

Ad. 3rd Nov. 1905

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Intense regret will be caused by the announcement of the death, which occurred on Thursday afternoon at his residence, "Duntocher," East-terrace, of Mr. James Henderson, the well-known solicitor. Mr. Henderson was highly respected by everyone who knew him, because of his manly and straightforward character, his unflinching courtesy and kindness, the readiness which he invariably showed to help and oblige those with whom he came into contact, and the thoroughness with which he carried out every duty entrusted to him. As a lawyer he was exceedingly able, and the utmost reliance could always be placed upon his opinions and his work by reason of the conscientious care he devoted to them. He was particularly well versed in respect to company and commercial law. Mr. Henderson carried his geniality and his urbanity into the courts of law, and was noted for the consideration with which he acted towards those associated with cases under his charge, although he was never lacking in firmness. Socially he was extremely popular, while in all his relationships he won respect and admiration because of his courage and his sweetness of temper. Born at Duntocher, near Glasgow, in 1854, Mr. Henderson came to Australia when he was a lad of 4 years of age. His father, the late Rev. James Henderson, was a Presbyterian minister, and in his early life the son was educated at Scotch College, Geelong, Victoria. Later, when his father came to Adelaide, he was transferred to Whinham College, North Adelaide. Thence Mr. Henderson went into the Government service, and held a position under the Marine Board, subsequently passing to the Audit Office. Determining to adopt the law as a profession, Mr. Henderson was articled to his brother-in-law, Sir John Downer, K.C. He also studied at the Adelaide University, where he graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1884. On being admitted to the bar Mr. Henderson entered into partnership with his brother, Mr. William Henderson, while later on Mr. C. W. Hayward joined the firm, which has a high reputation all over the State. Mr. Henderson was a most industrious worker, and it was not until October 24 that he consented to take the rest which the condition of his health demanded. Unfortunately he had delayed too long, and the illness, which affected him rapidly, advanced to a fatal termination. In addition to his legal engagements, Mr. Henderson gave a large amount of time to the affairs of the Adelaide University, of the council of which he had long been an enthusiastic and valuable member. He was also prominent in the Masonic craft. He left a widow and four children, who will have the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends. Two of Mr. Henderson's sisters, the late Lady Downer and Mrs. G. E. Fulton, predeceased him, and one, Mrs. J. McEwen, of North Adelaide, survives. His brothers are Dr. H. Henderson, of Crafer; Mr. William Henderson, solicitor, of Adelaide; Mr. Robert Henderson, of Kalgoorlie; and Mr. Bruce Henderson, of New South Wales. The funeral is appointed to take place at the North-road Cemetery to-day.

modities prominently under notice. Mr. Jenkins attended several important social functions. Besides the large reception arranged by the civil authorities at Mons was one given by the Foreign Minister. In Brussels a grand reception in honour of the congress representatives was held at the hotel de ville, and another, at which the King of Belgium was present, also took place at the Bourse in the same city. Theatre parties and other entertainments were also organized in honour of the visitors. While at Antwerp Mr. Jenkins made some enquiries into the present shipping facilities, and into the proposed improvements of that port, which are estimated to cost several millions sterling. He also travelled to Liege, and inspected the exhibition. Mr. Jenkins was present on an evening this week at a dinner of the Sphinx Club, held at the Hotel Cecil. The "Sphinxes" are an association of men connected with the commercial side of journalism. They gathered 150 strong, and the guests present included several other Agents-General. There was a good deal of post-prandial speaking, for advertising agents are not as a rule frightened at the sound of their own voices. Mr. Jenkins was in his most humorous vein, and his speech, abounding in witty anecdotes and short bursts of torrential eloquence, delighted many, and left some bewildered as to whether they had been listening to a really earnest deliverance or an effort of partly hidden comedy by a past master in light-hearted speech. By general consent your Agent-General made the speech of the evening.

Reg. 7th Nov. 1905

THE LATE MR. JAMES HENDERSON.

[By the Rev. F. Slaney Poole, M.A.]

