

## TRIBUTE TO A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN

### Memorial to the Late E. A. Loveday Unveiled at Cobdogla

On Thursday (yesterday), at Cobdogla, a drinking fountain was unveiled by the Hon. M. McIntosh, M.P. (Commissioner of Public Works), to the memory of the late Mr. E. A. Loveday, a surveyor whose work may still be seen in the 'ay-out of the settlements at Berri, Cobdogla, Kingston, and Waikerie. Mr. Loveday was a true Christian, and every Sunday when possible held divine service in the survey camp.

The following tributes by the editor of The Murray Pioneer and Mr. Sam McIntosh (then Director of Irrigation), were published in this paper on November 18, 1915.

#### BY THE EDITOR

When work was started at Berri under the direction of the late Surveyor-General, Mr. Strawbridge, Mr. Loveday was placed in charge of the survey party and of the constructional work that followed, and when the Irrigation Department was formed he was appointed superintending surveyor of the Department. All the survey and constructional work at Berri, Cobdogla, Kingston and Moorook, and much of it at Waikerie has been done under his supervision. Like most of the other officers of the new department, Mr. Loveday knew nothing of irrigation when the work was first placed in his hands, but he was a very competent surveyor, and he spared no pains to make himself acquainted with the details of the work that were new to him. His abiding monument is in the many miles of channels from which hundreds of settlers will draw their supplies of water for many years to come. South Australia has had many faithful servants. There have been none more faithful or worthier of the trust reposed in them than the late Earnest Alfred Loveday.

I first met Mr. Loveday in the early days of the work at Berri, and throughout the years that followed I found him always the same—courteous, kindly and considerate a "very parfait" Christian gentleman, ever thoughtful of others, and with his good wife ever eager to dispense hospitality with a gracious charm as rare as it was delightful. He was very loyal to his old chief, the late Surveyor General (a gentleman of his own type, and the very

pink of courtesy), but the agitation which The Pioneer led against the placing of the irrigation construction work in the hands of the Survey Department left no palpable trace in our relationships. I early discovered one tie between us. He was one of Allen Martin's old scholars, and I, too, had had some months under that one time famous Port Adelaide pedagogue. Of Mr. Loveday's qualifications as a draughtsman I am not qualified to speak; but he was a very capable penman in this age of shocking "fists" and typewriters, and many of the "copperplate" designs of the writing books of the Educational Department came over in late years from his pen.

Long before his appointment to the work at Berri and Cobdogla Mr. Loveday was well acquainted with the Murray. The comprehensive plan of the river from Morgan to the province boundary, issued in 1891, was largely his work. The survey was mostly done on horseback, but the work thus done has needed very few corrections. Though he was in the service of the State for over 30 years, Mr. Loveday had never been outside of South Australia until he made a trip to Mildura and Wentworth a few months ago. I was to have been one of the party on that occasion, and it will now re-

main a matter of deep regret with me that circumstances prevented me from accompanying the party.

To me, as to many another, the news of Mr. Loveday's death came as a great shock. I had learned, quite by chance, only a few days before, of his illness, but had not suspected that

chance, only a few days before, of his illness, but had not suspected that the end was so near. His untimely demise has left a sad gap in the ranks of the Irrigation Department—thinned already by the war—but it is as "guide, philosopher and friend" to hundreds on the Murray, and as a rare example of a Christian gentleman, whose Christianity was not in his profession but in his quiet and unobtrusive practice, that his loss will be most keenly felt. He was rarely met in Mrs. Loveday, and there are hundreds of hearts this day beating in sympathy with her in her great and immediate sorrow.

The late Ernest Alfred Loveday was the youngest son of the late R. J. Loveday, Royal Engineers. He was only in his 48th year. His death occurred on November 6th, at the residence of Mrs. Loveday's mother (Mrs. J. Mead, senr.) at Montpellier Street, Exeter.

"Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; for their works do follow them."

#### FROM MR. McINTOSH

In the death of Ernest Alfred Loveday, Superintending Surveyor to the Irrigation Department, I realise that not only has this State lost a model citizen, and the Department a most experienced, valuable, trusted and conscientious officer, but that I personally together with members of the staff of the Department directly under the late control of the deceased parted with a true and loving friend.

Throughout his career he performed his official duties in a manner which left nothing to be desired, and at the same time, in connection with those around him, put into full practice, the teachings of Christianity.

His connection with the survey work on the River Murray dates back 28 years when he was engaged with Mr. G. Sabine, and Mr. T. E. Day, now Surveyor General for the Northern Territory, as assistant in taking the levels from Spring Cart Gully to near Morgan, with the object of ascertaining the area suitable for irrigation, in the river section in question. This included Cobdogla and Lake Bonney districts after which he prepared the large River Valley plan now in official use, showing the aneroid levels throughout.

His was one of the most gentlemanly, unselfish, unassuming and sympathetic natures it has ever been my lot to meet, and when his fine example is remembered by those with whom he came into actual contact, we recognize that the results of his work will

came into actual contact, we recognize that the results of his work will long continue, and that Ernest Alfred Loveday did not live in vain.