

Register, Jan. 31st / 1910



THE LATE SIR CHARLES TODD.

## DEATH OF SIR CHARLES TODD.

### A DISTINGUISHED CAREER.

### BRILLIANT SERVICE TO THE STATE.

The Australian flag at the half-mast on the Post Office tower told citizens of Adelaide on Sunday that Sir Charles Todd, who for so many years had served the State so faithfully and so brilliantly from his office within sound of the chimes of the clock, had passed away. The kindly, lovable scientist and public servant had retired from there five years before, but his familiar figure had still been seen in the streets of the city, and he had occasionally attended public engagements. It was therefore a shock to a great many people toward the end of last week to hear that Sir Charles was seriously ill, and it will be a greater shock still to many more to know that he has crossed the bar.

#### —His Last Hours.—

Though somewhat enfeebled by advancing years, Sir Charles had enjoyed good health until a few days ago. Three weeks ago he went to the Semaphore for a change. He was always interested in the shipping, and loved to watch the vessels of various descriptions as they made their way to and from the harbour. He chose the Semaphore in preference to Glenelg mainly on that account. There was more shipping to claim his attention. Thus he took pleasure in his sojourn at the seaside, and enjoyed good health until Wednesday last. On that day he had been walking about when a painful affection in the form of a blocked vein in the left leg presented itself, and compelled him to take to his bed. Those who realized the seriousness of the malady knew that it heralded the approach of the end, though in this instance it came much more rapidly than often happens. In some cases amputation of the limb has prolonged life, and there is an octogenarian at Yankalilla who lost first one leg and then the other through the same disease, and is still living. Sir Charles was attended by Drs. Anstey Giles and P. Bollen, and morphine was administered to relieve his suffering. He retained consciousness till as late as Friday evening, when members of his family saw him; but soon afterward he relapsed into unconsciousness, and remained in that state for 12 hours till death occurred at 3.15 p.m. on Saturday.

#### —An "Empire Builder."—

The death of Sir Charles Todd has brought to an end the eventful career of one of the most remarkable men who have been connected with the public service in this State. For more than half a century his name has been a household word in South Australia, and the network of telegraph lines which link the Central State to Europe and the other Australian capitals serve as a monument of his restless energy, his organizing ability, and his dauntless enterprise. Few public servants in Australia have been privileged to preside over a great Government department for so many years, and probably no other officer has had sole control of so many costly projects. It would be impossible to enumerate more than a small percentage of the schemes which Sir Charles Todd planned and carried to a successful issue during the many years that he filled the position of permanent head of the Post Office and Telegraph Department. Not only did he lay the foundations of elaborate telegraphic and telephonic systems, open up mail routes to all parts of the State, and supervise the construction of the transcontinental telegraph line through hundreds of miles of uninhabited and practically unexplored territory, but in addition to those arduous labours he always found time to conduct astronomical observations and to undertake various other forms of scientific work of permanent value. Versatile, resourceful, and capable of great physical endurance, the late Sir Charles Todd accomplished tasks that would have taxed the strength