The untimely death of the abovenamed gentleman has provoked so many and such sincere expressions of sorrow and regret that it occurred to me that a few notes on a phase of his life, which was presented to me, could not fail to be of interest to his many friends, and might also prove by way of example to be of public service. My first acquaintance with him was in 1877, when he passed the matriculation examination of the local University in the first class; it was in the very early days of the Adelaide University, for it had only just been founded; the number of professors were but four, they were Professors Lamb, Davidson, Tate, and Read; and the lecture rooms were in Morialta Chambers, Victoria square. In 1878 I was appointed to carry on the work of the classical chair, pending the arrival of a new professor from England, and among those who attended my lectures was James Henderson. He was one of those men in whom one could not fail to take an interest, and the impression he made on me at that time was that of a courteous, diligent, and conscientious student, who, having entered the lists, would not rest satisfied till he had run the course to the end. If I recollect rightly, he was at the time of his university course, fulfilling his articles in law, so that he had to work double tides. In every way his conduct as a student was most exemplary, and this was no small advantage in the lecture room, where we had to establish what would afterwards become its traditions. In due course he took his degree, and subsequently was admitted as a legal practitioner. I then lost sight of him for some time; but later on he was one of those who were instrumental in establishing the Graduates' Association, and subsequently he obtained a seat on the University Council, being the first alumnus of the Adelaide University to achieve that distinction, and I know that of that body he was a thoroughly efficient and hard-working member. His place on the council will be hard to fill; his knowledge of the affairs of the University, from its first small and apparently insignificant beginning to the present well-equipped and ably officered institution, rendered his service there of the highest value, and I know that he took a conscious pride in having ministered to its growth. In yet another sphere I was brought into intimate contact with him as a member of the Lodge St. Alban, of which he, after passing through the subordinate offices, filled the chair with that ability, conscientiousness, and courtesy which were so characteristic of the man. Of his other relationships to his fellow-men, as, for instance, his profession, and other forms of public life, others are more qualified to speak than I; but speaking of the man as I knew him, those points of his character which most appealed to me were his brightness of manner, his readiness to learn, his thoroughness in work, his conscientiousness, his capacity for friendship, his geniality of temper. But although widely known, and where known thoroughly respected—I may even say beloved—it was no part of his nature that his name should fly from lip to lip—still, the large and representative attendance at his obsequies convinced one that he was one of those secret and silent forces which, although unnoticed by the crowd, are among the most powerful and effective.

Multis ille bonis febilis occidit—his departure from us leaves the whole State the poorer, especially those departments of it in which he was actively engaged. His voice and influence could always be counted on the side of truth and righteousness, and his many friends, of which I claim to be a humble unit, will for a long time to come hold his memory in cherished recollection, and will feel urged by his example to follow the same high principles of action which marked his life, and to carry them out with that conscientious thoroughness which seemed to me to have been the prime feature in the character of him whose loss we are deploring. Passing in review his life, so far as I have known it, I find it marked by a noble consistency, and I feel that we may say of him—

Whatever record leap to light, He never shall be shamed.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

DEPUTATION TO THE PREMIER.

IMPORTANT REQUESTS.

A deputation consisting of Sir Samuel Way (Chancellor of the Adelaide University), Dr. Barlow (Vice-Chancellor), the Hon. G. Brookman, M.L.C., and Messrs. Barr Smith, Fowler, Jacobs, and Hodge, waited on the Premier on Wednesday morning.

Sir Samuel Way, in introducing the deputation, said they had come to urge the claims of the Adelaide University, and that the deputation had no political complexion whatever. There had been an honorable understanding that the University was to be free from the general taxation on land, but the taxation proposals of the Government would mean a serious invasion on the University funds. They were not extravagant in any way, the professors being paid lower salaries than at Melbourne and other places, but the staff did not complain, because they recognised that there was a much smaller community here than in Melbourne or other large centres of population. The total assessment of the University endowment was originally £32,328, but this has been increased to £49,004—being an increase of £17,576, more than 50 per cent. on the land that was endowed. Their normal land tax was £221, but last year it was increased by the farthing in the pound taxation to £328, and under the new Bill it would be £726, more than twice the amount paid last year. Their rent roll (gross) was £1,286, being the total rent for the 50,000 acres with which the University was endowed, and if £726 was taken away from that, the income was reduced to £560. The present taxation proposals would be simply ruinous to the University. To show the general intention of the Legislature to exempt the University from taxation, he quoted Act 323 of 1884, which exempted land used solely for religious or charitable purposes, or used by any institute under the provisions of the "Institute Act No. 16 of 1874." Charitable objects included land granted for educational purposes. At one time there was a large land grant for educational purposes, but it was afterwards put under Crown lands, and finally cancelled altogether. While it lasted, however, there was no tax paid upon it. The value of the University land had diminished considerably. In 1879 their rent roll was £3,860, and now, if the tax was deducted, the rent roll only amounted to about £1,065. This was caused by the Government letting land in the vicinity of their lands at lower rentals—for instance, at Craigie's Plains the University were getting threepence an acre for their land, and the Government let adjoining lands at one halfpenny per acre; consequently the University had to reduce the rentals of their lands. Twelve months ago the University had offered to sell the whole of their endowment to the Government for £1 an acre all round. They now wished to renew that offer, and did not want the Government to pay them one penny, but would take Government bonds for the amount. The University had no power to sell the land; the Government had, and could readily let or sell it to farmers. The Government could do this without incurring any loss, as for land assessed at £2 10/ per acre they could get £3. When the University was granted the land the idea was to give them a good class of land, but their holdings in the north were not much good for revenue. They did not ask for sixpence for the improvements. Houses, wells, fencing, &c., would be all thrown in for the £50,000, the amount it was assessed at by Government officials.

