

At every Divisional Headquarters, at every detachment, there is a feeling of sorrow that we have lost our Commissioner, who was at once the personal friend of each and every one. The sympathy of twenty-six hundred Mounted Police Officers and men is tendered to Lady MacBrien and her family in their loss. Nevertheless we mingle with our sense of loss, another of gratitude for the splendid example which has been shown us, for the benefits we have derived and for the standard of ambition set us in the kindly efficiency of the late Sir James Howden MacBrien, seventh Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



Sir James MacBrien

THERE IS something especially tragic in the death of Sir James MacBrien. Seemingly in the prime of his vigor, he was cut down almost startlingly, and this at a time when his career was at its zenith, with promise of continued achievement. A great servant has been lost to Canada.

He was an unusual blending of professional soldier and great civilian. Choosing the permanent force as a career, and beginning at the bottom of the ladder, all that he was he made himself. Napoleon said of his soldiers that at any one of them carried a Field Marshal's baton in his knapsack. MacBrien was a soldier of that character; in time it brought him promotion in peace and war, the high rank of Major General, recognition by His Majesty.

But MacBrien was more than a professional soldier. He was as well a civilian soldier, a citizen; one whose horizons and interest ranged far beyond the study and practice of war. Those who had the privilege of his friendship, or who met him even casually, were aware of the catholicity of his mind, knew of the knowledge and thought he had in all matters that concerned his country. When he resigned his post as Chief of Staff it was to take an informed and active interest in flying; few men among us did more for the good of aviation.

When later MacBrien became Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, he gave to that famous force a fresh vigor and adaptation to modern needs that told again of his versatility. Under him and largely because of his efficiency and imagination as a director the scope of the work of the R.C.M.P. was considerably extended—greatly in the public interests, The Journal believes.

Personally, Sir James MacBrien was a kindly, companionable gentleman, a sportsman who loved the great outdoors and all clean games in life, one who was loyal to and loved by his friends and official subordinates. For all who knew him, in truth, as for Canada, his passing is a deep misfortune.

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