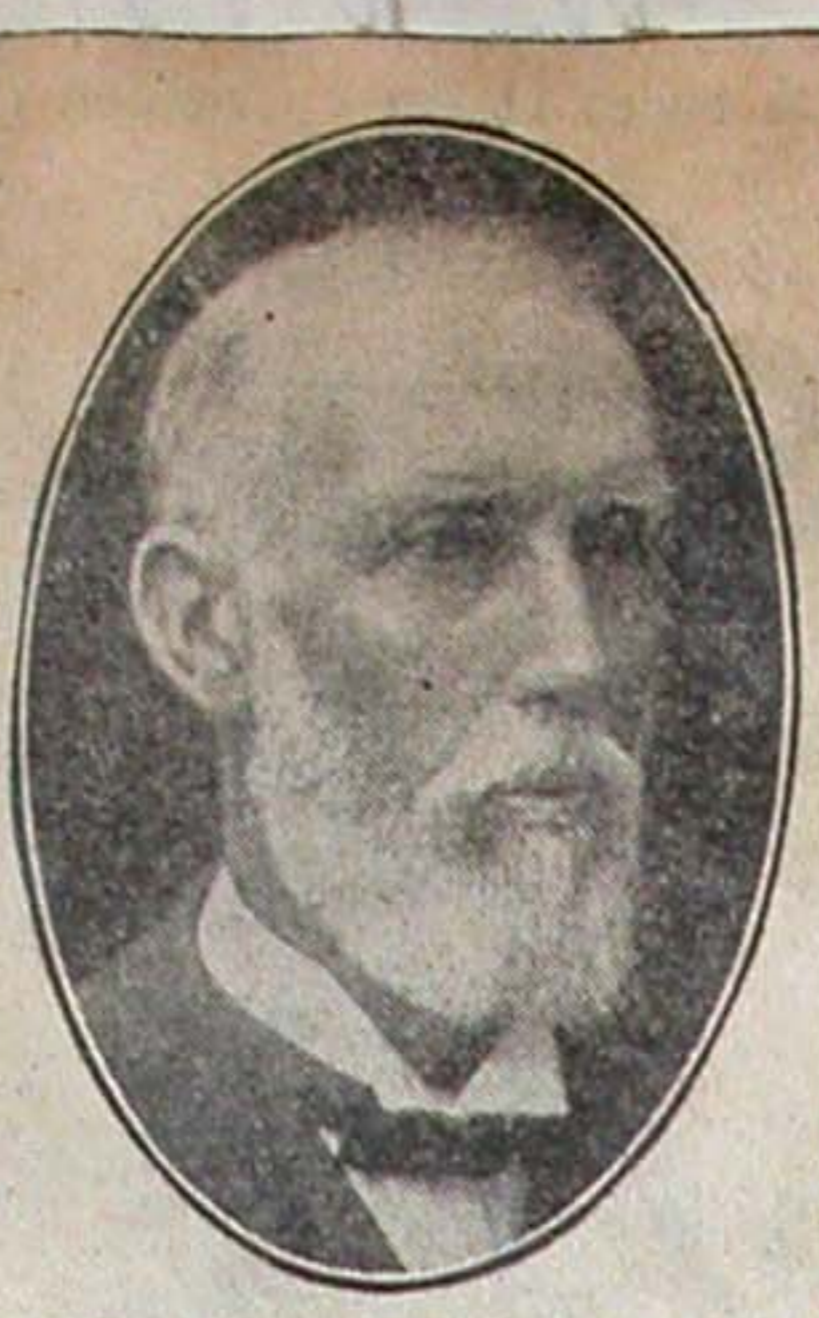


like the word. His early associates in chemistry, such as his life-long friend, Sir Henry Armstrong, thought that he had lost himself in working so much for his students and for the University, but he did not think so himself. The unselfish thing was always the most important with him. Personally, I know how much I relied on him and put upon his shoulders. We spent Friday evening together, and walked home slowly to his house, discussing plans and many matters. The thing that most interested him was the new chemical building, which the council has requested the Government to erect as a jubilee gift, in honor of Professor Rennie. I little thought we were speaking of a memorial. I hope that the Government will consent, and that we shall have his name permanently there. As a man he was the very best kind of tradition to carry into the future of the University. I cannot but be thankful, and so are all of us, that the end, if it had to come, was so swift."

