

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Third Session — Eleventh Legislature
2nd Day

Friday, February 2, 1951

The House met at three o'clock p.m.

MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCES

Hon. T. C. Douglas (Premier): — At the beginning of each Session of the Assembly, it has become customary for us to take a few moments to give some thought to those members of the Legislature and former members of the Legislature who have passed away since we last met in this Chamber.

It is always a somewhat sad thing to stop and think of members who were our former associates who have passed away. It is also a very fine thing too, I think, to pay tribute to the men and women who have served in the public life of the province, to remember with gratitude the service they have rendered, and to place in the record our tribute to their memory.

There are three former members who have passed away since the Assembly last met: John R. Taylor, Nathaniel Given and William O. Fraser. I would like to put a few words on the record with reference to each of them.

Jack Taylor served in four Legislatures and in part of a fifth, a fact which amply demonstrates the high esteem in which he was held by his neighbours in Birch Hills and his constituents throughout Kinistino. That he enjoyed also the confidence and respect of his colleagues of the Liberal Party during a long period of service with them may be taken for granted in that he was Party Whip for many years. Quiet, unassuming, never aggressively partisan, and always gentlemanly in debate, he was highly and affectionately regarded by all members, whether seated right or left of Mr. Speaker. As further evidence of his capacity for making friends and keeping them, is the fact that over a long period of time he was secretary-treasurer of his municipality. He was one of the prime movers in the formation of the Municipal Secretary-Treasurers Association.

Mr. Taylor was born in England in 1882, but at an early age came with his parents to the United States, receiving education in Chicago public schools. Coming to Canada in 1905, he farmed in the Birch Hills district until 1914. He first became secretary of his municipality in 1912, and for time served as secretary of the local Grain Growers Association. First elected to the Legislature in the general election of 1917, he was re-elected in 1921 but retired in 1925. Persuaded to re-enter politics, he won the Kinistino by-election in 1933, was re-elected at the general election the next year, and again in 1938. He again retired in 1944.

Mr. Taylor died of a heart attack suffered while playing golf on July 4, 1950, and is survived by his widow, his sister and one brother.

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A genial, friendly personality, the hurly-burly of active politics seemed almost distasteful to him; but he was assiduous in his duties as a member of this Assembly and constantly sought to advance the interests of his constituents and the welfare of the people of the Province.

The same may well be said of 'Nat' Given, who represented the constituency of Rosetown during the term of the late Dr. Anderson's Government. He, too, was not a polemical type of politician; his kindly disposition winning him the friendship of fellow members, irrespective of party affiliation. Born in Ontario in 1875, he was educated at Georgetown Collegiate. It was in 1906 that he came to the west, establishing himself at Delisle, Saskatchewan, where he was long prominent in the business and fraternal life of his community and of the province. An Orangeman of many years' standing, he was also for a period Provincial Grand Master of the Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Mr. Given died at Guelph, Ontario, on August 18, 1950, and is survived by his widow, his sister and four brothers.

William Oliver Fraser, who died on January 23, 1951, had applied himself to community affairs for a great many years to the time of his death. As Councillor and Mayor he had rendered such service that when he again stood for the office of Mayor in 1936, he continued to occupy that position for fourteen consecutive years, being elected each year without opposition. No greater tribute could be paid by a community to a pioneer resident.

Mr. Fraser was born seventy years ago in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, coming to Oxbow, Saskatchewan, in 1910 as manager of the Farmers Elevator Company. Later he established an elevator of his own and he continued in the grain business until three years ago when he retired in favour of his son. An ardent church worker, he served for almost forty years as superintendent of the Oxbow United Church Sunday School, and frequently conducted the church services in the absence of the minister. He carried the same spirit of service into his legislative work. Mr. Fraser represented the constituency of Souris, as a Conservative, from 1917 to 1921. He was not a candidate in the general election of the latter year, but re-entered the Legislature in the election of 1929 as a supporter of Dr. Anderson's Government, serving until 1934.

