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ADELAIDE: THURSDAY,

JANUARY 29, 1874.

THE SUPREME COURT BENCH.

The Government are to be congratulated on the excellent choice they have made in appointing Mr. Justice Murray to the position of Chief Justice of the State. The offer of the high and responsible position which was filled with so much dignity and ability by the late Sir Samuel Way came naturally to him after it had been declined, for reasons of health, by the senior puisne judge, Sir John Gordon. Both gentlemen have displayed in a marked degree the learning and natural gifts which unite in the successful judge. Each adds to a power of close analysis the valuable synthetic and constructive faculty which enables its possessor to evolve from a formless mass of conflicting evidence a structure based on facts patiently unravelled, and has also the knowledge and skill to apply to it the principles of law set out in the statute-books or binding judicial decisions. The appointment of either would have received the endorsement of the public. Mr. Justice Gordon has, however, elected to remain in the position he has occupied since December, 1863, and in which he has secured the complete confidence of the bar. In such circumstances it was not surprising that Mr. Justice Murray should have been called to assume the mantle worn with ever-increasing distinction by the late Chief Justice. To fulfil the duties of such an office is no mean task, even for a man of conspicuous and singular ability, but Mr. Justice Murray has already given proof of his fitness to undertake them. A little over fifty years of age, he is still in the prime of life, and he is in the best sense of the word, mentally and physically, a strong man. During his three and a half years of judicial experience he has steadily grown in the esteem both of the bar and the general public. He took with him to the bench an enviable reputation as a lawyer and a pleader, and it was confidently expected that the intellectual qualities with which he is generously endowed, and which secured for him remarkable success as an advocate, would serve him equally well in the higher sphere. The most sanguine predictions of his friends have been realised. To every case that comes before him, whether in the civil or the criminal jurisdiction, he devotes the most careful and painstaking attention, and, being no less learned than industrious, his legal erudition and acumen enable him to elucidate the knottiest points. Born in this State, and educated partly here and partly in Scotland and at Cambridge, his academic career was brilliant. Prior to his return to South Australia, after having taken his B.A. and LL.B. degrees at Trinity, he was called to the bar of the Inner Temple in 1858. A term of service as Associate to the late Chief Justice must have been helpful to a young lawyer of clear intellect and vast capacity for hard work. And if it was a good preparation for a career as pleader, no less useful was it in contributing to form the careful methodical habits which are so necessary to a judge. At the bar and on the bench his Honor has taken part in numerous heavy and difficult cases, and his mastery of detail and talent for grasping the essential factors have won for him well-merited admiration. His dignified personality and courteous manner are as striking as the fearless impartiality with which he invariably discharges his judicial duties. In his capable hands there is no reason to doubt that the scales of justice will be as evenly held in the highest position on the bench as they have been in the minor office.

The elevation of Mr. President Buchanan to the office of third judge was not unexpected. Frequently, and for comparatively long periods, he has filled the position of acting and temporary judge, and he has shown much ability in deciding the cases he has had to deal with. Heretofore his position, so far as the bench of the Supreme Court is concerned, has been somewhat

of the Industrial Arbitration Court was that the Government had asked Professor W. Jeffrey Brown, J.D., D.Litt., professor of law at the Adelaide University, to accept the position.

The official appointments will be made at a meeting of the Executive Council this morning, and it is expected that the new Chief Justice will also be appointed Lieutenant-Governor.

The Chief Justice.

The appointment of Mr. Murray to the high office of Chief Justice will give the utmost satisfaction to the legal profession, and it is believed the news of his Honor's promotion will be received with great pleasure by the general public, by whom Mr. Murray is regarded as the most suitable gentleman available for the position.

The new Chief Justice celebrated the fifty-second anniversary of his birthday in September last. His career has been one of outstanding brilliance—distinction in professional life following upon scholastic successes. Those who enjoy the friendship of this cultured gentleman hailed his elevation to the bench in 1912 with the utmost satisfaction, and his attainment to higher honors will bring forth further expressions of approval. His Honor should add lustre to a bench that has been adorned by men of distinctive intellect.

Brilliant College Career.

Mr. George John Robert Murray is a son of the late Mr. A. B. Murray, a pioneer in the South Australian pastoral industry, and was born at Murray Park, Magill. His father exhibited a consistent interest in public affairs, and he was elected to the House of Assembly, as member for Gumeracha, so long ago as 1852, one of his colleagues being Sir Arthur Blyth. Subsequently he sat in the Legislative Council. The late Mr. J. L. Young was responsible for the primary education of the new Chief Justice. The school at Parkside is a well-remembered institution, so many citizens having left its doors and gained prominence in public life. When his Honor attended the establishment the late Sir Robert Thomas and the late Mr. Kingston were also pupils of Mr. Young. Mr. Murray in early life enjoyed the advantages of a visit to Scotland, and during a sojourn in Edinburgh he pursued his studies at the High School. While yet a lad he returned to South Australia, and his name was inscribed upon the roll of St. Peter's College. Many practical manifestations of his gifts as a scholar were afforded. The Pranker, Westminster, Wyatt, and Farrell scholarships were awarded to him, and when 18 years of age he secured a University matriculation scholarship. In 1882 he won the John Howard Clark scholarship, and in the following year he graduated B.A. The most valuable scholarship of the period—the South Australian—also fell to his lot. This was tenable for four years at £200 a year, and with it he went to Trinity College, Cambridge.

