

# Leading farmer and soldier celebrated

A FARMER, soldier and politician who became known as the "father of the Welsh Army Corps" will be celebrated at his childhood home in Anglesey this week.

The life of Brigadier General Sir Owen Thomas - former Anglesey MP, high sheriff and county councillor - will be remembered in a special ceremony at Neuadd Farm near Cemaes on Sunday, when a commemorative plaque will be unveiled in his honour.

Born in Llanbadrig in 1858, Sir Owen won several farming awards and is believed to have been the first Anglesey cattle breeder to compete in London.

At the formation of the first Anglesey County Council in 1889, Sir Owen was chosen to represent his area. He later became High Sheriff and Justice of the Peace.

During the Boer War, he formed the Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment.

After the war, he became involved in the running and management of vast East African estates.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Sir Owen was in charge of recruitment on Anglesey. He was the only Welsh-speaking General in the British Army and received a knighthood for his services.

In the 1918 general election,

he won the seat for Anglesey and became the first independent Labour MP to represent a rural constituency. He remained the island's MP until his death at the age of 64 in 1923, following recurring bouts of malaria.

Sir Owen's personal life was blighted by tragedy, as he lost all four of his sons: Frederick to illness aged 16, and Robert, Trefor and Owen in military action. His daughter Mina Margaret Thomas was his only surviving child.

