

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 21, 1950

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

MOTION OF APPOINTMENT

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate I would move:

That pursuant to Rule 77 the following senators, to wit: The Honourable Senators Aseltine, Buchanan, Gouin, Haig, Howard, Lambert, McDonald, Moraud and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with may I state, for the information of honourable senators, something about which I was a little doubtful until a short while ago, namely that the Senate will be in session next week. What will happen later will depend on the business before us.

THE LATE SENATORS SINCLAIR AND ST. PÈRE

TRIBUTES TO THEIR MEMORY

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, it is my painful duty to draw your attention to the fact that since we last met we have lost two of our esteemed colleagues.

The Honourable John Ewen Sinclair, P.C., of Queen's, died December 23, 1949.

Senator Sinclair was born at Summerfield, P.E.I., on December 24, 1879, the son of the late Peter Sinclair, M.L.A., and his wife, the former Margaret McMurdo. Educated at Springfield, P.E.I., Senator Sinclair stayed on the farm where he was born, and became one of Prince Edward Island's most successful and progressive farmers. In 1909 he was appointed a member of the "Swine Commission" that visited Europe.

He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1917, and was re-elected in the general elections of 1921 and 1926. In 1921 he became a member of the Privy Council and was appointed Minister without Portfolio.

Senator Sinclair is survived by his wife, the former Rebecca Harding. He had three

children who are all living: two daughters, Mrs. A. B. Cutcliffe of Charlottetown and Mrs. I. W. Jardine of Kensington, and one son, John Crawford, at home. Senator Sinclair's brother Peter, who was also a member of the House of Commons, predeceased him some years ago.

Senator Sinclair was very active in Masonic work. He was a member of the Scottish Rite and Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island A.F. & A.M. He was an elder of the United Church at Summerfield and, for many years, superintendent of the Sunday school.

He was summoned to the Senate in 1930.

It is difficult for us in this house to realize that the familiar figure of John Sinclair will be no longer with us. A member of the Senate for twenty years, he was faithful in his attendance in this chamber and in committees. He served for years as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, and occupied that position at the time of his death.

Possessing a deep sense of responsibility, he was loyal to his beliefs and to those with whom he was associated. He was intensely proud of his native province, and strove unceasingly to accomplish what he could for the welfare of its citizens. His sound judgment was always available to those who sought his advice, and his kindly manner radiated charm to all with whom he came in contact. His passing will be mourned by many, and not the least of these will be his colleagues in the Senate of Canada, who knew him so well for so many years.

The Honourable Edouard Charles St. Père, of De Lanaudière died January 31, 1950.

Senator St. Père was born at Ste. Mélanie, Quebec, on September 24, 1876. He was the son of Zéphirin St. Père and his wife, the former Eugénie Brissette. Senator St. Père was educated at the local school of Ste. Mélanie and the Joliette Seminary, where he obtained his B.A. degree. In 1902 he joined the newspaper *Le Canada* as sports editor.

His career in the field of sports was one of the most outstanding in Canada. Senator St. Père's efforts were constantly devoted to the organization of associations that would protect the integrity of sports and ensure them good administration. His interests embraced almost every form of athletic activity. He was one of the founders, and the president, of the National Lacrosse Union. He also served as president of the Montreal City Baseball League and the Montreal City Hockey League. He was founder and long-time president of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, and it was largely