

# Hon. Sir Frank Smith Dead.

## THE AGED SENATOR PASSES AWAY AFTER A LONG ILLNESS.

### HE WAS INDEED NATURE'S NOBLEMAN.

#### SKETCH OF HIS CAREER THE FUNERAL.

The Honorable Sir Frank Smith, Senator, died at his residence, 102 Bloor street east at 11.55 on Thursday morning last. For two years and more the aged statesman had been suffering from rheumatism and gout. The result was that his naturally strong constitution was undermined, and for the past two months he had been in a state of feebleness that could have but one end. There followed a general collapse, and it became apparent three weeks ago that death was but a matter of days. On Monday Father Brennan and Dr. Burritt spent the night at the bedside of Toronto's Grand Old Man, and awaited the momentarily expected dissolution. He rallied, however, and, although very weak, remained conscious until Thursday morning, when the final end came. He went forth with all the spiritual consolations of the Church, and met his God with joy. The end was a comparatively easy one, for he may be said to have glided into it, to have slept his life away. His spiritual advisor Father Brennan, and his physician Dr. Burritt, were present at the final moment. Around his bedside were gathered his family—his son Austin, his two daughters, Mrs. John Foy, and Mrs. Bruce Macdonald, and Mr. Foy and Mr. Macdonald. Sir Frank had long wished for death, and when it finally came he stood ready to meet it, and he went forth fearlessly and hopefully, nay, even joyfully. Since June, 1899, the aged Senator had been confined to his bed, and his end was welcome. Peacefully he passed away amid the tears of his loved ones, to know pain and sorrow no more.

Sir Frank Smith was indeed Nature's nobleman. A grand old man indeed, loved by all who knew him, admired for his sterling qualities of mind and soul, honored by all from his Queen to the newsboy on the corner; respected by the whole of Canada for his probity and strength of character—he was indeed one of Nature's masterpieces. Anything he undertook succeeded, for he threw his whole heart and soul into it. He knew no failure; his nature would not admit of such an eventuality. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, yet was he easily approached, genial, and always pleasant. Anything he turned his hand to felt his strength of purpose and succeeded. With his eyes always fixed upon the goal, he never turned back; his whole energy was exerted towards attaining the object of his venture, and when that was brought about, and then only, was there any relaxation, any withdrawal of that concentrated attention and intense application that was the keynote of his life and of his success. He was, perhaps, actively concerned in more business ventures than any other single man in Canada, and the solidly established, firmly founded, enterprises that he left after him, will be a monument to his ability and energy that will fair to outlast any granite that may be raised to his memory. As it was in business, so too it was in everything else that he undertook. In politics his sterling qualities were recognized by his party. A life-long Conservative, his advice was always eagerly sought after by the leaders of his party, and it was only his retiring disposition that held him back from taking his place at the head of the Conservative party in Canada.

In his private capacity, as a citizen, Sir Frank Smith needs no panegyric. His charities were many and far-reaching, but they were done in accordance with the scriptural injunction, and truly may it be said of him that his right hand knew not what his left was doing. No worthy charity was ever allowed to go away empty handed from Sir Frank Smith, no one applied to him in vain for assistance, whether monetary or otherwise. Ever ready to lend a hand to deserving cases, he found no lack of opportunity in indulging himself in what he most appreciated and enjoyed—the doing of good, quietly and without ostentation. He dreaded publicity in the good that he did, and cared if at all, for his anxiety to keep his light under the bushel. No graven tablets proclaim to the world that Sir Frank Smith spent his wealth in ostentatious charity, no score had his in the daily journals announce donations to educational institutions. Yet these donations were made, but not proclaimed, those charities given but not announced. Keen on the alert to relieve pain and suffering, many an aching heart obtained relief, many a poor mother, many a sorrowing wife, many a grieving husband, many a family in want, reposed upon the solid foundation of

prayer that blessings might descend upon the head of their benefactor and helper. Thus did he build up for himself, in this great city, tablets of everlasting endurance in the hearts of the deserving poor; thus did he erect for himself a mansion in the abode of the blessed doors of good, where neither moth nor rust can destroy, or thief break in and steal. The announcement of his death brought tears to many an eye in Toronto. Everywhere are heard stories of charity that have been hidden away within the secret hearts of poor people who have felt the kindness of the great man that is gone. Nowhere can one hear of a single act of injustice, of a single neglected opportunity to do good. He has gone forth with the blessings of hundreds upon him; with the prayers of thousands following him to the throne of God.

