

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Second Session — Thirteenth Legislature**  
**2nd Day**

**Friday, February 14, 1958**

The House met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.  
On the Orders of the Day:

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Hon. T.C. Douglas (Premier):** — For several years now, before embarking on its sessional program, the Assembly has followed the appropriate and laudable practice of paying tribute to former Members who have passed on, since the House last met. For two or three years in succession, it has been my melancholy duty to record the passing of quite lengthy lists of former Members, and, in doing so, I have recalled their services and asked the House to honour their memories. Many of those so commemorated were pioneers of the province, members of the earlier Legislatures, and men who helped lay the foundations of autonomous government and its administration institutions in Saskatchewan. Naturally, in this inexorable process of attrition to which mankind is subject, the ranks of surviving members of these earlier Legislatures are lamentably shrunk. And it may be evidence of that process and of that shrinking that, today, I have only two names to place on the record of those who have rendered long and distinguished service to Saskatchewan and its people. The first is that of a Member of the 1st Legislature of the Province, one of the last survivors of that distinguished coterie who sat in that historic Legislature which first met on March 29, 1906. I refer to the late CHIEF JUSTICE JAMES THOMAS BROWN, who died suddenly on April 28th last, at the age of 86 years.

Chief Justice Brown was born in Huntingdon, Quebec, in 1871, and received his primary education in Huntingdon Academy. In 1893, he graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, gaining top honours in mental and moral philosophy, and the same year he came west to Winnipeg to begin his career in law. Three years later he moved to Moosomin, then the judicial centre of the East Assiniboia district of the North-West Territories. In 1904 he was appointed Crown Prosecutor for the East Assiniboia, and in 1907 was created a King's Counsel.

Contesting the first provincial general election as a Provincial Righter in 1905, the future Chief Justice won Souris

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constituency for his Party, and, though a Liberal federally, sat in the Legislature as a member of the Haultain opposition. He resigned his seat in 1908 to contest Qu'Appelle riding in the Federal election of that year, but was unsuccessful. Elevated to the bench as puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Saskatchewan in 1910, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench eight years later, a position he continued to occupy with popular acceptance, with dignity and great distinction until the time of his death. In 1921, his Alma Mater, McGill University, conferred on him an honorary degree of doctor of law.

Chief Justice Brown had many extra-judicial interests and activities throughout his long career of devoted public service. He was chairman of the Saskatchewan Royal Grain Inquiry Commission of 1929, and did particularly valuable work as a member of Boards under the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act during the difficult period of the 'thirties'. An active churchman, he was also one of the founders, and an ardent supporter, of Saskatchewan Music Festival, serving as its president during the years of its most notable expansion. He also had been honorary president of Regina Astronomical Society for many years. As a sportsman, he found outlet in golf, curling, hunting and tennis.

In 1902, he married Alice M. Lewis, of Rutherglen, Manitoba, who died in 1951. Chief Justice Brown remarried some time later, and is survived by his widow, four sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren, a sister and brother.

Tributes paid him by his colleagues of the judiciary, by representatives of the Canadian and Saskatchewan Bar, of the Government, and of the Church he had served for many years, all testified to the high esteem in which Chief Justice Brown was held and to the affection he had won through his sterling qualities of heart and mind.

The second name which must regretfully be added to the list of deceased former Members is that of the Rev. Robert Sterritt Leslie, who was the highly respected Speaker of this Assembly from 1930 to 1934, during the term of the Co-operative Government headed by the late Dr. J.T.M. Anderson. Mr. Leslie died at Red Deer, Alberta, last Thursday, February 6th, at the home of his only daughter, Mrs. J.A. Lampard.

Mr. Leslie was born, April 25, 1875, at St. Mary's Ontario, of Irish-English parentage. He received his early education at St. Mary's College, and came west in the early 'twenties' to teach school at Ninga, Manitoba. Later, Mr. Leslie attended Wesley College, Winnipeg, and graduated in Theology.

His first church was at Alameda, Saskatchewan, and in 1905 he was called to the Presbyterian Church at Weyburn, and it was

during the early years of his pastorate that the first Presbyterian Church was built in Weyburn, which stands today as a monument to his untiring efforts and supervision. The Church observed its 50th Anniversary, last Autumn.

Mr. Leslie later homesteaded in the Trossachs district, and for many years served as secretary-treasurer of the Rural Municipality of Brokenshell, while still continuing to serve the church of which he was a steadfast adherent.

Contesting the Constituency of Weyburn in the provincial general election of 1929, as a Progressive, Mr. Leslie was elected, and at the 1930 Session, was appointed Speaker of the Assembly, winning the confidence and respect of all Members of the House by his dignity, impartiality and deportment in the Chair.

Defeated in the general election of 1934, Mr. Leslie devoted himself to farming and to his municipal duties, always maintaining an active connection with his church. Retiring in 1944 from farming and from the municipality he had served so faithfully and well, he moved to White Rock, B.C., where he was pastor of the Presbyterian Church there until 1950, when he moved with Mrs. Leslie to take up his residence at Red Deer, to be close to his only daughter Mrs. J.A. Lampard.

Predeceased by Mrs. Leslie in 1952, and by his son, Norman, in 1924 the Rev. Mr. Leslie is survived by his daughter and five grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes the statistics of the lives of these two former members of the Legislature, but of course a great deal more can be said about them. Most of us knew Chief Justice Brown who each year was regular in his attendance at the opening of this Legislative Assembly. Those of us who knew him I am sure marvelled at his vitality and his keen interest in all that went on about him, and despite his advancing years, he showed a great awareness of what was going on and took a very active part in the life of his community. I know that his passing will be regretted by all honourable members.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Leslie personally, and counted him as one of my friends over a long period of years. In fact in 1934 he and I both ran in the election of that year. When the ballots were counted we found that we were both just walking; it was the Liberal candidate who was running. We were very good friends despite the fact that in that campaign we were political opponents. I knew him before that election, and of course had many contacts with him in the years that followed. I had a high regard for him both as

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a man and as a public servant, and I know that all the people of the constituency of Weyburn who appreciated his high qualities will want to join with me in extending to Mrs. Lampard, his daughter, our deepest sympathy at his demise, and to all of the members who remember him as a Speaker of this House, I am sure that they too will want to pay tribute to his memory.

