

Former Member of the Parliament of South Australia

Rt Hon Charles Kingston



PERSONAL DETAILS

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.

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

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