By the death of Sir Frank Smith, Toronto has lost one of her most distinguished citizens, Canada one of her ablest and brightest minds, and the world one of Nature's noblemen. He is gone, but he has built up for himself by his energy, his talent, his strength of purpose, and his natural capacity for doing good, a monument that must ever be a source of pride to his descendants, the pleasure of his countrymen, and Canada's contribution to a man of whom she may well feel proud.

Sir Frank Smith has a place in Canadian history carved out by his own untiring energy, and to himself alone can be attributed the distinguished place he holds in the history of this country. Always an Irishman and a Catholic, Sir Frank Smith never lost sight of his country and his Church. A warm spot in his heart was always glowing for his oppressed native land and countrymen, and he always stood ready to assist them, to further their interests, and to do all that was in him to do honor to the land that gave him birth. He took a keen interest in the Parliamentary struggle that has been going on in the Old Land, and his interest meant more than a mere passing partisan.

#### SIR FRANK'S CAREER.

Hon. Sir Frank Smith, Senator, was born at Richhill, Armagh, Ireland, on March 18, 1822. His mother died while he was but a child, and when he was ten years of age his father came to Canada and took up a small farm on the Lake Shore road near Port Credit. The family then consisted of the father, Margaret Smith, the oldest of the children, Joseph, and Frank Smith, the two brothers. For several years the family worked the small farm, and during the winter season Frank received a scant rudimentary education at a neighboring private school, conducted by an ill-tempered and unqualified master.

#### A FAMILY TRAGEDY.

Two or three years passed, and then a series of great misfortunes befel the little family. In 1835 Colonel Talbot, who in 1802 had obtained a grant of 5,000 acres of land in Elgin County, was offering exceptional inducements to settlers to take up farms upon his estate. It was Colonel Talbot's custom to make annual visits to York, and thus the inducements came to the knowledge of Sir Frank Smith's father, who resolved to take advantage of them. Accordingly the family wealth was entrusted to the care of Joseph Smith, and he was commissioned to go to Malahide and make the purchase of a suitable farm. Joseph Smith was never heard of again, but in the following spring his body was found in Burlington Bay at Hamilton. He had been murdered and robbed, but the perpetrators of the crime were never discovered, nor were any facts of the murder ever brought to light. Years afterwards Sir Frank Smith was informed by a stranger from California that a criminal, who had paid the extreme penalty of the law there, had, before his execution, confessed to the murder of one Joseph Smith at Hamilton, in Canada.

#### HIS START IN LIFE.

This dreadful affair caused the death of the father, and Margaret and Frank were left orphans. The death of the father and mother, and the loss of the small resources which the family had possessed, compelled Frank Smith to earn his own livelihood and provide for his sister Margaret. He secured a home for his sister with a neighboring family of farmers, and in 1836 engaged himself in the employ of Mr. Francis Logan of Dixie. Mr. Logan was a millowner and general trader, who carried on an extensive business in York, Poplar Hill, Wentworth and Lincoln Counties. In his time he was one of the most progressive and successful merchants in Ontario. The system of business which Sir Frank Smith was afterwards engaged in was modelled after Mr. Logan's enterprise.

Dixie is in Peo. County about thirteen miles north-west of this city. Frank Smith engaged with Mr. Logan when he was fourteen years of age, and began his duty as a teamster at the handsome salary of \$7 a month. For the first winter he teamed wood for the mill at Dixie, tending the horses in his

charge, and competing in his labors against men who were many years his senior. The result of one wood hauling contest was so pleasing to Mr. Logan that he promoted young Frank Smith, and gave him a clerkship in his general store at Dixie.

