A NOTABLE CITIZEN.

The Late Mr. R. Barr Smith.

Universal sorrow will be evinced by the news of the death of that well-known South Australian, Mr. Robert Barr Smith, which occurred at 80 Angus street between 3 and 4 a.m. on Saturday, at the age of 81 years. Thus has passed away a man who has stamped his identity on the records of South Australia for all time. Although for several years he had lived in retirement, he will be missed from many of the activities of the State. Public life will be the poorer, not that he took part in it in any governmental or political sense, but he undoubtedly influenced it. Deep sorrow will be felt in philanthropic circles, where the wants of the needy ever outweigh the efforts of the generous. The loss will be keenly felt in the fields of education, where money cannot overtake the demands of knowledge. In the realms of art and sport, of utility and idealism, in reviews that benefited the public in every direction, this great citizen will be missed. Mr. Barr Smith was lavishly thoughtful for others. Much money he had, but he perhaps, the same remark applies to the Moonta Mines, which originally belonged to the late Sir W. W. Hughes, Sir T. Elder, Mr. Barr Smith, Mr. J. Taylor, and Mr. R. Sykes. The State can never forget its indebtedness to the firm for the immense benefit derived from the Wallaroo and Moonta Mines, because, apart from the commercial value of the ore raised, there was an enormous population drawn to the copper country and maintained there.

A Horse Lover.

The late citizen was a keen judge of a horse, and a lover of a good animal. He was a patron of hunting and the turf, and his colours used to be seen regularly at the principal race meetings in South Australia and in Victoria. Mostyn, whom he imported, won the Goodwood Handicap in 1884 and 1885, and the City Handicap in 1886. Indeed, that year the reliable won the double, Destiny, entered in the name of Mr. Tom Barr Smith, carrying the well-known tartan colours to victory in the Birchley Cup in front of Lord Grenville. If ever one went in for racing as did Mr. Barr Smith, for the pure love of the sport, there would be no need for any crusades against the evils of the turf, because if every one was got up by the same spirit there would be no evils. He was also past president of the thoroughbred Stud Company, which eventually belonged to the late Mr. Barr Smith, carrying the well-known tartan colours to victory in the Birchley Cup in front of Lord Grenville. If ever one went in for racing as did Mr. Barr Smith, for the pure love of the sport, there would be no need for any crusades against the evils of the turf, because if every one was got up by the same spirit there would be no evils. He was also past president of the thoroughbred Stud Company, which eventually belonged to the late Mr. Barr Smith, carrying the well-known tartan colours to victory in the Birchley Cup in front of Lord Grenville.
THE LATE MR. ELDEN.

Mr. E. E. Elder, a well-known Melbourne merchant, died at his residence, 630, Attwood-street, North Melbourne, on the 27th ult., in his 75th year. Mr. Elder was one of the first settlers in Victoria, and was associated with many of the prominent merchants and manufacturers of the colony. He was a hearty advocate of the principles of free trade, and was always ready to give assistance to any enterprise that was calculated to promote the welfare of the community. Mr. Elder was a member of the Melbourne City Council, and was also a member of the Legislative Assembly.

The funeral took place on the 28th ult., and was attended by a large number of friends and acquaintances. The burial was in the Melbourne Public Cemetery.

The late Mr. Elder was a man of sound business principles, and was always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. He was a generous giver to charitable institutions, and was a man of deep religious feeling. His death is a great loss to the business community of Melbourne, and to the community at large.

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Universal sorrow will be occasioned by the news of the death of that well-known South Australian politician, Mr. R. Barr Smith, which occurred at 80 Angus street between 3 and 4 a.m. on Saturday, at the age of 91 years. Thus has passed away a man who has stamped his identity on the records of South Australia for all time. Although for several years he has been absent from many of the activities of the State, Public life will be the poorer, not that he took part in it for the sake of personal emolument, but he undoubtedly influenced it. Deep sorrow will be felt in philanthropical circles, where the needs of the needy every day was his care. His loss will be keenly felt in the field of education, where many cannot overtake the demands of knowledge. In the realms of art, too, the public will be the poorer, for there were large numbers of Adelaide citizens who had never seen him.

Early Life.

It was a fortunate thing for South Australia to have a man of such ability and vision come to its shores. He would have achieved much in any land, but the new country was his chance to show what he was capable of. He had many and big problems to solve, and he did so with a wonderful combination of public spiritedness and good humor. He was a man who appreciated the value of human relations and the power of ideas.

After his death, he left behind a legacy of public service and dedication. He was a man who had lived a life of service to others, and his death was a loss to the community. He was a man who had given so much to his country, and his memory would be forever cherished.
The two partners were the real pioneers of the pastoral settlement of the Flinders Ranges, and north and south alike knew a story of their success in opening up and settling the country. Their early years were spent in shepherding. They did not confine themselves. The Flinders Ranges were built up under the influence of these two men. In other States, particularly in New South Wales, they knew them as shepherds, and their influence was widespread, and many a pastoralist had reason to bless them for their work and rendered in the Stawell and other districts.

Mining.

In the mining field Mr. Barr Smith was equally successful. He levelled and leased property, and his firm assisted prospectors for copper on Yorke Peninsula, and gold in South Australia. He was not a man to be easily expunged. But it did very much more than that.

In the first place for the purposes of keeping the Wallaroo and Mounta Mines going, Mr. Smith's financial and management had a strong influence in the future prospects of the copper country and an important part in the prosperity of South Australia. The district of the Wallaroo was something like $2,000,000, which was ultimately largely realised, and the Wallaroo and Mounta Mines, because, apart from their Copper, there was an enormous population drawn from the copper country and maintained there.

