

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

man of the Carnegie Library Board, as a member of the public School Board, as a President of Kiwanis Club of which organization he was a member for more than twenty-five years. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the Community Chests, was a member of the Board of Trade, and for several years acted on the council of that body. In 1945, he was chosen as the Ottawa West Progressive Conservative candidate in the Federal Elections.

Retaining always his interest in his university, Mr. MacRostie was an enthusiastic and loyal graduate of Queen's, and besides serving as President of the General Alumni Association, he had been President of the Ottawa Branch. He was also a member of the University Council, and member of the Board of Trustees.

An active member of Doric Lodge, Mr. MacRostie was also a 33 degree Mason, being a member of the Supreme Council for the Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada.

He was a prominent member of Southminster United Church, where he played an active part as a member of Session, and Chairman of the Building Committee. Dr. Charles Donald, who conducted the funeral service from the Church, referred to him as one of those men who set the tone of the congregation, as well as that of many civic and national activities.

Married in 1914 to the former Annie Callander of North Gower, Ontario, who survives, Mr. MacRostie also leaves one daughter, Norma (Mrs. R. N. Dobson) of Hamilton, and two granddaughters, as well as two brothers, Dr. Gordon MacRostie of Guelph, and J. E. MacRostie of Toronto.

Burial took place in Springhill Cemetery, in the immediate vicinity where Mr. MacRostie spent his boyhood.

Norman was admitted to practice as an O.L.S. on Feb. 11th, 1914. Little did the examiners of that day realize that the brilliant student was to become one of the Association's outstanding members and one of the profession's leaders. His life was one of service: to his country; his alma mater; the many public bodies to whom he gave of his time, experience, and advice; and to his well loved O.L.S. Association.

And so we of the Association will remember him for his regular attendance at our meetings, and for his advice and guidance in the problems we there considered. Not soon shall his helpfulness be forgotten nor his gentlemanly consideration of others in debate. Truly he was a man who one was happy and helped to know.

ALFRED PAVERLEY WALKER

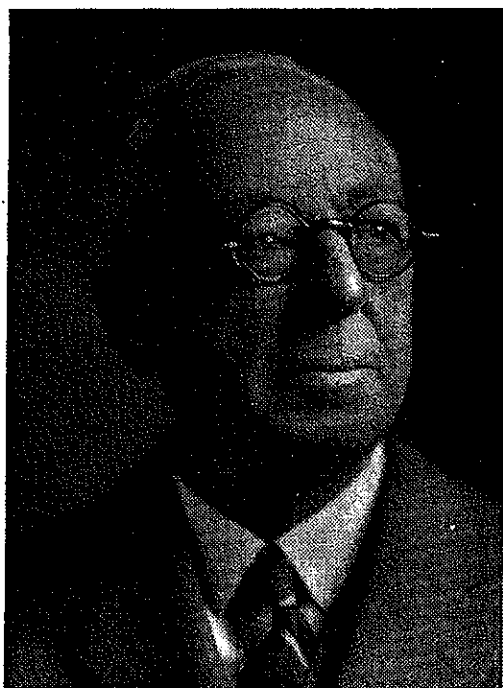
O.L.S., M.E.I.C., D.L.S.

One of the courtliest gentlemen who ever graced our Association was the above who, born December 9th, 1860 in the seaside

town of West Hartlepool on the Durham coast of England came at the age of 9 with his parents to Canada and settled in Toronto.

Before leaving England a portion of his boyhood education had been had at a private school. In Canada his studies were resumed at the Toronto Grammar School, now the site of our present Parliament Buildings. In 1872 Jarvis St. Collegiate was opened and the boys from "Grammar" were there transferred. Also, at this time, girls were for the first time admitted to high schools though taught separately from the boys. Later, Mr. Walker attended Upper Canada College, and at the same time and under private tuition studied advanced Mathematics and Science. Thus he was well equipped for the life service later given to the Engineering-Surveying profession.

On May 1st, 1877, he entered on an apprenticeship with Messrs. Wadsworth & Unwin, then very prominent Provincial Land Surveyors in Toronto. (Mr. Unwin later became Toronto's City Surveyor.) During the last year of Mr. Walker's 3½ years apprenticeship he was chief assistant to Mr. Unwin in township surveys in the Riding Mountains area of Manitoba. At that early date there



was no direct railway connection between Toronto and Winnipeg: thus the route was via the Great Lakes (slow boat from Collingwood to Duluth, Minnesota; thence Northern Pacific to St. Boniface; thence ferry to Winnipeg. From there on travel to the site of the survey was "shanks mare" and Red River oxcarts. Reading over Mr. Walker's well kept diary of those days, words well known to surveyors occur: Beans, black flies, pork, mosquitoes, swamps, more beans, flies, pork, etc., etc., hard work, hard food, hard country.

In January 1882 he wrote his final examination at the old Parliament Buildings on Front Street, and on January 6th was admitted to practice as a Provincial Land Surveyor.

In April of that year he entered the service of the then starting Canadian Pacific Railway, which encompassed no dream of a completed ocean to ocean trans-Canada line. In this service he remained, save for a few vacation trips to England and one years

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service as Asst. Engineer of Construction with the Grand Trunk Railway, until superannation in 1924—a service that spanned 42 years. That service comprised at different times chief land surveyor, chief locating engineer, assistant divisional engineer, and assistant district engineer. An examination of his plans of these early days of location and land surveys show a degree of completeness and detail clarity that are models.

Mr. Walker was twice married—his first wife (Nellie A. Snyder of Beamsville) died some years ago. His second (Caroline Alexandra MacKenzie of Auburn, Ont.) mourns his loss as do daughters Miss Barbara, R.N., and Miss Mary, both residing at home.

As well as being a P.L.S., and later on O.L.S., Mr. Walker was also a commissioned Dominion Land Surveyor and a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada. He was greatly interested in biography and history—especially that pertaining to the early days of the Ontario Historical Society; an active member of Deer Park United Church; and a life long Mason. Advanced years brought impaired health for the last year of his life; he died May 20th, 1950, and was laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.

A tribute to Mr. Walker after his death, not written by an O.L.S., but one to which each member of our Association who knew him would wholeheartedly subscribe, follows:

Of Mr. Walker whom I first met in 1912 I could say nothing but good about him. The longer I knew him the more I admired his sterling qualities; to me he was one of the most outstanding gentlemen I have ever met. Everyone who knew him was his friend and his own type of kindness and friendship was most outstanding."