

# SIR GEORGE MOURNED IN OLD-TIME ARENA

## Legislature Adjourns After Pay- ing Tributes

### USEFUL PUBLIC SERVICE

#### Persistence in Public Work Despite Physical Handicaps Earns Appreciation From Both Sides—Mr. Rowell's Estimate.

Out of respect for the memory of Sir George Ross the Ontario Legislature adjourned yesterday afternoon without transacting any public business. Eulogies were spoken by Hon. J. J. Foy, Acting Prime Minister; Mr. N. W. Rowell, leader of the Opposition; Hon. R. A. Pyne, Minister of Education; Mr. Thos. Marshall (Monck) and Mr. A. E. Donovan (Brockville).

In a few well-chosen words Mr. Foy referred to the passing away of Sir George, recalled his long services to the Province and his career as a public man. He had sat in the Chamber nine years with Sir George and could recall pleasant recollections.

#### A Big Man Gone.

"The country has lost a big man, one free from pettyness and narrowness. All mourn his passing and give their sympathy to his sorrowing relatives. It is fitting that this House mark its respect to the memory of Sir George."

Mr. Rowell spoke at greater length. He thanked the Attorney-General on behalf of the Liberal members for his appreciative words, and reviewed the outstanding features of Sir George's life, his work as Minister of Education, and the time spent as Prime Minister of the Province. The affection that always existed between Sir George and his old constituents in West Middlesex, Mr. Rowell said, was one of the most touching incidents of his whole life.

"For forty-two years he had served his country and his King with unquestioned ability and devotion. He wore himself out in the public service. Today all political animosities are still-ed, all political differences forgotten as men of all classes and creeds unite in a tribute to his worth and to his work."

#### Mr. Foy Speaks.

As soon as prayers were over Mr. Foy rose in his place and said:

"Since this House last met death has removed the Honorable Sir George W. Ross, Senator of the Dominion of Canada, and for some years Prime Minister of the Province of Ontario. He was a man in active political life for forty years or more. First a member of the House of Commons, he afterwards became a member of this Legislature, a position he filled until 1907, when he was called to the Senate of Canada. At the time of his death he was leader of his party in the Red Chamber. He was Minister of the Crown in this Province for twenty-two years, during seven of which he occupied the high and responsible position of First Minister.

"His public career is particularly well known to the people of this Province, and the press of to-day contains a full record of his work, with well-deserved tributes from men of all parties. This dispenses with any lengthy or elaborate statement here to-day as to his character, career and accomplishments. No man gave

more of his time and his talents to the public work that he had in hand. He was a man of remarkable ability, a strong debater, in command of great eloquence.

"I was in this Chamber with him for nine years, and had opportunities of knowing him well, and have pleasant recollections of him. Though suffering from rheumatic pains, he never complained, but, with rare courage and patience, attended to his manifold duties.

"Not alone as a public man, but also as an educator, lecturer and author did he distinguish himself."

#### Mr. Rowell's Tribute.

In seconding the motion, Mr. Rowell said: "Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the resolution moved by the Acting Prime Minister. I wish to thank him on behalf of the members on this side of the House for the very appreciative manner in which he has presented his resolution to the House. One cannot but think at this time of the fact that when we are here paying a tribute to the memory of the late Sir George Ross, the Prime Minister of this Province, who was exceedingly ill at the time Sir George Ross was able to enter upon his Parliamentary duties at Ottawa, is to-day sufficiently recovered to leave the hospital and return to his home. I am sure we are all glad and grateful for that fact while we greatly mourn the passing of Sir George Ross.

#### Cheerful Under Suffering.

"I am sure, whatever our political views may be, we all appreciate the cheerful courage and optimism of a man who, under great physical disability, continues his public work and public service in the manner in which Sir George Ross did."

He recalled the fact that the physical ills from which Sir George suffered were brought upon him while in the public service as the result of speaking at a public meeting in a country schoolhouse and then driving some miles afterwards through the cold atmosphere to catch a train to address another meeting, and it was while in the performance of public duty—delivering a speech to the Senate of Canada—that he contracted a cold which eventually resulted in his final illness.

#### Outstanding Characteristics.

Recalling some of Sir George's outstanding characteristics, Mr. Rowell referred to the persistent industry with which he pursued any work he undertook and mastery of any subject with which he attempted to deal. Another characteristic was his resoluteness of purpose. "When he put his hand to the plough he had no desire to turn back."

"And the other," said Mr. Rowell, "and perhaps the most important of all, was his great capacity for a lucid, forceful and eloquent exposition of any subject that he presented."

"He was a great Canadian, a great believer in Canada, in Canada's future, in her resources, and whenever he spoke on public questions he struck a Canadian note. He was an equally strong Imperialist. If there was one subject close to his heart it was the maintenance of the connection which bound Canada and the other self-governing Dominions to the motherland."

#### Affection of Constituents.

"In the record of his life, to my mind one of the most interesting and touching incidents is the devotion of his old constituents to himself and his devotion to his constituents. Raised as a boy in West Middlesex, teaching school there, subsequently becoming school inspector in Lambton, later inspector of model schools there. For a long period of years the residents of West Middlesex manifested in him their confidence and esteem, and he returned that affection in a very striking way. It is not without interest to note that in the book he has written he has dedicated it to his old constituents in West Middlesex:

"The bridegroom may forget the bride

Was made his wedded wife yestern;

The Monarch may forget the crown

That on his head an hour has been.

The mither may forget the bairn

That smiles so sweetly on her knee;

But I'll remember thee, Glercairn,  
And a' that thou hast done for me."