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February 18. 1915

A VETERAN'S PASSING.

DEATH OF THE REV. CHARLES HODGE.

At the ripe age of 81 the death occurred on Sunday, at his residence, Maylands, Port Elliot, of the Rev. Charles Hodge, the well-known Congregational minister.

—A Leader Among Congregationalists.—

The late rev. gentleman was probably the best-known minister south of Adelaide partly because of his long years of service in various centres among the southern districts, partly because of his splendid pioneering work, in which he built the Newland Memorial Congregational Church at Port Victor, but chiefly because of his great personal popularity. He was well-known almost throughout the State. For several years Mr. Hodge held office as Chairman of the Congregational Union—a fitting honour for a man who had been in the ministry for over 60 years. In active service in the Congregational ministry for more than 40 years in South Australia alone, he was the oldest in continuous office in the State. Dr. Jefferis dates his point of service further back into the pioneering days, but for years he was away from the rising colony.

—The Early Days.—

Mr. Hodge was born at St. Austell Cornwall, on October 18, 1834, and was educated by a private tutor. In 1856 he sailed in the vessel White Star, under the auspices of the Bible Christian Home and Foreign Missionary Society, and arrived in Melbourne in November, 1856, after 71 days' voyage. After nearly four years' work in the sister colony he was transferred to South Australia and laboured in the Port Elliot, Yankalilla, and Willunga circuits. Serious illness, caused by exposure and wet weather on circuit, and subsequent ill-health compelled him to relinquish regular ministerial work for some time, and subsequently to tender his resignation. He, however, continued to preach occasionally, and during this period of forced inactivity he sometimes supplied Encounter Bay Congregational Church. After the death of the Rev. R. W. Newland, the pioneer minister of the south, Mr. Hodge accepted a call to the pastorate in 1865, where he laboured for 20 years. The district was a large one and the principal church was the old "Tabernacle" at Encounter Bay, built by the Rev. R. W. Newland. There was another church in Bald Hills, 10 miles distant, over the destinies of which Mr. Hodge also presided, while services were regularly held at Port Victor, which township was then in its infancy. However, as the town of Port Victor grew the cause there prospered, while the settlers began leaving the country districts for the northern areas.

—A Memorial Church.—

Eventually the interest was concentrated at Port Victor, and the Newland Memorial Church was built, the foundation-stone being laid in 1869 by the widow of the late R. W. Newland. There Mr. Hodge continued to labour for many years, and by the satisfaction of seeing the debt upon the new building almost liquidated before the date of his resignation. In 1886 Mr. Hodge resigned his pastorate at Port Victor, and spent 12 months in supplying in New Zealand, Queensland, and New South Wales. Some time after the death of the Rev. John Hotham, who had been pastor of the Congregational Church at Port Elliot for between 30 and 40 years, a cordial invitation to the Church was sent to Mr. Hodge. This call was accepted, and again Mr. Hodge identified himself with the interests of the South. Ill-health and great physical weakness for many years prevented Mr. Hodge from taking such an active part in life, especially in the religious world, as he otherwise would have done, yet his career has been eminently useful and much appreciated. In the South his name was a household word.

—The Veteran's Retirement.—

Mr. Hodge's next call was to McLaren Vale, in 1895, in succession to the Rev. J. Howe, who had held the position for 35 years. While in charge of the church there he went to England for a holiday, and represented the churches of South Australia at the meetings of the Congregational Union of England and Wales at Bournemouth. Not long after his return members of the McLaren church bade their veteran pastor farewell, after 61 years of active ministry in the old and new worlds.

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One interesting phase of Mr. Hodge's pioneer days was his duty as a first-aid medical man. Doctors were rare, and not easy to procure for emergencies. But the pastor's knowledge and nerve often stood his patients in good stead, and it is therefore, as a temporal as well as a spiritual healer that many people revere his name. The deceased gentleman's family consists of three sons and five daughters. Mr. O. R. Hodge (Barrister at Law of the University of Adelaide) is the eldest; and there are the Rev. Alfred Hodge, of St. Clair, New Zealand; Mr. T. Hodge, in the South Australian railway service; Mrs. J. S. Brown, of McLaren Vale; Sister Hodge; Nurse Eva Hodge; and Misses Louisa and Rosa Hodge.