Mr. Fraser is survived by two sons, three daughters, two brothers and four sisters. Another son, Flt-Sgt. John Michael Fraser, was killed in air action over France in 1944.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all who knew these former members, or even those who were only, in part, familiar with their contribution to the public life of the province, would want to join in paying tribute to their memory, and, therefore, I am moving, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tucker) will second:

“That this Assembly regrets the passing, since last Session, of three greatly respected and highly regarded former Members who served in the Legislatures to which they were elected with distinction and integrity, namely:

“John Richard Parish Taylor, of Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, Member for Kinistino from 1917 to 1925 and again

from 1933 to 1944;

“Nathaniel Given, formerly of Delisle, Saskatchewan, Member for Rosetown from 1929 to 1934, and

“William Oliver Fraser, of Oxbow, Saskatchewan, Member for Souris from 1917 to 1921 and again from 19 2019 1934.

“In paying tribute to the worth and services of these departed former Members, this Assembly recalls their splendid contributions to the public life and welfare of this province, and expresses its sincere sympathies with members of the bereaved families.”

Mr. W. A. Tucker (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion which has just been moved by the Premier, I would like to associate all on this side with what he has said in regard to the public service of the three ex-members of the Legislature who passed away since our last meeting, and in the tribute which he paid to their service to their province and to their country.

I was not privileged to know, personally, Mr. Given or Mr. Fraser. I only knew of them by reputation, and I know that they had a very high reputation for integrity and for public service, and I certainly want to join with the Premier in paying tribute to their service and also testifying to the loss which the province suffered in their passing.

I was, of course, having lived in Rosthern while Jack Taylor was a member of the Legislature for Kinistino, the neighbourly riding, well acquainted with him and I also had a good chance to know how highly he was regarded by all his friends and neighbours of all parties. He was the kind of man who held to his convictions and beliefs and yet retained the affectionate regard of everyone, regardless of their differing beliefs. Of course, probably the greatest evidence of the esteem in which he was held, not only by our Party but by his own community, was that when he had left public life and had been out of it for eight years, when a crucial by-election came along he was prevailed upon to re-enter public life, and he did so and was elected in that by-election by a tremendous majority. Due to ill health he had ceased to take such an active part in public affairs and was always ready to give good support and advice when his health permitted

We feel that his loss is a real loss not only to our party, but to the province and to the community of which he was such a beloved member. We certainly join with the other members of his House in extending to Mr. Taylors widow and his sister and brother, and also to the widow and sister and brothers of Mr. Given, and also to the sons and daughters of Mr. Fraser, our deepest sympathy in their sorrow and bereavement.

Mr. Benson (Last Mountain): — I would like to associate myself with the Resolution that has been proposed. Being one of the two members who sat in the House with these three late members, I would like to say that they, at all times, were very kind individuals, were well liked by all members in the Legislature, and I think,

performed their duties as members faithfully and well. I often think, on occasions such as this, it seems too bad that we cannot say some of the nice things about the people who perform public service while they are still living, and not always wait until they have passed beyond. I am very happy today, having been associated with all these men, to associate myself with the remarks that have been extended to their families.

Hon. J. T. Douglas (Minister of Highways): — I, too, would like to join with the other members who have spoken today, expressing my regrets at the passing of these three men who have been former members of this Legislature.

Mr. Taylor, with whom I had only a slight acquaintance, I know was a very fine individual. I have had the opportunity of knowing, a little better, the former member for Souris, and I do want to say a word or two about Mr. Given, who, at one time, represented the constituency which I now represent. Mr. Given was a man who took a very active part in the social life of his community. He was very much interested in church work, and, as I recall, took a very great interest in the boys of the Sunday School of Delisle. I can well recall many of the activities with which he associated himself at that time. As stated by the Premier, he was an outstanding member of the Orange Order and also a very ardent supporter of the Conservative Party in that district. I would like, at this time, to join with the others in expressing my sympathies to his brothers and sisters who are left behind, and to the whole community of Delisle who will greatly bereave the passing of Mr. Given.

Mr. J. E. McCormack (Souris-Estevan): — I would like to add a few words to the tributes that have been paid to the deceased members. I had the very great privilege of knowing Mr. W.O. Fraser for many years, and he was a man who played a highly important part in his community in the south-east part of the province. He served on the town council of Oxbow for over thirty-two years, and sixteen years of that time he served as Mayor. He was also the Superintendent of the United Church Sunday School for over forty years and, as has been pointed out on numerous occasions, he took the services when there was no ordained churchman available. Mr. Fraser was generous to a fault; in fact, he was a very warm-hearted and kindly man, and there was no assistance that he would withhold from anyone if he thought they needed it. The town of Oxbow and district, and south-eastern Saskatchewan generally, deeply mourn his passing and regrets the passing of a man who has had such a high civic responsibility during his life.

