

= Edward Pulsford =

Edward Pulsford (29 September 1844 ? 29 September 1919) was an English @-@ born Australian politician and free @-@ trade campaigner .

Pulsford established a successful business with his father as commission agents in Yorkshire before moving his interests to New South Wales in 1883 . There he became a vigorous campaigner for free trade , and was a co @-@ founder of the Free Trade and Liberal Association in that colony , the body that would later become the machine behind the Free Trade Party . Although his attempts to enter the New South Wales Legislative Assembly were abortive , he was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1895 and served until 1901 , when he was elected to the Senate . An uncompromising opponent of all forms of protectionism , following the 1909 Fusion of the anti @-@ Labour forces he joined the Liberal Party only with reluctance .

Pulsford is also remembered for his avid opposition to the White Australia policy and other forms of racial discrimination . Whilst financial editor of the Daily Telegraph he attacked restrictive immigration laws , and he fought against the policy in the state parliament and later in the Senate , where he was one of the few to oppose the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act . This racial tolerance , combined with his opposition to women 's suffrage , has led the economist John Hawkins to describe him as " probably the least racist but perhaps the most sexist member of the Australian Senate in its first decade " .

= = Early life = =

Edward Pulsford was born at Burslem in Staffordshire on 29 September 1844 . His mother was Mary Ann , née Cutler , and his father , James Eustace Pulsford , was a Baptist minister and businessman . He received a private education and worked with his father as a commission agent ; together they worked in Hull , Yorkshire , from 1870 to 1884 . On 23 February 1870 , he married Mary Charlotte Stainforth at Hull ; she would predecease him . In 1883 Edward embarked for New South Wales , while his father travelled to New York to become resident secretary of the Liverpool , London & Globe Insurance Company . After his arrival in Sydney , Pulsford immediately became involved in the free trade cause , and in 1885 he co @-@ founded the Free Trade and Liberal Association of New South Wales (FTLA , a forerunner of the Free Trade Party) with Bernhard Wise . His campaigning on behalf of free trade led to his becoming an honorary member of the Cobden Club .

= = Colonial politics = =

From its foundation until 1891 , Pulsford was secretary of the FTLA , and became an organiser and ferocious pamphleteer . He received a prize for an essay on " The Beneficial Influence of a Free Trade Policy upon the Colony of New South Wales " , written as a contribution to the 1887 centennial edition of the Year @-@ Book of Australia . He became actively involved in journalism as proprietor of the Armidale Chronicle and financial editor of the Daily Telegraph from 1890 to 1898 . While focusing overwhelmingly on free trade , actively denigrating the neighbouring colony of Victoria 's protectionist policies , he also worked on the compilation of an Australian biographical supplement to Webster 's International Dictionary and supported Federation .

Pulsford was a leading proponent of the free @-@ trade cause , although an intended candidacy for the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in 1891 did not eventuate . He had contested a by @-@ election for East Sydney earlier that year , losing to protectionist candidate Walter Bradley . He was nevertheless nominated to the New South Wales Legislative Council in 1895 by the Free Trade Premier , George Reid . He continued his support of free trade policies , but differentiated himself from his colleagues by firmly opposing restrictions on Asian immigration . He had expressed regret concerning the fate of the Australian Aborigines in a Telegraph article in 1888 and also opposed Sir Henry Parkes 's poll tax on the Chinese , and now opposed the continuing restrictive measures passed in 1896 and 1898 . He served as president of the Australian Free Trade and

Liberal Association 's New South Wales branch in 1900 and was deputy president of the federal election campaign committee , standing himself for the Senate in New South Wales .

= = Federal politics = =

At the first federal election in March 1901 , Pulsford was elected as a senator for New South Wales in the sixth and final position , narrowly defeating fellow Free Trader John Gray . He continued his fervent support of free trade and was one of the few senators to oppose the White Australia policy , describing " the whole of the inhabitants of Asia as [his] friends " . He opposed the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act , supported Asians ' eligibility for the old @-@ age pension , and decried the treatment of Kanaka labourers as " cattle " . In his opposition to immigration restriction he highlighted the diplomatic insult to Japan and other Asian nations , and published a pamphlet in 1905 supporting the protestations of the Japanese government against the policy .

Pulsford spoke for five hours in the debate on the 1902 Customs Tariff Bill , although he later supported time limits for speeches . Missing out on a frontbench portfolio when the Free Traders were briefly in government from 1904 to 1905 , he was absent from parliament for most of 1907 . Described by the Tribune as " the best living authority on Australia 's tariff question " , his pamphlet to the Cobden Club in 1907 attracted a favourable reception . He opposed women 's suffrage on the grounds that it would put Australia " in advance of public opinion throughout the world " , believing it would lead to the " vulgarisation of women " .

The Fusion in 1909 between the Free Trade and Protectionist parties to form the Liberal Party was difficult for Pulsford , who had " no faith in either the old Protection or the new Protection " , and although he did join the new party , his support of any protectionist legislation would be " in order to show that all such legislation must be a failure " . He was defeated at the 1910 election when the Labour Party won all the Senate seats in New South Wales .

= = Later life = =

Pulsford continued his support for the free @-@ trade cause outside Parliament , and in May 1914 planned to establish a free @-@ trade paper to be circulated around Australia , New Zealand and South Africa , a scheme that was abandoned following the outbreak of World War I. He revised his book Commerce and the Empire (originally published in 1903) in 1917 , arguing that free trade was central to the freedoms the Empire was fighting for , and calling for free trade with Germany after the war . On 2 March 1919 he married Blanche Elspeth Brown at Neutral Bay , but he died later that year on his seventy @-@ fifth birthday , 29 September 1919 . Survived by his second wife and the three sons of his first marriage , Pulsford was buried at Gore Hill cemetery after an Anglican service .