

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
First Session – Sixteenth Legislature
2nd Day

Thursday, February 16, 1968.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. Speaker: — Before the Orders of the Day, I wish to inform the Assembly that Thomas Robert Michael Wood has been appointed Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly.

AWARD OF CENTENNIAL MEDAL

Mr. Speaker: — Also before the Orders of the Day, Members of the Legislative Assembly will be pleased to learn that during the past year our Sergeant at Arms, Major Scott Calder was awarded the Centennial Medal. I will read the citation in connection therewith:

On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the Confederation of Canada this Centennial Medal is conferred on D.G. Scott Calder, Esquire, in recognition of valuable service. July 1, 1967.

I am sure Members would wish to extend him the congratulations of the House.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

RECORDING OF MOTIONS FOR RETURN

Mr. Speaker: — Before the Orders of the Day, I wish to make a brief statement in connection with the transcription of the debates. In the past it has not been the custom of this House to transcribe or have recorded any of the debates which have taken place in connection with Motions for Returns. It has, however, been decided that at this session of the House any Motion for a Return which is debated will be recorded. I think that Members will agree that a procedural decision of this nature should be made at the commencement of the session and not at some later time during the session.

SASKATCHEWAN SAVINGS BONDS

Hon. D.G. Steuart (Provincial Treasurer): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would

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like to inform the House that Saskatchewan Savings Bonds, series eight, will go on sale Monday, February 26. This year Saskatchewan Savings Bonds will carry the highest interest rate in their history, 5.75 per cent if held to maturity in 1978. As in the past, Saskatchewan Savings Bonds will be sold only to residents of the province and to corporations with offices in this province and to Saskatchewan societies and organizations. They will be available in denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$5,000. The maximum purchase by any one buyer will be limited to \$20,000. Saskatchewan Savings Bonds have always been well received and this year, with the highest interest rate ever offered, will be an even more attractive investment than in the past.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Hon. W. Ross Thatcher (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart), the Provincial Treasurer:

That William Howes, Esquire, Member for the constituency of Kerrobert—Kindersley, be the Deputy Speaker of this Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS

BATTEN COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. W.G. Davies (Moose Jaw South): — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wonder if I could address a question to the Premier (Mr. Thatcher) and that question is: when will the Batten Commission Report be submitted to the Government and made available to the Members of the House.

Mr. Thatcher: — Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to find that out myself. Just as quickly as we can persuade the Judge to finish the document, we shall endeavor to table it.

Mr. W.E. Smishek (Regina North East): — It was supposed . . .

Mr. Thatcher: — Well, if you know the Judge as well as I do, you would realize that one doesn't tell her when and how she must do things.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONDOLENCES

Mr. Thatcher: — While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to

move, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd):

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing during the last year of two former Members of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contributions made to his community, to his constituency and his province.

D.H.R. Heming, who died April 20, 1967, represented Moose Jaw City in this Assembly from 1944 to 1960. He was born in London, England in 1885, and was educated at Westminster School and King's College, University of London. On first coming to Canada in 1905, he was employed with railway contractors, and later he homesteaded before moving to Moose Jaw in 1912. Mr. Heming was active in the trade union movement in Moose Jaw and served for ten years as an Alderman of that city. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Heming was a very dear and personal friend of mine. I knew him for a number of years in Moose Jaw. He was, I think, a man of complete honesty, sincerity and integrity. He was a man who had a fine community spirit. I know he has been missed, not only by his family, but by everyone in the city and those who knew him.

Joseph Albert McClure, who died in August, 1967, was a Member of this Legislature for the Canora constituency from 1925 to 1929. He was born in Brantford, Ontario in 1881 and came to the west in 1902. In 1904 he took a homestead near Sturgis and later moved to Hassan where he continued to farm until 1949. He was associated with several agricultural societies and took an active part in the organization of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathies with members of the bereaved families.

