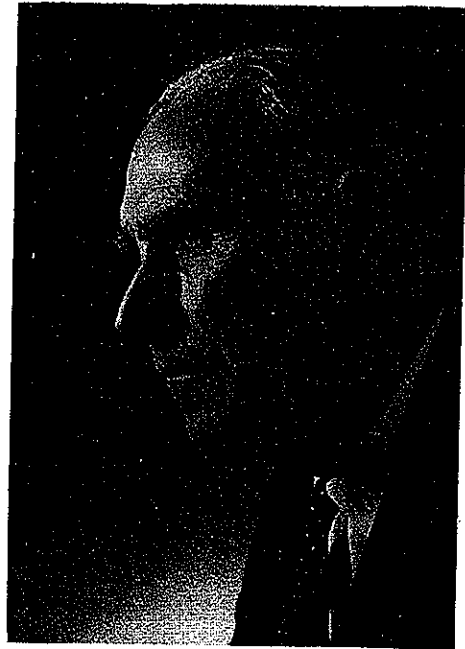


ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS

WILLIAM JOSEPH FULTON B.A.Sc., O.L.S., P. Eng.

William Joseph Fulton was born at Oakville, Ontario, July 4, 1892. He was a fourth generation Canadian whose great grandparents originally came from Ireland and settled in Streetsville, Ontario.

He was educated in West Toronto where he attended Humber College, captained the school rugby team and was active in a variety of sports. Summer work on land surveys led to his enrolment in the civil engineering course of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto, from which he graduated in 1915 with honours and the degree of B. A. Sc. Following graduation he served an apprenticeship with Mr. George S. Abrey, O. L. S., and was commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1916.



On joining the Department of Highways in 1921, after a varied experience with private industry and the Essex Border Utilities Commission, Mr. Fulton was first engaged on construction work in the Toronto District. Then, in 1927, he was appointed to the new post of Chief Surveyor and was responsible for establishing the surveying branch of the Department which became responsible for all land and location surveys and the designing of new highways. The highlight of his work as chief surveyor was his address on February 20, 1954, at Convocation Hall, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute entitled "Ontario Highways and new trends in location of Modern Highways".

When the Planning and Design Branch of the Department was established in 1954, Mr. Fulton was the logical director. In addition to administering planning and design for the greatest programme of highway construction in the history of the Province, Mr. Fulton guided an intensive two-year study of the highway needs of the province which was published early in 1957 as "A Plan for Ontario Highways". As expected, the study has had a profound influence on the planning of highways for the province. This exhaustive examination of the needs for King's Highways was followed, in 1959, by a companion report entitled, "Ontario's Roads and Streets", which pinpointed municipal road problems, presenting forecasts of future road requirements.

Mr. Fulton's appointment as Deputy Minister in 1957 brought to the chief administrative post in the Department a man thoroughly versed

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in modern highway planning and design who, throughout his career, was primarily concerned with the highways of the future. An indication of the esteem with which he was held throughout Canada by those in the field of highway engineering and administration, may be gained from the fact that Mr. Fulton was one of the select few Honorary Life Members in both the Canadian Good Roads Association and the Ontario Good Roads Association.

Mr. Fulton was an active member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors. He served on many standing committees, on the Council of Management and was honoured by being elected President in 1944. At every opportunity he advanced the surveying profession. During the expansion period 1944 - 1948, he was instrumental in initiating the system of training and lectures for O. L. S. apprentices.

Mr. Fulton was a long time member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario and was an Associate member of the Highway Research Board, Washington, D. C. He was also a member of the Canadian Institute of Surveying and of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. He was an active member of the High Park Club and the Lakeview Golf Club. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Victoria Presbyterian Church.

He often expressed himself in verse, as in the following descriptions of the surveyor he knew best, himself:

"At the very dawn of history
After man was descended from ape
And had decided he liked a settled abode
Our social structure began to take shape.

It was then they started to specialize
One fellow made all the bows
Another fashioned the arrow heads
While a third made the music at shows

In this primitive little community
There happened many a fight
About their property boundaries
As one can imagine there might.

And sometimes the strongest was victor
And sometimes the smartest man won
But after the battle was over
'Twas unlikely justice was done.

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So finally to settle the matter
They chose the wisest man of the tribe
A man of sterling integrity
A man above threat or bribe.

Thence there were no more killings
There weren't even any black eyes
For he defined their property limits
In a manner wondrous wise.

The Lord looked down from the heavens
And saw that it was good
So He named him Land Surveyor
And this name henceforth has stood.

For the essence of all integrity
And for his technical knowledge too
Of his accomplishments through the ages
I'll tell you about a few.

He surveyed the Garden of Eden
Solomon's Temple was his work too
He laid out the Tower of Babel
From his mind the pyramids grew.

He laid out the Roman Highways
And then he did something queer
From a failure as a surveyor
He spawned the first engineer. "

Mr. Fulton's death occurred suddenly at Toronto on August 18, 1962. He is survived by his wife, one son Dr. Joseph R. Fulton, F. R. C. S., and three grandchildren, all of Toronto.

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