The Advertiser

February 4th 1895

To-day Mr. R. Barr Smith, who was born at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland, on February 4, 1824, will complete his 91st year, and hearty wishes that he may see many more happy returns of his birthday will be general throughout the State. For more than 60 years the name of Mr. Barr Smith has been synonymous with everything that is enterprising and honorable in South Australian business life. He has been known throughout the whole of his long and successful career as a shrewd, far-seeing, and generous citizen. He is a son of the Rev. Dr. Smith, a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, and he received a liberal education, which was completed at Glasgow University. After having been engaged in mercantile pursuits in Scotland for some time, he came to Adelaide in 1854, and joined the firm of Elder & Co., which was largely interested in pastoral and mining pursuits, and which did valuable work towards the development of the resources of the State in those and other directions. Subsequently the firm changed its title to Elder, Smith, and

Co., the principals being the late Sir Thomas Elder and Mr. Barr Smith, whose wife is a sister of the former gentleman. The name of that firm, which is now a limited liability company, is familiar in commercial circles all over the world. Mr. Barr Smith devoted himself with characteristic zeal to business, but, although he never sought to enter political life, he has always interested himself in public affairs. By his financial ability he has amassed great wealth, which he has used for the benefit of the community, and, like Sir Thomas Elder, he has always responded to a worthy call for the assistance of his purse, and that, too, without respect to party or creed. For many years he has been one of Adelaide's most generous philanthropists, and he has invariably given with discrimination. The steam lifeboat on the South-Eastern coast was presented by him to the Government, and there is hardly a religious, educational, philanthropic, or charitable institution in the city to which he has not been a munificent donor. His private gifts and those of his equally generous wife would total a large sum, and, in addition, he has made public gifts to the University, St. Peter's Cathedral, the Trades Hall, to the diocese of Willochra, and to other objects of an equally varied nature, which aggregate tens of thousands of pounds. To patriotic funds of all kinds he has ever been a ready supporter, and generally it may be said of him that he never turned a deaf ear to an appeal which, on enquiry, he found to be worthy of his help. In Mount Barker, where Mr. Barr Smith has for 40 years had his country home, his open-handedness and that of his wife have long been proverbial. Every local institution has received proofs of his practical interest in its welfare, and in other ways Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith have endeared themselves to all the residents, who are proud of the fact that he has spent so much of his time at Auchendarroch. Mr. Barr Smith has always enjoyed excellent health, and, despite his great age, he watches with keen concern the progress of current events.

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July 4th 1915

A PRINCELY GIVER.

The State's Nonagenarian Benefactor.

If "To give is more blessed than to receive," then Mr. Robert Barr Smith, who celebrates the ninety-first anniversary of his birth to-day, must have experienced the reward of this divinely inspired precept in a larger measure than is given to the majority of mortals. He has not failed in the responsible trust that accompanies the possession of riches, and his benefactions to the country of his adoption are enshrined in the brightest pages of the State's history, to serve as examples until the end of time. Nothing could be more abhorrent to Mr. Barr Smith than fulsome flattery, and to say that to-day he will be remembered by all classes of the population with thoughts overflowing with gratitude and goodwill is to state a simple truth. His princely philanthropy and munificence have made his name and that of Mrs. Barr Smith, a household word throughout the State. All classes and institutions have benefited by his liberality, and the extent of the private charity which he and Mrs. Barr Smith have so generously dispersed is known to few individuals. One of the latest examples of his public spiritedness was a gift of

£2,000 towards the establishment of the Diocese of Willochra, to which the Right Rev. Dr. Gilbert White (Bishop of Carpentaria) has lately been elected.

—A Successful Career.—

Mr. Barr Smith was born at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. His father was the Rev. Dr. Smith, of the Free Church of Scotland. He attended Glasgow University in the days of "Wally Thompson," who became Lord Kelvin, the "Napoleon of Natural Philosophy." As a young man Mr. Barr Smith was engaged in commercial pursuits in Glasgow, where he laid a solid foundation for that business career which made him the Australian merchant prince he afterwards became. The grand old gentleman was associated with his illustrious brother-in-law, the late Sir Thomas Elder, in laying the foundations and building of the house of Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited, which is widely known for its high traditions of commercial enterprise and progress. Mr. Barr Smith was a pioneer in Australian commerce, shipping, and pastoral development, a great Australian whose name will be honoured in history for having provided encouragement for our explorers to go out into the unknown to blaze the track for settlement and expansion. Public life has never attracted him. Still he has ever been a potent force in the community. Mercantile men, financiers, and politicians have turned to him often for counsel and assistance, which he has freely given.

—Congratulations.—

That Mr. Barr Smith will long be spared to enjoy the good health and physical and mental activities which have been preserved to him in a wonderful degree is the devout wish of thousands of South Australians to-day.



Mr. R. Barr Smith.