

JUDGE MITCHELL. Death on Sunday Morning.

Judge Mitchell, of the Insolvency Court was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Adelaide. He was of a retiring and studious nature, and in ordinary circumstances might have been a recluse, but in his walk of life—an important post in legal circles—Judge Mitchell became a familiar and prominent figure in the activities of the State. News of his death on Sunday morning at the Memorial Hospital will cause widespread regret. The man was worthy of his office, for he dispensed justice as he saw it, without fear or favour. Naturally the possessor of a kind heart and of keen understanding of human nature, the Commissioner, as far as possible tempered justice with mercy. Judge Mitchell was an active man, of apparently



THE LATE JUDGE MITCHELL.

tireless force, and he belied his claim to be ranked with the septuagenarians. He was in his seventy-fifth year

Well-Deserved Promotion.

In 1918, owing to the death of Mr. Commissioner Russell, Judge Mitchell, who had been a Stipendiary Magistrate, presiding over the Adelaide Police Court, was made Commissioner of Insolvency and S.M. at the Adelaide Local Court, as well as of the Taxation Appeal Court. During Mr. Russell's protracted illness Judge Mitchell acted for him, and subsequently continued in that capacity until his appointment was formally confirmed. The Judge's parents arrived in South Australia from England when the province was founded, and landed at Kangaroo Island. They then proceeded to Mount Barker. There their son was born in 1853. He was educated at Mitton's Academy, Adelaide, and at

was born in 1853. He was educated at Mitton's Academy, Adelaide, and at other private institutions. Upon leaving school he went to Port Augusta, where he conducted the business of an auctioneer. For several years he was a member of the local district council, and he was Mayor of the municipality for two years.

Distinguished Legal Career.

On returning to Adelaide, Judge Mitchell articulated himself to Messrs. H. E. & H. F. Downer, and arranged to be allowed to attend the University in pursuance of his legal studies. He took the LL.B. degree in 1890, and in the following year he began to practise in Adelaide. In 1901 he was elected as a member of the House of Assembly for the Northern Territory. He was again returned for that constituency in 1903, with Mr. C. E. Herbert (now Judge Herbert, of Papua). In June, 1900, when the Peake Government was formed, Judge Mitchell was appointed Attorney-General, but on the reconstruction of the Cabinet in December of the same year, he resigned and accepted the position of Government Resident in the Northern Territory, in succession to Judge Herbert, and combined with other work the duties of Judge. He remained at Darwin until the transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth, when a Federal official was appointed to succeed him. For a number of years the commissioner was President of the Electric Telegraph Association. Prior to taking charge of the Adelaide Police Court in 1916, in succession to the late Mr. Thomas Gepp, Judge Mitchell acted as Stipendiary Magistrate at Port Pirie for four and a half years, and in the northern district made many friends.

Vision and Activity.

His experience in the Northern Territory gained for him a deserved reputation as an authority upon that part of Australia, and only last year the first Administrator of the Northern Territory contended that so valuable a property should not have been handed over to the Federal authorities. Chatting informally, Judge Mitchell stressed the importance of that heritage which had been so lightly considered by South Australians. He was optimistic as to its future as a wheat area, and used to quote the 93,570 square miles with its rainfall of from 20 to 30 in.; and another 40,000 square miles, with a rainfall of from 30 to 40 in. Although of late years he had had to devote much of his life in a sedentary occupation, he spent every available moment in active exercise. He was a keen motorist, and was very familiar with the beauty spots of the hills. A nature lover, as well as a student of Australian history, Judge Mitchell passed many happy hours out of doors. Among his other sources of enjoyment was an appreciation of music. He had longed always to visit the land of his forefathers, and at the end of March 1923, he and his wife achieved their ambition. Of his trip to England and Scotland, the traveller had much to say when he returned in September. Judge Mitchell married Eliza daughter of the late Mr. John Gardener. One son, Harold Flinders Mitchell, also

daughter of the late Mr. John Wardener. One son, Harold Flinders Mitchell, also followed the law. He enlisted when war was declared, and attained the rank of lieutenant in the 45th Battn. He was killed in action in France in 1918. Another son is Mr. Garnet Mitchell, of Goulbourn (N.S.W.), and a second daughter is Mrs. McDonald, who also lives at Goulbourn. Nurse Jean Mitchell, of Adelaide, is the other daughter.

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