

CONCERNING PEOPLE.

The Premier (Hon. C. Vaughan) is Acting Chief Secretary during the absence of the Hon. A. W. Styles in New South Wales.

The condition of the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. H. Jackson), who is at the Parkwynd private hospital, was reported to have slightly improved on Thursday night.

The Chief Justice (Mr. G. J. R. Murray) will preside over the next Circuit Court at Mount Gambier, on dates to be fixed.

Rps. Burchell and Yates were passengers to Melbourne by the express on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Ryan, M.P., left by the express on Thursday on his way to Sydney.

Mr. J. Serennikoff (Military Attache at the Russian Consulate, Melbourne) was in Adelaide on Thursday. He left in the afternoon by the mail steamer Khyber, on a visit to Western Australia, where he will make enquiries regarding the nationality of certain men with whom some of the unionists recently refused to work, on the ground that they were enemy subjects. There is some doubt whether these men are Austrians or Slavs. The visitor, in company with the Acting Consul in Adelaide (Mr. J. A. McAlister) called upon His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) and upon the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. I. Isaacs). He was also taken for a motor drive through the hills.

Mr. George Jeffrey has been appointed an honorary commissioner to enquire into and report upon the wool and pastoral industry during his visit to the United States of America.

The following Special Magistrates have been appointed district members of the Licensing Court:—Messrs. W. J. Hinde, Northern Licensing District (Port Augusta); S. J. Mitchell, Midland Licensing District (Clare), and the North Eastern Licensing District (Petersburg); E. M. Sabine, Mount Gambier and Narracoorte; J. T. Keats, Yorke's Peninsula and Port Lincoln; and T. Gepp, Adelaide.

Mr. W. W. Forwood has been appointed an honorary commissioner to enquire and report concerning the manufacture of war munitions during his visit to the United States and Canada.

Our Melbourne correspondent telegraphed on Thursday evening:—Lieut.-Col. C. D. W. Rankin, V.D., formerly attached to the transfer service, has been appointed to the command of a brigade in the Australian Imperial Force, with the temporary rank of colonel.

The death occurred at her residence at

Woodside on Thursday of Mrs. Mary Esau (widow of the late Dr. Esau), in her eighty-fifth year. The deceased was born in Selkirk, Scotland, where her father (Mr. John Cleby) was principal of the Selkirk Academy. In 1849 she arrived in South Australia in the ship Anna with her parents, two brothers, and four sisters. One brother and three sisters still survive, and are residents of other States. Mrs. Esau resided at Nairne until her marriage with the late Dr. Esau in the early fifties. She then went to live with her husband at Woodside, where she was a resident until the time of her death. She has left three sons and two daughters—Messrs. A. J. (proprietor of The Inversell Argus, N.S.W.), W. S. (accountant, of Adelaide), and Ernest (farmer, of Woodside), and Mrs. Herbert and Mrs. Marion Esau (both of Woodside). There are six grandchildren. It is a melancholy coincidence that only eight hours before the death of Mrs. Esau there passed away in another house at Woodside Mrs. Sarah Rollerson, who for many years was a domestic servant in Mrs. Esau's employ. She was a native of Folksworth, in Huntingdonshire, England, and emigrated with her husband in 1854 in the ship Norman. They lived temporarily in The Tiers, to which locality they travelled by bullock dray from Port Adelaide. In 1859 they entered the employ of the late Dr. Esau, and Mr. Rollerson met with a fatal accident while still in the same service in 1874. Mrs. Rollerson was employed by Mrs. Esau until two or three years ago, when failing health prevented her from continuing to discharge the duties which had for so long been her care.

