

GETTING SOONER B. LIES IN TORONTO

HON. WM. PUGSLEY LOSES BRAVE BATTLE AGAINST DEATH

When Hope Was High For Recovery, Takes Sudden Turn For Worse and Succumbs to Pneumonia

TORONTO, March 4.—The long and brilliant career of the bar and in the service of his country of Hon. Dr. William Pugsley, K.C., former Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, ended here at 11.15 o'clock last night, following a turn for the worse in his brave battle to throw off an attack of pneumonia with which he was stricken here recently. Rallying after his condition had become serious enough to summon relatives to his bedside, the veteran statesman seemed on his way to complete recovery, despite his being in his 75th year. A change was noticeable late yesterday, and soon after he breathed his last.

Accompanied by Mrs. Pugsley, Hon. Dr. Pugsley came here en route to Western Canada where he was to hear several claims as commissioner for the Federal Government. Two weeks ago Sunday, he took ill. His son, John A. Pugsley, St. John, was summoned to Toronto but left for home on Friday, thinking the danger was over. Mrs. Pugsley was with Hon. Dr. Pugsley when he died.

IF William Pugsley had lived until the 25th of September next he would have been seventy-five years of age. He was not so old a man as years go, but his life has been one of great energy and activity. He left his native place in Sussex, Kings county, when he was fifteen years of age to attend the University of New Brunswick, from which he graduated three years later in 1868, winning many honors, and being second in the race for the famous Guelph Scholarship, which was the winner to a college at the University of London, England. Pugsley was a boy and youth for between the ages of fifteen and eighteen when he earned his degree, he had not arrived at the age of manhood—gave promise of Pugsley, the man who in later years served his province and the Dominion of Canada so well and was considered among our national heroes.

After his university course, William Pugsley studied for the bar and four years later, in 1872, was admitted to practice. He entered into partnership in the city of St. John with his brother and Hon. J. Herbert Crawford, another Kings county man, who was for a time Solicitor-General in the government of New Brunswick. The firm of Pugsley, Crawford & Pugsley continued until the death of Mr. Crawford, who passed away early in life. During that time William Pugsley was a member of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, a position which he held for ten years. He did not retire until 1886, but during the New Brunswick period that has elapsed since then, William Pugsley has always been in the public eye, first in New Brunswick, where upon his election in Kings county to succeed Hon. Dr. Vail, he almost immediately began to make his mark in the provincial legislature. He was re-elected by the people of Kings county in 1886 as a member of the House, a position which he filled until 1888. It is said of Dr. Pugsley that he made an ideal presiding officer. His decisions were fair and a speaker in those stormy political days, when the passages across the floors of the House were not always good tempered, required an equable disposition as well as a firmness of demeanor to impress those who were under his control. It was at that time that William Pugsley won the reputation for courtesy that has always remained with him. Few men were privileged to rival him in this respect. Whether on the floors of the legislature or in the House of Commons, whether examining a witness in the court room or arguing a case on appeal, whether on a campaign platform or addressing public audiences as the Chief Executive of New Brunswick, Dr. Pugsley was always a gentleman. He could criticize and analyze the arguments of political opponents and hold some of their statements, it may be, up to ridicule, but he never adopted a personal attitude that could be regarded as offensive. In his lifetime William Pugsley had many opponents, but all or nearly all of them, were political and not personal.

DR. PUGSLEY'S career in the Legislature was a brilliant one. When he resigned the Speakership in 1880, he was invited by the Premier of that day, Hon. A. G. Blair, to accept the Solicitor-Generalship which had been vacated by Hon. R. J. Ritchie, magistrate of the united cities of St. John and Portland. Hon. Mr. Pugsley was re-elected by the people of Kings county in 1890 and he held the office of Solicitor-General until 1892 when he resigned to give that attention to his law practice that he demanded. It is about that time that Hon. William Pugsley became eminent in law. He was recognized by his fellow practitioners and the bench as in the front rank of many good lawyers who were then practicing at the bar. In 1892 until 1897 Mr. Pugsley devoted the greater portion of his time to his chosen profession, in that period he first became a candidate for and energy to this end and the city of St. John was beginning to spend a lot of money on the West Side of the bar.

Many Conservatives and Liberals in the city and county of St. John were dissatisfied with the action of the Government in making Portland, Maine, the terminus of the steamers subsidized by Canadian Parliament, formed an independent political party and invited Dr. William Pugsley and Mr. McLaughlin to be their candidates. This was the general election of 1898 when Dr. Pugsley and Mr. McLaughlin were defeated but their end was gained inasmuch as they had aroused public interest and directed the attention of the Dominion Government to the port of St. John. The winter port business began about that time and continued increasing up to the present day.

DR. PUGSLEY was out of politics until 1900. In the interim Hon. A. G. Blair, the Premier of New Brunswick, had accepted the office of Minister of Railways in the Laurier government and Hon. James Mitchell had succeeded him as Premier and Attorney-General. Mr. Mitchell was only in office, however, from July, 1894, until October, 1897, when he resigned on account of ill health, and the Hon. H. B. Emerson, who had been Chief Commissioner of Public Works, as he was then called, from 1895, assumed the leadership of the government. The present Mr. Justice A. S. White, who was Solicitor General in the Blair administration in 1895 and continued in that office while Mr. Mitchell was Premier, became Attorney-General under Prime Minister Emmerson. There was another change in 1900 when Premier Emmerson resigned to enter federal politics, and the Hon. L. J. Tweedie became Premier. He invited Mr. Pugsley to be his Attorney-General, a position which he held from 1900 to 1907. Mr. Pugsley resigned to accept the Governorship of the Province, and the House of Commons. That event was nothing because Mr. Pugsley was putting up a battle against tremendous odds, but there always seemed the chance he would recover.

WITH Dr. Pugsley's passing the people of New Brunswick lose a great friend. I think I may reasonably say that Dr. Pugsley was New Brunswick's ablest and most successful statesman. He served this province in many positions of prominence, as a member of the Legislature, as Premier, as Minister of Public Works and as Governor.

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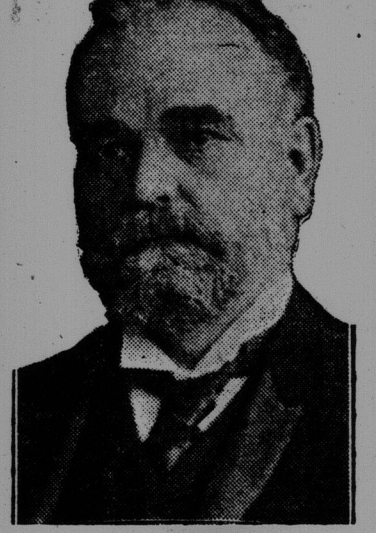
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Moosejaw Women Attend Meeting To Hear Maritimes Claims

Dead in Toronto



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