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# NEW KING'S COUNSEL.

## MR. PARSONS AND MR. ISBISTER APPOINTED.

At a meeting of the Executive Council on Thursday morning His Excellency the Governor appointed Mr. W. J. Isbister, LL.B., and Mr. H. Angus Parsons, LL.B., to be King's Counsel.

### Mr. Isbister, K.C.

Mr. Isbister's career has been marked with successes that began in his early days as a student. He was ever earnest in his studies, and the knowledge he gained in many years of work causes many of his friends to claim that he is the best equity lawyer practising in South Australia. Mr. Isbister himself would never give countenance to the claim, for wherever he is known he is greatly liked for his unassuming manners. Mr. Peter Pendlebury, his partner, regards him as one of the best men with whom he has ever been associated. His cleverness as a lawyer, his readiness to grasp and explain legal intricacies, and his ability quickly to apply his technical erudition to the circumstances of a case are undoubted, and the distinction conferred upon him will be greeted as a most appropriate one by his friends in the profession. After receiving a sound college education, Mr. Isbister was articled to Mr. Frank R. Ayers. His introduction to the legal world occurred on February 19, 1885, and at the end of 1887 he was entitled to attach the letters LL.B. to his name. In his third year he was top man and carried off the Stow prize of the Adelaide University. Mr. Is-



Mr. Isbister, K.C.

bister was admitted to the South Australian bar on April 21, 1888, and subsequently he was appointed associate to the late Sir Henry Handley. But the young man's taste for study was still strong. For him there was nothing but delight in what others regarded as arduous toil. By an order of court dated September 9, 1890, Mr. Isbister was struck off the roll at his own request in order that he might qualify for a call to the bar in England. He voyaged overseas and studied the practice of law in London's halls of "great argument." He was admitted to the Society of the Inner Temple on October 30, 1890, and was called to the bar by the same society on June 14, 1893. He returned to Australia, and for some years he was associated with Mr. H. V. Romsevell and Mr. Henning, in Western Australia. On November 28, 1893, he was readmitted to the South Australian bar, and he began to practise in Adelaide. A period of work on his own account ended on June 1, 1905, when he joined the late Mr. T. B. Gall. The partnership lasted until the death of Mr. Gall, and on October 1, 1910, the names of Isbister and Pendlebury were joined for professional purposes. In 1905 Mr. Isbister was elected a member of the University Council, and for several years he lectured on the Law of Property, part 2, in the law school of that institution. He is now a member of the Board of Examiners, which deals with the applications of students for admission to the bar. Mr. Isbister is at present absent from Adelaide. It was his desire to do something to aid Australia in the war, and in the latter part of last year he consulted Lady Galway with regard to Red Cross work in Egypt. As a result he left for Cairo on November 4 last, hoping to find a sphere in which his ability could be used.



Mr. Angus Parsons, K.C.

The name of Mr. Angus Parsons is an outstanding one in legal circles, and his appointment as King's Counsel must be adjudged a greatly merited distinction. He has every qualification necessary for the successful lawyer, and to him has been accorded the gift of eloquence. His successes at the bar have not represented his only activity, as in a short political life his high ability was recognised. Prior to the last general elections he held the portfolios of Attorney-General and Minister of Education in the Peake administration. His father, the Hon. John Langdon Parsons, distinguished himself as a member of the Legislature. Mr. Angus Parsons was born at North Adelaide in 1872, and he passed, after a period of promise at Prince Alfred College, to the Roseworthy Agricultural College. His



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early intention to go on the land was abandoned after three years and been spent on farm and station. He came back to the city and resolved to study for admission to the bar. As a clerk he was articled to the late Mr. George Ash, who was in partnership with Mr. Kingston. When 25 years of age Mr. Parsons graduated as Bachelor of Laws at the Adelaide University, and in 1897 his name was inscribed on the roll of legal practitioners. Then was formed the firm of Glynn and Parsons, ultimately to include also the name of Mr. George McEwin. Like his partner, the Hon. P. McMahon Glynn, M.H.R., Mr. Parsons was interested in politics, and within a short time of his admission to the bar his candidature for a seat in the House of Assembly was announced. But before the polling day dawned Mr. Parsons had wisely determined to give his full attention to his profession, and so the electors on this occasion were not asked to consider the claims of the man who was afterwards to be the recipient of Ministerial honors. His name became speedily known in connection with legal matters. His quick perception and his ability to make use of the store of legal knowledge which was his, soon gained him recognition as a power not to be underestimated in the courts. Notable cases were placed in his hands, and success followed success. When the electrification of the tram service was decided upon Mr. Parsons was selected to draft the important Bill and to advise the Government in the matter. He is now legal adviser to the Employers' Federation. Mr. Parsons has given much valuable service to the British Immigration League as chairman of the local committee, to the Prison Reform Association, respondent, and to the



Automobile Association as president. In 1908 he was chosen to be one of the Commissioners to represent the State at the Franco-British Exhibition in London. For a number of years he has been Japanese Consul in Adelaide. He is a member of the council of the University and of the committee of the Law Society. In February, 1912, Mr. Parsons was elected to the House of Assembly as a member for Torrens, and his term in Parliament gave him an opportunity, of which he fully availed himself, to do admirable work in connection with educational and industrial matters. Mr. Parsons is, on his mother's side, a great-grandson of the late Mr. George L'He Angas, whose name figures so prominently in the first chapter of South Australia's history. Mr. Parsons married the eldest daughter of Sir Langdon Bonython in 1900.

