

## Thomas R. Semmens

**Goulburn Advertiser**

**5 July, 1901**

General regret was expressed in Rushworth at the death on Friday last of Mr Thomas R. Semmens.

The sad event followed a long illness due to a pulmonary complaint.

Deceased was the younger son of the late Mr Thomas Semmens and was a native of Rushworth. He was a young man of rare ability and full of promise. Educated at the Rushworth State School he, on going to Melbourne to reside matriculated at the Melbourne University and obtained an appointment at the Melbourne Deaf and Dumb Institute. He directed his efforts to what is known as the oral method, namely, the teaching of deaf mutes to speak with the lips.

His ability secured him the headmastership of the Queensland Institute, which progressed greatly under his care. It was due to his untiring energy there that his health gave way and he reluctantly retired in the hope that a complete rest would restore him, a hope unfortunately not realised.

Mr Semmens' patient suffering under dire affliction made him an example to all, and he met death peacefully and without fear.

He was greatly respected by all who knew him.

The funeral took place on Sunday last and was largely attended. The Rushworth Brass Band, of which deceased during his early years had been a member, headed the funeral procession, playing the Dead March en route. Schoolfellows of the deceased belonging to the band bore the body from the house and also from the hearse at the grave.

The body was interred in the Presbyterian portion of the Rushworth cemetery, the officiating clergyman being Mr Walker, of the Church of England, to whose communion deceased belonged.