#### SIR FRANK'S CHIMNEY.

Some year ago there was at Dixie a tall brick chimney which the Senator helped to build. It was necessary to build a new chimney for the mill, and Mr. Logan secured the services of a mason to do the work. But when the mason arrived, and all the material was upon the ground, no help could be obtained, as the men were engaged in farm work. The mason declared that if he could find nobody he would return without building the chimney. Frank Smith undertook to help, but failing in this, he shouldered the load himself and carried every brick of which the chimney was constructed. Numerous such instances of faithful adherence to his employer and self-sacrifice in his interests recommended Frank Smith to Mr. Logan, and marked him for special favors.

From a clerkship Frank Smith was promoted to take charge of the general store at Dixie, and finally took supervision of Mr. Logan's interests in that vicinity. He was frequently commissioned upon affairs of business to Hamilton and Wolland and other places, and became Mr. Logan's most valued assistant, and he gradually worked his way to the head of the firm by which

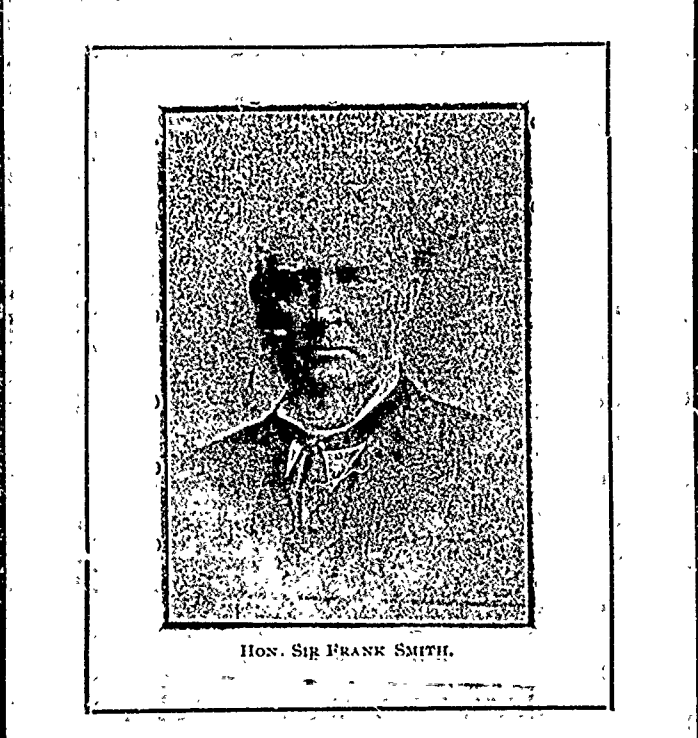
captain of militia. In 1850 he was a delegate from the London Board of Trade to the Detroit Trade Convention. He served the City of London as Alderman, and in 1850 became its Mayor. He was a prominent member of the Roman Catholic Church, and was one of the originators of the Ontario Catholic League, which was formed in 1871. In the same year he was summoned to the Senate of Canada by Lord Lisgar. In July, 1882, he was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council, and was a member of the Conservative Cabinets led successively by Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and Sir Charles Tupper. In August, 1891, Sir Hector Langvin retired from the position of Minister of Public Works, and the deceased succeeded him in the portfolio, which he retained until January, 1892. On May 21, 1895 he received the honor of Knighthood.

#### DECLINED THE PREMIERSHIP.

On the tragic death of Sir John Thompson in 1894, Sir Frank was sent for, as the senior member of the Privy Council of Canada, and asked by Lord Aberdeen to form a Government. Sir Frank, however, declined the honor, and a Ministry was formed by Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

#### A BUSINESS MAN ALWAYS.

Sir Frank's work in Parliament was characterized by his devotion to the interests of the business community. In connection with this it is interesting to recall that his first remarks on the



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he was employed, and this included eleven branch stores.

#### IN BUSINESS IN LONDON.

In 1840 the deceased went to London, Ontario, where he entered into business as a retail grocer under the name of Frank Smith & Co. He continued in this till 1857, and for a few years had associated with him Mr. Thomas Wilson. In 1857 the firm removed to Toronto, where the business was conducted under the firm name, although the partnership was dissolved in 1878, when Mr. Wilson died. In 1891 Sir Frank Smith sold out his business and warehouse at the corner of Front and Scott streets to Lby, Blain & Co., and retired from active mercantile pursuits.

