

OBITUARY.

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SAMUEL ABBOTT was born at Calverton, Notts, on the 28th of March, 1842, and was educated at Lincoln Grammar School. He was articled to Mr. George Smith, surveyor, &c., of Northampton and Peterborough. Mr. Abbott joined the engineering staff of the Great Northern Railway under Mr. Richard Johnson in 1864, and was engaged on surveys for new lines and stations until June, 1867, when he received an appointment from Mr. Prichard Baly to superintend the erection of several large bridges on the Transcaucasian Railway from Poti to Tiflis, and after that railway was handed over to an English Company he was employed to select a route and prepare plans and estimates for the projected line from Tiflis to Baku. Mr. Abbott returned to England in 1870, and rejoined Mr. Johnson's staff on the Great Northern Railway, and in 1871 he laid out the line and prepared the parliamentary plans, sections and notices for 45 miles of the Derbyshire and North Staffordshire Extension Railway. After the passing of the Act in 1872 he was appointed Resident Engineer on 20 miles of the line, and prepared the working drawings and carried out the whole of the works from Awworth Junction in the Erewash Valley through the town of Derby to the Egginton Junction with the North Staffordshire Railway. After the completion of the Derbyshire Extensions and the maintenance thereof for twelve months, Mr. Abbott was transferred to Lincoln as Resident Engineer on the northern section of the Joint Great Northern and Great Eastern Railway (Spalding to Lincoln), and he designed and superintended the construction of the works on 20 miles of that railway. These works were completed in August 1882, and in November 1883 Mr. Abbott resigned his appointment and commenced practice on his own account; but wishing for a more active life, he applied for and obtained the post of Chief Resident Engineer of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company. He left England to enter upon that important work in May 1885, and on the 17th of January, 1886, became Acting General Manager to that company, his appointment as General Manager being confirmed on the 1st of July of the same year.

By his strict integrity and devotion to duty, and by his kind and courteous demeanour, Mr. Abbott earned the respect and esteem of all who knew him, and his loss is felt, not only by those connected

with the company, but by the community at large. He died suddenly of typhoid fever, on the 17th of May, 1890, at Buenos Ayres, in his 49th year. Mr. Abbott was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 3rd of December, 1872, and was transferred to the class of Member on the 28th of May, 1878.

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CHARLES PRIME, born on the 9th of April, 1834. He served a pupilage of five years under Mr. Nash, of Norfolk, and was employed for two years longer by him, in charge of works and buildings. Subsequently he was engaged for ten years under Mr. Ennor, of London, as foreman and clerk of the works on important building and engineering works in England and on the Continent.

In March 1866 he was appointed draughtsman and framer of estimates and Superintending Officer in the Public Works Department of the Government of Ceylon, and at first had charge of the Galle district, under the provincial officer of public works for the Southern Province of Ceylon. He became Acting Provincial Assistant of the North-West Province on the 1st of September, 1874; Provincial Assistant of the Northern Province in 1876; Provincial Assistant, Uva, in 1878, and Provincial Engineer in 1886. Mr. Prime, during the course of his service, carried out a great many important and large public works—public buildings, roads, irrigation works and bridges—among the greatest of which was the large bridge across the wide channel at Elephant Pass, in the Northern Province of Ceylon.

Mr. Prime was one of those energetic and reliable men whose appointment to a responsible position was a guarantee that the work would be substantially and successfully carried out, under the greatest difficulties—even in the wilds of the jungle, and the most unhealthy climates.

Mr. Prime frequently had serious attacks of malarial fever, contracted in the discharge of his duties, and came on leave to England three times in the course of his twenty-four years' service, to recruit his health. Personally, he was a genial kind-hearted man, ever ready to help others, and zealous in the execution of his duties. He was a Captain in the Ceylon Light Infantry Volunteers, and was considered to be a most able officer. As an illustration of his love for work, and his facility of mastering practical details for which he had not been regularly trained, it may be mentioned that, while engaged in London as clerk of the works