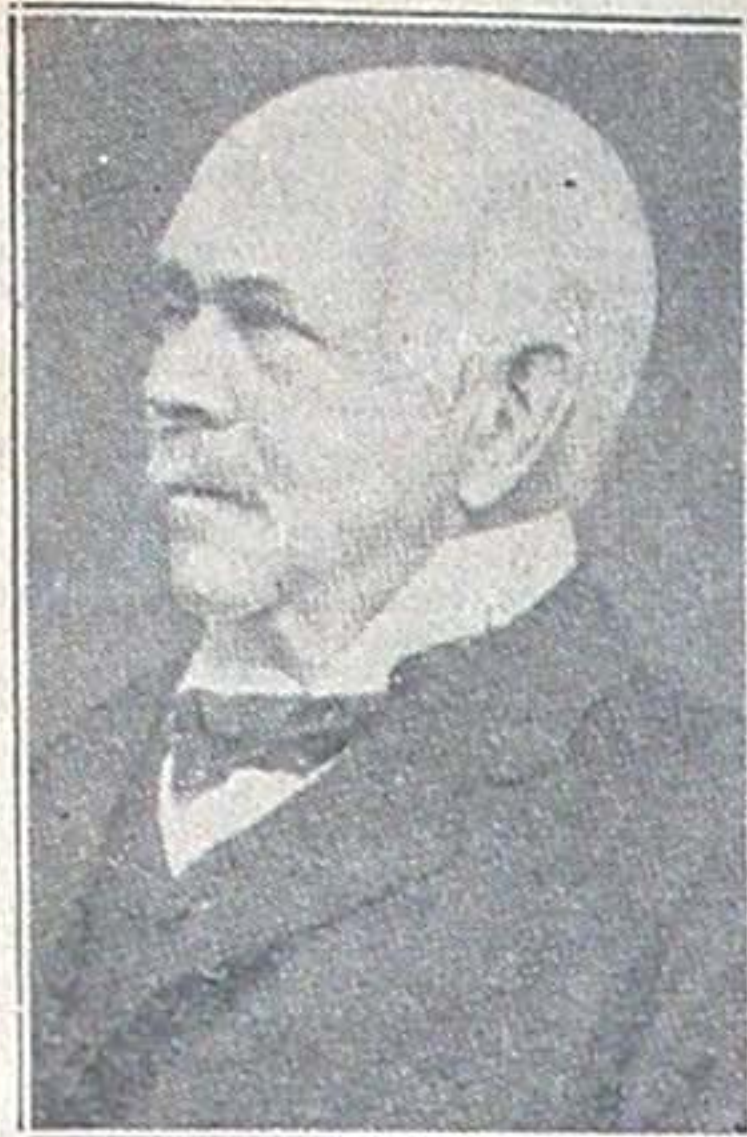


DEATH OF SIR JOSIAH SYMON

Helped To Frame Federal Constitution BRILLIANT K.C.

50 Years At Bar And In Politics



The late Sir Josiah Symon

Sir Josiah Symon, brilliant lawyer, one of the foremost members of the Federal Convention of 1897-8, which drafted the Commonwealth Constitution...

Sir Josiah Symon, who was born at Wick, Caithness, Scotland, on September 27, 1846, was a many-sided man, and attained eminence not only in the law, but also as a legislator, lecturer, and litterateur...

He was educated at the Stirling High School, Scotland, of which he was dux in 1862, and at the Moray Training College, Edinburgh. He was a tall, smart, ambitious Scottish youth of 20 when he arrived in South Australia in 1866...

Brilliant Political Career

The same year that he became a Queen's Counsel also saw the beginning of what was to prove a strenuous but brilliant political career, extending in all over 32 years. At the time of his death he was the oldest South Australian ex-Minister, having been sworn in on March 10, 1881, as Attorney-General in Sir William Morgan's Cabinet...

Having represented Sturt for six years, Sir Josiah Symon contested the district of Victoria at the general election of 1887, fighting the election on the issues of free-trade and payment of members, but was defeated. While on a visit to England the previous year he was offered, but declined, a seat in the House of Commons for a Conservative constituency.

Not until after the Australian States federated was he again a member of Parliament. An ardent federalist and one of the leaders in the Federal Convention (1897-8) which drafted the Constitution, he was returned to the

first Commonwealth Parliament as a South Australian Senator, heading the polls at the first two Senate elections. He was a Senator for nearly 13 years, being leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1901 to 1904, and Attorney-General in the Reid-McLean Ministry from August 17, 1904, to July 4, 1905.

