

THE LATE MR. C. Y. O'CONNOR, C.M.G.

PATHETIC FAREWELL LETTER.

HIS BRAIN RACKED BY WORRY.

The discovery of a letter in the handwriting of the late Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, C.M.G., Engineer-in-Chief, would appear to elucidate to a very great degree the reason which led up to his deplored death on Monday morning. The letter was discovered yesterday morning in an envelope among a number of other papers in the deceased gentleman's study, at his private residence. From the date on the memorandum it would appear to have been made just prior to his setting out early on Monday morning. It was written in lead pencil, on a piece of foolscap, and in a hand not easily read, betraying an evident condition of nervous derangement at the time. Though no signature is affixed, the handwriting is palpably that of the late Mr. C. Y. O'Connor. The text of the letter is as follows:—"The position has become impossible. Anxious important work to do, and three Commissions of inquiry to attend to. We may not have done as well as possible in the past, and we will necessarily be too hampered to do well in the immediate future. I feel that my brain is suffering, and I am in great fear of what effect all this worry may have upon me. I have lost control of my thoughts. The Coolgardie scheme is all right, and I could finish it if I got the chance and protection from misrepresentation; but there is no hope for that now, and it is better that it should be given to some entirely new man to do, who will be untrammelled by prior responsibilities 10-3-'02. Put the wing wall to Helena weir at once."

It is understood that when the inquest is resumed on Thursday, evidence will not be lacking to show that it had been observed for a short time prior to his death that Mr. O'Connor's mind was apparently in a state of pre-occupation. A fellow-passenger of Mr. O'Connor, on his return trip from the conference upon the outer harbour scheme for Adelaide, has, it is said, stated that he certainly observed evidences on the trip that the deceased gentleman's brain was undergoing great strain and worry.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. RASON.

HIS RELATIONS WITH THE LATE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

The letter left by the late Mr. O'Connor, showing clearly that the Coolgardie Water Scheme had preyed on his mind, formed the subject of an interview which a representative of the "West Australian" had with the Minister for Works, Mr. C. H. Rason, M.L.A., last evening.

"I cannot throw any light on the letter," said Mr. Rason, in reply to a question put by our representative, "except that I know that Mr. O'Connor felt very keenly the misrepresentations that have been passed recently on his connection with the Coolgardie Water Scheme. I had several conversations with him on the subject, and he had my sympathy in regard to the attacks that had been made upon him."

Did any serious difference arise between you and Mr. O'Connor in regard to the scheme?

"None whatever. Of course, I impressed upon him that several reforms were necessary with respect to the administrative branch of the work, but I never interfered in the slightest with the engineering portion of the scheme. Mr. O'Connor cheerfully acquiesced in my suggestions, which did not in any way cast a reflection or imply a censure upon him. I know for a fact that the day before this letter which he left would appear to have been written he received very good official news in regard to the probable success of the scheme."

Was there anything in connection with the final settlement of the contractors' claims that would have caused him any anxiety?

"Mr. O'Connor had been relieved of all responsibility in that respect, having given his final opinion upon the subjects in dispute. Therefore, that could not have preyed upon his mind in the slightest. I know that he had been collecting a considerable amount of data for the benefit of the Royal Commission now sitting. He told me that that had occupied his time and attention for some days. I had several conversations with him recently in regard to the scheme, and spoke to him on the subject as late as Friday last. He then appeared to be in good health and spirits, and to place the same reliance on the ultimate success of the scheme as he had always had."

THE FUNERAL.

AN IMPOSING SPECTACLE.

The funeral of the late Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, C.M.G., took place yesterday afternoon. The spectacle along the route of the procession was an imposing one. Long before the time appointed crowds