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL OF MINES COUNCIL.**

Sir Langdon Bonython, when interviewed, said: "My association with Professor Rennie goes back a long way. I was first brought into close contact with him in connection with the foundation of the School of Mines and Industries. He was a member of the Technical Education Board, whose report recommended its establishment, and with Sir William Bragg, Sir Edward Stirling, and Professor Tate, he represented the University on the first council. He retired in 1895 and was reappointed in 1918. Of course, I could speak of the great work he has done for the University, but I will leave that to others, because it is as a member of the Council of the School of Mines that I knew him best. In my absence in England in 1924 the professor acted as president, and discharged the duties with characteristic thoroughness, although for a part of the time he was also acting Vice-Chancellor of the University. My relations with Professor Rennie, extending over nearly forty years, led me to form the highest opinion of him. He was quite unselfish. He never looked at things from the personal standpoint. It may be that in his own interests he lacked aggressiveness, but everybody who knew him could not fail to admire his modesty and his generosity, and to appreciate his outstanding attributes, which proclaimed him a gentleman in the best sense of the word. His services to the School of Mines were of the greatest value because he was specially equipped as a scientist to render them. For a long time to come he will be missed from our meetings. We deplore his passing away, especially the sad circumstances in which it occurred—sad for his friends, not for him. In his case nothing could have been better. Professor Rennie not only tried to do his duty; he did it."



**THE LATE PROFESSOR RENNIE.**

He was appointed a master in Sydney Grammar School, where he remained for five years. He relinquished the post in 1875 to assume a mastership in the Brisbane Grammar School. This position occupied his attention for 18 months, and he then left for London to pursue the study of chemistry. He became a Doctor of Science in the London University in 1881, and was the first Australian to win the distinction in an English Institution. While in London he was assistant for two years of Dr. C. R. Alder Wright in the Chemical Department of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and also taught in the Royal College of Science at South Kensington. Returning to Australia in 1882, Professor Rennie went to Sydney to assist in the Government Analyst's Department, and had been there for two years when the University of Adelaide secured him as Professor of Chemistry.

His value was at once recognised. He was elected to the University Council in 1889, but resigned in 1898, in order to enquire into the developments in chemical manufacture in London and America. After an absence of 12 months he was re-elected to the council, and occupied his seat continuously since that time.

**Other Distinctions.**

Professor Rennie was a fellow of the Chemical Societies of London and Berlin, a fellow of the Institutes of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland, and President of the Australian Chemical Institute. He was twice President of the Royal Society of South Australia. He was Chairman of the Committee of the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry, and rendered great service to the School of Mines as a member of the council, and to the Government for many years as inspector of explosives.

The professor was an enthusiastic and expert angler, and for more than a quarter of a century he spent much of his vacation at Encounter Bay. Well known to all the local fishermen and to the regular visitors, he was much admired for his charming companionship and keen sportsmanship.

**The Family.**

Professor Rennie married a daughter of the late Dr. J. G. Cadell, of Sydney. The family consists of one son, Mr. Edward James Cadell Rennie, B.E. (Adelaide), and two daughters, Misses Katie and Alison Rennie. Another son, Dr. Henry Charles Cadell Rennie, M.B., B.Sc. (Adelaide), predeceased his father.

**Service at Chalmers Church.**

The obsequies on Sunday included a simple service at Chalmers Church and at the North Road Cemetery by the Rev. J. Hall Angus and Dr. G. Davidson officiating. Mr. Sable Grivell presided at the organ, giving an impressive rendition of the "Dead march," from Mackenzie's "Song of David." Among those at the church were the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), the President of the Council of the School of Mines and Industries (Sir Langdon Bonython), the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), Dr. W. T. Cooke, Mr. C. R. Hodge (former Registrar of the University), Mr. W. G. T. Goodman, Dr. F. S. Hone, Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., Dr. Helen Mayo, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith (members of the Council of the University), the Registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley), Professor Wood-Jones, Professor Brailsford Robertson, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly (Dr. David Chapman), the Rev. Floyd Shannon, Archdeacon Moyes, Sir Robert Fleming, Dr. T. Fleming, Dr. Lendon, Dr. W. S. Pennycook, Dr. A. M. Cudmore, Dr. Bronte Smeaton, Dr. Grant, and Messrs. R. J. M. Clucas, V. Bevan, A. E. Bampton, G. Shaw, F. L. Winzor, H. Othams, W. Taylor, and T. W. Tassie.

