

Obituary.

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MR. JOHN CAMERON.

Mr. John Cameron, J.P., one of Queensland's pioneer pastoralists, a gentleman whose name is held in affectionate respect in all parts of Queensland, died early this morning at his Brisbane residence (says yesterday's "Telegraph"). He had been in ill-health for some time past, and recently underwent an operation. His life story is largely the history of Queensland's development as a wool-producing country. It was just 50 years ago when he entered the State with his father and the Messrs. J. and W. Crombie, and opened up the Barcaldine country for pastoral purposes. Ever since that time Mr. Cameron has been prominently associated with the business and public life of Queensland, his activities taking him into many important spheres of service, including two periods of membership of the Legislative Assembly. The first of these was from 1893 till 1896, when he represented the Mitchell. Then in 1901 he succeeded Mr. T. M'Paterson, as member for North Brisbane, and retained the seat until 1908. Mr. Cameron came of colonial Scottish stock, his parents being in British Guiana, South America, at the time of his birth in 1845. The family had a sugar plantation there, but in 1852 they migrated to Australia, settling in Victoria. Young John Cameron finished his schooling at the Scots College, Melbourne, and the Geelong Grammar School, and at the age of 14 found himself plunged into the serious business of life on his father's station in the New England district. As already mentioned, his introduction to Queensland came by way of a journey with a mob of sheep, for which it was resolved to find pasture in western Queensland. After 18 months on Barcaldine Downs, Mr.

ture in western Queensland. After 18 months on Barcaldine Downs, Mr. John Cameron became overseer on Alice Downs station. He advanced rapidly, and in 1869 entered into a partnership for the running of several properties. The partnership was dissolved eight years later, and Mr. Cameron and Mr. Crombie jointly bought Kensington Downs and Greenhills in the Muttalburra district. Eventually Mr. Cameron took Kensington Downs, and Mr. Crombie Greenhills. Throughout his long association with the Mitchell district Mr. Cameron occupied a prominent place as one of its most vigorous and successful advocates, both in and out of Parliament. He was always seeking for useful directions in which to advance its interests. His keenness as a pastoralist asserted itself, notably in his 13 years' presidency of the United Pastoralists and Grazing Farmers' Association. He was also president of the Pastoral Employers' Association of Central and North Queensland for 14 years. His reputation for sound business ability and integrity preceded him into Parliament House, and he was selected to serve with the committee which the Nelson Government appointed in 1893 to investigate the affairs of the Queensland National Bank. So successful was his work in that connection that he was subsequently appointed the Government representative on the board of directors of the bank, and he maintained his association with that institution for the rest of his life. Mr. Cameron was chairman of the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Company for more than 10 years, and was chairman of the Alliance Assurance Company of Australia, chairman of Moreheads, Limited, and a director of the Union Trustees of Australia. He was always a warm supporter of the Caledonian Society, and was its president for many years.

In Parliament Mr. Cameron never aspired to shine as an orator, but

aspired to shine as an orator, but whenever he spoke the House listened with the close attention which is only commanded by the man who can lay irresistible statements of fact plainly before his colleagues. His utterances were always marked by shrewd common-sense, and the experienced man of affairs showed clearly in the advice he was able to offer.
