

Former Member of the Parliament of South Australia

Rt Hon Charles Kingston



PERSONAL DETAILS

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| Full Name | Charles Cameron Kingston |
| Date of Birth | 22 Oct 1850 |
| Deceased | 11 May 1908 |
| Qualifications | Q.C., P.C. |
| Education | Honorary Degrees in Law, Conferred by the University of Oxford, 1897 D.C.L. |

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| Public Activities | Born and educated in Adelaide, Charles Kingston trained as a lawyer and in 1873 became a barrister. Kingston was elected to the House of Assembly in 1881 and was appointed Attorney-General under Colton and later Playford. Following the elections of April 1893 he became Premier, pulling together a workable coalition within a political context altered markedly by the entry of the Labor Party to the House of Assembly. Kingston remained Premier for over six years, his radical, populist leadership holding together a majority of progressive liberals and leftists. During his time in office a number of significant, and often controversial, reforms were implemented. Among the most important of these were the extension of the vote to women, and attempts to enact compulsory arbitration laws to settle industrial disputes - both firsts in Australia. The Kingston government also introduced a more equitable, progressive land and income tax system and a stringent tariff system. Both during his time as Premier and after his resignation in 1899, Kingston was a prominent activist in the Federation movement. In 1901 he was elected to the House of Representatives in the new Commonwealth Parliament, where, as a minister in the Barton government he displayed the same uncompromising (some said autocratic) style that had defined his Premiership. Although initially effective in drafting bills concerning protection and industrial relations, his health rapidly declined and he died in 1908. |
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ELECTORAL HISTORY

| Date | House | District | Party | Reason |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
| 08 Apr 1881 - 07 Feb 1900 | House of Assembly | West Adelaide | Liberal Party | Resigned |
| 22 Sep 1900 - 31 Dec 1900 | Legislative Council | Central District No 1 | Liberal Party | Resigned |

PARLIAMENTARY APPOINTMENTS

Ministerial Appointments

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 16 Jun 1884 - 16 Jun 1885 | Attorney-General |
| 11 Jun 1887 - 27 Jun 1889 | Attorney-General |
| 06 Jan 1892 - 21 Jun 1892 | Chief Secretary |
| 16 Jun 1893 - 01 Dec 1899 | Attorney-General |
| 16 Jun 1893 - 01 Dec 1899 | Premier |
| 10 Jan 1895 - 01 Dec 1899 | Minister of Industry |