A Horse Lover.

The late Mr. Barr Smith was a great judge of a horse, and a lover of a good animal. He was a patron of hunting and the turf, and was a figure of merit on the principal race meetings in South Australia and Victoria. Mostyn, whom he introduced to the Melbourne Melbourne Cup in 1881, 1882, and 1883, and the City Handicap in 1882, was a horse of no ordinary merit. It was a double, Destiny, entered in the name of the Mr. Barr Smith, carrying the well-known horseman, Lord Carnarvon, was second in the Birthday Cup in front of Lord Granville. If every one went in for racing as did Mr. Barr Smith, there would be no need for any cruiser against a horse of his order. As a rider he was nothing. His one was attacked by a man of the same spirit there would be no need, etc.

Business Influence.

In his prime Mr. Barr Smith not only had his finger on the financial pulse of the community, but was also a financier on a large scale. There was no sounder authority on finance in Adelaide. Naturally, he was in demand as a director, and was often a member of influential men in every direction, where he was always prepared to accept his advice. He was in every State, and, if one were to count the number of men who sought his counsel, it would be very large.

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The Many Benefactions.

Where to begin a history of the assistance rendered by Mr. Barr Smith to all sorts of institutions is a problem. He lent works of art to the State, he helped to build churches and cathedrals; he gave much money for educational purposes, and he took more public efforts, although he always objected to having them described as such. In the matter of private benefactions what he did and his devoted wife did will never be known. For years efforts were made to complete St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral which was hers, and one morning the officer of the clerks was presented by the receipt of a cheque for £10,000. It bore the signature of "Robert Barr Smith." On another occasion he assisted the same church by giving £2,000 to the fund raised to establish the Bishopric of Wiloobra. Other churches benefited by his generosity and gave discriminatingly to every church in need, and he was a large and valuable contributor to the churches which he regarded as worthy of help.

One of his best gifts was £10,000 to the Adelaide University. In the covering letter he wrote: "I am willing to give the sum of £10,000 at once for the purpose, in the first instance, of building a common hall for the meeting of professors and students for meals and social purposes. My idea is that such a hall should serve as a commencement of a residential college. The conditions of this gift are: 1. That the Government will allot to and rest in the University the additional grounds for which the council has made request. 2. That the Government will provide the necessary funds. 3. That the University will accept the gift without any condition."

The Cabinet accepted the offer without hesitation, as the nucleus of such an undertaking was valuable. In acknowledging the gift, the Premier of the day (Hon. A. H. Peake) wrote: "I am directed to express the high appreciation of Ministers of your noble gift." It was characteristic of Mr. Barr Smith, that, for some little time the public could anticipate the £10,000, although it was never given.

The University in other ways was helped by the same generous hand. For instance he gave the library £2,000.

The Trades Hall.

Perhaps of all his gifts that which gained the most widespread attention was the cheque of £10,000 to the Trades Hall in Grote Street, which was sufficient to free the building from debt. The Trades Hall management had a mortgage to bear, and they were also worried by their inability to extend the building so as to meet the demand for accommodation. Mr. Barr Smith stepped forward with his acceptable donation, and at once the Trades Hall Committee was able to take steps which, not long after, saw fruition in the erection of a new wing.

Mr. Thomas Ryan, the collector of the cheque, electrically informed the members of the donation with the words of Lowell: "Not what we give, but what we share. For the gift without the giver is bare."

(Continued on Page 7.)
Mr. Barr Smith, in 1885, presented South Australia with a steam lifeboat, which was named the City of Adelaide, and which cost £3,500. The boat is stationed on the southern coast, and its presence was his liberality which enabled Mr. Clement Wragge to bring about the establishment of the observatory on the summit of Mount Kosciusko, in New South Wales. He was mainly responsible for South Australia’s contribution which enabled the State to be represented in the first team at the Bisley rifle matches. He also contributed largely to the equipment of expeditions for the exploration of the interior and the development of natural resources in every possible direction, and his practical and inspired others to help in the advancement of exploration.

—Private Hospitality.—

The deceased citizen possessed one of the most beautiful homes round about Adelaide in Torrens Park (Mitcham), which was purchased from the estate of the late Sir W. W. Hughes, there, for many years, the family exercised great hospitality. Attached to the house is a bijou theatre, which was erected solely for the purpose of affording entertainment to friends. At Mount Barker, the residence, Auchendarroch, which was used in the summer months. Mount Barker was always glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith. Their presence meant a solid gain to the life of the town, for their open-heartedness was princely, and every one who had the privilege of being entertained at Auchendarroch was not likely to forget it. Not only that; but every local institution received a filiph, and the people all over the district were made fully aware of the generous friends who were in their midst. Christmas time at the house was something to be remembered, particularly by the young people, whom Mr. and Mrs. Smith delighted to have around them. A friend had this to say of them:—“The names of Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith will not fade from the memory of South Australians. The noble and charming lady who had been the life partner of this noble man was, like her husband, a cheerful and liberal benefactor. Probably the full extent of their unostentation deeds in conferring blessing and happiness upon widows and orphans, the poor and indigent, the distressed and helpless, will never be known in human records. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard what they have done in the cause of charity. Who can tell the amount of sunshine they have been the means of imparting to lives of men and women when dark clouds of sorrow intervened, and amid anxious cares and burdens of life Mrs. Barr Smith has been a veritable angel of light and love.”

—The Family.—

The deceased gentleman left a widow and one son and three daughters (Mesdames F. W. Braund and G. C. Hawker, jun., now resident in England; Mrs. O’Halloran Giles, Adelaide; and Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, Glen Osmond).