

—Ministerial Praise.—

In a letter congratulating Sir Charles Todd on the completion of 50 years' Imperial service in 1891, the late Sir William Milne—who was Chief Secretary when the overland telegraph line was constructed—paid the following graceful tribute to the deceased gentleman's judgment and skill:—"I have a special knowledge of the ability and zeal which you displayed when the transcontinental telegraph line was being constructed, inasmuch as at that time I was Chief Secretary, and was necessarily in daily, and often hourly, communication on matters connected with the work. The undertaking was divided into three sections. The northern and southern sections were let by contract as being the easiest to accomplish, but the middle section in the far interior had not only to be erected, but the route explored, and was undertaken by the Government. Many an anxious conference we had as to the necessary outfit and equipment of the expedition, and I have good reason to remember the energy, judgment, and foresight you exercised to ensure its sufficiency and success. That success was rapid and complete. When those entrusted with the construction of the northern section failed miserably to carry out the work they had undertaken the Government were placed in a serious difficulty. In one of the interviews I had with you on the subject I recollect winding up our conversation by saying, Todd, you will have to go yourself and do it.' Well, Todd was good enough to go, and he did it.' From the head of the Roper River you attacked the work by a flank movement, and carried it to a successful issue."

—Other Achievements.—

The completion of the line to Port Darwin was made the occasion for popular demonstrations of rejoicing in Adelaide, and Sir Charles Todd—who was then at Central Mount Stuart, "sitting on the ground on a very cold night, with a very small pocket relay in his hand"—received the first message of congratulation from the Governor, followed by similar tokens of esteem from all parts of the province. At the banquet held in the city to celebrate the auspicious event his successful labours were made the subject of eulogistic remarks by the Governor and prominent citizens. The next important work with which Sir Charles Todd was associated was the construction of the line from Port Augusta to Eucla. That was accomplished during a period of drought, and iron poles had to be carted for the whole of the line. Once more the Superintendent of Telegraphs proved himself an able organizer, and in less time than was estimated Western Australia and South Australia were connected by telegraph. A well-deserved compliment was paid when, after he had received recognition at the hands of Her Majesty, in the form of a knighthood, Sir Charles Todd was consulted in connection with the project for the construction of the Cape to Cairo telegraph. In the capacity of Government Astronomer he took a prominent part in several important scientific projects. At his instigation the Government purchased an equatorial telescope with an 8-in. object glass, and the erection of this was completed only two or three days before the transit of Venus in 1874. Sir Charles was able to make successful observations of the transit, which were sent to England, and were compared with observations in other parts of the world for the purpose of determining the distance between the sun and the earth. In 1882 when Venus again

pushed herself between sun and earth, Sir Charles Todd journeyed to Wentworth in order to make his observations. He was at one end of the base line and American observers at the other, and his observations were regarded as of great scientific importance. His astronomical and meteorological work was overshadowed to some extent by the other great enterprises with which he was connected, but it was not less important on that account. During his regime the Observatory was equipped with a fine collection of telescopes and other instruments, the erection of which was carried out under his personal supervision. The time which most men devote to recreation he spent in the pursuit of scientific knowledge, and he always kept himself thoroughly up to date as regards all matters of astronomical interest. In 1885 he attended the International Telegraphic Conference in Berlin, and on numerous occasions he represented South Australia at similar gatherings of Australasian experts. He was also a prominent delegate at various scientific congresses in this and the other States.

—Honours and Official Approval.—

The late Sir Charles Todd was the recipient of many tokens of commendation from the late Queen, from learned societies and universities in England, and from his fellow-citizens in the State which he served so long and faithfully. Immediately after the completion of the transcontinental telegraph line he was created a C.M.G., and in 1893 he was promoted to the dignity of K.C.M.G. Among his other distinctions he was a fellow of the Royal Society in London, fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, fellow of the Royal British Meteorological Society, and fellow of the Society of Electrical Engineers, besides being honorary member of two European Scientific Societies. In 1880 he received an honorary M.A. degree from Cambridge University. He was prominently connected with the Royal Society in this State, also with the South Australian Institute of Surveyors, the Council of the University of Adelaide, and the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery (of which at the time of his death he was Vice-President and the oldest member), and the School of Mines. The amicable relations which existed between him and the numerous Ministers who exercised control over the Postal Department during his long tenure of office, and the cordial friendship accorded to him by his subordinates, were demonstrated on many occasions. He always took advantage of every opportunity to acknowledge his indebtedness to the many able officers and experts who assisted him to carry out the tasks entrusted to him by the Government, and the addresses and presentations which he received from time to time showed that his efforts to promote the welfare of those who served under him were appreciated. He was able to assert with pride on the eve of his retirement that every Ministerial head of his department had become his warm friend, and on various occasions since he left the service he was the recipient of special and semi-formal complimentary visits by former official associates. He was blessed with a singularly kind and amiable nature, and was not only respected, but beloved, by all who knew him.