Senior K.C.M.G. In Australia

Sir Josiah Symon was the senior K.C.M.G. in the Commonwealth, having been knighted in 1901 for his services in assisting to bring about federation. After his defeat at the election of 1887 he threw himself enthusiastically into the fight for federation, and from that year onwards was president of the South Australian Federal League and of the Commonwealth League. Not only was he a leading member of the convention which framed the Constitution, but he was also chairman of the Judiciary Committee responsible for its judicial system. He visited England in 1899, after the people had adopted the Constitution, to assist its passage through the Imperial Parliament, and to prepare the way for the delegation of 1900. For his work on that occasion he received the congratulations of the then Colonial Secretary (Mr. Joseph Chamberlain) in the following letter:—

It has been a great pleasure to me to submit your name to the Queen on the occasion of the new year for appointment to the dignity of a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. It gives me great satisfaction to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve my recommendation. Let me take this opportunity of expressing to you my congratulations on your well-merited distinction. You have rendered eminent services to the cause of Federal unity in Australia, both as an advocate of it in the country and in your capacity as a member of the Convention and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I am very glad that your successful labors should receive this public recognition.

In 1911 he represented the Commonwealth at the Coronation naval review at Spithead, and on its behalf presented to the battleship Commonwealth the challenge shield and service of plate subscribed by the citizens.

For half a century Sir Josiah Symon's fame as a powerful pleader at the Bar spread, and in a large number of important civil cases he gave ample evidence of his gifts and learning. He also earned great renown for his skill in the conduct of the criminal side of Supreme Court practice, and his addresses to the juries were masterpieces of pleading, analysis, and oratory. He retired from the active practice of his profession in 1923.

Eminent Shakespearean Scholar

For years a member of the Society of Comparative Legislation and International Law, Sir Josiah Symon frequently contributed to its journal, and he also wrote extensively on Federation and constitutional subjects. He was an honorary member of the Cobden Club and of the Anglo-Saxon Club, and for many years a vice-president of the Royal Empire Society, as well as president of the South Australian branch. He was also a founder of Minda Home, Brighton, and for years an energetic worker in its behalf.

A member of the Council of the University of Adelaide for eight years, he did much for the cause of University education, and represented the University of Sydney at a congress of universities of the Empire in London. He was also an ex-president of the South Australian Law Society.

Sir Josiah Symon was one of the best informed Shakespearean scholars in Australia, and in 1929 published his book, "Shakespeare, the Englishman," following upon a previous brochure on Shakespeare issued many years before.

In addition to his country house, "Manoah," Upper Sturt, he was interested in other rural properties, being the owner of Auldana, one of the oldest and best known of Australian vineyards.

At the jubilee commemoration ceremony of the University of Adelaide, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) announced the gift by Sir Josiah Symon of £10,000 to provide the Lady Symon Building for the University Women's Union, and to mark his own happy personal association with the early work of the University as a member of its council for eight years. He also in 1927 gave £1,500 to the Australian Inland Mission to build the Eleanor Symon Nursing Home at Innamincka, and later made possible the erection of the Northcote Rest Home for Mothers and Babies.

Sir Josiah Symon possessed one of the finest libraries in South Australia which, subject to the wishes of Lady Symon during her lifetime, will eventually become the property of the Public Library. In 1928 he informed the board of governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, that he intended to bequeath his library to that institution, as well as a contribution towards the expenses of its removal and upkeep. Several years ago he presented his valuable law library to the University. He had a notable art collection, including autographed portraits of eminent British statesmen he met during his visit to England in 1899. He has established scholarships at the University of Sydney (English literature), Scotch College, Adelaide, and the Stirling High School, Scotland,

where he was educated.

In December, 1881, he married Miss Mary Eleanor Cowle, daughter of the late Mr. C. T. Cowle, of North Adelaide. He leaves a widow and a family of five sons, Messrs. Oscar, Carril, Oliver, Charles, and Romilly Symon, and five daughters, Mrs. M. Clark, Misses Killmeny, Margaret, Angel and Lenore Symon.

Premier's Tribute

In expressing his deep sympathy with Lady Symon and relatives, the Premier (Mr. Butler) said yesterday that the whole community would be the poorer by the passing of Sir Josiah Symon. "Both at the Bar and in politics his work was outstanding," said the Premier. "In him there were allied the qualities of great ability and untiring energy, and the irresistible combination enabled him to establish a record of achievement which justly earned him leadership in his sphere, and must for ever be a source of great pride to his family and descendants."

Law Society's Message

The death of Sir Josiah Symon had removed from the ranks of the legal profession one who had been a member of the Bar for nearly 63 years, and who was the doyen of the profession in South Australia, said Mr. G. S. Reed, vice-president of the Law Society of South Australia yesterday.

"Although Sir Josiah had not been in active practice for some years, his name was well known to the whole profession and even to those just entering on the study of the law," Mr. Reed said. "To the discharge of his professional duties he brought gifts of a very high order. His wide knowledge of the law and human nature, his powers of advocacy, his courage and a capacity for unremitting effort, combined with wide literary knowledge, brought him to the forefront, and enabled him to maintain that position for very many years. He was actively associated with the Law Society for a number of years, holding the office of president for some time, and always took a very keen interest in the work of the society."

