

13/10/13

## THE LATE SIR JOHN DUNCAN.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE.

There was a large congregation at the Flinders Street Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening, when Dr. Davidson conducted a memorial service for the late Sir John Duncan. Special music was contributed, and the choir gave an impressive choral service. Dr. Davidson, in a forceful panegyric, said he would not assert that the late Sir John Duncan became more human when he received the honour of knighthood from the King, but he would say that he found that the humanity that was in him became more apparent. He had found the deceased as a titled man more open and approachable and genial. His life grew in true nobility as he advanced in years. What was wanted in the true politician was conviction, courage, consistency, a growing sense of justice, and love of fairplay, and Sir John Duncan had those gifts. Like most Scotsmen, their late brother was reticent on the deeper matters of personal religion. To his mind they were too sacred to be talked about. Perhaps Sir John did not do justice to himself in that respect, but God did not make all men alike, Sir John never sought censure, and never courted applause. He was dead against gambling in every form, and declared that he would vote against the totalizer whenever he got the chance. He was a true-blue Presbyterian, an elder of the church, the church of his fathers. In the arena of public life he made no reference to it or to religion. He knew what a certain section of the community would have thought of him if he did, what miserable interpretation would be given, and what false motives would be attributed to him. Perhaps he was misunderstood by some because of it, perhaps the world would have seen him in better if it had been otherwise. Sir John kept business apart from his home—they were two different things. It was his home that saved him from becoming a mere politician. His home was his true kingdom—discipline, obedience, and love—and he lived secure in it amid the wear and tear of public life. A Conservative? Yes, he was conservative of home and family life, the cement of national life. But he was no high and dry Tory. He (Dr. Davidson) once said to him, "There is no room for high and dry old Tories in a new land like Australia," and Sir John agreed with him. Sir John Duncan was anxious only that things should develop steadily and smoothly, and that there should be something of continuity in national progress.

### OTHER TRIBUTES.

The late Sir John Duncan was a staunch member of the Liberal Union, which he assisted to form. At a special meeting of the executive held on Friday night appreciative references were made to his services to the Liberal cause, and it was decided to place on the records of the Union an expression of the great loss that not only the Liberal Party, but also the State, had sustained by his death. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Lady Duncan the Liberal Union's high appreciation of the work he had accomplished in a life all too short.

At a public meeting in the Kapunda Institute on Friday evening the following motion was carried:—"That this public meeting expresses its deep regret at the sudden decease of Sir John Duncan, M.L.C., one of our representatives in the Legislative Council, whose long and honourable career should inspire younger men to follow the same worthy ideal of conduct in public life shown in the career just closed. We desire to convey to Lady Duncan and family our deepest sympathy in the sad loss they have sustained."

# EDUCATION AND PLEASURE.

## PRINCELY MUNIFICENCE.

### Gift of a Mansion and a Park.

THE REGISTER.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1913.

In the House of Assembly on Tuesday afternoon the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake) said he wished to make a statement that would be of interest to the House and the public generally. One of their generous citizens (Mr. Peter Waite) had proposed to make a gift in the interests of agricultural education and of public recreation. (Applause.) The gift was in two parts—one to the Government, and the other to the Adelaide University—but they could be regarded as one complete proposal. It was particularly gratifying to him, as it marked the consummation of one of the aims which the Government of 1909 had included in its programme, and, also, because it gave effect to one of the recommendations of the recent Education Commission. Prior to the publication of the commission's report, and without a knowledge of its intentions, the Commissioner of Crown Lands was in communication with Mr. Peter Waite, who desired to make the gift in question for the best possible purpose, and with the Commissioner he visited the Agricultural High School at Ballarat, and was there confirmed in his desire to further agricultural education. The proposals were contained in a letter received from Mr. Peter Waite, dated October 3, in which the donor said he had offered Urrbrae House and 248 acres land, 134 of which would be available for the University, and 114 acres for the purposes of a public park. (Applause.) The house was to be used for the purposes of an Agricultural High School, and one half of the land for agricultural education (with the exception of 10 to 15 acres, which might be used for a students' sports ground). The property was situated between Glen Osmond and Mitcham, and was within four miles of the G.P.O. He did not like to put a value on it, but it probably represented between £40,000 or £50,000. The land for the agricultural high school was ready for immediate occupation. The only condition attached to the gift was that the University, and the estate, should not be liable for succession duties when the property fell into its possession. Mr. Denny—You will require an Act of Parliament for that.

