

train to that part of the Northwest Territories which, in 1905, became the province of Alberta. The slogan "Go west young man" was then in every mouth. His only baggage was a certificate from the institute of higher commercial studies of Bruce county, a fine family education and a wealth of ancestral traditions going back almost to the first Scottish clans. Thus equipped, James Angus MacKinnon could face any changes in climate and all the ups and downs of fortune. He had the mettle necessary to meet all trials and was eager to get down to work. Anxious not to waste any time, he accepted upon his arrival a position as teacher in Lacombe; later, I believe, he became school inspector at Wetaskiwin, a few miles from Edmonton. Those few years devoted to education in a rural community, where everything had to be done from scratch, brought him in contact with all the problems of life. He was fascinated, intoxicated by the varied resources of the soil, the beautiful scenery, the endless plains, the bountiful crops, the Indian reserves and their problems, the hunting and fishing and the healthy and bracing air of the Rockies which increased his optimism and doubled his energies.

In 1905 he was in Edmonton to attend the celebrations held in honour of the inauguration by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Lieutenant Governor Bulya of the new province of Alberta and its entry into Confederation. Such festivities, a milestone in any man's life, might well have inspired patriotism and filled the hearts of men with ambition to develop our beautiful country. James MacKinnon must have been moved to the very depths of his soul by the impressive demonstrations which were held on this occasion in Alberta. Not long ago, he had the great satisfaction of attending the fiftieth anniversary of the province which he had so greatly helped to develop.

The population having increased and a general hardware store being needed to help construction, he founded Northern Hardware Limited which, I believe, though it has changed hands many times, is still in existence. In the meantime, he contributed to the "Bulletin" under the direction of the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Government, took an interest in politics, founded the Young Liberals Club and played an important part in all social activities, in sports, in the Chamber of Commerce and in real estate. Nothing escaped him, his interests extended to all fields and he tried to keep abreast of everything. In 1911 he had chosen his calling; he sold Northern Hardware Limited and launched

definitely into insurance and finance. His popularity increased constantly and he organized the first hockey club in Edmonton. Wherever he went, he was noted for his nobility of character, his infinite tactfulness, his true courtesy and his exquisite politeness which, with his many qualities of heart and mind, caused him to be elected in 1935 as member of Parliament for Edmonton West and later to be appointed as Minister of Trade and Commerce in 1940, as Minister of Fisheries in 1948 and as Minister of Mines and Resources in June, 1948. The same qualities accompanied him in his trade missions to South America and to the states of South Africa; they were the key to his great popularity.

When I recall the different stages of his career, I can only conclude that he fashioned his own destiny, for he left nothing to chance; everything was wisely thought out, mulled over, planned methodically and carried out with unswerving perseverance.

He had the keenest sense of duty and would let nothing interfere with the accomplishment of his duty. But he was at his best in the privacy of his own home, where, away from the pressure of business, he was really himself and the most devoted of friends. He had the highest regard for friendship and his loyalty to his friends had become proverbial. Were I to summarize his life, I would say that it was a model of honesty and sincerity and I would propose him as an example of a life well filled.

In closing, may I extend to him, in the silence of the Great Beyond, a final expression of appreciation for the deep friendship with which he honoured me and for the many kindnesses and gifts which he lavished upon me.

(Text):

Hon. Donald Cameron: Honourable senators, as a fellow townsman of Senator MacKinnon for nearly 20 years, I would be remiss in my duties and in my respect and affection for him did I not take this opportunity to join with others in expressing deep regret at the passing of this distinguished Canadian and great friend.

Senator MacKinnon was probably known to me in a capacity different from that in which he was known to many others. I knew him first when I was a student at the University of Alberta. He was a friend of all students there, and in his own kindly and unobtrusive way he was responsible for helping more than one Canadian student to carve a niche in the annals of this country, particularly in the West.