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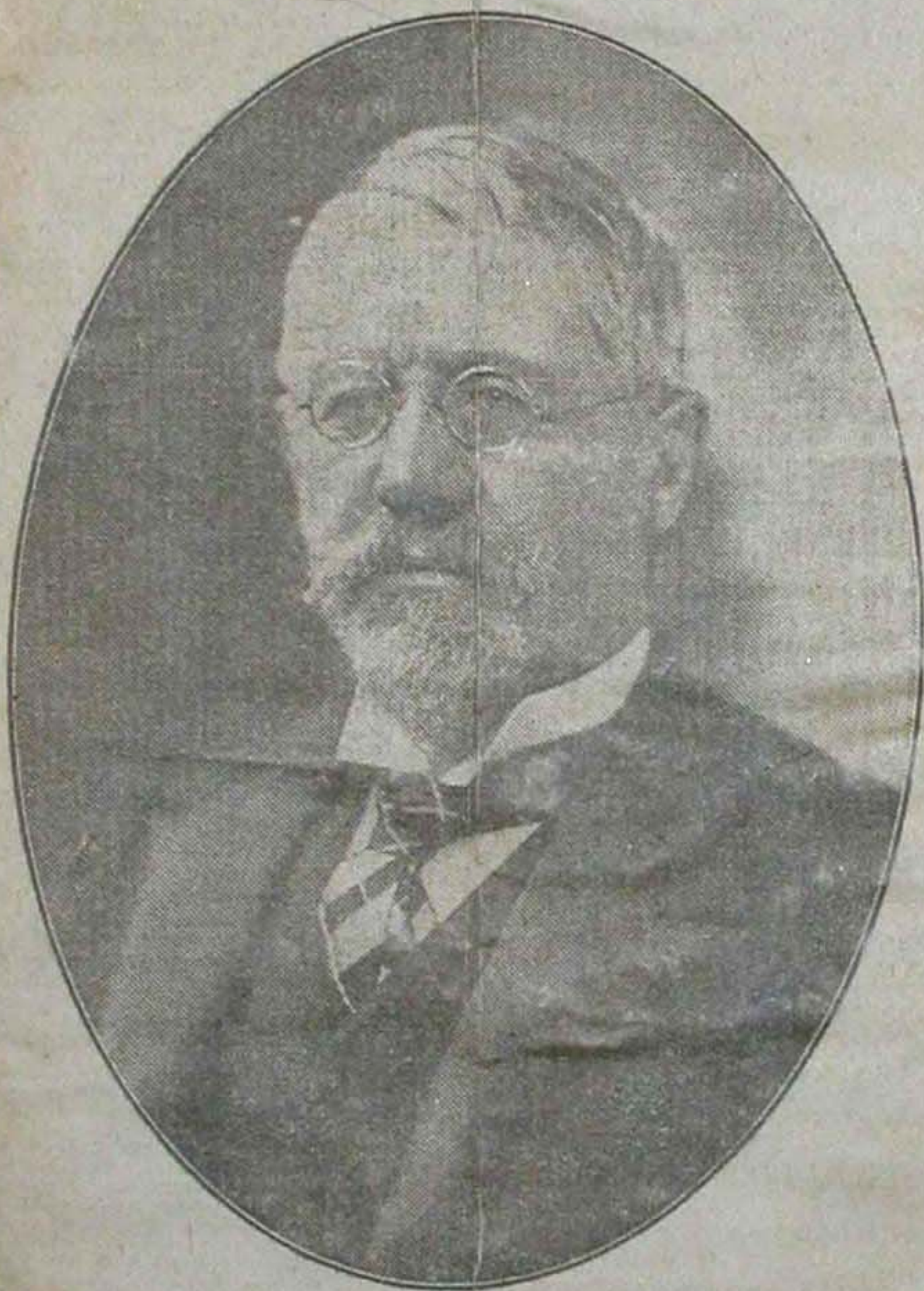
DEATH OF SIR SAMUEL WAY

FORTY YEARS CHIEF JUSTICE

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

A GREAT AUSTRALIAN

THE STATE'S LEADING CITIZEN



THE LATE SIR SAMUEL WAY.

The announcement of the death of the Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart., who for so many years had been Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice of South Australia, and who had held so many other high offices in the State, will come as a great shock to the community which he had served so long and with such distinguished ability. For some weeks it had been known that Sir Samuel was rapidly nearing the grave, and on Friday evening his condition was so low that it did not seem that he could last another hour, but he lingered through that night and through the whole of Saturday, and passed away quietly at his residence, Montefiore, North Adelaide, ten minutes before midnight. He realised the desire of the writer of the hymn, which he quoted with approval at a meeting not long ago, that he might his "body with his charge lay down and cease at once to work and live," for he was in harness to the last, and he was entitled to the consciousness, if ever man was, that he had filled his long life with useful work, all of which was well done. He had passed through the deep waters of affliction within the last few years, and many of those he loved had crossed the river before him, so that in his own house he was left, comparatively speaking, alone.

