Mr. Solomon Selka, at the age of fifty-six. Born in Moravia, Mr. Selka went to Bradford as a young man and engaged in the woollen and textile trade. By dint of a dominating personality and capacity for hard work, he made remarkable headway until, in 1931, he acquired control of James Drummond and Sons, Ltd. (Lumb Lane Mills), Bradford, in addition to the businesses of Highgate Mills, Clayton Heights and Cranbrook Mills, Norwood Green. This placed the deceased among the foremost leaders in the West Riding industry. Prior to the time when he became absorbed in his industrial undertakings he was communally active as Treasurer and as Hon. Secretary of the Bradford Hebrew Congregation, of which he was a generous friend.

The funeral was attended by many representatives of textile firms and some thousand workpeople, among whom the deceased was much beloved. Mr. Selka is survived by his widow and five sons.



#### CAPABLE LEADER.

Mr. Selka's rise was the more notable in that it was achieved in a time of unparalleled industrial and economic difficulty. He possessed in a large measure most of the qualities that make a capable leader and a successful business man. Gifted with remarkable quickness of perception, the power to make rapid decisions and to translate them into immediate action, and inexhaustible energy, his capacity for work was prodigious, and there were few details of his extensive business that he thought too small for his personal superintendence.

He was a just and a generous employer, and understood well how to get the best out of his staff by himself setting an admirable example of industry and efficiency.

Proud of his Jewish race and faith, Mr. Selka was one of the earliest supporters of the Zionist movement founded by Dr. Hertz, and was always a generous contributor to Jewish causes—particularly in recent years to the many appeals on behalf of Jews expatriated from the countries of their birth or adoption. He was a liberal giver to charitable causes generally, and there were few appeals that he allowed to pass unheeded.

He was not actively a politician and resolutely refused membership of any party. Willing to recognise the good in all, he linked himself when a choice was called for with the one that seemed to him most right at the time. This led him to support the first Labour Government, which he thought deserved a fair trial, and afterwards to side with the National Party.

Mr. Selka leaves a widow and five sons, two of whom are already in the business. His eldest son, Mr. Joseph Arthur Selka, came of age three months ago.

The funeral service will be held at Spring Gardens Synagogue, Bradford, to-day.

SELKA, Maurice L. CELEBS

SELKA, MICHAEL

## MR. MAURICE SELKA DIES

Mr. Maurice L. Selka, a former director of S. Selka, of Lumb Lane, Bradford, worsted cloth manufacturers, has died at his home, 78 Heaton Park Drive, Bradford, aged 67.

Born in Czechoslovakia, he came to Bradford at the age of 21 to join his uncle, Mr. Solomon Selka, and became a naturalized British subject in the early 1930's.

Mr. Selka stayed with the firm for 44 years, retiring at the age of 65. He travelled all over the world on behalf of his company, and spoke fluent French and German. A bachelor, he leaves a sister who lives in Australia.

## Obituary

### Mr. Michael Selka

Mr. Michael Selka, a director of Stroud Riley Drummond Ltd., of Bradford, has died suddenly.

Mr. Selka was highly respected by all the staff and employees of the firm and indeed by the many who knew him in the wool textile trade, in which he had been so involved for almost all his life.

He was a member of the board of the former Bradford and District Manufacturers' Federation and the general council of the recently formed Wool Textile Manufacturers' Federation.

CIELERS.

SELKA, Alexander.

## History has come full circle

Schoolgirl Alexandra Selka is following in the footsteps of an illustrious ancestor.

The 11-year-old has been made head girl at Bronte House, the junior arm of Woodhouse Grove School at Apperley Bridge, Bradford.

And history has come full circle, as Alexandra's great great grandfather was head teacher of Woodhouse Grove for more than 30 years at the turn of the last century. Dr Vinter, whose portrait is on show at the independent school, was a key influence on its development during his years in charge from 1883 to 1914.

Alexandra, pictured under the portrait of her ancestor, takes on the role of head girl in recognition of her excellent academic achievements and contribution to school life.

Headteacher Chris Hall, said:

"Alexandra is a talented girl who works hard and is someone who doesn't think twice about getting involved in the many activities in school – whether it's on the sports field, in music, in the drama club, the senior choir or in the classroom. "We're a modern school, but we also place great value on tradition and history, and we're delighted the family's connection continues."

Alex joined the nursery and early years department, Ashdown Lodge, as a three-year-old and from there progressed to Bronte House.