Mr. Peter A. Howe (Kelvington): I, too, want to join the others in saying a few words on the passing of these three.

I had the privilege to know Jack Taylor; the other two I never had the privilege to meet. When I came to this House in 1938, we were on the Opposition for six years, and the late Mr. Taylor was the Government Whip, and we had a very splendid opportunity to get acquainted with Jack Taylor. We were always glad to see Jack when he came across the floor to the other side to talk to us. We always looked upon the late Mr. Taylor, not only as a very kindly personality, a very friendly human being, but he always impressed me to be a man who took his responsibilities very seriously.

I am sure he assumed full responsibility and recognized the responsibility that he had to the people whom he represented in this House, in addition to the duties delegated from time to time by this Chamber. So I am very happy, Mr. Speaker, to join in with these other members of this House in expressing my regrets at the passing of the late Mr. Taylor.

Mr. A. Loptson (Saltcoats): — I, like the member for Last Mountain, sat in this House with the three members who have been mentioned, and I think it is appropriate on my part to express my sympathies, with the rest of the members, on their passing.

I knew Mr. Fraser and Mr. Given as sitting on the Government side at that time. Of course, like all Liberals, I knew Mr. Taylor better, but I can say this for every one of them, that I have never sat with anyone who took their responsibilities more seriously than they did. They were all men above reproach and did their work that they could best see would be for the best interests of this province and the people of their constituencies. As we know, we all have to pass some day. They have now finished their jobs so far as this side is concerned. We have only their memories to keep before us, and they have set an example for every one of us that is quite worthy of emulation. They had no enemies insofar as I knew, and they got their work done efficiently in spite of that. I want to express my sympathies, with the rest of the members, to the bereaved families.

The question being put, the motion carried unanimously.

Premier Douglas: — Mr. Speaker, there has also passed away one who will probably not be as well known personally to most of us who are now members of this Legislative Assembly, but who was an important link in the public life of this province, one who served in the distinguished position of Lieutenant Governor. I refer to the passing of Sir Richard Stuart Lake, K.C.M.G. I should like to place on the record a short notation with reference to him.

Many tributes were paid to Sir Richard Lake at the time of his death on April 23, last, all of them fully justified by the thirty-five years of devoted service he rendered Saskatchewan and its people; many of these years falling in that transitional period between Territory and Province, and in that arduous period between the First World War and its aftermath. Born in Preston, England, he inherited a tradition of public service and, for a time after leaving school, he was a member of the British civil service.

It was in 1883 that he began farming in the Grenfell district, and it has been said of him that he brought to the district a “touch of the English country squire”, typifying the best of everything England has ever stood for. He identified himself with the prairie farmers of those early days; their problems were his problems, and as a doughty champion of their cause he was for a time vice-president of the Territorial Grain Growers Association. In 1894, and for some years thereafter, he was a member of the old Territorial Legislature in which he proved a strong advocate of responsible government for the territories. Later, as a Conservative, he represented the Federal riding of Qu’Appelle in the House of Commons from 1904 to 1911. Appointed Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan in 1915, he immersed himself in various wartime activities, the chief being the Canadian Red Cross Society in Saskatchewan, of which he was president until 1921. As president, he took a prominent part in the inauguration of the invaluable peace-time activities of that great humanitarian organization which previously had confined itself to war work.

Knighthood by His Majesty King George V in 1918 for his manifold services, Sir Richard continued to devote himself to the causes dear to his

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heart until his retirement to Victoria, B.C., some 29 years ago. He had the dubious distinction of being torpedoed at the age of 79. With Lady Lake, Sir Richard was a passenger on the ill-fated 'Athenia' on the night of September 3, 1939, spending almost nine hours in a lifeboat with 40 survivors before being picked up by a rescue ship.

