

The late SIR JOHN CRAWFORD, AC, CBE

Sir John Crawford, whose name will always be associated with the establishment of the discipline of agricultural economics in Australia, died in Canberra on 28 October 1984 at the age of 74. He played a major role in the formation of the Agricultural Economics Section in the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1941 and in the establishment of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1945. He became Economic Adviser to the former and was appointed the first Director of the latter. He was elected the second president of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society and was made an honorary life member of the Society in 1983. An appreciation of Sir John's long and illustrious career and a list of the honours bestowed upon him is to be found in the August 1983 issue of this *Journal*.

In the 1950s Sir John's attention turned to the administration of agriculture and trade after his appointment as Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture and subsequently Secretary of the Department of Trade. In 1960 he moved to the Australian National University in Canberra where he was successively Professor of Economics and Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies (1960-67), Vice-Chancellor (1968-73) and Chancellor (1975-83).

After he left the public service, Sir John was frequently called upon to serve on various government instrumentalities, including the Vernon Committee and the Industries Assistance Commission. In the international arena, he was intimately involved in Third-World agricultural problems in his capacity as senior adviser to the World Bank and as Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee for International Agricultural Research from 1971 to 1976. He was likewise a dominant figure in Australian aid agencies such as the Australian Development Assistance Bureau and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

It was a mark of the man that his advice on economic matters was keenly and regularly sought by governments on both sides of the political spectrum. The Prime Minister, in a statement issued after Sir John's death, said he could not think of 'any Australian in the post-war period who had more consistently devoted himself so tirelessly and without stint to the welfare of Australia'.