

## OBITUARY

J.S.CLELAND, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.

The death in Pretoria towards the end of May, 1950, of Mr. J.S.Cleland, a former Secretary of the Department of Public Works, Union Government, saw the passing of a well known figure in the public and social life of Pretoria.

Born in Walsall, Staffordshire, in 1879, Mr. Cleland was educated at the Queen Mary Grammar School and at Bishop Vesey's School near Birmingham. At the age of 18 he was articled to Mr. Lavendar, an architect at Wolverhampton, and subsequently worked in the offices of many firms of architects at several centres. Whilst at St. Albans he was engaged on the plans for the Museum to house the trophies of the famous hunter, the late Captain Selous.

In 1903 Mr. Cleland came out to S. A. to join the late Mr. William Black, an architect in Cape Town. Prior to entering the Public Works Department he was associated with the firm of Messrs. Tully and Waters, architects of Cape Town, who were the successful competitors for the new University of Pietersmaritzburg. Mr. Cleland was responsible for the design and Mr. Tully supervised the work.

After several years on the staff of the Public Works Department as assistant architect, he became the Union's Chief Architect in 1920, a post that he held with great distinction over a period of twelve years.

In 1932 he was appointed Secretary for Public Works, the position from which he retired in 1938.

During his long official career in the Department, Mr. Cleland was closely concerned with the layout and development of the grounds of the Union Buildings and among the well known works that he planned during his period of office were the General Post Office at Pretoria, the Hospitals at Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town and the Addington Hospital at Durban the new Museum building in Pretoria AND THE EARLIER BUILDINGS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA. In association with the late Sir Herbert Baker, his work on the South Africa House, London, and on the national memorials, replicas of the Delville Wood Memorial, at Pretoria and Cape Town call for special mention.

For his outstanding services and organisation of military building works in the Union during the First World War he was awarded the M.B.E.

In his official capacity he demanded much of others but, on the other hand, he gave even more of himself in the process. Under his control and guidance, the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department, over the many years, grew into a strong and forcible body and he gathered round him men of ability who responded to his inspiring leadership. The standard of the Union's public buildings was raised in a marked degree.

Mr. Cleland as a member of the Inaugural Board, was largely instrumental in bringing about the registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyers, with the Union act of 1927.