Obituary

Sir Arthur H. Palmer, K.C.M.G.

Sir Arthur Palmer, who died last month at Brisbane, was so well known as a leading figure in political life that people had almost forgotten that in his earlier days he was actively engaged as a pastoralist. Coming to New South Wales in 1856, he was connected with the late Mr. H. Dangar's stations for a period of no less than twenty-three years, becoming general manager of these properties during the latter part of his connection with them. In 1866 he was a member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, and the following year became a Minister of the Crown. Since then the story of his life is part of the history of Queensland and has been fully told in the general press as to need no description here. Our Queensland correspondent, in recording his death, writes:—

"Queensland mourns the loss of one of the ablest administrators she ever possessed. There may be widely differing opinions of the late Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer as a politician, but all agree that as an administrator he had no equal here. Although his manner was brusque—often to extremes—his somewhat austere exterior concealed one of the warmest and most honest hearts that ever beat. He was ever as ready to do a good turn to his strongest political opponent as to his warmest supporter. While as a Minister of the Crown he never failed to reprove a mistake on the part of a subordinate officer, he was ever to be depended upon to defend him behind his back, and his memory will be most warmly cherished by those who most frequently came in contact with him, whether in public or private life.

Mr. C. H. Douglas.

Charles Hill Douglas, who died at his residence, "Moora-kyne," Malvern, near Melbourne, on 30th March last, was the younger son of the late David Douglas, W.S., of Edinburgh, and was born in that city on 25th September, 1823, and educated in Edinburgh. He came out to Victoria in 1859, and was thus a colonist of thirty-eight years at the time of his death. His first colonial experience was gained with Mr. George Black, at Tarwin, and subsequently on the late Mr. George Macarthur's "Illawra" station, on the Marrumbidgee, near Hay. Whilst there Mr. Douglas brought the first draught of sheep overland from South Australia to "Illawra." In 1863 the deceased gentleman, in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Henry Douglas, and Mr. Archibald Menzies, acquired "Gelam" and "Buudge-Buudge" cattle stations, on the Marrumbidgee, from the late Mr. William Campbell. During the next year "Buudge-Buudge" was resold to Mr. James Richmond. "Gelam" was the partnership, which was known as Menzies and Douglas for two years longer. In the year 1865 Mr. C. H. Douglas and his brother, Mr. H. Douglas, bought "Bringenbrong," "Knicobbin," and "Indi" were sold in 1876 to Mr. Thomas Mitchell, and at about the same time the other partners bought out of "North Yanco," leaving only the two Douglas Bros. as owners. They then purchased "Walla Walla," near Albury, N.S.W., and both "Walla Walla" are still held by them. For some time Mr. Douglas was interested in "Eurelia" station, Queensland, only recently severing his connection with it.

In 1870 the deceased married Miss Henrietta Chapman, daughter of Mr. William Chapman, of "Lumley Park," Bundangia, N.S.W. On several occasions he visited England. Mr. Douglas was a well-known figure in Melbourne, and was much liked and highly respected by all who came into contact with him.

Mr. C. C. Murray.

Charles Cairns Murray, whose lamented decease we chronicled last month, was the fourth son of the late John Murray, of Glenmayne, Galashaie, N.B., and was born in 1855. He came out to New Zealand in 1873, residing at Napier, Hawke's Bay, and after returning to London in 1884, came out to live in Melbourne in 1889.

Mr. Murray was a partner in the firms of Messrs. Sanderson, Murray and Co., of London, John Sanderson and Co., of Melbourne and Sydney, and Murray, Roberts and Co., of New Zealand. He was also a director of Messrs. Strachan, Murray and Shannon, of Glasgow; of the Mercantile Insurance Company; and of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and the Alliance Marine Insurance Co.

Mr. Murray was a member of the Council of the Pastoralists' Association of Victoria and Southern Riverina, and took an active part in its proceedings at the time of the great strike of 1891. He was also President of the Australian Sheepbreeders' Association.

Few men were better known in pastoral, business, and sporting circles in Melbourne than the late Mr. C. C. Murray, and none was more universally popular.

Mr. W. Cunningham Smith.

The name of W. Cunningham Smith will long be remembered in New Zealand in connection with the introduction of the frozen meat trade into that colony. He was the original secretary of the first freezing company which was started—the N.Z. Refrigerating Company of Dunedin. Before that he had been for many years a leading partner in the Mackenzie country, named "Haldon." During his residence of some ten years in Dunedin he was a prominent member of the Otago Agricultural and Pastoral Association, and did a good deal to place it on its feet. For a short time he was manager of the Southland Frozen Meat Company of Invercargill, and a little over a year ago went to London to take charge of the produce department of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company. He was much liked and esteemed by all with whom he came in contact.

Grass Seeds.

The quality of the grass seed obtainable in this market is a subject of interest to all pastoralists. As many squatters know to their cost, the quality of much of the grass seed sold in this colony of late years has been the reverse of desirable, both as regards purity (i.e., freedom from weed seeds) and percentage of germinations. We are therefore glad to note that Messrs. Sutton and Sons, of Reading and London, are now sending regular shipments of their well-known seeds to this colony. Messrs. Edward Keep and Co., of Lonsdale-street, Melbourne, their wholesale agents for Victoria, have just landed a large shipment of cocksfoot, perennial rye grass, timothy and lucerne, together with many other varieties of grass and clover seed direct from the Reading establishment. A recent report on some samples of clover and grass seed that were purchased in this market, and were sent Home to be tested at Sutton's trial horses, forms remarkable reading. It runs as follows:

White Clover (trifolium repens).—This sample had in it the following:—Sorrel, dodder, cranberries, trefoil, and wood rush. In addition to these there were some other seeds unknown to us, possibly of Australian natives, but we can confidently state they were not white clover. Germination percentage, 61 per cent.; Sutton's, 99 per cent. (Tried same time).

Cocksfoot.—Most of this was seed of rib grass, dock, wild carrot, and dodder. Germination percentage, 71 per cent.; Sutton's, 98 per cent.

Three Samples Lucerne.—These were clear of weed seeds, but contained many flat green and immature seeds, which in ours are winnowed out. Germinations respectively:—73 per cent., 67 per cent., 70 per cent.; Sutton's, 96 per cent.

Rough Cockfoot.—This was very inferior sample, being mainly composed of Yorkshire fog (Holins), which we consider a very bad weed. There was also some coarse grass (Bromus mollis), (Not 10 per cent. of it was cocksfoot.) As this sample was so impure we did not test the germination.

Mr. William Grant, lately of "Colombo" Station, near Jerilderie, died at Wangaratta on 22nd March. He bought "Colombo," in 1882, together with his son, Mr. L. M'B, Grant, to whom he subsequently sold his interest.