Long before the time appointed crowds of people assembled in front of Mr. O'Connor's late residence, in Beach-street, and by 4 o'clock fully a thousand persons were in the immediate vicinity. Over a hundred vehicles were ranged along Beach-street, opposite the railway line. Many of the wreaths were of unusual magnificence, and so numerous were they that they covered the hearse, and completely filled a second carriage. The wreath sent by Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley was composed of tuberose, carnations and hyacinths, interlaced with maidenhair ferns and white streamers. The coffin was a fine piece of workmanship, consisting of polished jarrah, with massive mouldings and gold gilt furnishings. On the coffin was the inscription, "Charles Yelverton O'Connor, died 10th March, 1902, aged 59 years," and it was embossed with an anchor and a cross, bearing the sign "Hope." Messrs. Frank, Roderick, and Murtagh O'Connor (sons) and Messrs. George Julius and C. Y. Simpson (sons-in-law) were the chief mourners. The pall-bearers were Messrs. E. E. Salter, James Thompson, A. Dillon Bell, R. Fairbairn, W. W. Dartnall, C. H. Rason, Sept. Burt, and W. Kingsmill. As the cortege moved off, the hearse was followed by the chief mourners, the pall-bearers, the Ministerial carriage, the Harbour Works carriage, and a body of about one hundred and fifty employees of the Fremantle Harbour Works and the Coolgardie Water Scheme, and other sympathisers; then came the long line of carriages, extending for nearly a mile in length. It is estimated that about a thousand gentlemen followed the funeral procession, while several thousand members of the public were assembled along the route. Throughout the great throng, the universal feeling was of respect for the deceased gentleman's memory, honour for the services he had rendered his country, admiration for his abilities, and sorrow for his demise. From the East Fremantle Station the cortege proceeded along Parry-street and High-street, over Monument Hill, thence to the new Fremantle Cemetery, which is about two miles and a half distant. The body was interred in the Church of England portion of the cemetery, near the summit of the little hill in that division, the Ven. Archdeacon Watkins conducting the services at the grave. Mr. A. E. Davies carried out the funeral arrangements.

His Excellency the Governor was represented by his Private Secretary, Mr. Gerald Parker, and among those also present were:—The President of the Legislative Council, Sir George Shenton; the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Sir J. G. Lee-Steele; the Acting-Premier, Mr. W. Kingsmill, M.L.A.; the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. F. Illingworth, M.L.A.; the Minister for Public Works, Mr. C. H. Rason, M.L.A.; the Minister for Lands, Dr. A. Jameson, M.L.C.; Mr. E. M. Clarke,

M.L.A.; the Minister for Lands, Dr. A. Jameson, M.L.C.; Mr. E. M. Clarke, M.L.C.; the Mayor of Perth, Mr. W. T. Loton; the Mayor of Fremantle, Mr. L. Alexander; the Mayor of East Fremantle, Mr. F. McDonald, M.L.A.; the Mayor of North Fremantle, Mr. D. K.

Congdon; the Ven. Archdeacon D. H. Griffith, representing the Bishop of Perth; the Rev. Father Ryan, O.M.I., the Rev. T. Bird, President of the Methodist Conference; the Rev. G. O'Halloran, Mr. G. Randell, M.L.C.; Mr. H. Briggs, M.L.C.; Mr. A. B. Kidson, M.L.C.; Captain Laurie, M.L.C.; Mr. J. T. Glowrey, M.L.C.; Mr. J. B. Richardson, M.L.C.; Mr. C. E. Dempster, M.L.C.; Mr. F. H. Piessé, M.L.A.; Mr. T. F. Quinlan, M.L.A.; Mr. G. Throssell, M.L.A.; Mr. J. J. Holmes, M.L.A.; Mr. J. J. Higham, M.L.A.; Mr. A. J. Diamond, M.L.A.; Mr. D. J. Doherty, M.L.A.; Mr. F. Connor, M.L.A.; Mr. C. Harper, M.L.A.; Mr. W. J. George, M.L.A.; Mr. W. M. Purkiss, M.L.A.; Sir Edward Wittenoom; Mr. A. S. Roe, P.M.; Mr. R. Fairbairn, R.M.; Mr. Sept. Burt, K.C.; Mr. A. R. Richardson; the Commissioner for Police, Captain Hare; Inspector McKenna; Mr. J. T. Short, Acting General Manager of Railways; Mr. F. Wilson; Mr. B. C. Wood; Mr. M. L. Moss; Mr. C. J. Moran, Mr. D. Forrest; Mr. H. W. Sholl; Mr. J. McHenry Clark; Mr. H. D. Holmes, manager of the Western Australian Bank; Mr. W. E. Moxon; Mr. A. D. Allan; Mr. A. G. Leeds; Mr. J. M. Mare; Mr. L. Ratazzi, German Consul; Mr. W. G. George, superintendent of the Fremantle Prison; Dr. J. W. Hope; Dr. White; Dr. Montgomery; Dr. Radock; Cr. J. Stewart, Perth; Cr. Beard, Fremantle; Mr. W. T. John; Mr. F. A. Moseley, Master of the Supreme Court; Mr. Michael Samson; Mr. E. Allnutt; Mr. H. J. Preston; Mr. J. Lilly, J.P.; Mr. H. J. Cooke, J.P.; Mr. C. S. R. Palmer, engineer for general water supply and sewerage; Mr. A. Dillon Bell, superintendent of public buildings; Mr. J. Thompson, engineer for railway construction; Mr. E. E. Salter, assistant superintendent of public works; Mr. C. F. Rotheram, chief mechanical engineer; Mr. W. Lord, piermaster; Mr. D. O'Connell, superintendent of the Fremantle water supply; Mr. E. E. Dartnall, engineer for existing lines; Mr. J. H. Grainger, Chief Government Architect; Mr. D. B. Ord; Mr. F. Spencer, Auditor-General; Mr. Hume, locomotive foreman; Mr. Gallagher, chief clerk to the Acting General Manager of Railways; Mr. Trigg, chief clerk in the locomotive Department; Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. D. Harwood; Mr. W. Paterson, Manager of the Agricultural Bank; Mr. J. Muir, Chief Engineering Surveyor; Mr. Dumball, Assistant Engineer, Fremantle Harbour.

