

OBITUARY.

HONORARY MEMBER,
RUSSELL, SIR PETER NICOL.

MORRIS, J. F., B.E., F.G.S.



PETER NICOL RUSSELL was born in Scotland in 1818, and came to Australia in 1836. On his arrival in Sydney he purchased a foundry, situated on the south side of the Royal Hotel, from the executors of the estate of Mr. James Bland.

In 1842, he established the Sydney Foundry and Engineering Works. Later, he removed his works to Sussex Street. In 1855, the firm of P. N. Russell & Co. was established with works at the places mentioned.

The firm manufactured milling machinery, ice making machines, and agricultural machinery generally, later on dredges and rolling stock for the railways.

In 1860, Mr. Russell left the colony and represented the firm in London. When the business of the firm was closed, he continued to reside in London, paying two visits to Sydney, the last being in 1891.

In 1896, he gave the sum of £50,000 to the Engineering School of Sydney University. The school was then remodelled and called the "P. N. Russell School of Engineering."

In 1904, he gave a further sum of £50,000 on conditions the Government of New South Wales gave £25,000 to the building of a new school. Sir John See, the Premier, accepted the offer on behalf of the Government and the gift was completed.

He received the honour of Knighthood in 1904.

SIR PETER NICOL RUSSELL was one of the founders of the New South Wales Engineering Association and was an Honorary Member of the Sydney University Engineering Society. He died in London in 1905 at the advanced age of 87 years.

JOHN FOSSBROOK MORRIS was born at Talgarth in Wales on the 1st of January, 1877. An an early age he came to New South Wales with his parents, who settled on the Richmond River. His school days were principally spent at the High School, West Maitland. He entered the University in 1896, proceeding to the Department of Engineering. In 1899, he obtained the Degree of Bachelor of Mining Engineering with Second-class Honours after a very successful course, obtaining the George Allen Scholarship for mathematics at the end of the first year, and was several times placed in the Honours List.

About the middle of the year 1899, he left Sydney to take up an appointment near Geraldton, W.A. This he held only a few months, as he was asked by Dr. R. L. Jack to accompany him on a mining exploration trip in China. The expedition travelled along the Yang-tsi Valley into Western Szechuan, but on hearing of the Boxer trouble were compelled to leave China and reached Mandalay *via* Burma towards the end of 1900. Early in 1901 he was appointed to the Gwendoline Mine in Korea. This appointment he held until the end of August, 1903, leaving for Sydney some little time before the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War.

After remaining in Sydney until March, 1904, he left for London *via* the United States. From London he was sent first to report on a Copper Mine in Ireland, and then early in 1905 on a prospecting trip to the Soudan. In August, 1905, he left the Soudan under engagement to the Borneo Exploration Company and reached the scene of his work in September. His appointment was to the State of Pahang in the Malay Peninsular, where after a couple of months residence in a very unhealthy climate, he succumbed to an attack of dysentery on the 23rd December, 1905.

