

# Death of W. J. Tregillus

*U.F.A. President Dies from typhoid fever after a few days' illness.*

Friends of the organized farmers' movement throughout Canada will be deeply grieved to hear of the death of William John Tregillus, president of the United Farmers of Alberta, which occurred at the General Hospital, Calgary at 2 a.m. on the morning of November 12. The death of Mr. Tregillus came as a great surprise and shock to his friends and colleagues in the farmers' movement, for only a few days before he had been one of the leading figures of the historic conference between the representatives of the organized farmers and the manufacturers, and from the active part which he took in that meeting, as well as at meetings of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., held in Winnipeg during the same week, one might have believed him to be in the possession of full health and vigor. Mr. Tregillus sustained a fall at the meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., when his chair slipped on the edge of the platform, and apparently the injury caused by this fall brought on complications which hastened his end. He paid little attention to it at the time, and later in the evening delivered one of the best speeches of his life. On reaching his home, near Calgary, on Sunday, he was feeling unwell, a physician was called and he was ordered to bed. He grew worse rapidly, became delirious, and was taken to the General Hospital at Calgary on Wednesday. He continued to fail, death resulting Thursday morning.

Mr. Tregillus was 55 years of age, and leaves a widow and four children, two sons and two daughters, Harold, May, Cyril and Muriel.

## Biographical

William John Tregillus was born in Plymouth, Devonshire, England, May 2, 1859, son of John and Emma Daw Tregillus. His father, who died in 1910 at the age of 83 years, was an experienced and successful flour miller in the old country, where the young man learned all that was then known about the business of milling grain. The mother died in 1881.

He received his elementary education in the grammar schools of Plymouth and Plympton and then completed a course in Taunton college. Upon leaving college the young man engaged actively in the milling business, as well as farming, with his father, in his native county, Devonshire, and for a dozen years thereafter he operated a flour mill at Southampton, that is, from 1890 until 1902.

In the latter year he disposed of his property in Southampton and set sail for Canada. The grain fields of the western prairies naturally attracted him, and in August, 1902, Mr. Tregillus arrived at Calgary, Alberta, and very soon after his arrival he had decided upon a piece of land near the city that was to become a model farm and the foundation of a fortune. At first he devoted most of his attention to raising horses, but he soon branched out into growing and maintaining a splendid dairy herd. In this he was so successful that he decided to undertake, so far as it might be within his power, to improve the dairy herds of the province by confining his own contributions to the uniformly successful purebred Holsteins. Thus the purebred stock farm became a standard supply centre for many of the dairy herds of Alberta.

## Gave University Site

Mr. Tregillus was a powerful and liberal champion of public schools and took a deep and active interest in educational establishments. When Dr. Blow was looking for a site for the prospective University of Calgary and eventually chose a 160-acre tract owned by Mr. Tregillus, the whole tract was promptly and voluntarily transferred as a university endowment. He was no less, however, interested in

primary and preparatory than in higher schools and served as chairman of the West Calgary School Board.

## Connection with U.F.A.

Mr. Tregillus first became prominent in the councils of the U.F.A. at the convention held at Edmonton in January, 1910. On that occasion he was nominated for the presidency, and on James Boyver being re-elected to that office, Mr. Tregillus was made vice-president. That position he filled for two years, succeeding to the presidency in 1912 and being re-elected in 1913 and 1914. He was also vice-president of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and had been chosen as a member of the special joint committee appointed at the recent conference of farmers and manufacturers and expected to go to Ottawa to lay the views of that conference before the Government.

Although his most distinguished success in rural affairs, had been as a grower of purebred dairy stock, he also

gave the very best of his ability to the farmers' organization without stint. He was a very modest man, never shoved himself for office, was just as ready and willing to work as a private in the ranks as in the first office. Unlike many men, he did not regard increasing wealth as a reason for slackening effort on behalf of advanced legislation and improved conditions for agriculture, but rather as a means to furthering the work, as he gave largely of his private means and an ever increasing amount of his time and effort.

## Strenuous Work Recently

The week spent in Winnipeg, which was the immediate cause of his illness, was a very strenuous one. There was the meeting of the Dominion Council of Agriculture, the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company and the long special conference with the manufacturers. He took an active part in all of them, throwing himself into the work with surprising vigor. It was a matter on which he

the annual meeting of our company last week, and no one present there will readily forget the very inspiring address which he delivered on the evening of November 4. His address brought us back over the farmers' struggles for a number of years, and in his closing remarks he made a strong appeal for a united effort in bettering the social and moral conditions surrounding the life of the farm, basing his appeal on a quotation he made from Scripture, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

"Mr. Tregillus," added Mr. Kennedy "was a thorough democrat and could be always found untiring in his efforts, sincere in his motives and a loyal champion of the cause of the people. We are unable to express the sorrow which all connected with the farmers' movement will feel at the loss sustained thru the death of Mr. Tregillus."

