"DIED AT HIS POST."

This phrase—almost literally accurate—might justly be added to any epitaph to the memory of the late Mr. Alfred Williams (Director of Education), who died last night. Without any mere rhetorical flourish, may sorrow and fidelity to the opinion he sacrificed his life on the altar of his duty, as he interpreted the word. Possibly his zeal was in excess of strict necessity, but that is only another way of saying that he rose to every other mission, he was in deadly earnest in seeking to realise his ideals, and recked little what befell the creator so long as the education became consummated. He might conceivably have achieved more if he had tried to accomplish less; but, on the other hand, he might not have done anything at all worth noting, had he not been possessed by the unquenchable energy, vigour, and pride-in-work into those who immediately surrounded him, and into the far-spread, rank-and-file whose operations he directed. At the present time there is no need to elaborate that aspect of the matter; no one could have such an elaboration be made in good taste. The point is that, in a period when work-thinking and eyeservice are too prominent, and too much encouraged in certain propaganda, here was a man who placed no limitation upon his exertions in what he believed to be the people's interest, and never even thought of thinking himself at all. And this thought intensifies the general feeling of regret that his chief hope and aspiration in the education movement—the aspiration and the hope that his work might be priviledged before his work health gave way altogether, to recognize the Education Department in accordance with his hopes and views, and wrought out with infutes care and solicitude, and which bespeaks a man of marked ability and great resource.

But, although the designer has passed on, he has left behind him, and the ideals which it embodies, with the means to their attainment, will be of great practical advantage to his successors. The more so, because Mr. Williams has had this ambition: to leave the world better than he found it; and he knew his work as a true workman. He had ascended virtually every rung of the State educational ladder from the bottom to the top. He was aware of the various concrete points of view—of the infant schools, the upper class boys and girls, and those of the middle and working classes; he sought in one comprehensive scheme to harmonize all conflicting interests. In the endeavor, and largely because of the endeavor, he was at the political influence and diplomatic considerations, which last, are, have been, and always will be so long as they may remain in exercise, the despair of every reforming organizer of a broad political line. He was to be permitted to administer with the assistance of hundreds of widely scattered people. Almost from the beginning to the ending of his worrying official career, he was impeded and hobbled under his limitations in this respect. Not that he was absolutely checked by his Ministerial superiors in what he proposed, but because he had to define and confine his broad plans according to his cramped opportunities. At the right time the Government will doubtless consider whether, in the existing circumstances, it would be possible for even a heaven-born genius to be completely successful as Director of Education unless he were allowed reasonable freedom from political control. The position, now vacated, by Mr. B. R. Smith will probably be kept in commission during this transitional stage in the evolution of the department; and, whether the official of the Director of Education is reelected or not, whoever may follow Alfred Williams will not be able to extricate him in zeal and devotion to duty; and all things considered, few will be his equal in that philosophic sympathy which is also called practical sagacity.

IN MEMORIAM.

Alfred Williams, M.E., Director of Education, February 21st.

This world was enriched on the night of the 19th instant by the death of Mr. Alfred Williams, M.E., Director of Education. The funeral will be held at the Church of St. John the Baptist, North Road, to-morrow at 2 o'clock. The Directors of the Teachers’ Union desire the attendance of all members to an advertisement in another column. The schools that are sufficiently near to Adelaide to receive the body, the departments of which are closed to-day, and the Education Office, in Flinders street, will be closed throughout the day. The funeral of the late Mr. Alfred Williams, M.E., Director of Education, in the presence of the principal of the schools which is for some minutes in silence and with heads bowed, at a mark of respect.

"Winne Fairweather, Feb 21st."