Sir Frank Smith continued, however, to hold his interest in a number of financial corporations with which he was connected. He was President of the Dominion Bank, President of the London & Ontario Loan Company, President of the Home Savings & Loan Co., and of the Niagara Navigation Co., Vice-President of the Consumers' Gas Company, Vice-President of the Dominion Telegraph Company, a Director of the North American Life Company, a Director of the Toronto General Trust Company, and at one time a Director of the Industrial Exhibition Association.

He was for some time President of the Northern Railway. For many years he was President and principal owner of the Toronto Street Railway Company.

#### A DRAMATIC INCIDENT.

The proceedings attending the acquisition of the road by the city in 1891 were contested keenly at every stage by Sir Frank and perhaps the most dramatic incident of his life was that of the morning when the city demanded possession of the railway, and Sir Frank, with a body of lawyers, stood with his back against the doors of the street railway offices on King street and refused the city possession. This, however, was obtained within a few days.

Sir Frank took a keen interest in sports, and has been for many years President of the Ontario Jockey Club. He was also a member of the Toronto and Albany Clubs of this city, and of the Hudson Club in Ottawa.

He served in the rebellion of 1837 as a volunteer, and subsequently became a

floor of the Senate after his appointment were in support of a motion by Senator Wark for amendments and improvements to the Insolvency Act. The discussion took place on May 21, 1872. Sir Frank said he "was in favor of a bankruptcy law, if we can obtain one that will not encourage rascality among the business community. The law, as it now stood, had certainly that tendency." We were now living in a very prosperous state; we had a large amount of money at our disposal, and he believed that, with the assistance of Providence, the Dominion had a long and prosperous career before it."

#### HELPED THE C.P.R.

Sir Frank's most valuable services in the Government were rendered in promoting the Canadian Pacific Railway. On May 29, 1891, Sir William Van Horne wrote Sir Frank Smith, congratulating him upon his elevation to the Knighthood. In this letter he wrote: "I do not know that you have ever been told that all those who have been prominently connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the past two or twelve years have felt themselves under a debt of gratitude to you which they can never hope to repay, all of them realizing that but for your friendship and strong support, and for the exercise of your sound business sense in Council at one time, the company would have met with disaster almost on the eve of the completion of its work, and the country would have been thrown into a state of financial prostration, from which it would not have recovered even yet."

Early in life Sir Frank Smith married the daughter of Mr. John O'Higgins of Stratford, his wife dying in March, 1850. Two daughters and a son survive him—Mrs. John Foy, Mrs. Bruce Macdonald, and Mr. James Austin Smith. One daughter, Mrs. Arthur B. Harrison died, leaving a son, Frank, who is now seven years of age. There are several nephews in London named Mauro, children of his only sister.

#### THE FUNERAL.

Seldom if ever have so many of Canada's most prominent men assembled in Toronto to pay the last honors to one of our greatest citizens as were gathered in St. Basil's church, when the solemn and beautiful words of Requiem High

Mass were sung over the mortal remains of the late Sir Frank Smith. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Senator Allan, Senator O'Brien, the Hon. Wm. Hart, Mayor Howland and Messrs. Eugene O'Keefe, Wm. Hendrie, T. Long, Sir Robert Smith and Wm. Ince carried the casket to its last resting place in St. Michael's cemetery.

As the solemn cortege wound its way from the residence of the deceased, the hearse in which the coffin lay covered with beautiful flowers, was followed to the church and then to the grave by the near relatives of the deceased, his son, Mr. James Austin Smith, Messrs. John Foy and Bruce Macdonald, son-in-law, Masters Frank and John Foy, grandsons, and Messrs. John Flynn and John James and Harvey O'Higgins, nephew of the departed, and also by his spiritual, legal and medical advisors, Rev. Father Brennan, J. Foy, Q.C., M.P., Dr. Burritt, Frank P. Lee and John Lee.