On behalf of the society Mr. Reed extended to Lady Symon and the members of the family, some of whom are also members of the legal profession, sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

The Lord Mayor's Sympathy

The Lord Mayor (Mr. Cain) said citizens of Adelaide would deeply regret the death of Sir Josiah Symon. His place would be hard to fill. He had been pre-eminent in his profession and as a citizen, and every member of the community would mourn his passing. "I join with the whole of the citizens in sympathising deeply with Lady Symon and members of her family," added Mr. Cain.

BURIAL OF SIR JOSIAH SYMON

Mile Long Cortège In State Funeral

A procession more than a mile long followed the ashes of Sir Josiah Symon from his home in Buxton street, North Adelaide, to the North road Cemetery at the State funeral yesterday. Both the Governor-General and the Governor were represented, and many citizens and public men attended.

The procession proceeded to St. Peter's Cathedral by way of Jeffcott street and Pennington terrace. The urn containing the ashes was carried into the Cathedral by his son, Commander O. J. Symon, attended by the pall-bearers, the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), Sir William Mitchell, Sir Henry Newland, and Sir Walter Young.

At the Cathedral a short memorial service was conducted by the Dean of Adelaide (Very Rev. G. H. Jose) and the Precentor of the Cathedral (Rev. H. P. Finnis). The service consisted simply of a hymn, a prayer, and the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

After the service the cortège continued to the North road Cemetery by way of King William road, Brougham place, Lefevre terrace, and the Main North road. The burial service was conducted by Canon F. Slaney Poole and the Rev. H. C. Thrush.

The chief mourners were Messrs. C. J. B. and O. S. Symon and Commander O. J. Symon (sons) and Miss Symon, Mrs. Clark, and Miss A. Symon (daughters). His Excellency the Governor-General (Sir Isaac Isaacs) was represented by Colonel J. M. A. Durrant, and His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) by Captain Williamson, A.D.C.

Ministers And M.Ps. Attend

Senator Duncan-Hughes represented

the Commonwealth Ministry and the President of the Senate. The Premier (Mr. Butler), the Chief Secretary (Mr. Ritchie), the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries), and the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Hudd) attended on behalf of the State Ministry. The District Naval Officer (Commander S. R. Symonds) represented the Navy. Others present included the President of the Legislative Council (Sir David Gordon) and the Speaker of the Assembly (Mr. Nicholls). Senators Daly and O'Halloran, and Messrs. McBride, M.H.R., Hannaford, M.L.C., and Anthony, Dunks, Jenkins, Morphet, and Thompson, M.Ps., Sir Langdon Bonython and Sir William Sowden.

Clan Emblem Among Wreaths

Among the many floral tributes was a wreath of rowan berries and yew, the emblem of the Fraser-Clan, from his son, Mr. C. Symon. Sir Josiah Symon belonged to a junior branch of this clan. Other wreaths were from the Governor-General, the Chief Justice, and Miss Murray, the council of the University, the various unions of the University, Minda Home, Northcote Home, the Royal Empire Society, the Justices' Association, Scotch College and the Auldana Vineyard.

UNIVERSITY MEN FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Appointments To Be Made Within Fortnight

CANBERRA, April 3.

University men are to have the chance of a Public Service career. A number of graduates will be appointed to the Commonwealth Service within a fortnight, in accordance with the amendment of the Public Service Act passed last session.

The object is to raise the standard of the service by introducing men with special educational qualifications. A selection board is at work in each State considering applications from a large number of graduates who are not required to pass the usual Public Service examination, and, for a start, about 12 will be appointed. The Act limits the number of graduates eligible to enter the service without examination to 10 per cent. of those appointed to clerical positions after examination. As it is expected that 200 successful candidates at the recent Public Service clerical examination will be appointed during the next 18 months, about 20 graduates will enter the service.

The University men must start at the bottom of the ladder as junior clerks, with a maximum salary of £306, less the financial emergency cut. Promotion will depend upon efficiency.

Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, who was recently appointed mycologist in the Department of Plant Pathology, at the Rothamsted Experimental Research station, Harpenden, England, left yesterday, by the East-West express, for Perth.



Mr. G. Samuel

At Fremantle he will join the Centaur for Java, Ceylon, and thence to England. Mr. Samuel has been on the staff at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute for about nine years, as plant mycologist, and he was chosen for his new position from many applicants from various parts of the world. After taking his science degree at the University of Adelaide, he went abroad to continue his studies, and on his return took up his appointment at the Waite Institute. Mrs. Samuel will leave tomorrow by the Orsova for London.

The Registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) is on annual leave. During his absence the Deputy Registrar (Mr. F. W. Bampton) will carry out his duties.