

RETIREMENT

Mr. J.C. FOLEY B.Sc.

James Charles Foley, Chief Scientific Officer of the Bureau since April 1948, retired from the Commonwealth Public Service on 19 June 1957 in his 51st year in the Service.

Mr. Foley, who joined the P.M.G's Department in January 1907, commenced his career in meteorology in January 1912 as a clerk in the Weather Bureau, Hobart. He was promoted to the position of State Meteorologist, Tasmania in 1921 after which he served in other senior positions in the Central Office of the Bureau, including that of Supervising Meteorologist, Climatological and Statistical Section. He was appointed Deputy Director, New South Wales in July 1947 but acted as Assistant Director (Technical) redesignated C.S.O., from that time.

In 1927, Mr. Foley graduated B.Sc. at the University of Tasmania with Distinctions in Physics and Applied Mathematics. He served under every Director of Meteorology and had acted as Director for periods of several months in 1951 and 1955.

Mr. Foley was the author of many major official publications including "The Australian Meteorological Observer's Handbook", "Frost in the Australian Region" and "Meteorological Conditions Associated with Bush and Grass Fires in Australia" which are now standard references in Meteorology. Just prior to his retirement Mr. Foley completed a major work on "Droughts in Australia" which is a review of the occurrence of droughts from the earliest years of record until 1955.

Mr. Foley served on many international committees including Working Groups and Panels of Experts organised by the World Meteorological Organisation. He contributed considerably to the inauguration of State Climatological Consultative Committees in 1950 and represented the Bureau and presented papers at meetings of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

His long distinguished career was noteworthy for his great devotion to duty coupled with high technical

efficiency. He will be long remembered by those who worked with him for his never-failing courtesy and ability to understand the problems of others.

At a farewell presentation, the Director, after outlining Mr. Foley's contribution to Meteorology, read messages from State Bureaux and the Minister for the Interior praising his unstinted service and wishing him happiness in his retirement.