

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Second Session — Twelfth Legislature

### 2nd Day

Friday, February 12, 1954

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

#### MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE

**Hon. T.C. Douglas (Premier):** — It has been the custom on the day immediately following the opening of the Legislature that members take a few moments to pay their respects to former members of the Legislature who have passed away since the Legislative Assembly last met.

I have three names here to bring to the attention of the members and I am asking the Assembly to join in paying tribute to them at this time. The three members are Mr. Hassard who formerly represented the constituency of Biggar; Mr. Hutcheon who formerly represented the constituency of Arm River, and Mr. Shortreed who was a member for Happyland constituency. I will just say a few words regarding the life and public service of each of them, according to the short biographies which I have here.

MR. ROBERT PELHAM HASSARD was born at Macdonald, near Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, on March 7, 1888. Educated at Dauphin, Manitoba, he migrated to Biggar, Saskatchewan, in 1908, where he operated a farm, a garage and a hotel for 38 years. He then went to Eastend to engage in the hotel business, and later to Saskatoon. Two years ago he moved to Calgary, where he died suddenly on September 28, 1953, at the age of 65.

While a resident of Biggar, Mr. Hassard interested himself in community affairs and was mayor of the town for several years. Prominent in Masonic and other fraternal circles, he was also a keen curler and an active member of the Anglican Church.

First elected to this Assembly in the general election of 1925, he represented the constituency of Biggar as a Liberal from that year until 1929, and again from 1934 to 1938. Though not an aggressive participant in House debate, Mr. Hassard proved himself an effective member of the more active Committees, and was held in high esteem by his contemporaries on both sides of the House.

Surviving to mourn his loss are Mrs. Hassard; a daughter, Mrs. G.H. MacDonald of Regina; one son, two sisters, two brothers and three grandchildren.

The second member whose passing we mourn is MR. DUNCAN SELBY HUTCHEON who was born at Milton, Ontario, on February 16, 1879. Educated at public schools in Halton County, Ontario, he came west in 1902 to take up a homestead in the Davidson district. Later he began operation of a grain elevator for the Wells Land and Cattle companies. In 1911 he started a hardware business in Davidson, which he operated until his appointment as secretary-treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Willner. In 1913 he was elected mayor of the town of Davidson, holding that office until 1923.

During his 45 years of service to the Davidson community, he had been Chairman of the local school board, hospital board, Red Cross and

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curling club. He was one of the few men who have served as Chairman of National War Finance organizations in their communities in two wars. An elder and secretary of Davidson United Church for several years, he was also active in fraternal orders. As an Oddfellow he was at one time master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. He was also a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner. He died in Vancouver on January 11, 1954, in his 76th year.

Mr. Hutcheon was elected to this Assembly in 1929, representing Arm River as a Conservative until 1934. He was greatly respected by all members of the House, serving throughout the Seventh Legislature as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole.

He is survived by Mrs. Hutcheon, two sons and a daughter, and six grandchildren.

The third member who has passed away since we met last is MR. FRANKLIN ROBERT SHORTREED who was elected as Liberal member for Happyland constituency in a by-election in 1922, and served until the general election of 1925. He was born at Salem, Ontario in 1875, of Scottish parentage, and educated at Morden, Manitoba. He was a resident of the Sceptre district of Saskatchewan at the time of his election. He died in Winnipeg yesterday, February 11th.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that members of both sides of the House will want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to these men who served their constituencies and served this province in the Legislature of Saskatchewan in days gone by; and in paying tribute to them to pay tribute to all the pioneers who in various capacities and at various levels of government have sought to serve their day and generation.

I, therefore, should like to move, seconded by Mr. Lopton:

“THAT this Assembly records its sincere regrets at the passing, since last Session, of two former Members, namely,

MR. ROBERT PELHAM HASSARD who represented the constituency of Biggar in the Sixth and Eighth Legislatures, and

MR. DUNCAN SELBY HUTCHEON, Deputy Speaker of the Seventh Legislature, in which he served as member for the constituency of Arm River.

In paying tribute to their memory and to their devoted service to the communities in which they lived and to the province to which they came in early youth and left only in retirement, this Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to surviving members of the bereaved families.

This Assembly also desires to record its regret on learning of the death, yesterday, of FRANKLIN ROBERT SHORTREED, member for Happyland in the Fifth Legislature, from 1922 to 1925.”

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

**Mr. A. Lopton (Leader of the Opposition):** – Mr. Speaker, in seconding this motion I would like to concur in the words of the hon. Premier.

I know two of the three men mentioned, particularly Mr. Hassard – “Bob” Hassard, as we used to know him. I sat in this House with him and I knew him as a man very much devoted to the service of the people, a man who was a friend to everybody he met. I do not know a man who was more popular among the members than Bob Hassard was, and I do not know of a man who was more willing to contribute his services to the good of the community, wherever he lived.

I also sat in the House with Mr. Hutcheon. A man with a quiet disposition he was one of the popular members of this House and from the record that has just been given I think we can visualize that he also dedicated his services to his community.

