

OBITUARY.

THE RIGHT HON. ALBERT HENRY, BARON ASHFIELD OF SOUTHWELL, P.C., was born at Derby on the 8th November, 1874, and died in London on the 4th November, 1948. He was educated at the Detroit High School, Michigan, and received his early training with the Detroit Tramways. After 12 years' experience as General Manager of American electric railways, chiefly in Detroit and New Jersey, he returned to England, in 1907, on his appointment as General Manager of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London, Ltd. In 1912 he became Managing Director of the Underground Group of Companies, and after the outbreak of war in 1914, in which year he had received the honour of knighthood, he organized the building of large numbers of motor lorries at the Walthamstow works of the Associated Equipment Company, a member of the Group. He was appointed Director-General of Mechanical Transport in 1916. From 1916 to 1920 he represented Ashton-under-Lyne in Parliament. He was appointed to the Privy Council in 1916 and served as President of the Board of Trade from 1916 to 1919. In 1920 he was raised to the peerage. From 1919 to 1931 he was Chairman and Managing Director of the Underground Group, and on the formation of the London Passenger Transport Board he became its Chairman; a position which he retained until 1947. In 1931 he had been appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Railways and Transportation in Canada, and from 1947 he was a member of the British Transport Commission.

He was Honorary Colonel of the 84th (L.T.) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, and a Colonel in the Engineer and Railway Staff Corps, and was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Lord Ashfield was elected an Honorary Member of The Institution on the 6th March, 1934, in recognition of his great achievements in the development of transport.

In 1904 he married Grace Lowrey, daughter of the late Edward Lowrey Woodruff, of New York, and had two daughters. The barony, therefore, has become extinct.

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