

Mr. H. Thomson, K.C., Dead

FINE LEGAL CAREER

Brilliant Scholar And Athlete

MANY FRIENDS

Mr. Harry Thomson, K.C., brilliant scholar, lawyer, and sportsman, and senior partner in the firm of Varley, Evan, Thomson, & Buttrose, died last night at the age of 45 years.

By his death South Australia has lost a lawyer of outstanding ability. At Unley State School, at St. Peter's College, at Adelaide University, and as Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University he took every obstacle in his stride. Scholarship had succeeded scholarship.

On his return from the war he quickly forged ahead into a place in the front rank of the legal profession, and at the time of his death, in the prime of life, had a lucrative practice.

Mr. Thomson died from a rare disease known as leukaemia, which means that the white corpuscles in the blood are so powerful that they submerge the red. Research workers throughout the world are striving to discover both the cause of, and remedy for, the disease.

Knew He Was Doomed

His medical advisers informed Mr. Thomson four years ago that the best they could hope to do was by treatment to prolong his life for, perhaps, eight years. In the meantime a remedy might be found. Two years ago the doctors told him he could not live more than another two years.

Mr. Thomson did not tell even his most intimate friends of the dire prophesy of his medical advisers, but continued handling important cases in the courts and working at high pressure on the multitude of exacting details associated with the conduct of a large practice. This strength of will was typical of the man.

But the end had to come. A few weeks ago, following a particularly arduous spell in important cases which would have taxed the strength of a man enjoying normal health, Mr. Thomson had to take to his bed. With the same efficiency which had characterised his professional work, he completed the disposal of his property and lapsed into unconsciousness, tragically beyond the aid of medical science.

Judicial Mind

He had a host of friends. Some of Adelaide's leading lawyers and medical practitioners look upon his passing as the loss of a man who had been really a true friend when they wanted one.

He had a ready wit. He saw the humor in a situation much quicker than most people, and then a smile, which was not cynical though many people thought it was, passed over his face.

A keen tennis player, there was deliberateness in his every stroke. And it was the same in his scholastic and professional career. He knew where he wanted to go, and he went there with the least amount of effort and fuss.

Possessing the solid foundation of a sound education and a judicial mind, his friends expected that ultimately he would be offered a judgeship.

The funeral of Mr. Thomson will leave his former home, Elm street, Millswood, at 3 p.m. tomorrow for the West Terrace Cemetery. The Rev. A. Depledge Sykes will officiate at the graveside.



THE LATE MR. HARRY THOMSON, K.C.

LAW SOCIETY'S TRIBUTE

Mr. Villeneuve Smith, Expresses Sympathy

"The death of Mr. Harry Thomson, K.C., in the meridian of his powers, bereaves the legal profession of one of its brightest ornaments and a universal friend, and the State itself sustains a blow in the heavy loss of a cultured and upright gentleman," said the president of the Law Society (Mr. F. Villeneuve Smith, K.C.).

"His remarkable talents developed and enriched by great scholarship, had the gracious accompaniments of courtesy, geniality, and loyalty. Severe in self-judgment, he knew how to bear a friend's infirmities, and the doors of his chambers were open wide to the junior in need of advice or assistance.

"As a member of the council of the Law Society and later, as its president, he labored unremittingly for the interests of the profession and for the maintenance, by its members, of its traditional ideals of which his own were a pattern.

"In every circle where his sunny nature radiated, in his home, in his chambers, in his profession, in his universities, and beyond all these, in the world, he was loved, admired, and honored, and he leaves behind him a memory and an example which may serve as an inspiration to those who follow him.

"The council of the Law Society and the society itself lament the loss of one of its most valued members and cherished friends, and offer to the afflicted widow and children their deep and heartfelt sympathy."

R.S.L. Condolences

"With all returned men and women I am deeply grieved to hear of the death of this great man," said the president of the R.S.L. (Col. R. B. Jacob). "Our association has suffered an irreparable loss by the death of this comrade, who was a member of the State board, and last year acted as State president.

"His keen willingness at all times to assist the diggers, and his valuable advice that was always available, can never be replaced.

"Personally I have lost a great friend. We served together at the war, and have been closely associated ever since. The deepest sympathy of all former service men and women in this State is extended to his widow and family."

Mr. Thomson had worked hard to reach his eminence in the legal profession. Because of the death of his father at an early age, an aunt, who was a school teacher, had the care of him in the days of his youth, and he amply repaid the sacrifice she made for him. He was dux of the Unley State School, and went on to St. Peter's College, where he jumped from triumph to triumph.

He was a school prefect and a member of the inter-collegiate sports team.

Mr. Thomson passed the junior certificate examination in 1902, the senior in 1903, and the higher public in 1904 and 1905. He won the Farrell Open Scholarship in 1903, and the Young Exhibition

the following year. This can be awarded only once to each person, otherwise he would have probably won it again in 1905. However, he was awarded a University scholarship, and the old collegians' scholarship, and the Smith History Prize in that year.

RHODES SCHOLAR

At the University he studied law and took his LL.B. degree.

He was chosen Rhodes Scholar for 1910, and entered Balliol College, Oxford. While there he secured his degree as Master of Arts and also the Diploma of Economics. He won his half Oxford blue for lacrosse, and played that game for Oxford against Cambridge in 1912 and 1913.

Mr. Thomson had not been back in Australia long when war broke out. He enlisted in 1915, went away with the 13th reinforcements of the 10th Battalion, and was later drafted into the 50th Battalion, and was in the heavy fighting at Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. Soon afterward he was appointed staff captain on 4th Brigade headquarters under Gen. Brand, and while serving in this capacity was awarded the Military Cross.