Hon. W.S. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition): — Mr. Speaker, may I associate myself and my colleagues on this side of the House with the comments which the Premier has made with the expression of sympathy to the members of the families of these two former Members of the Legislature whom we recall today. Other Members who have known or who had contact with these men will want to add their comments as well. Mr. McClure represented a constituency in the northeastern part of the province. I did not know him either. He was a pioneer in more ways than one. We are reminded by the Premier's remarks he was a pioneer in terms of farming occupation in the Province of Saskatchewan. He was also a pioneer with respect to political movements. He was, I understand, elected to represent the Progressive party when he first came to this Legislature in 1925. He was very much active in movements which one would suspect a pioneer person with those kind of feelings to be associated with.

Dempster Heming was one with whom I sat in the House for a number of years. I certainly echo the comments made by the Premier with regard to his integrity, his sincerity, his wide interest at the level of the community and the province. He had a very deep sense of respect for the rights of people and he had some very keen feelings of the justice which people should have in times which he felt they didn't have. He wasn't a very frequent contributor to the debates of the Legislature, although, when he did speak, he did speak out of undeniable conviction and with considerable emotion and feelings, particularly with respect to the rights of people. May I join the Premier in the extending of sympathy to the members of Mr. Heming's family and as well as to those of Mr. McClure.

Mr. W.G. Davies (Moose Jaw South): — Mr. Speaker, I would like also to join this afternoon in associating myself with the remarks that have been made by the Premier and our Leader with respect to both Mr. McClure and Mr. Heming. I would like to expand of course with respect to Dempster Heming whom I knew very well and very intimately for twenty—seven years in all types of organizations, as well as members of his family. Everyone knows, I think, that Mr. Heming, with me, represented Moose Jaw City from 1956 to 1960, that he had previously sat to 1956 with the former Attorney General and CCF MLA for Moose Jaw City, J.W. Corman, Q.C. You heard something of Mr. Heming's service as Moose Jaw alderman for a period of ten years, also that he was extremely well known in the city's trade union movement. I think Mr. Heming, during the period that he was an alderman, sat on every city board, every committee and every city commission. He was constantly associated with local causes and organizations and particularly the cause for general reform. If any citizen had a problem he could always look upon Dempster Heming as the person who would try to get something done. You could always be sure that Dempster Heming would be one who would try to get it done, and he was, as has been suggested, especially zealous and considerate in the case of poor or necessitous citizens. As a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Mr. Heming worked first of all in the general office of the CPR at Moose Jaw and later as a yardman. He was not unnaturally sought out by trade union people on the railway, by employees on the railway. But he by no means confined himself to this employee area, so that both organized and unorganized labor people — all from Moose Jaw — came to depend upon him to a large degree for valuable advice and assistance during the many years that he was an alderman and a Member of the Legislature.

Dempster found time all through his life to work not only in the elected offices but for his own union and for other labor organizations in Moose Jaw. He was an enthusiastic supporter of sports and recreation and he is especially well remembered in that connection around the Friendly City. One of the chief reasons why concerned his own large family.

A number of his sons today work on the railways, following in his footsteps. During World War II, one of Dempster's sons,

George, lost his life in the services, a loss which was a source of great grief to the Heming family. There are six other sons, Philip of Calgary, Leonard of Regina, Dempster and James of Moose Jaw, Arthur of Vancouver, Alan of Swift Current, a sister, Mrs. Isabelle Pick in England, two brothers, Jack and George, also in England and fourteen grandchildren besides his wife, Katherine, who survives him.

What isn't as well known about Dempster is that he was one of the founders of the Labor Representative League in Moose Jaw in 1916, as well as of the local branch of the Labor Party in the following year. I think it could be said Dempster was a true grass—roots politician. During the sixteen years he sat as Moose Jaw MLA, he continued to faithfully look after the affairs of his constituents in the same way that he performed during the earlier terms of office on the city council. Everybody here, I'm sure, knows that there is a great deal of work that has to be done to keep political organizations functioning, and Dempster was one of those who did his very full share in seeing that this condition was assured.

