



## **Richard Edwards** (1842-1915)

**Member for Oxley (Queensland) 1901-1913**

**R**ichard Edwards was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, and was the only Welshman elected to the first Federal Parliament. Edwards arrived in Victoria in 1862 and spent a few years on the goldfields before going to New Zealand. In 1867 he returned to Australia, and in 1869 opened a drapery store in Brisbane and established extensive business interests. Edwards was a director and large shareholder of the *Telegraph* newspaper.

In the first federal election in 1901, Edwards was returned as the member for Oxley, Queensland, in the House of Representatives. Elected as a Protectionist, Edwards had changed his allegiance to Freetrade by the 1903 election. He was subsequently associated with the Anti-Socialist group, and ultimately the Liberal Party.

A committed and consistent opponent of socialism and a strong advocate of the White Australia policy, Edwards retired from public life in 1913.

The electorate of Oxley is named after John Oxley (1783–1828), noted explorer and surveyor.