

Mr. Hartley's services as head of the Education Department are recognised as of great value to the community. He is also highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities, and the numerous enquiries during all hours of the night both at the Hospital and this office showed how deep and general is the concern felt as to his condition. The sad news came as a great shock to Mrs. Hartley, as also to all the sufferer's friends, and all colonists will join in the earnest wish that the Inspector-General may be spared to govern the department in which he takes such a deep interest, and where he is beloved by all those who work under him.

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### DEATH OF MR. HARTLEY.

The distressing news which we publish this morning of the death of Mr. Hartley will not have quite the same stunning effect as would have been produced by the same tidings a week ago. The appalling shock dealt to the community by the first announcement of the accident, followed as it was by eight days of suspense, in a sense familiarized the public with the lamentable possibility, if not probability, of a fatal result. On the other hand, the fact that the medical reports up to Sunday night held out strong hopes that the patient might recover lends an element of unexpectedness to the *dénouement* which renders it all the more deplorable. And certainly nothing was needed to add poignancy to the grief which the event will excite through the length and breadth of South Australia and in educational circles in the neighbouring colonies. Something of consternation will mingle with the profound regret which the occurrence will provoke. It is, in truth, impossible to over-estimate the loss which the province has sustained through the removal of Mr. Hartley. His name was one to conjure with among young and old, and his death may emphatically be described as a national calamity. In commenting some days ago upon the casualty which prostrated him we stated that no man in the colony would be more missed, and further consideration in the light of the fact that the worst has happened only strengthens our conviction of the accuracy of this statement. Mr. Hartley occupied an entirely unique position, and had capacities which fitted him in a pre-eminent degree for the exceptionally responsible and difficult office which he held for so many years.

In saying this we do not overlook the circumstance that his original appointment as Inspector-General did not meet with the unqualified approval of the *Register*. In our comments we were influenced by the belief that he would be found lacking in some of the characteristics

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equipped in the official head of the Education Department, and we only mention the subject now to pave the way for the acknowledgment that our apprehensions have been falsified. If at the inception of the new system he created some amount of friction by his resolute adherence to the principles which he considered necessary to eventual success, we frankly confess that results have on the whole abundantly justified his policy. In reality whatever slight blemishes of manner he may have had were more than atoned for by the genuine kindness of heart which tempered his firmness. No man ever had higher ideals of honour or a stricter sense of justice. For all that there were no signs of a claim to infallibility. Although feeling that it was essential to the efficient discharge of his vitally important duties that he should not allow himself to be unduly swayed by sympathy towards individuals, he had the magnanimity to admit himself to be in the wrong when proof that such was the case was adduced. For the rest it may truthfully be said that he devoted himself heart and soul to the work he had undertaken. With him there was no question of mere routine. No task was too great or too little for him to undertake. Whether it was in carrying out the business of organization or in taking part in the details of administration he gave himself no rest. While engaged in the office he did the work of three men, and at the same time he had the happy knack of winning the confidence and affection of those closely associated with him and of inspiring them with his own unbounded enthusiasm. When there was a call for his presence in other parts of the colony, either to examine classes, arrange for the establishment of schools, or settle disputes, no considerations of personal inconvenience or of the amount of labour involved were allowed to stand in the way. It might have been thought that the onerous task of controlling the system in Adelaide—which entailed

the necessity of arranging additional subjects of study and new methods of instruction—and of personally supervising hundreds of schools in the country, would have been sufficient to absorb the energies of any one man, but Mr. Hartley did not stop short at that. His mind was always busy with fresh schemes for perfecting the educational system of the colony—for rendering it more efficient and more attractive. None the less he found time