Mr. Price asked Sir Samuel whether any consideration had been given to the previous offer of the University.

Sir Samuel said the Government replied that the price was too high. But the position was different now. The policy of the present Government was to break up the land. The Government did not want to buy it then, and all Government officials—no matter how conscientious—reflected somewhat the policy of the Government under whom they served. He asked the Government to show their reliance on the valuation placed on the land by their own officers by taking the land at that valuation. When the University was founded, it was understood that the Government would pay for the buildings. They had a letter from Sir Arthur Blyth, the then Premier, to the effect that the Government would provide the money for the buildings, but the Treasurer of the day—as was usual with Treasurers—had more ways than means, and consequently they came to an understanding that the University was to get pound for pound. They had then only one faculty—the society of arts—and very much lower expenses, and under Sir Henry Ayers' able management they had managed to meet all their expenses. They had spent £32,000 on new buildings, and under their compact they ought to send the Government in a bill for half that amount. In the early years the University had a South Australian scholarship, and used to send one student to England. When Dr. Cockburn was in power he asked them to discontinue that, and complete the medical school, when the Government would give them the £800, the amount of the scholarship. For three years only they got the £800. Then bad seasons came along, and off went the £800. It was impossible to imagine a stronger claim than they had on the Government for the capital of that £800 for 16 years, viz., £12,000. The University had been able to benefit every child in South Australia by the training of the teachers, and if they had charged fees for this work they would have had from £1,000 to £1,700. However, they did not wish to ask for anything on that account, but they wanted a professor of education. Under their endowment—the Act of 1874—it was provided that the University should receive 5 per cent. from the Government on every penny invested

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—Agent-General.—

The Agent-General returned on Wednesday from the Economical Congress held at Mons, which was attended by 1,500 to 2,000 representatives of all nations, and as one of the few representatives of countries as distinguished from the delegates of societies Mr. Jenkins received considerable attention. A reception was arranged by the civic dignitaries and those connected with the congress in a theatre, which was called into requisition, and, inasmuch as King Leopold, who had not visited Mons for 25 years, was present the function became one of great importance. At a private reception afterwards Mr. Jenkins was presented to His Majesty by the British Minister (Sir Constantine Phipps). King Leopold, who speaks English remarkably well, evinced a surprising acquaintance with Australian history, and in an animated conversation with your Agent-General he showed much interest in the possible extension of trade between Australia and the port of Antwerp, and remarked that he looked forward to a large increase in the quantity of wool and other products to arrive in that port from the Commonwealth. A benevolent looking and finely built man, over 6 ft. in height, he impressed your Agent-General with his forcible individuality. Mr. Jenkins visited a great many different sections of the congress, and listened to various papers and discussions on technical education and on discovery and exploration, besides devoting special attention to the commercial section, which he addressed at some length. He entered with characteristic earnestness and vigour on the discussion regarding the expansion of trade as affected by Government agencies, and more particularly by the consular system in various parts of the world, which has of late years been utilized in the direction of trade furtherance by bringing into prominence the commercial facilities offered by the different communities so represented. The positions of the Agents-General in London of the various States of the Commonwealth being somewhat analogous to the consuls of other countries, Mr. Jenkins took up the question from that point of view, and emphasized the fact that in order to the satisfactory stimulation of trade each country must bring its peculiar and special con-