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**Wor. Bro. JAMES MITCHELL, OBE, CBE.  
INSPECTOR GENERAL/COMMISSIONER OF NSW POLICE**

James Mitchell was born at Cruden, a small fishing village in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1865. He was a sturdily built Scot 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing 12 stone 8 lbs, and of fair complexion.

On leaving school he commenced the trade as a coachbuilder.

On his arrival in Australia in 1884, at the age of 19, he immediately joined the Foot Police in Sydney. Police Applications Records show that he was married to Martha Anne on his arrival in Sydney.

James Mitchell displayed a higher than average education and a good ability to learn and perform well in many phases of police work.

In February 1888, after four years service, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

In 1891 he was temporarily transferred to Bourke to put down the volatile mines riots. In 1892 he was sent to Broken Hill to put down the mine rioters there.

He returned to Sydney serving in administrative positions in several inner city Police Stations.

In 1904 as an Inspector of Police, he was sent to England on six months study leave to investigate new methods of crime detection, general administration and traffic control.

On his return to Sydney, he made a comprehensive report to the New South Wales Government on his observations. On 1 January 1908, Mitchell was appointed as a Superintendent. In 1914, he was promoted to Metropolitan Superintendent and Acting Inspector General and when the Inspector General, E.C. Day, retired in February 1915, James Mitchell was appointed Inspector General.

James Mitchell was responsible for many early reforms within the Police Service.

In 1925, James Mitchell journeyed to America and England in search of new modern Police methods. On 8 January 1926 the government altered his official title from Inspector General to Commissioner of Police. He retired from office at the mandatory age of 65 years on 26 March 1930.

He died on 27 October 1941 aged 76 years. He was privately cremated.

