

DEATH OF WOOL CHAIRMAN

Mr. A. F. Bell

After a short illness, the death occurred yesterday afternoon of Mr. Alexander Foulis Bell, one of the best known figures in Melbourne business circles.

Mr. Bell, who was aged 63, was associated with Robert Harper and Co. Ltd. for 46 years, having been managing director of the company since 1919. He was in addition a director of the Commonwealth Bank, vice-chairman of the Union Trustee Co. of Australia Ltd., and a member of the Victorian board of the Australian Mutual Provident Society. Shortly after the outbreak of war Mr. Bell was appointed chairman of the Central Wool Committee, the controlling body in



Mr. A. F. BELL

Australia of the wool - marketing scheme. Because of his wide business experience and his knowledge of financial problems, Mr. Bell was regarded as an exceptionally happy choice for this important post.

A native of Scotland, Mr. Bell arrived in Brisbane when aged 10, and he was educated at Brisbane Grammar

School. Joining Robert Harper and Co. Ltd. in 1893, Mr. Bell became manager in Brisbane in 1908, and in 1917 he was transferred to the head office in Melbourne as a director. In 1919 he became managing director of the company.

In 1927 Mr. Bell received a C.M.G. He was a member of the Australian delegation to the first World Economic Conference at Geneva in that year. He was closely associated with the late Sir Robert Gibson, who was chairman of Robert Harper and Co. Ltd. for 10 years before his death. Mr. Bell has been a member of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Export Control Board since its inception.

Among other activities, Mr. Bell was chairman for many years of the honorary committee which organised Australian trade publicity plan in Great Britain.

Mr. Bell leaves a widow and one daughter.

The funeral will leave Sleight's chapel, St. Kilda rd., at 11 a.m. to-morrow for the Springvale Crematorium.

BANK'S TRIBUTE

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Sir Claude Reading, chairman of directors of the Commonwealth Bank said last night that news of Mr. Bell's death was received while the Bank Board was in session in Sydney yesterday. Mr. Bell had been a director of the bank since 1934, and was acting chairman for a period in 1936.

Sir Claude added that all members of the board joined with him in expressing sincere regret at Mr. Bell's death. He was regarded by his colleagues as a man of outstanding ability, and his wide knowledge and experience of Australian business conditions were of great value in his work as a director.

GEELONG EVENTS

STEVEDORE'S DEATH

An inquest into the death of William Cyril O'Brien, aged 22, stevedore, Belle-rine st., South Geelong, was held by Mr. F. G. H. Ritchie, deputy coroner, yesterday. O'Brien was engaged in the discharge of sulphur from a steamer at Corio quay on July 4. Operations were nearly completed, and Thomas Shelley, foreman of the hatch in which O'Brien was working, signalled to the winchman to begin hauling. The bucket of sulphur, weighing about two tons, was dragged some distance, and then met with an obstruction. O'Brien put his hands on the bucket to steady it, and as the bucket commenced to lift, O'Brien moved to one side. The bucket spun round, and O'Brien was jammed against the wall of the tunnel. He suffered extensive internal injuries, from which he died next day. A finding of accidental death was recorded. Mr. E. E. Wilson appeared on behalf of the Victorian Stevedoring and General Contracting Co., and Mr. A. E. McDonald for the relatives of O'Brien.

POLICE CHANGES

Senior-constable Egerton, of Canterbury, has been appointed to the Geelong police station in succession to Senior-constable Bolan, who has been appointed to Russell st. watchhouse.

WATER COMMISSIONERS

The annual election of commissioners for the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust will take place toward the end of September. Retiring commissioners are Commissioners A. Belcher (Geelong City), F. H. Burn (Geelong West), and G. A. Cameron (shires). Mr. A. E. Cozens has announced himself as a candidate for the shires representation. The vote is taken on the municipal franchise.

BENDIGO NEWS

INSPECTION OF CAMPS

Dr. Newman Morris, president of the Victorian branch of the Red Cross Society, will visit Bendigo to-day to inspect the two Bendigo military camps. He will be given a civic reception at the town hall, and will be a guest at the weekly luncheon of the Bendigo Rotary Club.

TRUCK DRIVER FINED

Norman Hall, truck driver, of Gisborne, was fined £2 in the Bendigo City Court yesterday for having driven a vehicle on the Calder Highway at Ravenswood at a speed greater than that permitted by the transport regulations.

BATTERY MANAGER'S DEATH

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Recognised as one of the State's pioneers in gold-mining battery management, Mr. Frederick Neunhoffer, aged 83, manager of the Carlisle batteries, died yesterday. He was a native of Huntly. Mr. Neunhoffer spent practically the whole of his life in the gold-mining industry. For more than 30 years he was engaged at the Gordon gold mine battery, and also served a long term at the Great Extended Hustlers battery as manager. He was manager at the Carlisle for 23 years.