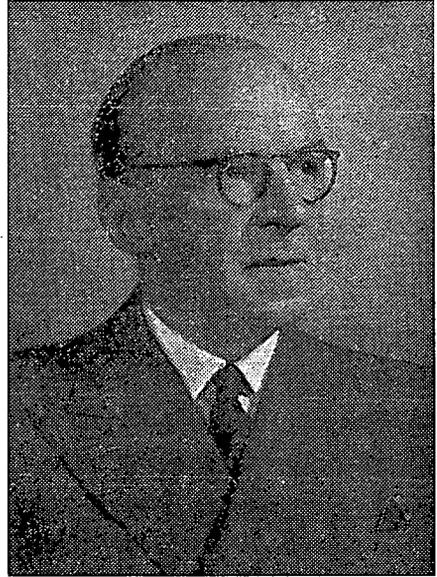


An Appreciation



SIR LESLIE McCONNAN

SIR LESLIE McCONNAN, a member of the Institute's Council, died on the 22nd December, 1954.

Sir Leslie took an outstanding part in I.P.A. affairs. He was Treasurer of the Institute from its commencement in 1943.

Although others were responsible for the basic conception behind the formation of the I.P.A., Sir Leslie made an important contribution to its initial establishment. The launching in Australia of new organisations concerned with broad economic and social purposes is not unattended by considerable difficulties, and to a small number of prominent businessmen, of whom Sir Leslie was one, is due much credit for their work in overcoming all obstacles.

During the years his close interest in I.P.A. affairs never flagged. He was always ready and eager to be of what service he could despite the heavy demands of other activities.

As the executive head for 20 years of one of the great financial institutions of Australia and for the leading role he

played in the bank nationalisation drama—one of the most decisive political conflicts in the history of the Commonwealth—he is entitled to a high place among Australian businessmen.

OF Scotch descent, he possessed in a striking degree the Scotch virtues. He was sagacious, astute, and patient. He never burnt his boats. It was against his essential nature to be hurried into a decision. He was always trying to see what was around the next corner. He was cautious, but his caution usually proved, in the event, to be justified.

To the I.P.A. he was invariably the wise counsellor. If one asked for his advice it was with the confidence that when given it would be well weighed and considered. He was not one for “kerbside” opinions.

He appreciated scholarship and his keen interest in economics was well known.

In the post-war struggle of free enterprise against the increasing threat of socialist doctrines it was always his contention that salvation, in the final summing up, rested with the businessman himself. In this, and what followed from it, lay perhaps his most significant contribution to the thought and activities of the I.P.A.