#### THOSE PRESENT.

Among those present were: Hon. G. W. Ross, Sir William Meredith, Senator Cox, Justice Moss, Hon. S. O. Wood, Senator Aikins, W. R. Brock, M.P., and Messrs. J. T. C. Thompson, John Laxton, Dr. Dawart, J. W. Langmuir, Capt. McGiffin, Thos. Hodgins, Q.C., W. Gormally, Robert Jaffray, G. H. Grecco, Col. Young, Frank R. Anglin, T. O. Irving, Samuel Nordheimer, ex-Ald. Steiner, Barlow Cumberland, O. W. Clinch, Wright, Isaac Gilmour, M. J. Hauey, W. B. McMurrich, Samuel Barker, M.P., David O'Leighon, H. H. Cook, J. W. Leonard, Henry Cawthra, Thomas Davies, George W. Torrance, Timothy Eaton, A. S. Nordheimer, G. R. R. Cockburn, Henry Dantey, C. W. Beatty, George Musson, C. A. Pison, Thomas Crawford, M.P., Robt. Davies, Wallace Maclean, Dr. Cassidy, E. T. Malone, Q.C., Lieut. Col. Mason, C. H. Ritchie, Q.C., Robert Ferguson, P. A. Manning, Somerville Scarfo, Jas. Gunn, Dr. Andrew Smith, Ald. Cox, A. Claudio Macdonell, M. O'Connor, Nicholas Rooney, P. Burns, Patrick Boyle, R. N. Gooch, W. R. Brock, M.P., F. P. Coffey, Martin Griffin, Major Miles, Capt. Mason, John Small, Frank Cayley.

#### FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Many exquisite floral tributes bore witness to the esteem in which the aged Senator was held by his family, his personal friends and business colleagues. They included pillow, with the one word, "Father," from Mrs. John Foy and Mrs. Bruce Macdonald. A wreath from the grandchildren with the design "Grandpa." Wreath—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Foy, Spray—Mr. and Mrs. A. Foy, Cross—Mrs. and the Messrs. O'Higgins, Wreath—Mrs. Hugh Ryan. A cross from the three nurses of deceased, Misses McCarthy, Lavery, and Clement. Harp—Employees of the house. Spray—Mr. and Mrs. Robert McBride. Wreath—Mr. J. Sullivan. Anchor from the Dominion Senate. Cross from Dominion Bank. Wreath from the Directors of the Home Savings and Loan Co. Wreath from Niagara Navigation Company. Violet horseshoe from Ontario Jockey Club, and a cross from the Consumers' Gas Company; wreath from Dominion Telegraph Co.; cross with sickle and sheaf from managers and staff of Home Savings and Loan Company; anchor from Albany Club; spray from Mr. George Macdonald; cross, Col. and Mrs. Mason; spray, Mrs. J. A. and Miss Donahoe; wreath, Mrs. George Allan Arthur; sheaf, Mr. and Mrs. W. Albert Austin; spray, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Webster; spray, Mrs. and Miss Ruthford; spray, Mrs. Archibald Fraser and Mrs. Kate Fraser; spray, Mr. H. G. Corneil; spray, Mr. and Mrs. McGraw; spray, Mr. W. J. McGuire; spray, Mrs. Ed. Leadley; spray, Mr. Alex. Manning; anchors; Mr. Eugene O'Keefe and Mrs. French; cross, Mrs. Alexander Burns and the Messrs. Burns; pillow, Mrs. E. Y. Eaton; wreath, Mr. and Mrs. T. Eaton; wreath, Mr. J. Hauey; cross, Mr. and Mrs. D'Arcy McMahon; spray, Mrs. A. Morgan Cosby.

#### THE MASS.

The Solemn Requiem High Mass Coram Episcopo, was sung by Rev. Father Brennan, C.S.B., the spiritual advisor of the deceased. Rev. Dr. Teely, C.S.B., Superior of St. Michael's College, acted as Deacon, and Rev. Father Howard was Sub Deacon. Very Rev. Father Marjion, C.S.B., Provincial of the Basilians in America, and Rev. Father Hand of St. Paul's, were Deacons of Honor.

The following clergy were in the sanctuary: Rev. Fathers Frachon, C.S.B., Walsh, C.S.B., McBrady, C.S.B., Murray, C.S.B., Ryan, Ald. McEuteo, Walsh, Sullivan, C.S.B., Plomer, C.S.B., Martin, C.S.B., Mischbau, Cruise, Ryan, C.S.B.

The Mass was sung by the College choir, under the leadership of Rev. Mr. Staley, C.S.B. Mr. J. J. Costello, of St. Basil's, officiated, rendered "By the Waters of Babylon" in his usual grand voice. Rev. Father Murray presided at the organ.

