

valuable additions would be made to the world, and urges that Victoria should take an important part in the event of the proposal being carried into operation.

### DEATH OF MR J. RUSSELL THOMSON.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr J. Russell Thomson, which occurred on Wednesday afternoon, the 26th instant, after an illness of about three months. He caught a cold on the sea-coast about February last, and neglected his ailment too long to find relief from medical aid, although attended by Drs Whitcombe and Bradford. His age was exactly 68. Mr Thomson was a native of Airdrie, in Scotland, and came to this country in 1852, in company with Mr D. Gillies and Mr L. L. Campbell. They left Melbourne for the Ovens diggings on New Year's Day, 1853, where they met with fair success. After an eventful time on that field, where they completely subdued a mob of lawless men who had for some time before kept the diggings in a constant state of fear, they left the Ovens and came to Ballarat in the same year, where they opened one or two good claims on the Canadian. Mr Thomson was one of the earliest to follow up the leads into the deep ground. He was a very strong and vigorous man and was well known as a daring and successful miner—able to cope with drift and other dangers in a way that few men were able to do. He was a shareholder in some of the mines on the Redan, and was well known in many a vigorous contest in defence of the rights of himself and his fellow shareholders. At the time when Scobie was murdered, Mr Thomson took a determined and prominent part in endeavoring to find out the murderer, and he was one of the soundest advisers and most able workers all through the troublous times which culminated with the Eureka Stockade. Of late years Mr Thomson suffered from extreme deafness caused by working in the mines, and this made it impossible for him to hold much converse with his fellows; but to those who knew him well he was a man full of the most interesting information gathered from an experience of life in many parts of the world. He was at one time in the Army, afterwards in the Post Office in Scotland, and he left the Post Office to sail to Victoria. He was a man of fine principles, almost childish in his simplicity and perfect faith in the goodness of men, and was thus once or twice made a victim of the knavery of men who first obtained his confidence and then betrayed him. In this way Mr Thomson lost the bulk of a fine fortune, gained by supreme efforts in mining and by moderate good luck. His tastes were refined and his knowledge of books very good, and in all the passing events of the day he took a keen interest, and was a most shrewd observer. He was closely associated in the early days with the present Premier, and always watched the actions and conduct of Mr Gillies with the tenderness and interest of a father for his own son. Mr Thomson was for many years a member of the Ballarat Club, where he spent most of his time, and we believe there are a few men who possessed in so marked a degree the esteem and respect of all who knew him. He will be buried on Friday (to-morrow) afternoon.

CHUCK, gold medal photographer, next Savings Bank, Sturt street, "I see a good portrait there." Moore.

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