

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

appointed road surveyor in his home district, the principal work being locating roads to the settlements through Indian Reserves. John Hall T. became interested in political and military affairs in his home district, and was Reeve of Brock Township and Warden of Ontario County for many years, and after Confederation represented the North Riding of Ontario County in the House of Commons from 1867 till 1873.

William T. Thompson married Mary, daughter of Rev. Alexander MacKay, M.A., of Summerstown, Ont., on December 14th, 1887. Their children were Edith Mary, Lt. John Alexander (killed at Festubert, France, 1915), Lt. William Thomas (killed at Cambrai, France, 1918), George Francourt, Vaughan, Hall and Margaret Rose. His widow, three boys and two girls survived him.

JOSEPH PHILLIPPE BABY CASGRAIN

By C. Fraser Aylsworth

Senator Casgrain, prominent Montreal business man and Parliamentarian, Land Surveyor and Engineer, and scion of an old Quebec Seignior family, died at his home, 1916 Dorchester Street, Montreal, at 3 o'clock on January 6th, 1939, aged 83.



Born in Quebec on March 1st, 1856, the late Senator was descended from one of the oldest French families in Canada. The first member of the family to settle in Quebec was Jean Baptiste Casgrain, an officer of the French Army, who landed at Quebec about 1750. His son Pierre was granted the title of Lord of the Seigniories of Riviere Ouelle and L'Islet.

Senator Casgrain was a grandson of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Charles Eusebe Casgrain, who sat for Cornwall in the Lower Canada Assembly from 1830 to 1834, was later a member of the special council of Lower

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

Canada and at the time of his death held the office of Assistant Commissioner of Public Works for Canada. The Senator's great grandfather, Hon. James Baby, was at one time speaker of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada.

His father, the late Phillippe Baby Casgrain, K.C., M.P., was the author of several political and historical works, and for many years the only Liberal to be elected to the House of Commons from a constituency below Quebec. His mother was Miss Mathilde Perault.

Senator Casgrain was educated at the Seminary of Quebec, from which he graduated as a civil engineer. In 1876 he was appointed assistant secretary of the Canadian Department of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, and the following year was admitted as a provincial land surveyor (Quebec). In 1881 he was admitted as a Dominion land surveyor. And in 1883 he subdivided townships east and west of the 3rd Meridian, about 60 miles north of Moose Jaw. In 1899 he made a survey of the Ordinance property at Longueuil, Que., and on January 5th, 1887, was appointed an Ontario land surveyor, through the authority of which, in 1890, he was instructed to survey the township of Otto, but it does not appear that he did so. In 1894, instructions were issued to him, and he surveyed the township of Kelly. Shortly after this he was made chief engineer of the Montreal and Pacific Junction Railway, and of the Montreal Turnpike Trust, positions he held for some years.

On May 27th, 1885, in Notre Dame Church, Montreal, he married Miss Ella Cook, daughter of the late James William Cook, formerly M.P. for Dundas, Ont.

In 1900 he was summoned to the Senate as member for de Lanaudiere, Quebec, and two years later was appointed a member of the Ottawa Improvement Commission. In 1909 he was gazetted as an honorary colonel of the 83rd Regiment, Canadian Militia.

Senator Casgrain entered the field of Municipal politics as candidate for the mayoralty of Montreal in 1910, but was defeated. He had the distinction of being one of the Canadian representatives of the Canadian Senate at the Coronation of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary in June, 1911.

The late Senator was well known for his interest in the various aspects of modern transportation. And in 1910 he wrote a book entitled "The problems of modern transportation

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

in Canada." During his career as surveyor, civil engineer, and politician, he was on the board of a number of transport and industrial concerns. He was president of the Northern Montreal Land Co., The Northern Montreal Centre Co., and the Birnam Realty, and a director of the following concerns: Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. Consolidated, Canada Steamship Lines, Dominion Steel and Coal Co., Canada Cement Co., Montreal Tramways and Power Co., Quebec Power Co., and the Montreal Life and Insurance Co.

He was connected with a large number of clubs and associations, being a member of the Mount Royal Club, the St. James Club and the Rideau Club, Ottawa; he was founder and first president of the English Liberal Club of Montreal, and one time chairman of the Empire Parliamentary Association. He was also president of Corporation of Quebec Land Surveyors, and the Quebec Colonization Society. He was a governor of Notre Dame Hospital.

After his passing he was showered with eulogies by his fellow Senators. For instance, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen said: "When I come to Senator Casgrain my task is not easy. I think this is the ninth session I have been here, and I do not know of any member on either side who has ever extended to me such courtesies as I always received from him. Nor was I the only one. Whenever there was trouble, whenever there was a need of a word of cheer, whether to me—as rarely occurred—or to others who I have in mind, Senator Casgrain was the first on hand. His name will be held beloved by more than one member on this side of the house. Senator Casgrain was a remarkable man. I do not know that I ever listened to one who could review details with such thorough memory command, to such endless extent, or such a wealth of subjects as could he. Sometimes I questioned just how far he had organized his capacity to utilize it in the formation of an opinion, but that he had it at his command was evident to everybody. Further, he was a man in every sense of the word. I knew him pretty well. A French-Canadian by birth, a subject of Great Britain. He was just as loyal to the one relationship as to the other. Never do I want to see a Canadian citizen more thoroughly loyal than was Senator Casgrain. The House can never be quite the same again without him. He was a real character. The courtesy that was shown from him was not the finest quality he possessed. He also had a full share of those virtues which distinguish the type of man one likes

ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

to remember." Senator Beaubien said of him: "His imposing appearance, his always youthful bearing, full of zest, appealed to every one." And last but not least, "his cool unpretentious, chivalry at our Annual Dinner dances caused him to become endeared to all our guests." This sketch of the late Senator Casgrain would not be complete without perpetuating some of his personal characteristics. For instance, during all his O.L.S. and D.L.S. after-dinner speeches he was always fond of reverting to his early North West prairie surveys, relating how in his early contract survey days at \$5.00 a mile, that he would turn off his angle, and see his picket a mile away with \$5.00 on it, and triumphantly he would exclaim, and we would make for that \$5.00 as fast as we could.

On his human side, the writer was with him some years ago in the Chateau Frontenac, in the city of Quebec. His sister then lived on Collins Street in that city (Collins Street named after Deputy-Surveyor John Collins). One morning he left me to visit this sister. When he returned he tapped himself on his stomach, and said: "By gollies, my sister gave me some hash, the same as mother made, and I'll say it was good."

To show his big heart. One evening he and I were standing chatting in the rotunda of the Chateau Frontenac in the City of Quebec when a delivery boy came up with a large square parcel and handed it to him. Right away he opened it and found it to contain a number of large beautiful photos of he and Madame Casgrain. He presented the writer with one of them, which is much valued and prized and is hanging in a conspicuous corner of my home.

All his friends will be happy to learn through his daughter, Miss Elaine, the following: "I am happy to say father did not suffer much, as he was about a good deal until just before his death."

In addition to his wife, there survives two daughters, Miss Elaine Casgrain and Mrs. Kenneth Strachan, four sons, Uberto, Vivian, H. Randolph, and John Vincent Casgrain all of Montreal, and three grandchildren, Abbe Philippe Casgrain of Quebec is a brother. Interment was at Val Morin, Que.