At the conclusion of the Mass His Grace Archbishop O'Connor addressed the congregation which filled the church. He spoke substantially as follows:—

#### THE SERMON.

An occasion such as this not only counsels alacritude but commands it. Anything I might say would fall short of what I should and would like to say. In remaining silent on this occasion, I should be but following the wishes of the deceased, who was fond of quietness and retirement, and whose last request was that no ostentation should be shown at his funeral. He died fortified by the rites of the Church. I shall speak a few words of consolation and of instruction; a few words upon the lessons that are to be drawn from death. The deceased was a man of duty, a man who acted well, and honestly, and honorably; because it was his duty to do so, not because of the opinion of the world, of what the world might think. Hence it was that he had stood so high in honor among men, and in this country; hence it was that so many and such prominent people are present here this morning; hence it is that the press from one end of this broad land to the other were found in their praise of the deceased. He was always loyal to Catholic principles, and hence it was that to-day she offers to him all the honor, all the consolation that the Catholic Church can afford. She asks us that we offer our prayers for the deceased that God may overlook any imperfections that the deceased may have had. It is a consolation to the family to know that Jesus Christ, our Lord, is the light and resurrection; the way and the life, and hence we should be even merry on such an occasion as this. There is a lesson to be drawn from death—there is a God who is omnipotent and all-mightful; a God who has rights which must always be respected. We are furnished from time to time with warnings of our approaching death. He is the Master of all things. To us He has handed over the control of the things of the earth, but He did not give to man that he should control himself. His commands must be observed. We see that all positively was doomed to punishment through the sin of Adam. His commands must be observed, His rights respected. We are left free to act, but there is a recompense or a punishment to be attached to our actions. There is another lesson to be drawn from death—the importance of God's truth; the necessity of listening to it, and the obligation of complying with it. We know the story of the Garden of Eden and the reason for the command forbidding the eating of the fruit. We know of the punishment that they should die the death if they should not comply with the command given them; we know the reason given by the Evil One in his temptation of our first parents. He declared that the command had been given, not that they should die if they should disregard it; but that they should be kept in ignorance, that they might not become wiser, knowing the difference between good and evil. On the one side, we find truth; on the other, falsehood—the teaching of the Devil. Satan is sure to come in with his falsehood. If God teaches, we must have the truth—hence God's teaching must always be listened to. Daily experience proves that God is true; that all that is taught by God is true; that all that is taught by God is true; hence it is our duty to find out what God has taught, and our seeking shall be blessed with success, and recompensed with a knowledge of the truth. Every sacrifice made for God's sake will be recompensed in some way. Another lesson, and a most consolatory one, is that the Devil is not the enemy of God. Punishment will be meted out for disobedience, but God knows how, and has given us the means to overcome evil, and hence to draw good from our temptations. It is mercy for us, and the greatest of all. We are all made after the image and likeness of God, and sin alone can change that likeness. By death we are enabled once more to regain what was lost to adorn our souls, once more with the brightness of grace. We are enabled, in our own weak way, to carry out the will of God. God loves us, and hence we should be always loyal; we should always love Him and believe in Him. God is the Lord and Master, and will be obeyed. God is truth, and must be known according to our state. Death, and the sufferings that lead up to it, must be borne with patience and resignation to the will of God. By death we are enabled to reach the goal of man—the presence of God for all eternity. We should take the words of St. Paul as our motto—"For us to live is Christ; to die is gain." This means simply that we should do our duty for the sake of God—in that gain. It is not the honors of the world; it is not friends that should we strive to attain; it is that we should do all things for the honor and glory of God. Friends are a good thing, but there is no genuine friendship unless it be centered in the heart of God. I find the resurrection and the life, and he that believeth in me shall live forever. We hope that the deceased is now with God, and though we believe that they who are gone before, with the sign of faith, and fortified by the rights of the Church are saved, yet we believe that the glories of eternal life are sometimes withheld for a time because of imperfections that must be worked out. The Church follows her children beyond the grave to the throne of God. Let us then unite with the Church in praying to God for the deceased. Eternal rest give to him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him.