His Honor the Chief Justice—Sir Samuel Way, Bart.

The Right Hon. Sir Samuel James Way, Bart., P.C., D.C.L., LL.D., one of the most notable living Australians, was born at Portsmouth, England, on April 11, 1869. He is the son of the late Rev. James Way, who for many years was general superintendent of the Bible Christian Mission in Australia. His successful career is a striking example of criminal industry applied to great national interests. He was called to the South Australian Bar in 1891, and was made Q.C. in 1892. Elected to the House of Assembly for Stuart, Sir Samuel was appointed Attorney-General in 1899 and Chief Justice in March, 1899. For more than 27 years on the Bench, he has been the senior Judge in Australia. As chairman of the Public Library Commission, and as president of the South Australian colony, the Judicial Committee in 1899, and was the first colonial Judge to take his seat on that body. Sir Samuel has been Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia since 1899, and the first Chief Justice to receive that office and has administered the government of South Australia 11 times between 1899 and 1909 inclusive. He has also frequently acted as Deputy Governor for short periods. He is the proud owner of 10 acres and a half of land in the town of Adelaide, and is the father of four children. His principal resources are derived from the rental of the farm, which he has been able to purchase since 1875.

The Chief Justice was made Hon. D.C.L. Oxon, 1891; LL.D., Cantab., 1897; Adelaide, 1897; Queen’s University, Canada, 1897; and Melbourne, 1901. He was created a baronet in 1899. Sir Samuel is acknowledged a great judge, and is esteemed for his public services, philanthropy, and hospitality. He is a patron of arts and literature, and has contributed large sums for the establishment of libraries in the Commonwealth. He takes a practical interest in rural and agricultural pursuits, and has introduced the improved Shropshire sheep into Australia. On his estate at Kalamunda, near Maitland, he has a marine hotel well known all over Australia, established over 23 years ago. His improved Shropshire stud is not transferred to his farm at Sea View, near Narooma.
DEATH OF SIR JOHN DONWER.

A PIONEER FEDERALIST.

After a long and useful career Sir John Downer died, Pennington-terrace, North Adelaide, on Monday morning. There are very few people of middle-age who can remember the first days of the federal history of South Australia when the name of Sir John Downer was not prominent in its archives. His entrance into the House of Assembly 37 years ago was the culmination of a public career which even in those faraway days had been largely successful, and from the first it was confidently expected that he would make his mark on the public life of the State. That expectation has been abundantly fulfilled, and the name of Sir John Downer will go down to posterity as that of one of the most useful and most conscientious of our legislators. He has always acted from a sense of duty and justice, and even when in the opinion of his antagonists he was mistaken no one ever questioned the integrity of his motives. He was always a courageous fighter, and never scrupled to express his views because he happened to be a minority. During the latter period of his membership of the House of Assembly he was usually in a minority, but at the outset of his career, as well as in the Senate and the Legislative Council, he was a good fortune man, and even in the Assembly, when the cause he espoused was not in power, there was a marked deference to his opinions and a close attention to his hearers. His remarks were always interesting, and he was invariably interesting and full of information. He was at times charged with lack of generosity; but he was correct in assuming a superior attitude, but this criticism is not general. He also entertained a firm belief that the government of a country is the privilege of a majority for everyone recognised Sir John's honesty of purpose, his abundant knowledge, without a trace of arrogance or unassailability of his own position. He was an extremely good-humoured person and a skilled barrister, and it was his habit when he spoke in the Assembly to round his hand as he elaborated his arguments.