He was also one who liked to keep himself well informed, not just about local and provincial events but in a far wider area of interest. He read a good deal and he was a confirmed believer in world government to assure world peace, security and prosperity. He strongly believed, too, in the parliamentary system of government as the best form evolved to this time. Sixty—two of Dempster Heming's eighty—two years were spent in Canada after he arrived in Canada on August 31, 1905, just the day before Saskatchewan became a Province. His service to Moose Jaw where he lived from 1912 (which was also the year of his marriage), to his death in 1967, as both the city and provincial levels of government, as well as in many other community activities that he was a part of was exemplary. A very sizeable contribution I think which, you will agree with me, will be recorded and long remembered. Mrs. Katherine Heming and her six sons and their families are justly proud of the contribution which he made and which we honor and observe here this afternoon.

Mr. G.T. Snyder (Moose Jaw North): — Mr. Speaker, I want to add just a very few words to those that have already been expressed by others with respect to the passing of Mr. Dempster Heming. I had the good fortune to know Mr. Heming even prior to his election to this Legislature in 1944. He had been employed for many years by the Canadian Pacific Railway when I began my service with that company in 1943. I didn't have the opportunity to serve with Mr. Heming in the Legislature, as I received the nomination following his retirement in 1960, but I knew him well and I was acquainted with most of the family, two of whom followed in their father's footsteps and are presently working for the Canadian Pacific Railway in Moose Jaw. The Heming family was a closely knit family, and I know how deeply they felt the loss of the head of that family. The large gathering which attended the funeral to pay their last respect to Dempster Heming, I

believe, gave a further indication of the high regard in which he was held in our community. Mr. Heming made a significant contribution to our city as a family man, as a trade unionist, as a member of Moose Jaw city council and as a legislator in the Province of Saskatchewan. Our community is the poorer for his passing, and I want also to express my sincere sympathy to his family at this time.

Mr. A. Matsalla (Canora): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself and the people I represent in this Assembly in expressing sympathy and paying tribute to the former MLAs who have died during the past year. I'd like to particularly direct my remarks to Mr. Joseph Albert McClure or Bert McClure as he was more commonly known. Mr. McClure served the Canora constituency during the term 1925 to 1929. I had no personal acquaintance with the McClure family but from conversation with some of the old times in the constituency, some interesting recollections were made. First of all I might say that Mr. and Mrs. McClure were pioneers of this province who contributed a good share of hard work and social service to the community. By occupation, Mr. McClure was a farmer in the Sturgis area until 1949. As a farmer he was a strong believer that, if agriculture is to develop into a significant industry in this province, representations are to be made and farmers are to speak for themselves through farm organizations. It was his close connection with the problems of the farmer that led Mr. McClure to enter provincial politics in 1925 as candidate of the Progressive party. His tremendous success in winning the election is indicative of his popularity as a farmers' worker. If one had personal acquaintance with Mr. McClure, I'm sure that there is a lot more that could be said about the community contributions made by this aggressive and hardy pioneer. I'm pleased and feel honored to have had the opportunity of officially paying tribute to Mr. McClure. I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to Mrs. McClure and the rest of the family.

Mr. F.A. Dewhurst (Wadena): — Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few words to what has been said by the Premier and by other Members in tribute to past Members. It was not my privilege to know Mr. McClure personally although I have heard his name mentioned in connection with farm programs. But it was my privilege to have known Mr. Heming quite well for some years, having been a colleague of his in this Legislature. I would just like to say that regarding the words expressed concerning him by the two Members from Moose Jaw, his activities in the labor movement, on the railroad and so on, I add my sentiments too. Mr. Heming was a man, who, while he was a member of the labor organizations, worked hard for labor unions. On many occasions he would also sit down with us as his colleagues in this Legislature and discuss farm problems. He deplored on many occasions a lack of income for the farmers because he felt that the farmers along with the laborers needed a better and stronger union. I am sure that any of us who knew Mr. Heming are that much richer for having enjoyed his acquaintance. I'm sure that he was a good husband, a good father and

a good citizen of his district. He is a man that will be missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Thatcher: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd):

That the Resolution just passed, together with the transcripts of oral tributes to the memory of the deceased Members, be communicated to the bereaved families on behalf of this Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

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