



Livingston Lewis

ESSINGTON LEWIS

Died 2 October 1961

Elected to Fellowship 1954

Born 13 January 1881, at Burra, South Australia. Educated St. Peter's College, Adelaide, and South Australian School of Mines. Joined Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited 1904 and remained with the Company until his death. Director-General of Munitions and Director-General of Aircraft Production during World War II. Created a Companion of Honour 1943. Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, University of Sydney, 1952. Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, University of Melbourne, 1956.

Although he came from a prominent family of comfortable circumstances, Essington Lewis chose to work as a student miner at Broken Hill while studying for a Diploma of the South Australian School of Mines. He gained wide experience in mining and metallurgy at Mount Lyell in Tasmania and Port Pirie and Iron Knob in South Australia before going to Newcastle in New South Wales to take charge of the construction of the BHP's new steelworks. In 1915 he became Manager of BHP Munitions Co. Pty. Ltd., in 1919 Assistant General Manager, in 1921 General Manager, in 1926 Managing Director and in 1950 Chairman of Directors of BHP Co. Ltd. He bore a considerable burden during the Second World War in his responsibility for munitions and aircraft production. Throughout his life he was associated with efforts to improve industrial organization and industrial administrative practices. Immediately before the Second World War he was Chairman of the Federal Government's Advisory Panel on Industrial Organization and Defence Board of Business Administration. In 1954 he became Foundation Chairman of the new Australian Administrative Staff College, Mt. Eliza, Victoria.

His life was one of continuous service to Australia and its industry; his contribution to the development of Australia was great.