

## MR. E. C. BODY

### Death at Inverell

#### A PIONEER OF THE NORTH

The death of Mr. E. C. Body, which was briefly chronicled in our last issue, removes from our midst the last of the great band of the real pioneer squatters who went forth into the unknown Australian bush and carved homes for themselves, paving the way for those who come after (states the Inverell "Times"). While suffering the usual adversity which was the common lot of such men, Mr. Body never admitted defeat, and at the close of a long honorable and industrious life had achieved considerable financial success.

Edmund Cuthbert Body was born in Devonshire in 1843 and in 1850 came to Australia with his parents. His father, Mr. Frederick Eliel Body immediately acquired a property at Tumut part of the run being where the town of that name now stands. Mr. E. C. Body received his early education from Rev. Samuel Fox and in 1865 when the west Bogan country was thrown open he acquired a property there in conjunction with a brother, where they met with all the ups and downs of the squatters of those early days. The big drought of the 70's had an effect on his fortunes and subsequently Mr. Body joined his elder brother, the late F. E. Body, at Wombobbie, on the Marthaguy Creek near Warren, which at that time embraced 270,000 acres. In 1878 Mr. Body went to Newstead, Inverell, during which time he became manager there. In 1880 he married Miss Catherine Campbell, of Inverell Station, and the pair went to live at Jindabyne, then a large property on the Snowy River, westerly of Cooma.

In those days fat cattle were sent overland for shipment at Twofold Bay for the Melbourne and Tasmanian markets. For twenty years Mr. and Mrs. Body resided at Jindabyne, during which time the property was greatly improved and developed, the station acquiring a great reputation for the quality of its stock.

In 1901 Mr. Body returned to Inverell, purchasing Strathbogie from Mr. Hugh Gordon, the property comprising some 30,000 acres. Mr. Gordon took up the property in 1839 and erected the present homestead in 1868. At the time of the sale Mr. Gordon retained the Rocky Creek portion, which he subsequently sold to Campbell Bros, who passed it on to Mr. Body in 1909. At that time with Crown

bell Bros, who passed it on to Mr. Body in 1909. At that time with Crown lands the station comprised some 150,000 acres, but resumptions and disposals have subsequently reduced the area to the present size. To-day the run carries nearly a sheep to the acre besides several hundred cattle. There is an unlimited water supply from the Severn River and creeks, as well as many wells, the property being splendidly improved. Backed up by the enterprise of his son Mr. Campbell Body much experimenting has been done with artificial grasses.

In 1912 Mr. Body acquired Mole Vale on the Sovereign River, a property of 10,000 acres, watered also by the Mole River and situated 35 miles westerly from Tenterfield.

In 1922 Ulupna was purchased, a property of about 10,000 acres, 33 miles from Inverell on the Wallangra road, where stud sheep and stud Hereford cattle are run. The flock of Strathbogie is founded on Bundemar blood, the late F. E. Body being a brother of Mr. E. C. Body, as already mentioned. The flock also had considerable additions by the purchase of ewes from Inverell Station.

In 1917 Mr. Body acquired Warana, a property of 120 acres adjoining Inverell, where he lived in retirement until his death.

Mr. Body was always a great churchman, taking a prominent part in the affairs of the Anglican Communion when at Jindabyne, as he has always done since his residence in the Inverell district. He has held the position of Vicar's warden of St. Augustine's for many years.

In his younger days Mr. Body was a great sportsman, shooting and picnic racing being his principal hobbies. In the latter sphere he was hon. secretary of the Inverell Picnic Race Club which was inaugurated in 1879. Two years previously he owned and rode Error, the winner of the Wambiana Cup, at the Central Macquarie Picnic races. He established and conducted a thoroughbred stud at Strathbogie for some years.

Mr. Body was for five years chairman of the Tenterfield P.P. Board.

Up to the time of the war the Strathbogie wool was shipped direct to London, but under the appraisal scheme it was sold in Sydney. In 1929 the clip was sent to Newcastle, Mr. Body being an enthusiastic supporter of and shareholder in Nenco.

In addition to the widow, the surviving members of the family comprise five sons and three daughters, one of the latter being Mrs. Corfe, wife of Dr. Corfe, of Glen Innes. Messrs. Campbell and Neville Body live at Strathbogie, Mr. Graham Body at Ulupna, Mr. Theo at Warana and Mr. Dudley Body at Mole Vale. Four of the sons were at the war, Mr. Campbell Body remaining at home to manage the properties. Mr. Graham

age the properties. Mr. Graham Body was invalided from Gallipoli to England and later obtained a commission with the Flying Corps in which he was shot down by enemy planes from a height of 10,000 feet and held prisoner until the Armistice. Mr. Theo Body was also severely wounded during the war. The other daughters are Misses Helen and Marion Body (Warana).

