

Mr. John Darling, sen.

MR. JOHN DARLING, sen., for many years one of the great wheat merchants in Australia, has been most active in opening up markets for Australian wheat. He must receive the credit of attracting hundreds of thousands of pounds to this Province, and, by honorable business, of adding to that popularity of the local grain, which its undoubted excellence has earned.



Hammer & Co., Photo

But Mr. Darling has gone beyond this particular yet all important sphere, and has helped the industry with sound advice in the legislative halls of South Australia. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1831, Mr. Darling was educated at the George Harriot School, a celebrated institution in that ancient city. He was for 13 years a type-founder in the establishment of Marr and Co., in Edinburgh, and came to South Australia in 1855. From the outset he became interested in the producing industry, first in association with the business of Messrs. Giles & Smith, grain and general merchants, of Adelaide. After some years he joined the late Mr. R. G. Bowen in a similar business, and eventually became the proprietor of that gentleman's connection. With the utmost shrewdness, and with uncommon enterprise, Mr. Darling quickly rose to a leading position as a

grain merchant and exporter. A description of this important business will be found in another part of this work, under the name of Mr. John Darling, jun., M.P., from which will be gathered some idea of the success which has attended the operations of Mr. Darling, sen. It was not an easy matter to secure so large a portion of the trade; but Mr. Darling made such a study of the market that he managed his concerns with lucrative results. The firm of John Darling & Son has made a name through England, Europe, America, and South Africa, as one of the largest exporters of grain in Australia. When Victoria became an active rival of South Australia in wheat production, thus closing the

readiest market for the local product, Mr. Darling visited England and America, and opened up new markets, popularising the products of the wheat fields of the Province in the principal consuming countries in the world. Large argosies have been sent forth from South Australia by the firm, which obtains its wheat at first hand from the farmers by establishing branches in the principal districts. Upon Mr. Darling, sen., must be conferred the credit of establishing an institution of vast importance to South Australia.

Mr. Darling's political career began in 1870, when he was elected for West Adelaide for a seat in the House of Assembly. He only remained in the House for one year on this occasion, but again sat for West Adelaide in 1876 and 1877. In 1878 he was returned for the District of Yatala, retired in 1880, and did not re-enter Parliament until May, 1885, when he was chosen as representative for Stanley. In May, 1887, he headed the poll among 10 candidates for the representation of the Northern District in the Legislative Council, and he continued in the Upper House for ten years, when he retired from politics and from business. Sound in judgment, and possessed of a wide knowledge of South Australia gained in the pursuit of his large business, Mr. Darling as a legislator was very useful to the Province. He supported the interests of the farming community, and no one understood their requirements better than he. Although not a frequent speaker in Parliament, his utterances carried weight, and it could never be said that he spoke to the gallery; his opinions were based too firmly on experience to permit him to vacillate for votes. In June, 1885, he accepted the portfolio of Commissioner of Public Works in the Ministry of Sir John Downer; but as he retired from the Government in October of the same year, he had little opportunity to prove his worth as an administrator. He was a useful member of several Select Committees and Royal Commissions, that on the coal contracts and wharfingering being appointed on his initiative.

In philanthropic circles Mr. Darling's name is favorably known in Adelaide, and among other donations was the sum of £500 given towards the erection of the City Mission Hall in Light Square. He is a prominent supporter of the Caledonian Society, and was elected to the office of Chief. He was prominent in establishing the beautiful cricket oval in Adelaide, and is father of the brilliant left-hand batsman, "Joe Darling." Since his retirement Mr. Darling has resided in Melbourne. In private, as well as in industrial circles, his name carries general respect in South Australia.

Mr. John Creswell

AMONG the leading figures in the Australasian Cricket Council has long been a representative of South Australia, Mr. John Creswell, the Honorary Secretary. He was born at Woodville, South Australia, on December 8, 1858, and attended St Peter's College for some time. Upon the conclusion of his college career he became associated in business with the late Mr. F. S. C. Driffield, local manager of the National Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand. Mr. Creswell, upon the death of Mr. Driffield in 1889, succeeded to the business and the various positions attached to it. Two years later he became Secretary of the South Australian Cricketing Association. He helped to form the South Australian Football Association in 1876, and was for many years its Secretary.