

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 30, 1962

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE LATE SENATOR FRASER

TRIBUTES

Hon. Lionel Choquette: Honourable senators, it is my sad duty to say that since last we met we have lost a much respected colleague. I refer, of course, to our good friend, Senator William Alexander Fraser, who passed away at his home in Trenton on Friday last, at the age of seventy-six.

Senator Fraser served his country in this chamber for over thirteen years, and his wise counsel will be very much missed. He was born and educated in Trenton, and over the course of his lifetime played a large part in the business and political life of that town, and as well throughout all of Ontario.

As a prominent industrialist and fruit grower, the late Senator was director of a number of companies in the canning and lumbering fields. He was president of Trenton Cooperage Mills Limited, which he founded. He was also a leader in the fruit growing field, which was one of his special interests.

His service in public life was not confined to the contribution he made in this chamber. From 1930 until 1945 he represented the constituency of Northumberland in the House of Commons with great distinction. Prior to that, from 1924 until 1930, he was mayor of his native town of Trenton. In the First World War he served with the 49th regiment. Honourable senators, I wish to extend my sincere sympathy to our late colleague's widow and immediate family and to the many close personal friends who, with us, mourn his passing.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, our late colleague was a man of strong views. He had strong likes and dislikes. He was never lukewarm about anything. Always faithful to his friends, he never took a middle course; he never sat on the fence. We always knew where he stood, and that applied also to his political views. Indeed, he was usually impatient with anyone who did not see exactly as he did politically. However, we all respected him for his strong views.

Senator Fraser's life was a series of successes. As the Deputy Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Choquette) has said, he

served his municipality on various boards and as an alderman. He was very proud of the town of Trenton and eventually became its mayor. His county elected him a member of the House of Commons. Later, he was appointed to the Senate, and was a member of this house for thirteen years.

The late Senator Fraser was raised on a farm, and his first undertaking was that of farming. He was a most successful farmer, and had one of the largest orchards in Ontario. He processed his fruit by modern methods, and was one of the first growers to give spring delivery of the previous fall's crop in perfect condition. He also had a creamery and was interested in the cheese processing business. As an industrialist he established a cement plant and an iron and steel works in the town of Trenton. He was also in the hotel business. He was a promoter of the Lord Elgin Hotel here in Ottawa, and more recently a promoter and a director of the Lord Simcoe Hotel in the city of Toronto. His interests extended to the newspaper world, and he established and was the proprietor of a newspaper in Trenton.

The late senator loved his home town of Trenton and did many things for it. He was anxious that the Royal Canadian Air Force should establish a base in Trenton, and it was due in large measure to his enthusiasm that consideration was given by the Government to the establishment of an R.C.A.F. station there. One of the factories he caused to be established in Trenton was that of the Bata Shoe Company. The owners of that company came to Canada from abroad in the early days of the war and established a factory in Trenton. It was one of the first large factories to be set up in Canada with sponsorship from abroad.

Most of the late senator's ventures were a financial success. I have said that he was outspoken and at times unrestrained in his language, but he was a very kind soul. He was charitable and helped many who were in need. Though it was not generally known, he frequently came to the help of persons in financial difficulties. He took a lively interest in the Salvation Army and established a playground for children in Trenton, which is now being operated by that organization.

I join with the Deputy Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Choquette) in extending my sympathy to Mrs. Fraser and those who were near and dear to the late senator.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, in May, 1934, Mr. Herb Lennox, who was the former Conservative Member of Parliament for North York, died. He was my pair, and I said a few words about him and his career in a ceremony such as this