**"Acquitted Himself Brilliantly."**

Dr. W. A. Hargreaves (Director of the State Department of Chemistry) referred to Professor Rennie at a complimentary dinner given by the Australian Chemical Institute last March, as one of the greatest chemists in Australia, and said he had taken a prominent part in the establishment of the institute. He had been chosen as President because they desired to have at their head a man of great at-

tributions who was held in the highest regard. He had acquitted himself brilliantly in his profession before and since his long and valued association with the University.

**SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL'S TRIBUTE**

In a panegyric of Professor Rennie Sir William Mitchell said:—"The passing of Professor Rennie seems like the passing of the old University as I knew it, when a few of us divided all the work outside of our teaching and the conduct of the general affairs of the University. I am afraid that we left Professor Rennie to do most of the work. It was only later that we realized how much he was undertaking and how it had deprived him of needed leisure and time in which to carry on his researches in inorganic chemistry, for which he was so well fitted, and which he had previously begun. I think he was generally called 'Dad.' That word expresses what the professors and lecturers felt, as well as the students, and I think he liked the word. His early associates in chemistry, such as his lifelong friend Sir Henry Armstrong, thought that he had lost himself in working so much for his students and the University; but he did not think so himself. The unselfish thing was always the most important with him. Personally, I know how much I relied on him, and put on his shoulders. On Friday evening we were out together, and walked home slowly to his house, discussing several matters. The one that most interested him was the new chemistry building, which the council had requested the Government to erect as a jubilee gift in honour of him. I little thought that we were speaking of a memorial. I hope that the Government will consent, and that we shall have his name permanently there. As a man, he had ever the best kind of tradition to carry into the University. I cannot but be thankful, and so are all of us, that the end, if it had to come, was so swift."

**TRIBUTE BY SIR LANGDON BONYTHON.**

Sir Langdon Bonython, in paying a tribute yesterday to the late Professor Rennie said:—"My association with Professor Rennie goes back a long way. I was first brought into close contact with him in connection with the foundation of the School of Mines and Industries. He was a member of the Technical Education Board, whose report recommended its establishment, and with Sir William Bragg, Sir Edward Stirling, and Professor Tate, he represented the University on the council. He retired in 1895 and was reappointed in 1918. Of course, I could speak of the great work he has done for the University, but I will leave that to others, because it is as a member of the Council of the School of Mines that I knew him best. In my absence in England in 1924 the professor acted as President, and discharged the duties with characteristic thoroughness, although for a part of the time he was also acting Vice-Chancellor of the University. My relations with Professor Rennie, extending over nearly 40 years, led me to form the highest opinion of him. He was quite unselfish. He never looked at things from the personal standpoint. It may be that in his own interests he lacked aggressiveness, but everybody who knew him could not fail to admire his modesty and his generosity, and to appreciate his outstanding attributes, which proclaimed him a gentleman in the best sense of the word. His services to the School of Mines were of the greatest value, because he was specially equipped as a scientist to render them. For a long time to come he will be missed from our meetings. We deplore his passing away, especially the sad circumstances in which it occurred—sad for his friends, not for him. In his case nothing could have been better. Professor Rennie not only tried to do his duty; he did it."

**SCIENCE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS**

"Ecrivain" writes:—"Professor Rennie is the second of the long line of Presidents of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science to die in office. He was installed in the chair of the association by his immediate predecessor (Sir John Monash) at Perth last August, and Mr. R. H. Cambage, C.B.E., F.L.S., of Sydney, a notable botanist, was chosen President for the next meeting, which is to be held at Hobart. The only other instance of death of the President of the Association was that of Dr. A. W. Howitt, C.M.G., F.G.S., anthropologist and explorer, who presided over the association meetings at Adelaide in 1907, and died at Bairnsdale, Victoria, in March, 1908. The President of the Association meeting at Brisbane in 1909 was Sir William Bragg (then Professor at Adelaide). All told, there have been 17 Presidents of the Association—Professor Sir Edgeworth David held the office for two terms—and 10 have passed away. Dr. Howitt's death was the last to break the line of survivors until Professor Rennie's decease. Professor Archibald Liversidge, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., founder and first permanent hon. secretary of the association, whose first meeting was held at Sydney in 1888, and he was President of the association 10 years later. He is in his eightieth year, and residing in England. Three professors in the University of Adelaide have been honoured with election to the association presidency, namely, the late Ralph Tate, F.G.S., F.L.S., Professor of Natural Science from 1875 to 1901, who was President of the Adelaide meeting in 1893; Sir William Bragg, K.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics and Physics at Adelaide from 1885 to 1908, now

Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution, London, and Director of the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory; and the late Professor Rennie.

