

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES BUDGE, M.B.E.

"Gladstone's Grand Old Man."

Deep regret was expressed at Gladstone and in many parts of the State when it became known that Mr. Charles Budge, M.B.E., had passed away at his residence on Friday last, following a fall at his home during the previous week-end. Mr. Budge, who was 86 years of age, was one of the best known men in the Northern Areas and highly respected by all who knew him. He came to this State from the Old Country when he was a young man and his first position was school teacher at Clover Hill. Subsequently he conducted a business in Gladstone and later was appointed Clerk to the District Council and Corporation of Gladstone. He was 50 years District Clerk and 38 years Town Clerk, and it is interesting to mention that previous to his appointment as Clerk to

the Corporation he was a Town Councillor, and followed on by occupying the mayoralty in 1904-5. He held all the important positions the town could bestow upon him, among them being Justice of the Peace for 40 years, president School Board of Advice, president High School Council, president Northern Areas Football Association (21 years) and made a life member, Secretary Odd-fellows and Masonic Lodges, president Bowling Club, Superintendent of Methodist Sunday School, etc., and among many other important posts he held was returning officer for State and Federal elections, Registrar of Pensions, Secretary Repatriation Committee (World War I), Official Receiver and Clerk of Local and Insolvency Courts, etc. It was Mr. Budge who conceived and

was Mr. Budge who conceived and saw carried to fruition the plans for laying out Tresylva Park and the oval, known in the early days as Ewart Park. Then in recent years the Main Street was beautified and called the "Budge" Gardens.

The deceased was a foundation member of the Craft and Mark Masonic Lodges, and was honoured in being the first Worshipful Master to each of these bodies. His life among the people of the town which he loved and lived for is well known to most people, by whom he was recognised as a man of great ability and integrity. Several years ago he was honoured by His Majesty the King, who conferred upon him the M.B.E., and this memento was perhaps one of his most cherished possessions—it was certainly richly deserved in view of his outstanding service to the town and district.

Mr. Budge was a loving husband and father, and besides a sorrowing widow he is survived by five daughters—Mesdames Dungey of Perth (Shirley), Andrews of Adelaide (Vivien), McKenzie, of Gumeracha (Doris), and Misses Lillian and Joan Budge of Gladstone. There are 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

On Sunday afternoon his remains were interred in the Gladstone cemetery, when a large and representative gathering attended at the graveside, and glowing tributes were made concerning the deceased by the Rev. Eric Tuckett.



