

OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

SIR TOM BRIDGES'S SUCCESSOR.

MAJOR-GEN HORE-RUTHVEN, V.C.

DISTINGUISHED BRITISH SOLDIER.

LONDON, January 6.

Major Gen. the Honourable Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed Governor of South Australia, in succession to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Tom Bridges.

Gen. Hore-Ruthven was born at Windsor on July 6, 1872, the second son of the eighth Baron Ruthven, and is therefore in his fifty-sixth year. Educated at Eton, he joined the 3rd Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry at the age of 19 years. Seven years later he was sent out to the Soudan, where he was attached to the Egyptian Army.

While in the Soudan he engaged in the battle of Gedaref, in which he covered himself with glory as commander of the Camel Corps Detachment. For his conspicuous gallantry he was awarded the Victoria Cross and other decorations, and was thrice mentioned in despatches. In the following year (1899) he was gazetted to the Cameron Highlanders. In 1903-4 he acted as Special Service Officer in Somaliland, and subsequently returned to England. He was Military Secretary to the Viceroy of Ireland, 1905-6. He was transferred to the 1st Dragoon Guards in 1908.

Major-Gen. Hore-Ruthven is no stranger to Australians. In 1908 he accompanied the then Governor-General to the Commonwealth (the Earl of Dudley) as military secretary. At the outbreak of war he was sent to France, where he served until the end of 1915, and, on returning to the front in 1916, was on active service until the cessation of hostilities. He was prominently associated with the Gallipoli campaign, and was severely wounded in that theatre of war. He was awarded the D.S.O. with bar, C.B., and C.M.G., and was mentioned in despatches five times. After the war he was appointed to the command of the Welsh Guards (1920-24), and took command of the 1st Infantry Brigade (Guards) at Aldershot in 1924.

Our new Governor married in 1908 Miss Zara Pollock, daughter of the late Mr. John Pollock, of Lismany, Co. Galway, Ireland, and has one son, Patrick Hardinge Alexander, born on August 30, 1913. A second son died in infancy.

THE DEED THAT WON THE V.C.

A Story of Gallantry.

The deed for which Gen. Hore-Ruthven was awarded the Victoria Cross he performed while a captain in the Third Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry in the Soudan. He was decorated, it was explained in the official notification made in February, 1899, for "his conspicuous

bravery during the attack on the baggage guard at the action of Gedaref on September 22 of the previous year.

Capt. Hore-Ruthven, seeing an Egyptian officer lying wounded within 50 yards of the advancing Dervishes, who were firing and charging, picked him up and carried him towards the 16th Egyptian Battalion. He dropped the wounded officer two or three times, and fired upon the Dervishes, who were following, to check their advance. Had the officer been left where he first dropped he must have been killed.

BATTLE OF GEDAREF.

The battle of Gedaref derived its name from the last stronghold of the Dervishes, in whose occupation it resulted. The attacking force was under Col. Parsons, Governor of Kassala, and the fight took place on the morning of September 22, and was prolonged for three hours. The Egyptian force consisted of 1,300 men, and that of the Dervishes numbered 3,000. The enemy was completely routed, and lost 500 killed. On the Egyptian side no British officers were killed or wounded, but the 16th Egyptian Battalion lost three officers wounded, 20 men killed, and 30 men wounded. Obviously, one of the three wounded officers mentioned owed his life to (as he was then) Capt. Hore-Ruthven.

A FAMOUS FAMILY.

Gen. Ruthven is one of several distinguished sons of the present Lord Ruthven. His eldest brother, Col. W. P. Hore-Ruthven, is Master of Ruthven and Commander of the 1st Guards Brigade. He served in the South African war and with equal distinction in France.

The third brother is Lieut.-Col. C. M. Hore-Ruthven, D.S.O., C.M.G., of the Black Watch. He also served in South Africa, with the Egyptian Army in 1906, and in France. He was at one time A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Another brother was killed during the South African war.

The family of Ruthven is historically famous, and its chiefs have been associated with many of the most picturesque incidents in Scottish annals. The third Lord Ruthven was the principal actor in the "execution" of Rizzio, Mary Queen of Scots's favourite; and the fourth bore the most prominent part in the seizure of James VI., known in history as the "Raid of Ruthven." He was executed for treason in 1584. His family having been restored to their estates and honours, the third Earl of Gowrie (Baron Ruthven) and his brother were engaged in the mysterious "Gowrie conspiracy" of 1600, in which both were killed and for which the family was again attainted.