



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Prepared and presented by: G.H. Cumming

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"OILS AIN'T OILS"

Viscount Charles Cheers Wakefield

(1859 - 1941)

Founder of the Castrol Oil Company

Remember the T.V. ad complete with Yankee gangsters toting sub-machine guns? The current slogan 'It's more than just oil, it's liquid engineering' is a lot less exciting. Most of us at some time, have used Castrol products in our cars.

The founder of Castrol was Viscount Charles Cheers Wakefield, 1st Baron Wakefield of Hythe who was born on 12th December 1859, by coincidence, the same year that the first oil well was drilled at Pennsylvania.

The son of a Methodist lay preacher, Charles would base his life on his religious upbringing.

In 1877, he began work for a firm of Liverpool oil brokers and then moved to the Vacuum Oil Company (now Mobil) in 1884.

In 1888, he married Sarah Graham and in 1891, the couple moved to the London office of Vacuum Oil.

In 1898, Wakefield resigned and began C.C. Wakefield and Company. The company opened an agency in Australia in 1919 headed by Cyril Westcott. The business flourished and Charles was able to devote time and money to charitable and local government activities.

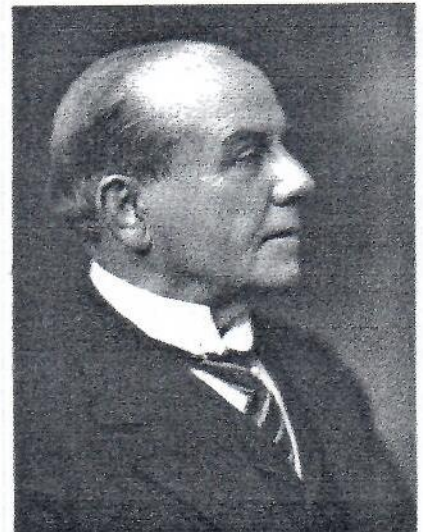
In 1904, he was elected to the Court of Common Council, which governed the City of London. In 1907-8, he served as Sheriff of the City.

He was Lord Mayor of London in 1915-16.

He placed his home at Hythe at the disposal of the Royal Army Service Corps, gave a party for 1000 wounded Commonwealth soldiers and visited the Western Front and the Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow.

In 1917, he headed a civic deputation to Prague to celebrate the establishment of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

He gave immense financial support to a number of hospitals.



In 1936, he was President of the Tower Hill Improvement Scheme and donated 30,000 pounds to the project.

He did much to promote new methods of transport on road, sea and air. He financed Alan Cobham's flights and Amy Johnson's flight to Australia.

He also gave generously to the Arts and built up a fine art collection.

He died, aged 81 on 15th January 1941.

The Right Hon. The Lord Wakefield, CBE., had served as Worshipful Master of Streathain Lodge No. 2729 in London and was a Past Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England.

One of the founders of Castrol in Australia was Bro. Cyril I. Westcott, a member of Lodge Ionic No. 65. He was made a Mason on 17th October 1919.



COLONEL AND ALDERMAN
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD WAKEFIELD OF HYTHE, C.B.E., LL.D.
Wearing the historic robes and headdress of Lord Mayor of London