Alexander Perceval Matheson (1861-1929)

Senator for Western Australia 1901-1906

Alexander Matheson was born in Mayfair, London, England and migrated to Western Australia in 1894. A commercial businessman and financier, Matheson was a member of the Western Australian Legislative Council and was involved in the goldfields reform movement. As President of the Eastern Goldfields Reform League he helped bring Western Australia into federation.

In 1901 Matheson was elected to represent Western Australia in the Senate at the first federal election. Matheson believed in absolute free trade and was sympathetic towards many Labor Party policies. Matheson resigned at the end of his six-year term and returned to England. He succeeded his brother as the Baronet of Lochalsh in 1920 and soon afterwards moved to New Zealand as correspondent for *The Times*.

Matheson's three sons were killed in action in World War I.

The state of Western Australia was also represented in the first Senate by:

Miles Staniforth Cater Smith

Hugh de Largie

Edward Augustine Harney

George Foster Pearce

Norman Kirkwood Ewing