A Distinguished Career.

Sir Samuel Way was by reason of his high office, his personal attainments and the Imperial distinctions which were conferred upon him entitled to be considered the principal citizen of South Australia, and he stood in that unique position longer than most people can remember. A resident in our midst for over 60 years, he was a leader of the bar half a century ago, and he had occupied with the very greatest ability the responsible and arduous post of Chief Justice since 1876. It was a singular circumstance that the period of Sir Samuel's useful life comprehended almost exactly the existence of this State as an outpost of the British Empire. He was three months old when the pioneers of settlement who arrived in the Duke of York, the first vessel to cast anchor in Nepean Bay, Kangaroo Island, reached their destination. He came to Adelaide when the province was still in the swaddling clothes of a Crown colony, and he was admitted to the bar within three years of the concession of constitutional government to the citizens. He came of splendid stock and he had the "grit" in him which wins success. He had no special advantages beyond what nature and a fine upbringing had given him. He was by descent a Devonshire man, and he possessed all the sturdy manhood and courage of his race. He trod no royal road to learning, for his father was a Bible Christian minister, and never had a large income. Still a parson's son, where the father is a good, conscientious man, is always at an advantage as compared with other boys of his own station in life. There is invariably an atmosphere of books about the home, for one thing, and no one can live among books without absorbing somewhat of their contents. It was always a regret of Sir Samuel that he never had the benefit of a university education, but he had something better than that, for he was so nurtured that he developed a keen desire to obtain knowledge, and he had likewise the consciousness that he must carve his way to fortune for himself, and make the fullest use of the talents God had given him.

No Special Advantages.

When Sir Samuel Way arrived in Australia he had the determination to make a career for himself, and when the chance came he utilised it to the full. There is not a boy of like ability who could not win equal success in some walk of life if he were as resolute and as willing to take pains as was the distinguished man who has just entered into his reward. The breadth of his mind, the extent of his energy, the scope of his interests, were truly remarkable. The singular thing was, too, that everything he touched prospered. Every institution of a public character in Adelaide was indebted to him for his assistance, which was always given freely and to

the law, for he never joined with any which he did not enter into with a will. He was always there. There was no "leave or thereabouts" in what he did. He was above and beyond all things accurate. This it was which enabled him to say that none of his judgments had ever been upset on appeal. The legal training that he had enjoyed and the innate sense of justice and right which he possessed were carried into all his activities. He became the best Chancellor the University ever had, and the best Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge. He was equally efficient as president of the Children's Hospital Board, and in all the multifarious concerns which commanded his attention. The activity of his mind and the earnest desire he had to be of service to his fellow-citizens prevented him from taking any leisure.

A Tireless Worker.

The amount of work, and that, too, of the very highest standard, which he got

through was extraordinary. It was a most natural thing in the world when he became associated with any institution to ask him to take the leading position in connection with it, and that he was always willing to do. Nor did he ever make the office a sinecure. He joined with the idea of working, and he did work so that ordinary people who had not the capacity for the labors of Hercules often found themselves wondering how he found time in one day of 24 hours to accomplish so much. Even in the period of his life when most men slow down he continued to show the same strenuous spirit. The very sickness which prostrated Sir Samuel about 15 years ago caused him to relinquish some of his many offices, and various

circumstances influenced him in withdrawing from others, but right to the end he kept the principal positions with which his name had been so long associated, and that, too, with the concurrence and the admiration of all concerned. In the Chief Justiceship he retained long after the date on which, if he had been so minded, he could have retired on a very substantial pension; but it cannot be said that the duties were ever other than well and faithfully performed, and by this self-sacrifice the country was saved the salary of another judge. Not only was Sir Samuel a distinguished jurist and a particularly successful and far-sighted judge, but his mind was so constituted that he could put what he had to say in the most direct and forcible manner. There was never anything uncertain or obscure. Every word told. That was, perhaps, the secret of his success when his decisions were appealed against. He made sure of his position before he began to speak; he knew exactly what he was about to say, and there was nothing involved in his manner of saying it. The same faculty of clear and graceful expression was noticeable in his ordinary speeches.

His Human Sympathies.

The generous and sympathetic nature of Sir Samuel Way was never more conspicuously manifested than in his letters to those of his friends who had passed through trouble or suffered a bereavement. He was anxious to give comfort and advice, and the words "gushed from his heart." His letters were never commonplace or conventional. He took infinite pains to say the right thing, and his feelings were expressed in such simple and touching phrases that those who received the letters will ever cherish them as precious possessions. He was never too absorbed in the pressing concerns with which his hours were filled to think of his friends, and invariably his remembrances took a kindly direction. In this intimate private correspondence of Sir Samuel Way, at all times a facile and cultured writer, there was something so warm and impressive. He could converse with those who mourned, and his congratulations on good fortune were both hearty and discriminating. He never put pen to paper without a definite object, and his sentiments were couched in language which acted upon like a glow. There was not a word too much or too little. Probably