

SENATOR CANTLEY

PASSES

Dies At Home In New Glasgow After A Long Period Of Ill Health



New Glasgow lost its Number One citizen on Saturday, when Hon. Senator Thomas Cantley, died at the age of eighty-eight years. He was born in this town and here spent all his home years. From his early days he was a factor in the life of the town, and while he never aspired to Municipal honors he was more energetic and interested in the civic welfare than many who did. His whole life was marked by activity and his accomplishments were many and on a major scale. He could well be termed a community builder and looking back down the years you find his impress on many of the chief enterprises that helped create the prosperity that this section enjoyed.

All during his life his unbounded energy marked his career and when he believed he was right he threw himself into the task wholeheartedly.

Our first recollection of Thomas Cantley was as a merchant, when he conducted a tea, crockery, brick and lime business in the store now occupied by MacCarron's restaurant. The old advertisements in this paper of that date indicate that it was a business of considerable proportions. Personal merchandising not giving him scope enough for his activities he joined the staff of the Nova Scotia Steel Company as sales representative and he marketed the product of that industry in Upper Canada in great quantities. The industry hummed under his salesmanship and on its list of eager customers were particularly the leading manufacturers of agricultural implements. His co-operation with Graham Fraser and Simon A. Fraser, the chief engineer, enabled the concern to grow to huge proportions.

Mr. Cantley along with the late R. E. Chambers, shared in acquiring the iron areas at Belle Isle and from then on the future of the industry was on secure footing. On the retirement of Mr. Graham Fraser, Mr. Cantley became the President and General Manager of the Steel Company and for several years he was chief moving factor in all the enlargements of that industry.

To him must go the credit for the first manufacture of shells in the First World War. This was a personal triumph and while he became a member of the Shell Committee it was under his direction at Trenton that the first Canadian shells were punched and manufactured.

In fact his foresight and initiative marked his activities. It will be recalled that at Trenton during the First War were built the first Canadian steel ships. The young ship-builder Levy MacMillan came here surcharged with the idea that he could build ships at Trenton that were so badly needed. He interviewed some of the heads at Trenton, Colonel Cantley was not at home. Mr. MacMillan did not get very much encouragement. So he took the train for Cape Berton and met Colonel Cantley at Antigonish. On the return trip to New Glasgow he laid his plans before the Colonel who at once seized with the idea, told MacMillan to go ahead. He made quick decisions and when he did he stood behind them. Seven steel vessels were launched from that yard and they were the handiwork of Nova Scotians.

One thing that distinguished Colonel Cantley was his loyalty to the local workmen. He never in public lost an opportunity to extol the ability of the Pictou County workers as mechanics and men to be depended upon. The men in his employ reciprocated and it is not on record that any strikes or tie-ups featured his operations.

From the start of Aberdeen Hospital he was one of its most indefatigable supporters and for twenty years president of the Hospital Board. He was a staunch member of the Presbyterian Church and during the days of strife for its continuance, he was one of the outstanding supporters of the Church of his Fathers, and remained so.

Colonel Cantley first entered the political field in 1921 when he contested this County as Conservative candidate but was unsuccessful. He was elected in 1925, 1926 and in 1930 and in 1935 he was appointed to the Senate. That was an especial tribute to him. For Pictou County already had a Senator, but Prime Minister Bennett of that day deemed that Colonel Cantley was more worthy of the appointment than any of his Nova Scotia supporters, and called him to the Senate. The Eastern Chronicle, not a political supporter in tendering its sincere congratulations to the new Senator, declared that it was one of the acts of Premier Bennett deserving of highest commendation. In his political life, Senator Cantley carried no personal animus. He never parted friendship with those who opposed him. He had few as warm friends in Pictou County as Hon. E. M. MacDonald and James A. Fraser, both

THE WAR

Germany On The Skids, With The End Near

Bomb rocked Germany but still holding out, constitutes the picture of the Nazi homeland. The Allies have caught up with Germany on every front and they are pushing the steel home.

