

HILTON BROWN

The passing of the late H. Hilton Brown came as a great shock to the writer of this column, who had almost daily contact with this citizen who, in lifetime, made a fine and worthwhile contribution to Lindsay.

Harry Hilton Brown was a gentleman who had a long varied and valuable experience in connection with the business and military life of the town of Lindsay and County of Victoria.

He was born in London, Ontario, where he received his early education. He accompanied his father, the late Harry Brown, to Lindsay, where Mr. Brown Sr. followed his trade as a member of the mechanical staff of the Watchman Warder newspaper. Hilton was initiated as a carrier boy.

Through the years that followed, Hilton had a somewhat checkered and interesting series of experiences including that of fireman on one of the big locomotives running in and out of Lindsay on the Grand Trunk Railway.

In those days it was the fireman's job to lift heavy shovels full of coal into the hungry fire pit of the big locomotive. It was hard work for a diminutive fireman, and when he had an opportunity to enter the Lindsay post office as a clerk, he became a member of the postal staff under the management of the late Albert Palen.

Hilton Brown gave up this position to become a clerk in a grocery store operated by his grandfather, the late Joseph Brown, and this was followed by becoming a partner in the grocery business with his brother-in-law, the late Samuel Fee.

Not liking the grocery business, Hilton Brown was invited to enter the drygoods and clothing firm of Dundas and Flavelle, a mercantile business that suited him well in later years.

When World War I broke out, young Hilton Brown decided to heed his country's call for volunteers, and although below the age limit, he managed to enlist, and as time went on, he had a somewhat spectacular experience in Canada and the war theatre overseas.

After the First World War, Hilton became commanding officer of the 45th Victoria and Haliburton regiment with the rank of Major.

After mobilizing the local unit in Lindsay after Sept. 1, 1939, Hilton Brown was transferred to the Training Estab-

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lishment and for several years was in charge of training at Petawawa.

The late Hilton Brown was active in many other fields of endeavor. He was a member of the Semper Fidelis Class at the Cambridge Street United Church, and later he was a Sidesman and People's Warden at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

He was active and had natural ability as a member of several baseball teams in Lindsay including his career as a catcher with once well-known Lindsay Greybirds. He was also among the first in Lindsay to play what is now known as softball, played in the early twenties in the Lindsay armoury.

In rendering service to the community, Hilton Brown was a member and vice president of the Lindsay Rotary Club. He was also a member of the Faithful Brethren Masonic Lodge and in politics, he supported the Conservative cause since the days of his military and political hero, the late Sir Sam Hughes.