### REFERENCE IN COURT.

When the Industrial Court assembled on Thursday, Mr. E. E. Cleland, K.C., said he wished to refer to the good news that had come to the Bar of the elevation to the rank of King's Counsel of Mr. Angus Parsons. The appointment had not come as a surprise. Members of the Bar had expected it for some time. They recognised that Mr. Parsons had worthily earned the distinction on the highest grounds of ability and merit in the profession he had so long adorned. The distinction had come to him at an earlier stage in his professional career, he believed, than to any other man in South Australia except the late Chief Justice, Sir Samuel Way. He was sure the Bar was unanimous in its congratulations to Mr. Parsons on having received the honor he had so worthily won.

His Honor, Mr. President Jethro Brown, said he was pleased Mr. Cleland had mentioned the matter. He had heard the news just prior to coming into court, and it gave him the deepest pleasure. The appointment would add considerably to the prestige of the Bar in South Australia. He trusted that that court would continue to have the valuable assistance of Mr. Parsons.

Mr. Parsons, in reply, said nothing except the news that the recommendation of the late Sir Samuel Way that he should receive the appointment had been endorsed by the present Government, had given him so much pleasure as the generous remarks made by the President, and the warm appreciation of his work at the Bar. Mr. Cleland had been good enough to express in welcoming his appointment. The profession of the law was the profession of a gentleman. There was nothing a lawyer valued more than the goodwill of the bench and the friendship and good fellowship of his fellow members of the Bar.



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## AN EASTER TRIP TO BRISBANE.

### THE WORK OF A ROYAL COMMISSION.

A meeting of the North-terrace Reserves and Railway Centres Royal Commission will be held at Parliament House this morning to discuss plans for a trip it is proposed to make to Melbourne, Sydney, Ipswich, and Brisbane, for the purpose of securing evidence. It is only a few weeks since the same Commission journeyed to Melbourne in connection with its investigations.

When interviewed on Thursday regarding the objects in view, Mr. T. H. Smeaton, M.P. (the chairman) said:—"We are going to examine the central railway-station arrangements in the other States, and the railway workshops in connection with them, especially those at Ipswich and Eveleigh (near Sydney). There are also the workshops at Newport, in Victoria. The Commission is dealing with important and difficult questions of local concern. A great problem is the area required by the University, in regard to which there is much contradictory evidence. We may be blamed for going away to study a matter of that kind, but we want to get all the information possible to assist in the settlement of a question, the satisfactory solution of which means so much to us. Can North-terrace accommodate the University for centuries ahead? If so, we ought to leave it there. But if we can see that within a reasonable time the area available is going to be too small, it must go elsewhere. In Melbourne they have over 100 acres for the University, and in Sydney 130 acres. In Brisbane there is only a small acreage, but we know that the view of some authorities is that a university's requirements cannot be provided for on an acreage such as we have at our disposal in Adelaide. It is a big question, and I feel that if I cannot enquire into it to the fullest extent I do not want to touch it at all. The trip will probably occupy two weeks. The information we have to procure is not of the kind that could be got through the post. I have been engaged upon censorship duties since the war broke out, and have had no leave since; but am now taking the leave to which I am entitled in order to devote it to this enquiry."

On the subject of the probable expense of the trip, Mr. Smeaton said:—"It will be just the usual expenditure. The fares are provided for, as we travel free on the railways. The allowance is £1 1/2 a day per member, which I have never found to be more than is needed to discharge the expenses incurred."

You have recently had an enquiry in Melbourne?

"That was a flying trip. I have a personal view in regard to the railway-station. The most perfectly arranged station of which I know anything is that at Flinders-street, Melbourne. It is admirably planned for the quick and safe dispatch of trains, and is only to be understood by being seen. Men who are not accustomed to deal with plans cannot quite gather from them all that they mean, and I thought the object-lesson that could be obtained by a short visit would be most valuable to help members of the Commission to form their ideas. Even if we do not follow Melbourne, we derived much assistance in approaching the question of the North-terrace station. If we go to Brisbane it will be about Easter. I hope to get away on the Thursday before Good Friday."

The Premier (Hon. C. Vaughan) when seen on Thursday said that that was the first he had heard of the Commission's intention to make the trip. Asked, in view of the financial position, how the Government regarded the proposal, Mr. Vaughan said:—"We trust to their judgment in observing the policy of economy that we are asking people to practise. We do not doubt that as far as is compatible with the work they have to do they will exercise economy."

The members of the Commission are Messrs. Smeaton, Cooke, Carr, Green, Gann, Laffer, and O'Connor.