Mr. Shortreed was unknown to me, having been here before I came to this House; but I take it for granted that he would not have been here had it not been for his popularity in this community and the services that he rendered.

**Mr. G.H. Danielson (Arm River):** – I probably knew the late Duncan Selby Hutcheon longer than anyone in this House; as a matter of fact he was one of the first men that I met in 1904. He came to Davidson as an ordinary settler and immediately branched out in framing; I know he broke up his farm with a team of oxen. He also engaged in business, operating a grain elevator (as the Premier has said) for the same Company that I operated a farm for. He took a very active part in community affairs. He was Chairman of the School Board and I was associated with him myself in the work of building the War Memorial that they have in Davidson. He was Chairman of the War Finance Committee in both wars, and we sat on the Davidson Town School Board together for about eight years. I saw him last summer just previous to harvest time when he came to Davidson from Vancouver, and I did not expect that he would be passing away so soon. However, his health had been none too good for several years and his passing was not altogether unexpected.

I know that the province of Saskatchewan, and particularly the community in which he lived is much better off for having had him as a citizen in that particular locality.

Speaking of Mr. Robert Hassard who also passed away, I sat in the House with him from 1934 to 1938 and he was a man who was well posted for the work he had at hand; he was a very active member of the House, was a good speaker and a first-class citizen and a gentleman. He was a person one liked to associate with, and he had a lot of good friends; I do not think he had any enemies in this House when he was here. I attended his funeral in Saskatoon just a short time before Christmas, and I would like to associate myself with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition here in paying my tribute to these two men.

I did not know the other gentleman, although I believe I met him once and recollect that meeting very well.

**Hon. W.S. Lloyd (Minister of Education):** – Mr. Speaker, I did not have the privilege of knowing two of the members referred to this afternoon, but I did of course know the late Bob

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Hassard. Having lived in the town of Biggar and having been a member for that constituency I am in a position to concur with what has been said in regard to his record of community service. I think the Leader of the Opposition referred to the very friendly type of person he was and certainly no truer thing could be said about Bob Hassard. He was in business for many years in the town of Biggar and one can hear many speak of the accomodation, frequently at his own expense, which he provided for the people of the community in a business way. He had a very wide circle of friends all throughout the constituency of Biggar and, always, whenever one visits any part of it there were questions asked with regard to Bob Hassard. It is a tribute to the man, I think, that many of his best friends were among those who did not agree with him politically. He was held in very wide esteem and I speak on behalf of myself, Mr. Speaker, and, I know, on behalf of many people in the constituency of Biggar when we voice approval of his service and regret at his passing and extend our condolences to members of his family.

**Mr. Speaker:** – I think it would be in order if we would all rise in respect of the departed members of this House.

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Douglas (Weyburn), seconded by Mr. Lopton:

“Ordered, That the Resolution of regret and condolence just passed, together with the transcripts of the oral tributes in memory of the deceased former Members, be communicated to the bereaved families, on behalf of this Assembly, by Mr. Speaker.”

(CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY)

**Mr. A.H. McDonald (Moosomin):** – Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with there is one action of the Premier and this Government that I would like to comment on at this time, and that is their action with regard to one of Saskatchewan’s most distinguished citizens in the personage of Mr. Harry Mullin, our Sergeant-at-Arms. I would like to say that the Opposition were only too pleased to see this Government take the action they did in making it possible for Major Mullin, V.C., and his good wife to attend the Coronation of our Queen last summer. I am sure that it is an action that all the people of Saskatchewan were very happy to see and especially the returned men. I know we, in our area of Moosomin, like to claim Harry Mullin as ours, but as he is the only V.C. we have in Saskatchewan I suppose we have to share him with all the people of this province; but I did want to say how pleased we in the Opposition were and how pleased we were at Moosomin to see this action taken by the Premier and the Government, and we certainly thank them for it.

**Premier Douglas:** – I would like to thank the hon. member for his words of agreement with what was done. I am sure that having Mr. Mullin go to the Coronation as a representative from the province would meet with the commendation of all the people of the province. As has been said by the member from Moosomin, Mr. Harry Mullin, our Sergeant-at-Arms, is the only V.C. Saskatchewan has, and a meeting was planned of the V.C.s from all over the Commonwealth of nations. A special stand was set up for them just across from Buckingham Palace so that they would have a good view, also a number of functions were arranged for them. When the invitation came to Mr. Mullin we thought it would be unfortunate if Saskatchewan were not represented in that gathering of V.C.s, and I can say that Mr. Mullin went

there, that he was a good representative for Saskatchewan, that he was a good representative for the veterans of this province and a good representative for Canada. Since I travelled on the same boat with him I can vouch for his good conduct and the fact that he didn't get the ship going in the wrong direction or anything of that sort; I know that both he and Mrs. Mullin enjoyed their trip to the Coronation. I was especially glad that they were able to go to the Continent and visit some of the battle scenes there as I believe Mrs. Mullin has a relative buried there.

I am sure that what the member from Moosomin has said will be generally accepted throughout the province; that most people were glad that our only V.C. was able to represent Saskatchewan so ably at the centre of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The Assembly adjourned at 3:30 o'clock p.m.