A recent issue of The Education Gazette contained notification of the resignation of Miss Eva A. Langsford. This lady has given 35 years of service to the Education Department. Her first appointment was at Clare, and from there she was transferred to Magill, and afterwards to Norwood, where she remained for 26 years. She has the unique record of never having been absent for one hour on account of illness. One year (1906) she spent at Laura. On Friday, March 31, she was farewelled by the Norwood staff and scholars. Mr. Kennedy, on behalf of the staff, presented Miss Langsford with a handbag, and her old girls made her presentations of several useful articles. On the evening of the same day Miss Langsford was bidden farewell at the Kent Town Methodist Church, where she has been a valued worker. The Rev. Frank Lade, M.A., referred to Miss Langsford's valuable services, and a presentation of photographs was made to her. She will leave for Tasmania shortly, where she intends to take a prolonged holiday.

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At the meeting of the Port Adelaide City Council held on Thursday evening, the Mayor (Mr. J. Sweeney) referred to the eighty-sixth birthday of Sir Edwin Smith. He had, he said, instructed the Town Clerk to convey the council's congratulations to Sir Edwin. The Mayor's action was endorsed.

Mr. H. T. J. Matthews, one of Woodville's oldest residents, died at his home on Saturday last, at the age of 88 years. He arrived in Sydney by the ship Queen Victoria in 1851 from his birthplace, Guernsey, and later came to South Australia. He had an adventurous career as a sailor before settling down at Woodville, where he was engaged in dairy farming for many years. He went to the Bendigo diggings, and was fairly successful there, but his gold was stolen. He was one of the first members of the Methodist Church at Woodville. The building in which the services were held at that time was known as "the Iron King." Mr. Matthews was a member of the Queenstown Church of Christ at the time of his death. His wife predeceased him by 18 months. He has left six daughters (Mesdames J. D. C. Pennington, S. and H. Scott, A. H. Corbet, and G. H. Hodges, and Miss L. M. Matthews), three sons (Messrs. J. F., E. E., and H. E.), and two stepsons (Messrs. H. S. and J. Emes). There are 55 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

The Rev. W. Shaw, who has been head of the Methodist Circuit at Broken Hill, was tendered a farewell on Wednesday night by the members of the Sulphide Street Church.

Mr. Max C. G. Miller has been created an inspector under the Inflammable Oils Act.

Mr. G. W. Bear, of Pinnaroo, has been made a temporary inspector of stock.

In Executive Council on Thursday the board of management of the Port Augusta Hospital was appointed as follows:— Messrs. A. E. Carrig, W. Harden, J. Holdsworth, T. Hunter, A. J. Jeffries, J. E. Lecky, F. A. May, R. Mullen, J. Newton, and J. Roberts.

Mrs. Annie Christina Fryer has been appointed a member of the State Children's Council, in succession to Mrs. Margaret Wragge (resigned).

Lord Lansdowne caused a good deal of interest in the House of Lords recently when he discussed the probable position of women after the war, and hundreds echoed his sentiments when he said he hoped that many women who had been taken from home life on account of the great conflict would not be retained permanently in industrial positions after peace had been declared. Lord Lansdowne is a witty raconteur,

although most of his jokes have a political flavour. One of his pet tales concerns a political meeting at a country village in Ireland. "Has anny gentleman anny questions to ask?" enquired the chairman, looking round upon the assembled audience. A man thereupon got up to ask something, when a partisan of the speakers on the platform instantly knocked him down with a club. "Has anny other gentleman anny questions to ask?" said the chairman blandly; but as no other gentleman had, the motion before the meeting was declared as "carried unanimously."

That remarkable old lady the ex-Empress Eugenie of the French, suffered a great grief the other day by the death of her faithful Secretary, M. Pietri, who had been in her service ever since she was exiled from her beloved country. The ex-Empress was in her younger days noted for her great courage, as the following incident proves. At a brilliant dinner party, a somewhat tactless general told Her Majesty that women should not meddle in politics. "You know, madame," he said, "chat politics lead to wars, and if the worse came to the worst you would not have the nerve to face cold steel." "Wouldn't I?" cried the Empress. "I'll show you!"—and, snatching a large knife from the table, she inflicted a deep stab on her arm. After that the general never broached the subject of woman's lack of nerves again.