The Do-
for the
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Mrs. M.

GEORGE ALPHONSE MOUNTAIN

George Alphonse Mountain was born in the city of Que-
bec, September 28th, 1869, the son of the late Matthew G.
Mountain and Isabella Peek. He received his early education
in Quebec and studied for his profession with the city engineer
of that city, Jeremiah Gal-
lagher, P.L.S. His first en-
gineering work of any im-
portance was with the Que-
bec and Lake St. John Rail-
way. Later he did engineer-
ing work at the Quebec
graving docks and on the
Newfoundland Railway.

In 1882 he was admitted
as a Dominion Land Sur-
vveyor, and on April 8th,
1882, as a P.L.S. in the pro-
vince of Quebec.

On January 9th, 1884,
he qualified as a P.L.S. in
this province.

He was a Member of the
Institute of Civil Engineers,
Great Britain; Member of
the American Railway En-
gineering Association, Member
of Royal Astronomical
Society, etc.

Mr. Mountain took an intense interest in the Canadian
Society of Civil Engineers, later the Engineering Institute of
Canada. He joined the organization in 1887, was a member of
Council in 1893, 1899, 1900 and 1901; Vice-President 1903 and
1905, and in 1909 was elected President. In 1913-1914 he was
Chairman of the Ottawa branch.

In 1881 he joined the staff of engineers on the Canada
Atlantic Railway, a line built by the late John R. Booth from
Ottawa to Renfrew, thence to Parry Sound. The railway from
Ottawa to Coteau, including the bridge across the St. Law-
rence at Coteau, was constructed when Mr. Mountain was the
chief engineer. From 1887 to 1904 he was the chief engineer
on this road, which was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway
in the latter year.
In 1904 he was appointed chief engineer with the Board of Railway Commissioners (Ottawa), which position he held for twenty years. He became well known to the engineers and Land Surveyors from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He was always considered as just and fair in his decisions.

The Mountain family is of Huguenot descent. Jacob de Montaigne settled near Norwich, England, in 1693, when the family joined the established English Church.

Jacob Mountain, a grandson, born 1740, was appointed Bishop of Quebec in 1793, and took up his residence at "Woodfield." His brother Jehosophat was appointed to Three Rivers. The first English cathedral at Quebec was built under his auspices in 1800-1804 at a cost of about $80,000. Before this date services had been held in a Jesuit chapel. Bishop Mountain died at "Marchmont," near Quebec, on June 16th, 1825.

As George A. Mountain's grandparents also came from Norwich, it is reasonable to infer that his grandfather was closely related to the bishop. His father, Matthew G. Mountain, established the business of M. G. Mountain & Co., wholesale grocers and wine merchants. He was a churchwarden of Trinity Cathedral, Quebec, and on relinquishing this office he received from the Bishop an autographed portrait, which was one of George A's. cherished possessions.

The children of M. G. Mountain were as follows: George A., William, Albert, and Arthur (all deceased); Henry Robert, of New York; Mrs. Charles H. Maguire (deceased), Mrs. S. D. Stewart, of Montreal, and Mrs. Robert J. Bradley, of Quebec.

We are indebted to Mr. T. C. Bradley, son of Mrs. Robert J., for the family history.

In March, 1891, Mr. Mountain married Kate Damoreau, eldest daughter of John Monk, advocate, of Montreal. They had one daughter, Edna, who resides with her mother in Ottawa.

Owing to ill health, Mr. Mountain resigned his position of chief engineer to the Railway Commissioners in 1924. Although he apparently recovered in 1926, a second attack proved fatal, and he died on February 26th, 1927. His body was interred in the family lot in Mount Hermon Cemetery, Quebec.

Mr. Mountain was a popular member of many clubs; the Rideau Club, Ottawa; National Club, Toronto; and several sport clubs.
He was an active member of St. George's Anglican Church, Ottawa, and for some years was churchwarden.

In 1924 Mr. Mountain attended the Veterans' Luncheon. Although his official duties were arduous, he never forgot that he was a Land Surveyor. He joined the association in 1890.

Mr. E. W. Oliver, chief engineer of the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway and Navigation Co., an intimate friend of the late Mr. Mountain, contributes the following:

"During the first twenty years of the existence of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, Mr. Mountain, in his official capacity, visited almost every municipality in the Dominion, including the Yukon. In so doing he met perhaps more civic officials than any other man in Canada, and, at the same time, it is doubtful if there was a railway official in Canada who did not know him.

"His genial spirit was attractive to even a casual acquaintance, but to those who knew him well, he was not only looked upon as one of the most efficient men who could possibly occupy his difficult post, but as a friend to all. His death leaves a void among his old friends which will be impossible to fill.

"He was an ardent follower of Isaac Walton, a member of a fishing club up the Gatineau, where he spent many hours every year casts for trout. Each fall he went to a hunting club of which he was a member and invariably brought home his complement of deer. He was an excellent shot and a good angler."