

DECEASED SENATORS

TRIBUTES TO THE LATE SENATORS HACKETT, GODBOUT, STEVENSON, ROSS AND PIRIE

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, since we last met in this chamber five of our colleagues have been called to the Great Beyond. Some of them had been in the Senate for many years, others for much shorter periods. In fact, one had been a senator just slightly longer than one year. The senators who passed away were not our oldest members, nor were they the youngest; they were of various ages.

Senator John Thomas Hackett died on the 15th of September, at the age of 72.

Senator Joseph Adélarde Godbout died on the 18th of September, at the age of 63.

Senator John James Stevenson died on the 21st of September, at the age of 84.

From the dates which I have mentioned you will notice that three of our colleagues died within one week.

Senator John Henry Ross died on the 26th of September, at the age of 78.

Senator Frederick William Pirie died on the 3rd of October, at the age of 63.

We lost five senators in less than three weeks' time. Some of them had been in comparatively good health immediately prior to their death, while at least one had been in failing health for some time; all of which goes to show that:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

May I refer to our deceased honourable colleagues in the order in which they passed away?

The Honourable John Thomas Hackett, who died on the 15th September, was born on June 12, 1884, at Stanstead, in the province of Quebec, the son of Mr. Justice M. F. Hackett and Florence Knight Hackett. Senator Hackett, you will recall, appeared to be in excellent health and in exceedingly high spirits when Parliament was prorogued, in the middle of August; in fact I recall that the last day he was here he said that the year he had spent in the Senate had been one of the happiest years of his life. He seemed to enjoy greatly his work here; and I know that we all enjoyed having him as one of our colleagues.

Senator Hackett was educated at St. Charles Seminary, Sherbrooke, Quebec; at Loyola College, Montreal, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and at McGill University, where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law. He received many

honours which were the mingled expression of respect and affection. Among these honours was the degree of LL.D. *honoris causa* from McGill University, the University of Montreal and St. Francis Xavier University. As you all know, he was an eminent lawyer who acted as counsel in many of the most important and difficult cases which came before the courts. Shortly after being called to the bar his young associates of that day elected him President of the Junior Bar Association. This was in 1919. Approximately twenty-eight years later, in 1947, his associates of that day elected him President of the Canadian Bar Association. In the year immediately previous to his election to that important appointment he had held the high honour of Batonnier of the Bar of Montreal. Subsequently he was made an honorary member of the American Bar Association, the International Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, and the American Society of International Law.

Senator Hackett was a member and officer from time to time of many welfare societies and organizations which were set up to recognize and encourage the cultural aspect of Canadian life.

In politics he was a Conservative but he had many friends of the opposite political faith, amongst whom was our present Prime Minister, who along with himself had enjoyed a distinguished career in law. Senator Hackett contested the general election in Stanstead County in 1925, but was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, he was successful in 1930 and he sat in the House of Commons as the member for Stanstead from 1930 to 1935. In 1945 he was again elected in the County of Stanstead and sat in the House of Commons until 1949.

It is interesting to note that in pre-Confederation days his grandfather, Albert Knight, represented Stanstead, and that the senator's father, the Honourable Mr. Justice M. F. Hackett, was elected for the same constituency on three occasions.

Senator Hackett was summoned to the Senate of Canada on July 28, 1955, and was therefore with us as a colleague for just a little more than one year. He took a great interest in all the work of the Senate, and seemed to enjoy his work here amidst new surroundings. We enjoyed having him with us. In his passing we have lost one of our outstanding members, and Canada has lost a distinguished lawyer and politician who, in almost half a century of public life, became one of Canada's foremost advocates of racial tolerance. But the greatest loss will be that suffered by his widow, his son and two daughters, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.