**A FINE RECORD.**

Mr. G. G. Newman writes:—"So recently has the late Professor Rennie been in our midst that his passing seems like the passing of Enoch—he was not, for God took him." During four decades his light has shone at the University always with a brilliant steady certain glow. His predecessor, the late Ralph Tate, taught not only chemistry, but also geology and botany, and in these latter two his text books are still among the standards treatises. The munificent gift by the late John Howard Angus made it possible that the Chair of Chemistry should remain for ever separate and intact. Thus the late Professor Rennie through the years acquired a remarkable specialized skill in chemistry. Latterly among all students he was "Father Rennie," or more affectionately and familiarly "Dad"; and the power which knowledge gave him made him a recognised authority throughout Australia. His slow stately walk and dignified bearing suggested punctuality and method. He was always ready to help the beginner. Only a little while ago, in answer to a letter from me, he agreed to try a young man as cadet. "Send him to me," he said, "his promotion will depend on his merits." Under the guidance of Dr. Cook, the clever South Australian, who is the late Professor's understudy, the youth's appointment is being well justified. The late Professor had all a Scotchman's love of learning, and a keen eye for merit in others. In the full possession of all his faculties and powers he has passed from us, and left nearly half a century of "something attempted something done" as his life's work.

**NEWS 10-1-27**

**CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY**

No. 1—Mr. E. W. Holden, B.Sc.

**HEAD OF HUGE COMPANY**

This is the first of a series of articles which will be published every Monday in "The News." The articles will trace the history of leading industrial enterprises in Adelaide and suburbs.

A foremost position among the industries of Australia in less than 10 years is the achievement of Holden's Motor Body Builders Limited.

Opportunity was the mother of this concern. The continual and careful nursing it has received at the hands of those



**MR. E. W. HOLDEN, B.Sc.**  
chairman and managing director of Holden's Motor Body Builders.

who have had the responsibility of rearing the lusty infant and who have made the most of the opportunity has resulted in the growth of the industry by leaps and bounds.

The dapple-grey horse which was a landmark for many years as it stood on the balcony of the premises of Holden and Frost in Grenfell street kept a watchful eye on the business in its early stages, for it was there that it was conceived.

The horse has gone and in its place the company has adopted an emblem symbolic of its vastness and its achievement. South Australians are proud of this industry which has done much to give prominence to the State in America and Britain. At the head of the huge concern of Holden's Motor Body Builders Limited is Mr. E. W. Holden, B.Sc. (chairman and managing director). Associated with him

**REG. 10-1-27  
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST.**

**Death of Professor Rennie.**

**Great Loss to the University.**

With the death on Saturday of Professor Edward Henry Rennie, M.A., D.Sc., F.I.C., at his residence, 178 Childers street, North Adelaide, Australia has lost one of her best known scientists.

The end came to Professor Rennie with dramatic suddenness. Some time ago he suffered from a severe illness, but recovered to a remarkable degree. As late as Friday last he was examined by a professional man, and received a very satisfactory verdict. On Saturday he went into his garden, took a drink of water, lay down, and expired.

Professor Rennie was 75 years of age and had occupied the Elder Chair of Chemistry with distinction for the past 41 years, during which he did much for the advancement of science, and his investigations brought him well deserved renown. In August last a great compliment was paid to Professor Rennie in electing him to preside at the Perth Congress of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. At that congress he delivered the principal address on "The chemical exploitation of Australia, past, present, and future." His interest in the association was very keen, and he frequently contributed to its discussions.

**Early Studies.**

Professor Rennie was born at Balmain, Sydney, on August 19, 1852, his father being Mr. A. E. Rennie, a former Auditor-General of New South Wales. He received his early education at Fort Street Model Public School, and afterwards at the Sydney Grammar School. He attended the Sydney University, where he graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1870, and Master of Arts in 1876. On graduating