Engineering Surveyor; Mr. Dumball, Assistant Engineer Fremantle Harbour Works; Mr. E. Carlin, Resident Engineer Fremantle Harbour Works; Mr. T. C. Hodgson, Resident Engineer Coolgardie Water Scheme; Mr. Hancock, Government Electrician; Mr. G. T. Poole, Mr. J. C. D. Foulkes, Mr. C. Johnson, Mr. A. S. Williams, Mr. J. Moss, Mr. Solomon, Mr. T. F. Jolly, Mr. J. Hayden, Inspector Permanent Way; Captain Campbell, Deputy-Master of the Mint; Detective-Inspector Campbell; Mr. Oct. Burt, Sheriff; Mr. G. F. Eliot, Under-Secretary in the Colonial Secretary's Department; Mr. R. Cecil Clifton, Under-Secretary for Lands; Mr. H. G. Stirling; Mr. H. F. Johnson, Surveyor-General; Mr. King, Under-Secretary for Mines; Mr. Trigg, Mr. J. M. Ferguson, Mr. W. B. Atkins, Mr. R. O. Law, Mr. A. J. Manning, Mr. J. Morrison, Mr. M. F. Cavanagh, Mr. T. Barrett, Mr. A. Watson, Mr. G. Sinclair, Mr. T. Taylor, Mr. D. Johnstone, Mr. M. Murphy, Mr. T. Barry, Mr. G. Saurman, Mr. R. Streilitz; Mr. H. Bennett, Workshops Manager, Harbour Works; Mr. Carrow, Mr. E. A. D'Arcy, Mr. Henderson, Mr. R. Holmes, Mr. J. P. Learmonth, Mr. T. Day, Mr. P. Daly, Captain McDonald, Captain Irvine, Mr. W. Meadley, Mr. Rammage; Mr. E. A. Mann, Government Inspector of Explosives; Mr. D. J. Goodsir, Mr. G. Pearce, Mr. J. Toohey, Mr. G. F. Moore, Mr. R. B. Campbell, Mr. D. Mulcahy, Mr. T. Barry, Mr. G. Sinclair, Mr. J. Pearse, Mr. J. Smellie, Mr. J. Kennedy, foreman Fremantle Harbour Works; Mr. W. D. Moore, Mr. C. L. Clifton, Mr. Oldham, Mr. J. Ayles, Mr. Colledge, Captain Scott, Captain Gilmour, Mr. J. H. Eales, Mr. J. Mills, Mr. C. W. Randle, Mr. W. J. Maher, Mr. M. Daly, Captain White, Mr. J. Maher, Mr. W. Taylor, and Mr. L. H. Gould.

THE WREATHS.