The passing of these two former members of the Legislature remind us that we owe a great deal to these men and many others who, in days gone by, sat in this Legislature, served the people of their day and generation, and helped to lay the foundations of government in Saskatchewan.

In paying tribute to the memory of these two men we also pay tributes to all of those who have gone before, and who have left us such a fine heritage of public service.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Douglas (Weyburn), seconded by Mr. McDonald:

Resolved, That this Assembly records its profound regret at the loss suffered by the Province and its people in the death of the HONOURABLE JAMES THOMAS BROWN, a Member of Saskatchewan's First Legislature, a pioneer jurist and Chief Justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench from 1918 until his death on April 28, 1957, and of the REVEREND ROBERT STERRITT LESLIE, B.A., a former Member for the Constituency of Weyburn, and Speaker of this Assembly in the Seventh Legislature from 1930 to 1934, who died on February 6, 1958.

In paying tribute to their memories and to their exemplary services to the Province and its people, this Assembly desires also to express its sincere sympathies with members of the bereaved families.

**Mr. A.H. McDonald (Leader of Official Opposition):** — Mr. Speaker, it is always a privilege, I am sure, for all of us to have this opportunity of paying our respects to the ex-Members of this Legislature who have passed away during the past year and I, like the Premier, have noticed that over the last few years we have had quite a lengthy list of Members who have passed on in the previous months. However, this

year we are most fortunate in only having the two names before us, this afternoon.

It was not my privilege to have known the late Mr. Leslie, but I understand that when he served as Speaker of this Legislature he served well and that his judgments were considered to be fair and just to both sides of the Legislature.

With regard to the late Chief Justice Brown, naturally I knew him very well because he lived in my home town for some considerable time in the very early years, before Saskatchewan was formed; and all the people of that area of the province — the pioneers — had high regard for the late Chief Justice Brown. Many parts of Saskatchewan were not settled when Mr. Brown moved into what is now Saskatchewan, in 1896; and when he was practising law in Moosomin the judicial area covered most of the province of Saskatchewan and most of the province of Alberta. We can see how our province has progressed and how western Canada has progressed over that short period of time from 1896 until 1958. I understand we are having some amendments, this year, which may change our judicial districts again; but we should keep in mind always the work that was performed by the senior members of the judiciary here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Chief Justice Brown was known as a very friendly man and I can recall, on several occasions, meeting him, for instance, in the Air Force here in Regina. He was a man over eighty years of age and he would either be returning to this city or leaving the city on official business in the wee hours of the morning, by air. He was a very devoted public servant and I think that probably his record will go down in history as one of the gentlemen who gave his all, not only to the public life, but to the protection of the individual throughout Saskatchewan.

He had friends from the north to the south and the east to the west and I think the mark he left on the Province of Saskatchewan is something that all of us should set our sights on, and endeavour to better ourselves and to example our lives upon the life of the late Chief Justice Brown. The people of the Moosomin area, especially the older citizens, felt, when Judge Brown left that community, that they had lost him; but they soon realized that the loss in that particular community was the gain of all of the people of Saskatchewan. I think that, at his death, there were probably as many people throughout the whole of the province of Saskatchewan who recognized his worth and his ability as the people in his original community in western Canada — that is, the community of Moosomin.

Again I want to say that I wish I had had the opportunity of knowing Mr. Leslie when he was a member of the Legislature, but I am sure that some of our colleagues here in the Legislature

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knew him well when they sat in this Chamber with him and I hope they will express their sentiments here, this afternoon.

**Mr. A. Loftson (Saltcoats):** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few words to what has already been said. I did not have the privilege of knowing Justice Brown intimately, although I had met him on various occasions; but I was very well acquainted with the work that he did for the people of Saskatchewan, particularly the farmers, when he headed the adjustment under the Farmer's Credit Arrangement Act. As a man who has served the country as he has done, and the province as he has done, I'm sure his name will be in the memory of many farmers and business men as well.

As far as Mr. Leslie was concerned, I think I am probably the only one in the House, at the present time, who was here when he was Speaker of the House and I want to say to you without hesitation, that Mr. Leslie endeared himself to all members of the House, even to the Opposition. I very well remember that his congenial temperament made him always welcome in a group, because I think he excelled even the Premier of Saskatchewan in story-telling, and as such — a man who has the gift of that art — is usually pretty popular among a group of people when they gather. I want to say that Mr. Leslie, as far as I knew, served his country well and served this legislature well as Speaker. He had a pretty tough job to perform at that time, when we had twenty-eight old parliamentarians or legislative members from the previous Government on this side, and we had about thirty-three greenhorns on the other side. So you can understand the difficulty that he ran into during the five years that he sat in the Chair that you now occupy. But he discharged that duty with grace and credit to himself and to the general satisfaction of members on both sides of the House. Having said that, I want to concur in all that has been said before and endorse that wholeheartedly.

(The Motion of Condolence was then passed by silent standing vote)

Moved by the Hon. Mr. Douglas (Weyburn), seconded by Mr. McDonald (Leader of Official Opposition):

"Ordered, That the Resolution just passed, together with 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."

The Assembly then adjourned at 3:10 o'clock p.m.