ORGANISING ABILITY

From France Mr. Thomson went to England to be deputy director of the scheme launched by the Federal Government for the education of Australian soldiers who wanted to avail themselves of the opportunity. In this work Mr. Thomson showed himself to be possessed of marked organising ability, and he was promoted to the rank of major.

At the close of hostilities Mr. Thomson married a French woman, whom he had met some years previously. There are two young boys in the family, Allan and Cedric.

On his return to Adelaide Mr. Thomson joined the old established firm of Varley and Evan. Mr. Mostyn Evan died, and then Mr. Varley, and Mr. Thomson found himself at the head of it.

For five years—from 1920 to 1925—he was lecturer in law at the University of Adelaide, and he had been a member of the University council since 1928. Mr. Thomson was also a member of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee. He was made a K.C. in 1930, was president of the Law Society in 1931, president of the South Australian branch of the R.S.L. in 1932, and president of the South Australian Amateur Athletic Association in 1923-5. He was a director of News Ltd.

In Local Court

In the Adelaide Local Court today Mr. C. C. Crump, on behalf of the Bar, said that Mr. Thomson had endeared himself to the whole of the legal profession. Many of the younger members had sat under him when he lectured in law at the University.

"We knew him not only as a lecturer, but as a genuine friend," said Mr. Crump. "A student could go to him as one man to another and have a straight talk."

Mr. Crump referred to Mr. Thomson's brilliant career, and added:—"He practised his profession in accordance with its highest ideals. His death is the loss of the country in general, but to the juniors of the profession in particular, for Mr. Thomson was only a young man."

Mr. L. H. Haslam, S.M., who presided in the Local Court, said that Mr. Thomson regularly practised in the court, and his appearances were most welcome for two reasons.

These were his charm and ability—and his extraordinary legal attainments. He had been cut off at the zenith of his career.

Courts Adjourn

After having expressed regret at the death of Mr. Thomson, Mr. President Kelly, in the Industrial Court today, adjourned the proceedings for 10 minutes as a mark of respect.

He said that as the president of the Industrial Court and of the Board of Industry, he wished publicly to express his condolences.

"It is unnecessary for me to speak of Mr. Thomson's unlimited ability and capacity for work, his distinctions in the literary and athletic, as well as the academic fields, Mr. President Kelly continued.

"I am sure that the members of the Bar will join with me in expressing deep regret in the loss of one of the most able sons of the State.

Mr. S. C. G. Wright, on behalf of members of the Bar, said that all regretted Mr. Thomson's death.

The Bankruptcy Court was adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect to Mr. Thomson. The Registrar (Mr. A. S. Howland) and Mr. J. L. Travers, the latter on behalf of the Bar, made sympathetic references to his death.

At the Legacy Club

Sympathetic references to the death of Mr. Thomson, a member of the club, were made at the weekly luncheon of the Legacy Club today. Expressions of condolence were also made to Dr. Rex, and Mr. Stewart Matters, on the death of

their father, Cr. T. J. Matters.

Athletes' Sympathy

"Mr. Thomson was a man for whom I had the greatest admiration—somewhat reserved, but of wonderful worth," said the president of the South Australian Amateur Athletic Association (Mr. A. G. Fenner). "Not only the realm of athletics, but South Australia, and Australia as a whole, will feel his loss."

"He combined a brilliant brain with a charming personality. We amateur sportsmen will be desolate in the absence of one who had hardly reached his prime.

"Mr. Thomson held the office of president of our association for three years, from 1923 to 1925. He was a boxing judge from 1923 onward, and acted in that capacity in the State championships in August this year. In addition, he acted as referee at all official State athletic championships."

Ado. 20-10-33

DEATH OF MR. THOMSON, K.C.

Notable Legal And Scholastic Career

FORMER RHODES SCHOLAR

Mr. Harry Thomson, K.C., died late on Wednesday night at his home at Millswood after an illness lasting several weeks. Although only 45 years of age, he had had a distinguished career at the Bar, following brilliant academic achievements at St. Peter's College and the Universities of Adelaide and Oxford.

The disease from which Mr. Thomson died was a rare one known as leucocythaemia, which is characterised by an excessive number of white corpuscles in the blood and progressive anaemia. He was told some years ago by doctors that he had it, and that, although it might take some time to run its course, the length of his life was definitely limited unless research workers found a cure in the meantime. There is no satisfactory treatment known for the disease, and in the absence of the discovery of one, he knew that he was doomed.

Two years ago he was told he had only two years to live, but only those in the closest touch with him knew. To others associated with him professionally or in his many other interests he seemed in the prime of life. He continued his legal work, having undertaken important cases even in recent months. However, a few weeks ago he became too ill to attend his office, and gradually became worse.



The late Mr. Thomson

Before adopting the law as his profession, Mr. Thomson was a member of the literary staff of "The Advertiser," his father, Mr. George Thomson, having also been a reporter on this paper, and his grandfather, Mr. W. H. Jeffery, for many years managing printer. Leaving "The Advertiser," Mr. Harry Thomson was articulated to the firm of Varley & Evan, in which he subsequently became a partner. His accomplishments at the Adelaide University were crowned by his selection as Rhodes Scholar in 1909, and his admission to the South Australian Bar, in 1913, followed a notable career at Oxford, where, apart from his further scholastic successes, he gained a half-blue for lacrosse. In 1912 he gained first-class honors in jurisprudence at Oxford, and in November of the same year graduated B.A., Oxon. In June, 1913, he took a diploma in economic and political science with distinction. How high a position he gained at Oxford is evidenced by the fact that in 1912-13 he was president of the Law Society, and in 1913 was president of the Colonial Club.

Military Success

In 1915 Mr. Thomson enlisted and added military laurels to his other achievements by rising to the rank of major and winning the Military Cross. He saw three and a half years' active service, mainly in Egypt and France. He was particularly interested in a