Wreaths were sent by the following:—Wife, sons and daughters of deceased, Mr. Frank O'Connor, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lawley, officers of the Coolgardie Water Scheme Branch, officers of the main camp laying and joining branch, C. W. M. Northam, officers of Roads and Bridges, General Water Supply, Metropolitan Sewerage and Water Supply Branches of the Public Works Department, Chief Accountants' Branch of Public Works Department, Acting-Under-Secretary, officers of Public Works Department, Workshops Staff and Employees, Midland Junction; Chief Engineer for Existing Lines Branch, W.A.G.R.; Engineer-in-Chief's Office, officers of the Engineering Surveys Branch, officers of the Architectural Division, Mr. and Miss C. Y. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Julins, Workshop Foreman of Locomotive Department, W.A.G.R.; officers and men at Rocky Bay Quarry, officers and men North Quay wharf construction,

officers and men at Rocky Bay Quarry, officers and men North Quay wharf construction, Fremantle Harbour Works; officers and crew dredge Fremantle, office staff Fremantle Harbour Works, officers and crew of dredge Governor, foreman and employees W.A.G. Railways, Workshop Foreman Loco. Department, W.A.G.R.; employees of Fremantle Workshops, Fremantle Water Supply, officers and crew of dredge Premier, P. and O. S.N. Co., Capt. and Mrs. Russell, officers and crew of dredge Parmelia, Treasury Department, Perth; Mr. and Mrs. L. Ratazzi, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Montgomery, Miss Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Sheedy (N.Z.), Mr. and Mrs. John Sey, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Quinn, Mr. G. F. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Church and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Holmes, Mrs. F. W. Martin, The Australasian S.S. Owners' Federation, Howard Smith Proprietary, Ltd., Melbourne S.S. Co., Ltd., Huddart, Parker and Co., Ltd., A.U.S.N. Co., Ltd., Mellwraith, McEacharn and Co., Adelaide S.S. Co., Mr. and Mrs. Ayles, Mayor and Councillors of Fremantle, Mrs. Babington, Mr. and Mrs. Shuffery, Mr., Mrs., and Misses Lilly, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. John and Miss Cleary, Mr. and Mrs. Keane, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. E. Humble, Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, management and staff Dalgety and Co., Chief Justice and Mrs. Stone, W.A. Shipping Association, Ltd., Mr. A. J. Manning, Mrs. W. E. Marmon and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Saunders, Mrs. E. H. Fothergill, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Calthourp, Dr. and Mrs. Birmingham, Mrs. Cooper and family, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. Learmonth, Mr. and Mrs. Moss, Misses Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Leys, Mr. and Mrs. H. Whitfield, Mr. R. H. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Percy, Mr. E. D'Arcy, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Foulkes, Messrs. J. S. and S. T. Emanuel, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews, the Irvine family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee Steere, Mr. W. S. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Goodsir, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hammond, Dr. and Mrs. A. T. White, Mrs. Annois, Messrs. Connor, Doherty and Durack, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Poole, Sir George Shenton, Mrs. and Miss Price, members of the Weld Club, members of the branch of the Fremantle United Irish League, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Congdon, from Biddy's schoolmates, Fremantle Hunt Club, G. C. Atkers, E. T. M'har (Melbourne), Mr. Wynne, Atkins and Law, H. Teesdale Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John Muir, R. B. Higginson, G. Pearce, E. Solomon, Mr. J. Grainger, Messrs. Price, Mr. H. P. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Gawler, Mrs. Carlton Pether, Mr. B. Kidson, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Miss Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Sent. Burt, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Lovegrove and Misses Lovegrove, Mr. and Mrs. Gull, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. M.

Lovegrove and Misses Lovegrove, Mr. and Mrs. Jull, Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Feakes, Neil McNeil and Co., Mr. J. Conston, Mr. J. Finlayson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Salter, Dr. and Mrs. D. T. Hedge, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Percy, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Dartnall, Mr. M. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dawson, the Rev. T. and Mrs. Bard, Mr. and Mrs. L. Owen, Norddeutscher Lloyd Co., employees of Fremantle Harbour Works shop, officers of Coolgardie Water Scheme branch, Dr. and Mrs. Lotz, engineer and officers for Railway Construction of Harbours and Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Moseley, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Preston, Mrs. Shenton,

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. B. Palmer, Dr. and Mrs. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Roe, P.M., Mr. and Mrs. Fairbairn, and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Morgans, M.L.A.

TELEGRAM FROM THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PREMIER.

The acting-Premier yesterday received the following telegram from Mr. Jenkins, the Premier of South Australia:—
"We have heard with great regret of the lamented death of your Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. O'Connor."