Berlin is the most bombed city in the world. When some thousands of planes fly over a city and drop their explosives the result is a shambles below. The same can be said of Munich, Nuremberg and other German centres. From all sides the allied fronts are pressing into German territory and in some cases the opposition has considerably lessened.

This story applies to both the East and West German fronts with the forces of Marshall Stalin making such progress that it does not seem possible that the end of Nazism as a war factor can be long delayed.

Observers accord to the Canadians under General Crerar great credit for their participation and the progress they are making in and through Holland. They are now into Germany proper and are advancing in pace with the other allied armies.

Hitlerism seems to have shot its bolt and with the cords drawing so tightly there will soon have to be an accounting with the Fuehrer and his demons who so skillfully led the German nation to its doom. The common people of Germany are now paying the penalty but the business will not be cleaned up until the Storm troopers, those insolent, merciless, murderers are made to pay the supreme penalty, that of extermination.

In the Pacific area the Americans under General MacArthur are disposing of the Nipponese, not only driving them from their island conquests but carrying the war into Japan proper and Tokio has been showered on several occasions with high explosives. The Philippine Islands have been restored to the republic and the people who best know how to administer its affairs are in close accord with the allies.

The repercussions from the Big Three conference at Yalta in the Crimea on the Black Sea have brought complete concord from the three nations. There seems to be a happy solution arrived at with regard to contentious matters and the one and fixed determination, "Complete Surrender."

An untoward incident was that created by General de Gaulle of France, who was seemingly peeved that he had not been included in the conference. President Roosevelt invited de Gaulle to meet him at Algiers but he declined to do so. It did not enhance de Gaulle's stature in the public estimation. He should remember that the greatest fighting army of the world (pre war) crumpled without resistance before the Nazi advance and left the other three great powers to battle for the liberation of France as well as other subdued nations.

It is distressing to note that in recent pictures President Roosevelt is showing very much his age and fatigue. It is not the war situation that is taking the toll out of the great American statesman, but the radicals at home. The isolationists and the Senate. If the latter body could be chloroformed, Eleanor given a knitting job at home, long suffering P.D.R. might renew his youth.

JUST A TIP

Dr. Cecil MacLean makes a good job of broadcasting play-by-play, a hockey game and he is worth listening to. But will the good Doctor remember that the fellow at long range would like to be better advised as to the standing of the game as it proceeds. The other evening, tuning in somewhat late, it was eight minutes before the Doctor announced the names of the teams and not until the end of the period could the listener learn how the game stood. It was rather one on the listener for really there had been no score, despite that he held on for ten or more minutes to learn so. After all the Doctor was not at fault, there was nothing he could say on the score. There hadn't been any. But the Doctor knows his hockey and follows the play closely.

REV. HARVEY DENTON HERE

Rev. Harvey Denton pastor of the First Baptist Church, Halifax, and former pastor of the First Baptist Church, New Glasgow, was a visitor to this town yesterday.

Don't let the Red Cross down.... because.... come what may.... the Red Cross will not let.... your boys.... down.

of whom opposed him in a federal election, and both reciprocated his friendship. They like the Colonel were too big for trivialities.

As a representative at Ottawa, Colonel Cantley was splendid and had the confidence of all his constituents regardless of their politics. And now passes into revered memory this loyal Pictonian and one who exercised a notable influence upon the place of his birth, which he loved above all other and for which he spent his great talents and energies. The place will know him no more but he will long be kindly remembered.

He was married in 1883 to Maria, daughter of Donald Fraser, Pictou. She died in 1930. Surviving children are Howard, superintendent of Trenton Steel and now convalescing in Florida; Donald, in the lumber business and Marian, Mrs. W. T. Hayden. There are a number of grandchildren.

Two children predeceased him—a daughter Helen in 1911 and son Charles L. in 1935. Predeceasing him a year ago was a sister, Mrs. A. C. Pife, formerly of Trenton.