## Hon. Geo. Lawrence Speaks

Hon. George Lawrence, Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, said he heard of Mr. Tregillus' death with deep regret. He had done much for the farming community of Western Canada and his personality, so sincere and inspiring the respect of all brought into contact with him, would be a loss difficult to replace.

## Hon. Geo. Langley

Hon. George Langley, Minister of Municipalities in the Saskatchewan Cabinet, said:

"I think the farmers of Western Canada have suffered a severe loss in the death of Mr. Tregillus. He was a man of singular uprightness and outstanding ability, from whom I know the farmers were hoping for years of service." Mr. Langley added his sincere personal regret at the death of Mr. Tregillus.

## C. A. Dunning

"It hardly seems possible," exclaimed C. A. Dunning, general manager of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, when informed of Mr. Tregillus' sudden demise. "It was only a few days since that he was in Winnipeg attending the conference there, and appeared to be in the best of health."

"The farmers of Alberta and the west have certainly suffered a severe loss."

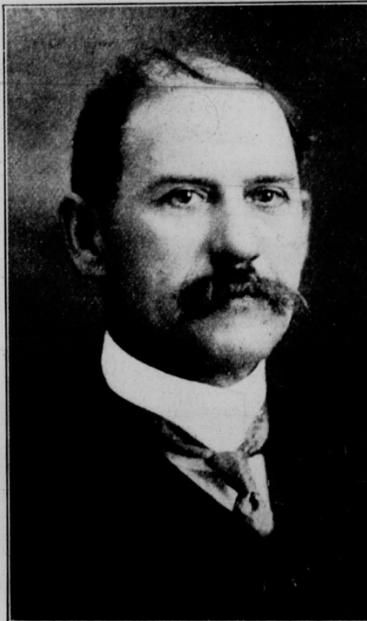
## Calgary Tributes

Mayor Sinnol, of Calgary, was deeply affected when he heard of Mr. Tregillus' death.

"I have known Mr. Tregillus ever since I came here, twelve years ago," the chief magistrate said, "and it has been a pleasure to esteem him as an intimate friend. My relations with him have been close, for he had an attractive personality and was most likeable. Mr. Tregillus was on the City Council for the last two years, and was an efficient, painstaking and attentive public servant. I have been greatly assisted by him and will miss him. I am deeply grieved by Mr. Tregillus' death, and I also feel that the city, the province and the west generally will lose a country up-builder of the rarer sort."

## E. J. Fream's Statement

"It is the biggest shock I have ever sustained," declared E. J. Fream, manager of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, and for many years a colleague of Mr. Tregillus. "I have been connected with him for six years, and I consider him the most outstanding figure in agricultural work in the west today. Even up to the very last moment he kept at his splendid work in aiding the farmers. His last words were in connection with his work at Winnipeg, where he secured from Vice-President George Bury, of the C. P. R., a promise that double-deck cars would be granted for the use of shippers of livestock from Calgary. All of us connected in any way with the late Mr. Tregillus, are shocked and astounded at his sudden death. We have no one to replace him, there is no one who can do his work."



WILLIAM JOHN TREGILLUS  
President, United Farmers of Alberta, 1912-14  
Born, Plymouth, Eng., May 2, 1859  
Died, Calgary, Alta, November, 12, 1914

achieved distinction as a student and progressionist in fruit growing and was a vice-president of the Alberta Horticultural society.

Mr. Tregillus was an independent Liberal in politics. He was president of the Direct Legislation League, and also a member of the Local Improvement Council of West Calgary. He was a member of the Devonshire, England, Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

In 1880, Mr. Tregillus married Miss Lillian L. Chapman, of his native town.

## TRIBUTES OF COLLEAGUES

### R. McKenzie's Tribute

Roderick McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, was visibly overcome when receiving the news of the sudden and untimely death of Mr. Tregillus. Finally he said: "It is a terrible loss to the farming interests of the West and indeed of all Canada. Only those of us who worked closely with him knew the full value of his work. A man of broad education, travel and wide reading, he

felt strongly and in which he had for years taken a deep interest. When he left Winnipeg he complained of feeling tired out, but none of us thought it was more than passing fatigue and were counting much on his presence and support in our mission to the Government at Ottawa."

### John Kennedy's Appreciation

Speaking on behalf of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, John Kennedy, vice-president, said: "It is with the deepest sorrow that we have learned of the death of William J. Tregillus, of Calgary. We have known Mr. Tregillus for a number of years thru his active connection with the farmers' movement in Alberta, and, in conversation with those who were intimately acquainted with him there as president of the United Farmers of Alberta and of the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company, very much of the success of these movements was due to the untiring energy and earnest efforts of Mr. Tregillus. We have had the pleasure of a closer acquaintance with him recently when he attended