The Premier—That can be arranged.

#### —Terms of the Gifts.—

The Premier read the following correspondence, in which the gift and the conditions attached to it were outlined:—

Adelaide, October 3, 1913.

Dear Mr. Peake—Following upon our conversation of August 30 last, I have now arranged to hand over to the University of Adelaide my Urrbrae house and grounds, embracing an area of 134 acres, half of the land to be available for the University for agricultural and kindred studies, and the balance as a public park under their control. I enclose copy of letter which I am to-day sending to the Chancellor of the University. I now formally offer to the Government of South Australia Part Section 250, Hundred of Adelaide, containing 114 acres for the purpose of an agricultural high school. This land adjoins Urrbrae. In coming to the decision to make this offer I have been much influenced by the wonderful work our agriculturists and pastoralists have accomplished hitherto in face of the very heavy odds they have had to meet. With comparatively little scientific training they have placed our wheat, wool, and fruits in the highest estimation of the world; our sheep have been brought to such perfection that they are sought after not only by all the sister States,

but by South Africa; our agricultural machinery has been found good enough even for the Americans to copy; and our farming methods have been accepted by the other States as the most up-to-date and practical for Australian conditions. We have now reached a point when it behoves us to call science to our aid to a greater extent than hitherto has been done, otherwise we cannot hope to keep in the forefront. It seems to me that our manufactures must soon overtake the requirements of the Commonwealth, and that it is to the land we must look to occupy the coming generations. The only condition I wish to make in regard to the two gifts is that they are contingent only upon the Government undertaking that neither my estate nor the University shall be called upon to pay succession duties thereon. I would like to see the agricultural high school under the control of a board, which might be constituted as follows:—Two representatives selected by the Government, and one each by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, the University, and Elder's Trustee and Executor Company, Limited. This wish, however, is not put forward as a condition of the gift. Further, I hope that some arrangement will be made for those boys who distinguish themselves at the agricultural school to be attracted to the higher work which will be done in the scientific schools of the University. The land for the agricultural high school is, as you know, ready and available for the commencement of operations at any time, should my offer of it be accepted. Yours faithfully,

PETER WAITE.

The Honourable the Premier of S.A.,  
Adelaide.

The following letter had been sent to the Chancellor of the University:—

Adelaide, October 3, 1913.

The Right Honourable Sir Samuel Way, Bart.,  
P.C., Chancellor of the University of Adelaide,  
Adelaide. Dear Sir Samuel—It appears to me that

we are approaching a point in the history of the State and Commonwealth when our manufactures will more than keep pace with the local demand. Our population will, however, continue to increase, I hope, more and more quickly, and the natural outlet for the energies of our rising generation appears to me to be in producing wealth from the land. Our State has hitherto done notably in all branches of agriculture and the allied arts, and, largely, without scientific direction and education. In the future competition threatens to be so keen that we must equip our people in the best possible manner. In the belief that such sections of the University work as agriculture, botany, entomology, horticulture, and forestry can be better dealt with upon such a property as Urrbrae than at North terrace, I now desire to offer as a gift to the University the Urrbrae estate of 134 acres, for the following purposes, viz.:—1. The eastern portion, say 67 acres or thereabouts, with the buildings thereon, to be used for the purposes above outlined, interpreting them in their widest sense. 2. The remainder, say 67 acres or thereabouts, to be a public park under the control of the University, but if it be thought advisable I would be quite willing that 10 or 15 acres, or such area as might be found necessary, should be used as a students' sports ground. When the University authorities have considered this matter I will be pleased to know their decision, and if my offer is accepted the title can be at once transferred to the University, subject to the life tenancy of my wife and myself and of the survivor of us. I am making it a condition with the Government that the University shall not be liable for any succession duty when the property falls into your possession. Yours faithfully,

PETER WAITE.