The funeral, which was conducted by C. S. Thorley, took place on Saturday afternoon and was attended by a large cortege composed of all classes of the community. A service was conducted at St. Augustine's Church by Rev. E. H. Stammer before the interment at the Inverell cemetery.

A large number of returned soldiers attended to show their respect for one who had done so much for the A.I.P. during the war. At the church they formed a double line guard of honor, through which the casket was carried and they occupied a prominent position at the graveside. There was a remarkable array of floral tributes coming from all classes of the community, many of them being composed

of magnificent flowers.

#### AT THE CHURCH

Beneath a wealth of the most beautiful wreaths the coffin rested in the Church of St. Augustine, where the late Mr. Body had been Vicar's Churchwarden for the past fifteen years, and where, until infirmity took him, he was a regular worshipper. The Office for the Burial of the Dead was taken by the Vicar (Rev. E. H. Stammer), attended by the choir in their robes. The opening sentences of triumphant Christian hope were followed by the singing of the 23rd. Psalm, "The Lord Is My Shepherd"; then followed the reading from Revelation of 7th. chapter, 9th. and following verses; after which the Vicar gave a short address, in which he said: "Concerning Edmund Cuthbert Body, who has just passed from us at the ripe old age of 92 years, much could be said. He was a pioneer who helped to blaze the trail in the far-off days of our colonial history. For, consider it, he was born away back in the year 1843, so that his beginnings went back to the very early and difficult days of our country's expansion. But here, in this quiet place, must time be found for a word of appreciation for a fine life, well lived and finely finished. 'So well he bore him to life's splendid close.' He was given length of days beyond the ordinary span, in his time he had been able to achieve much. Here, in this district, to which he came about sixty years ago, he gained a wife, and here, too, or hereabouts, has his fine family been reared, and he, like a patriarch of old, has seen them firmly established. I don't think he

a patriarch of old, has seen them firmly established. I don't think he had many regrets that he was to leave these earthly scenes; with calmness he passed on his earthly tasks to his sons to carry on. For the new and heavenly tasks he had been preparing all his life; for him, the Divine was never far-distant. Brought up from his youth in the ways of faith, like Mr. Standfast in 'Pilgrim's Progress,' he would say of his God, 'His Word did I use to gather for my food and for antidotes against my faintings.' This calm faith it was that made him what we found him—a fine churchman and a staunch friend. We who would promise unto his neighbor, and disappoint him not, even though it were to his own hindrance. As a churchman, he was loyal, and ever true. This parish church was to him a treasure house from whence to gather precious things for life's journey, and, too, her welfare and honor were his great concern. I rejoice to feel that I was privileged to have him not only as the Vicar's Warden, but as my ever-ready friend and counsellor nearly the whole of my ministry here. He was just like that—quiet, consistent, unobtrusive; he walked his way with God and man, and made both his friends. Kindly, courteous, considerate, we shall miss his gracious presence in his accustomed places, and feel the sadder for that loss. But just because it means so much to us, we may be allowed to pass on all our loving sympathy to those who shared his life so intimately in the close and cloudless comradeship of wife for fifty-four years, and the happy association of children. Faithfully and with devotion has he given them of his best, and left behind memories which we feel will support and carry them through all the days of sorrow and trial, and be an incentive of high purpose and firm resolve to the allotted tasks. One cannot hope, nor expect, in a word to dispel the gloom of death, but here, at least, is the sure word of promise for the faithful believer in Christ Jesus our Lord. If we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, for us, even so, also, they which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him'; and on that note of triumph I can, in the name of the Church of Christianity, say, 'Lift up your hearts.' For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one yet to come. So do we commend the soul of Edmund Body into the hands of a merciful Creator and most loving Saviour, beseeching Him that it may be very precious in His sight, and we pray that the Peace of God may possess all our hearts in the love of Christ and the fellowship of His Spirit."

At the conclusion of the address, the beautiful hymn, "How Bright These Glorious Spirits Shine," was sung by the choir; subsequent to which the choir, leading the procession, the Vicar, with the Parochial Councillors and fellow-wardens of the late Mr. Body

ar. with the Parochial Councillors and fellow-wardens of the late Mr. Body (six of whom carried the coffin) passed down the church aisle to the waiting hearse, the organist playing Mendelssohn's "O Rest in the Lord."