

## GEORGE ALPHONSE MOUNTAIN

George Alphonse Mountain was born in the city of Quebec, 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 Gallagher, P.L.S. His first engineering work of any importance was with the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway. Later he did engineering work at the Quebec graving docks and on the Newfoundland Railway.

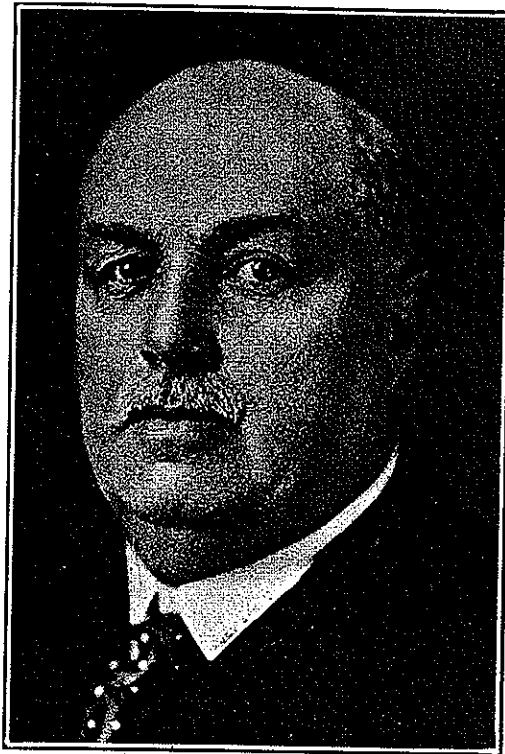
In 1882 he was admitted as a Dominion Land Surveyor, and on April 8th, 1882, as a P.L.S. in the province of Quebec.

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 Engineering 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. Lawrence 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.



the Do-  
for the  
Wright

Mrs. M.

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.

Ot

Al  
heari  
friBo  
his  
Do  
mo  
sar  
adaanc  
upc  
his  
voica fi  
eve  
cluk  
his  
ang

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 casting 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."

Board  
e held  
ers and  
was al-

cob de  
en the

ointed  
'Wood-  
Rivers.  
is aus-  
is date  
untain

e from  
er was  
Moun-  
whole-  
den of  
fice he  
ch was

George  
Robert,  
s. S. D.  
iebec.

Robert

ureau,  
They  
in Ot-

tion of  
Al-  
attack  
s body  
neter,

os; the  
several