Sir Richard was in his 90th year when death came, appropriately enough for so fine an English gentleman, on St. George's Day — April 23, 1950. Surviving are his widow, Lady Lake, and four sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

I should therefore like to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tucker):

“That this Assembly unites in paying tribute to the memory of the late Sir Richard Stuart Lake, K.C.M.G., former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, who died at Victoria, B.C., on April 23, 1950 in his 90th year, and to the distinguished services he rendered to this province and its people over a period of thirty-five years, as a pioneer farmer of the Grenfell district, as executive official of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association, as member of the Legislature of the Northwest Territories during the struggle for provincial rights, as member of the Canadian Parliament for Qu'Appelle from 1904 to 1911, as Lieutenant Governor of the Province from 1915 to 1921, and as President of the Canadian Red Cross Society in Saskatchewan during that war and post-war period.

“Further, that this Assembly records its profound sympathies with, and expresses its condolences to, the members of the bereaved family.”

Mr. Tucker: — Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a word in supporting the motion of the Premier. The fact that we are passing a Resolution with regard to the death of a man who settled in the Grenfell District sixty-eight years ago, one of the first settlers in our province to commence farming, at least indicates the comparative newness of our province. It also indicates the tremendous job that was done by pioneers like Sir Richard Lake. To think that this is one of the first farmers in our province, and that he has just passed away, and yet when we look about us and see what has been accomplished under the leadership of the great old pioneers, makes one realize what great men they were, and Sir Richard Lake was certainly one of the outstanding men in that wonderful group of leaders and builders of this western province and of this western country. It certainly is a sad thing to see that pretty well all of that great group of pioneers have now passed away, but they have left behind them a heritage which we shall all cherish, and which, of course, is a greater monument than any which could be built of stone or wood.

Mr. F. M. Dundas (Qu'Appelle-Wolseley): — Mr. Speaker, having known the honourable gentleman for a great many years, since he came from my part of the country and sat in the Legislature as a Conservative, I can say that he was a gentleman who was respected by all political parties.

I might say that I campaigned against him for quite a few years, but he was a hard man to say anything against. He was a gentleman from morning till night. His passing at 90 years shows us that a man who came to this country from the Old Country and settled in the Grenfell district served his country well and it was indeed a privilege to have known him. As Lieutenant Governor he was one of the outstanding men who have held that high position, and I am sure that the passing of Sir Richard Lake calls for the sympathy of all the people in the eastern part of the province.

The question being put, the motion was carried unanimously.

Premier Douglas: — Mr. Speaker, I should like to move, seconded by Mr. Tucker:

“That the Resolution of regret and condolence, together with the transcripts of the oral tributes in memory of the Honoured Dead be communicated to members of the bereaved families, on behalf of this Assembly, by Mr. Speaker.

(Carried Unanimously)

Mr. Tucker: — Before the adjournment is moved I would like to direct a question to either the Provincial Treasurer or the Hon. Premier, in regard to the reports of the Crown Corporations. As Your Honour knows, reference has been made by the Premier to the record of the Crown Corporations during the last year, in a radio speech and also in other speeches, and I feel very strongly, Mr. Speaker, that it is only fair to the members of this Assembly and to the province that those reports should be made available at the earliest possible date, so that the actual facts upon which the Premier based his speeches may be known. I would like to know when we may expect those reports.

Premier Douglas: — Mr. Speaker, the radio broadcast to which, no doubt, the Leader of the Opposition is referring, copies of which are supplied to any of the members on request, make it very clear that the records of the Crown Corporations were not quoted from the financial reports which are tabled in the House. I made it very clear in the broadcast that it would be very improper for me to quote from any financial report, and that I would simply deal in general terms with the financial position and with the progress of the Crown Corporations. No specific figures were given, and the information, which is the property of this House, will not be given to the public until it becomes public property by being placed on the Table. The end of the fiscal year for some of these Crown Corporations is December 31, which is only a month away. The Crown Corporation reports will be tabled, as they are required by the legislation, within the first fifteen days of the sitting of the House, and I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that they will be tabled in plenty of time.

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Mr. Speaker, there is one item which I am sure all members will be interested in noting, and that is the decoration of the Chamber since last we met here. The decoration has been done by the Department of Public Works and I think that the Minister of that Department ought to be congratulated on the fine job that is being done both in the appearance of a Chamber, and what we think are the improved acoustics of the Chamber, and the improved lighting. I am sure all hon. members will be pleased to see that the Chamber has had its face lifted, and I trust it will be a more comfortable place to work in during his Session, because of the work which has been done since we last met.

I move that the House do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 3.40 o'clock p.m.