

**DEATH OF MR. GEORGE BROWN****"BRUNI" OF "THE AUSTRALASIAN."**

News of the death of Mr. George A. Brown, widely known to the stock-breeders of Australasia as "Bruni" of "The Australasian," will be received with sincere regret. Mr. Brown, who had been ill for some time past, died at his residence, Flemington, on Tuesday morning. He was born in Tasmania 75 years ago, and took his pen-name from Bruni Island, which was a favourite haunt of his youth. He was originally engaged in squatting pursuits in the Western district of Victoria as part holder with his brother, of Mount Emu Station, but he had bad luck in pastoral affairs; in fact, through life he might be considered to be a man who constantly battled against luck. The loss of Mount Emu Station was one of the romances of the old free selection days. Mr. Brown was in Paris on a holiday tour, when what is known as the Grant Land Act of 1884 was passed by the Victorian Parliament. It gave the right of selection within a certain distance of a gold-field, but the full effect of the measure was only realized when the whole of Victoria was proclaimed a gold-field, which practically threw all land that was not held in fee-simple open to selection. Mount Emu disappeared almost in a single night, and Mr. Brown afterwards took up a second holding near Boort, but bad luck still followed him. A long drought practically ruined him, and almost on the instant that he gave up possession of the run abundant rains fell.

Mr. Brown was a man of sound literary tastes and a keen lover of nature. Stock-breeding as a study had especially appealed to him, and he immediately turned his attention to journalism, first as a member of the reporting staff of "The Argus." It was on joining the Yeoman department of "The Australasian," however, that he found his true vocation. In his reporting days he had taken up the study of French, mastered it completely, and was always afterwards a wide reader in French literature. His reading in that way very considerably influenced some of the opinions which he put forward and maintained in later years upon the scientific side of stock-breeding. His first publication was "Sheep-breeding in Australia," which at once made his reputation not only in Australia, but in America also. The scientific trend of his mind was strikingly shown in his second book, "Studies in Stock-breeding," where his views are often strongly in harmony with French scientific opinion of the period, and rather opposed to the advanced theories of his own time. He was no mere collector of opinions, however, but had read widely, and thought much upon this subject, which became at once his profession and his hobby. His books upon sheep-breeding brought him into communication with many prominent writers outside Australia, and the correspondence continued, until failing health, through an incurable illness, compelled him to give up writing. His third book, "Australian Merino Studs," was practically a later edition of the earlier publication. The whole history of pastoral progress and

The whole history of pastoral progress and of the advance of stock-breeding in Australia is practically contained in the articles which he has written for the Yeoman pages of "The Australasian" during the last 30 years. His authority upon the subject was widely recognised, his views respected even by those who felt impelled on occasions to combat them.

As a writer on pastoral affairs for "The Australasian," Mr. Brown travelled over the chief States of the Commonwealth. On one occasion, in the mid-eighties, he was sent to Tasmania, practically for a holiday, but his bad luck still stuck to him. On revisiting scenes of his boyhood in the midlands he met with a severe accident. He was thrown out of a buggy, had his thigh fractured, and never afterwards recovered the complete use of the limb.

In addition to his knowledge of stock, he took a keen interest in horse-racing, and in the romantic days of steeplechasing and Cup racing in Victoria he reported the important race meetings for "The Argus." During a visit to England in 1860, he saw a colt at Newmarket which took his fancy, bought it, and sent the horse to Tasmania. The Mount Emu misfortune followed, and he sold this colt—Panic, afterwards so well known on the turf and in the Stud-book, to his friend Mr. Sam Blackwell, of Melton Mowbray, Tasmania, who later passed him on to Mr. Henry Phillips, of the Bryan O'Lynn Stud, near Warman-bool. Some of the greatest steeplechasers of Australia—and many fine performers on the flat, such as Commotion and Wellington—were sired by Panic, and after nearly 30 years a dash of the Panic blood is still considered a first requisite for cross-country racing.

The funeral took place yesterday, at noon, at Fawkner Cemetery, beyond Coburg, and by the desire of his widow and relations was made as private as possible. "The Argus" and "The Australasian" staffs were represented by Mr. D. Watterston, Mr. Lauchlan Mackinnon, Mr. S. H. Jenkinson, Mr. W. M. Cook, Mr. R. Dodd, and Mr. H. Burrell. It may be added that Mr. Brown's connection with the office dated as far back as 1867.