

556

AUSTRALIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE PRIME MINISTER.

 With flags at half-mast over every city and town, an outward symbol of the Nations' mourning, Australia laments the passing of the Prime Minister, and honours his memory. ^{In} St Mary's basilica, Sydney, the body of the late Mr Lyons lies in state, and from early morning citizens come in their thousands to crowd at the doors, awaiting their turn to ~~file~~ file past the bier to pay their last tribute to a well-beloved leader. He was only 59, and a strong man, but the strain of public office seriously affected his health. As they filed past the bier, the thoughts of his fellow citizens inevitably revert to scenes of Mr Lyons' active life. On his way to Europe, still busy- on deck with Dame Enid or joining in games- he was an ordinary citizen. Meeting the leaders of foreign nations he studied their points of view, but always remained the whole-hearted Australian. Welcomed by the British Royal family, he carried out to the full Rudyard Kipling's famous precept, "To walk with kings, nor lose the common touch". To represent the King at the ~~Requiem Mass~~ Requiem Mass, His Excellency the Governor General, with Lady Gowrie- foreign consuls pay tribute ~~to~~ the new Prime Minister Sir Earle Page with Lady Page. The most tragic figure of this solemn scene is Dame Enid Lyons- now prostrate with grief- six of their eleven children attend. Within the great basilica, the Requiem Mass begins. ~~The celebration~~
~~Archbishop Benzon, Apostolic delegate, who administered spiritual~~

The celebrant is the Apostolic Delegate who administered spiritual comfort to Mr Lyons in his dying hours. Today men and women of all faith are gathered here to join with his fellow Catholics in reverent tribute. Draped with the flag of his country, the coffin of Joseph Lyons is borne from the basilica upon the shoulders of the pall bearers. Leaders of the Nation and ~~intimate friends of the dead man~~ intimate friends of the dead man- among them is the Prime Minister- Sir Earle Page, sadly and proudly making this last gesture of devotion to his predecessor and friend. Born on a gun carriage with military escort, the body of the dead leader passes through the streets of Sydney. Masses of flowers and a long line of cars, but the most impressive tribute of all is that of the crowd. At Circular Quay, the coffin is carried to the warship which is to take him to Tasmania, Mr Lyons native state, for burial. Members of the dead man's family watched this sad embarkation and representatives of the services honoured the nations lost leader. The naval guard ~~reverses arms~~ reverses arms, as the coffin is placed in position aboard the destroyer. Sailors bring on the wreath which will deck the bier on its journey. A prayer at the ships side, as the Vendetta draws out into the stream. Outward bound ~~for the last time~~ yet homeward bound for the last time. Planes in salute, and to the watchers it seems that over the ship of sorrow passes the shadow of more than earthly wings.