More Successes

In England, as in his later life, the promise of his school days was fulfilled. Concurrent with his work at Cambridge he undertook a course of law at London. At Cambridge he passed the Law Tripos examination in 1887, being bracketed senior. The degrees of B.A. and LL.B. were further rewards of his studies. The world's metropolis now became the scene of his work. Mr. Murray read in Chambers with Mr. E. A. Wurzburg and Dr. W. Blake Odgers, K.C., the author of a frequently-quoted volume on libel and slander. Mr. Murray entered the Inner Temple in 1886, and he secured a studentship at the Inns of Court in jurisprudence, Roman law, and public and private international law. He was admitted to the bar at the Inner Temple on April 25, 1888,

and then he took passage for the Land of the South once more. On his return to Adelaide he became associate to the late Chief Justice, and retained the position until Sir Samuel Way visited England in 1901. Mr. Murray then entered into partnership with Mr. W. A. Magarey and he soon gained a high reputation in his profession. His great knowledge, his quickness to grasp every phase of a case, and his eloquence as a pleader gained him recognition as counsel, and his advice became much sought after. He was associated with such cases as the Queen versus the South-Eastern Land Board, 1893 (Malcolm lands suit); the Queen versus the Glenelg Railway Company, 1899; the Queen versus Irish (in which case he succeeded in having a will set aside on the ground of fraud); and the Independent Order of Oddfellows versus Bon Accord Lodge, 1892. In 1905 Mr. C. W. Hayward was admitted to the firm, in the place of Mr. James Henderson, who died in that year. In 1906 Mr. Murray was appointed a B.C., being the first graduate of the University of Adelaide

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to receive silk. In September, 1911, the Government asked him to accept the position of acting judge on the occasion of the grant of six months' leave of absence to Mr. Justice Gordon, to enable him to fill the position of chairman of the Sugar Commission. Mr. Murray declined the offer because Mr. Hayward was absent in England at the time. Since Mr. Murray's elevation to the bench in 1912 he has discharged the duties of his high office in a manner that has won him general respect and esteem.

University Associations.

Mr. Murray has always displayed a deep interest in the Adelaide University. In 1907 he established the Tinline scholarship for historical research, in memory of his mother's family. In 1891 he was made a member of the University Council, and one year, while Professor Pennefather was absent, he acted as professor of law. On April 30 last he was appointed Vice-Chancellor in succession to the late Dr. Barlow. Mr. Murray is a member of the Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee for South Australia, and also of the Board of Examiners of the Supreme Court. He is a member of the new board of visitors to the Adelaide Observatory.

MR. JUSTICE BUCHANAN.

His Honor Mr. Justice Buchanan, during his many years' association with the Supreme Court, has been greatly liked and respected by members of the legal profession and the general public. The news of his elevation to the bench will be received with satisfaction by his many friends. Mr. Alexander Buchanan, a son of the late Mr. A. Buchanan, was born at Anlaby in 1848. His early education was obtained at St. Peter's College, and he then received the benefit of studies in other lands. Hofwyl, Switzerland, became the scene of his search for knowledge, and after a period spent on the Continent he proceeded to Glasgow, where he completed his education. For some years commercial interests in Scotland and Canada received his attention, and in 1870 he returned to South Australia. Two years he spent in prospecting in the Northern Territory, and he then became associated

with the late Mr. J. W. Gleeson in an auctioneering and stock business at Clare. In 1879 Mr. Buchanan resolved to study the law, and he was articled to Mr. T. R. Bright, solicitor, at Clare. Five years later he was admitted to the bar. He entered the office of the late Hon. Charles Mann, then Crown Solicitor, and later became associated with him as partner. On the death of Mr. Mann he was joined by Mr. E. A. Thornton. In August, 1891, Mr. Buchanan was appointed stipendiary magistrate at Port Adelaide, but a month later the office of Master of the Supreme Court became vacant owing to the death of Mr. W. D. Scott, and Mr. Buchanan was selected by the Government to fill the position. His courtesy, gentility, experience, and legal knowledge, made him a popular Master. He also attended to the duties of Registrar of Probates, being entrusted with the administration of the succession duties after the death of Mr. Augustine Stow. Mr. Buchanan has exhibited a continuous interest in the welfare of the public service, and he was actively concerned in the movement of which the Superannuation Act of 1902 was the outcome. He was made chairman of the board appointed under that Act. In October, 1911, he was appointed acting judge, during the absence of Mr. Justice Gordon on duties connected with the chairmanship of the Sugar Commission, and in December of the following year he was selected for the office of president of the newly-constituted Industrial Arbitration Court. Both as acting judge—a capacity in which he has frequently sat on the Supreme Court Bench—and as president of the Industrial Court, Mr. Buchanan has exhibited impartiality and the possession of wide legal knowledge. When the Prices Regulation Commission was appointed in 1914 he was chosen for the post of chairman. He is an enthusiastic bowler, and

is one of the most popular members of the South Park Bowling Club.

PROFESSOR JETHRO BROWN.

The appointment of such a distinguished scholar and advanced thinker as Professor Jethro Brown to the post of President of the Industrial Arbitration Court will, if he accepts the position, be regarded