—Domestic Ties.—

Sir Charles Todd had been a widower for several years. His wife was the daughter of Mr. Edward Bell, of Cambridge. Their surviving son, Dr. C. E. Todd, has been for many years a prominent member of the medical profession in Adelaide. The eldest daughter married Mr. Charles Squires, a barrister of Cambridge; another is the wife of Professor Bragg, of Leeds, but until recently of Adelaide; and a third resides in Balaclava, Victoria, with her husband, the Rev. F. G. Masters, M.A.

TRIBUTES.

The Deputy-Postmaster-General (Mr. R. W. M. Waddy) referred feelingly on Sunday to the death of his old chief, with whom he had been in close touch for over 30 years. Mr. Waddy was appointed corresponding clerk at the Post Office in 1875, and from that year until the retirement of Sir Charles Todd worked side by side with him. "He was undoubtedly a very able man," he remarked. "His attention to detail was wonderful, so much so that if any work had to be put in hand he drew up instructions with such clearness that he left no loophole for a mistake. Sir Charles was exceedingly industrious, and always impressed upon the officers of the department that their first consideration must be the interests of the public. The department had become almost a part of himself, and I think pretty well always filled his thoughts. He had the gift of being able to select the best men for the positions they had to fill, and no man had a more loyal set of officers around him. They had every confidence in his ability to carry out anything he undertook. Though members of the staff might at times be inclined to grumble among themselves if they could not get their own way, yet if any outsider had attacked their old chief they would have all come down on that outsider. Sir Charles had evidence, I believe, that he was a descendant of Owen Glendower, that famous Welshman who was to his country a patriot like Wallace was to Scotland."

In Pirie Street Church on Sunday morning the Rev. Henry Howard referred to the death of Sir Charles Todd, and paid a high tribute to the character and worth of the deceased gentleman as a citizen and a friend. He said that, like many others of the congregation, he had enjoyed the privilege of Sir Charles's friendship, and had always found him to be the same kindly, courteous, and cultured Christian gentleman. The element of grief in such a removal from their midst was reduced to a minimum. Sir Charles had come to the grave in a ripe old age, full of years and honour. His had been a fine career, closely interwoven with the life and progress of the State. South Australia had been singularly fortunate in the character of the men who had been entrusted with the shaping of its life. They had been men of

sterling worth, who had helped to lay its foundations deep and broad. Conspicuous among these had been the gentleman whom all South Australia had delighted to honour, and who had now passed to his reward. Such men did not die—they lived on in lives made purer and nobler through having had privileged access to the circle of their refined and refining fellowship. The highest tribute they could pay their memories was to emulate their spirit and follow in their steps.

—Funeral This Morning.—

The interment will take place at North Road Cemetery. On Sunday evening the body was removed to the mortuary at the cemetery chapel, where a service will be held at 11 o'clock this morning just prior to the burial. The Rev. F. G. Masters, of Victoria, son-in-law of the deceased knight, will officiate. In consequence of these arrangements there will be no cortege from the city, but those who desire to pay their last respects to the dead will assemble at the chapel at the time stated. As the weather this morning is likely to be warm Dr. Todd has thoughtfully suggested, particularly as there may be many veteran friends of his father around the grave, that the custom of baring the head during the service should not be observed.

Register, Feb. 25th

STUDY OF THE ORGAN.

From "Diapason":—"In The Register of February 22 appeared an advertisement calling attention to scholarships to be competed for in the following subjects:—Singing, pianoforte, and violin playing. In Adelaide the study of the organ is far too much neglected, and in many instances superficially taught. With the many advantages attached to a thorough course of study under the supervision of Dr. Ennis, one would naturally conclude that a scholarship would be given for this branch of study. So far as I am aware none exists. If one is provided for, why not let it become well known? With the advent of an expensive, up-to-date instrument in the Elder Hall, one would look for some result as compensation for so great an expenditure. It would be interesting to learn whether any student has studied the organ with any degree of success at the Conservatorium in recent years."

Register, Feb. 28th

At the meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday, the Chancellor reported the lamented death of Sir Charles Todd, who had been associated with the University since its foundation. It was resolved to send a letter of sympathy to the representative of his family, Dr. C. E. Todd, expressing the council's sense of the great value of the services rendered by Sir Charles and the loss which the University had sustained.

Dr. W. T. Hayward has been re-elected to represent the University on the board of management of the Adelaide Hospital.

The Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday resolved to ask Mr. Harold Fisher to represent the University at the ninth International Congress for Commercial Education, to be held in Vienna during September.