

HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY IS LOYAL TO ST. JOHN

Ottawa Paper Praises Ex-Minister of Public Works--One of the Ablest Parliamentarians of His Time--Has the Soft Soothing Influence of a Sweet Summer Breeze

The following is from The Ottawa Free Press:

It looks like the stirring days--and nights--of last session, with Hon. Wm. Pugsley in the house again leading the fight against the agreement with the C.N.R. Mr. Pugsley has been absent from Ottawa for the greater part of the season owing to his own ill health and the death of his wife, which occurred some weeks ago; and there was a note of sympathy and sincere welcome in the applause with which he was greeted as he walked to his seat near Sir Wilfrid Laurier. A great profound lawyer, who, before the law lords of Britain, and in parliament, has won a distinction enjoyed by few of his profession in his day and generation, Mr. Pugsley is one of the strongest personalities to cross the stage of Canadian politics in recent years. As minister of public works in the Laurier administration, he showed himself to be an able executive and a capable parliamentarian.

ONLY IN OPPOSITION.

It was not, however, until he found himself in opposition, with real fighting to be done, that Mr. Pugsley displayed those qualities which have made him the terror of the opposing party, and the idol of his own. His was the surpassing ability, his the courage, his the endurance, his the indomitable fighting spirit that maintained the long aggressive struggle against the passage of the Naval Aid Bill last session. For seventy-two hours in one stretch he remained in, or within instant call, of the commons chamber, guiding the opposition attack. Every weapon of parliamentary usage, everything that human ingenuity could devise to block the passage of the bill, Mr. Pugsley

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brought into play.

One morning about two o'clock, Premier Borden dug up a precedent from a musty volume on parliamentary procedure and raised a point of order, which, if sustained by the speaker, would have overcome all opposition then and there. There was dismay written plainly upon the faces of the Liberals when the premier had made the point.

PUGSLEY TO THE RESCUE.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier had gone home; Mr. Pugsley was not in the chamber, and no one else seemed to understand what the question really meant. A messenger was rushed for Pugsley, who was sleeping on a lounge in one of the Liberal rooms. Some one got up to kill time till he arrived, but in less than two minutes the member for St. John walked into the house, the personification of coolness and urbanity. Confidence was immediately restored among the opposition.

"Will my right hon. friend be so good as to send me his authority for the extraordinary point which he has raised?" asked Mr. Pugsley, in his softest tones.

The big volume was sent across the floor and for a minute or two the great lawyer was lost between the pages.

The next moment and he was upon his feet smiling. He had found the weakness in Mr. Borden's armor, and with unerring aim he pierced it. A long legal duel followed, but in the end the prime minister, great lawyer that he is, realized that his attack had been repulsed. Resourceful Pugsley had saved his party again. Was it any wonder that the Liberals in caucus next day gave him a demonstration of affection such as is rarely bestowed upon a fighter in the ranks?

ALL FOR ST. JOHN.

Mr. Pugsley sits in parliament for St. John, N.B. Follow his remarks in the house of commons for ever so short a time and you will get to know it. No member can insinuate a compliment for the people of St. John or the harbor of St. John in a voice too low for Mr. Pugsley to hear it and to say, "Hear hear." The harbor of St. John, the people of St. John, the streets of St. John, the houses of St. John--all these things, according to Mr. Pugsley, are the very best.

School children whose early efforts to learn the English language involve them in difficulties, could get to know the meaning of such words as "suavity," "urbanity," "calmness," "placidity" and "imperturbability" by

meeting or observing Mr. Pugsley. Let the most learned judge in the land look as grave as he possibly can and then tell him that he has lost all his money and that his house has burned down and he would still be miles behind Mr. Pugsley in the intensity of his gravity. Gaze at a marble statue in the mellow glow of a summer twilight and you get but a faint idea of the serenity of Mr. Pugsley. Put the emperor of all the Russians upon his throne, surround him with all his officers of state, and he would yet fall far short of the dignity of Mr. Pugsley. He has all the soft, soothing influence of a sweet summer breeze. If there was once harshness and discordant elements in his makeup, they have long since disappeared. So many men are given to worry, so many are ill-mannered, crude, stupid and pugnaciously inclined, that the presence in public life of a man whose very attitude is an antidote to the disturbing influence of such characters, must be a desirable thing.

A BOLD SPIRIT.

But for all his kindness and calmness, Mr. Pugsley is a grand fighter. The bravest are the gentlest, and his is a bold spirit. With him the velvet glove covers a mailed fist and his fist is clenched in a fierce grip. In the thick of the fight, the sheer love of conflict lights up his face, and while he gives no quarter, he asks for none. All his political life he has been fighting--fighting men, some of whom fought fairly, and some of whom sent poisonous shafts from the dark.

Like all strong men, he has made many enemies, but for their attacks he harbors no resentment, accepting hard blows as part of the game of politics. If he has any great faults, they are common to the times in which he lives and while there are many who do not agree with his politics or his political methods, none will withhold from him the admiration which is due to a big heart and as bonfire a fighter as politics has known for the past ten years at least.

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THE BARACA-PHILATHEA CONVENTION

Waco, Texas, June 6--Opening with a big welcome demonstration tonight, the eighteenth annual world wide convention of the Baraca-Philatheas, an organization of Bible students, and other religious workers, will hold forth in this city during the ensuing five days. Hundreds of delegates have arrived in Waco to participate in the proceedings. The sessions of the convention will be devoted to a discussion of Bible class methods, with addresses by many well known divines and others. The recreation features of the programme will include a parade of the delegates and the local Bible classes and a mammoth open-air banquet.

Electrical Inventions

With a device of his own invention an electrician, Senor Iglesias, at Madrid, Spain, lighted and extinguished at will fifteen electric bulbs placed at a distance of 600 yards. Scientists expect the discovery will reduce the cost of production of current for industrial purposes.

Alaska Railways

It is expected that the United States government will soon call for bids for steel in construction of the Alaskan Railroad, which will require 50,000 to 60,000 tons. There are inquiries in market for about 11,000 cars, some of which will probably be filled in the near future.

Railway Building

American railroads placed contracts during first quarter of this year for 590,000 tons of rails, 31,819 cars, 459 locomotives, and 68,000 tons of structural steel.

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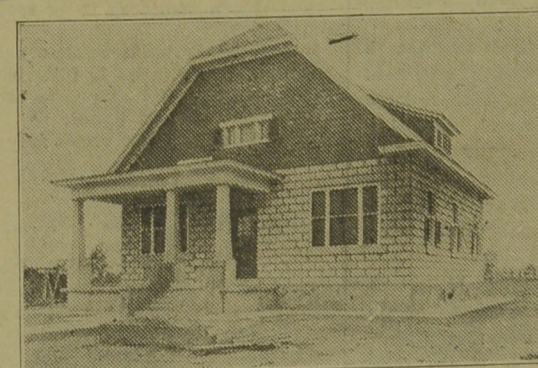
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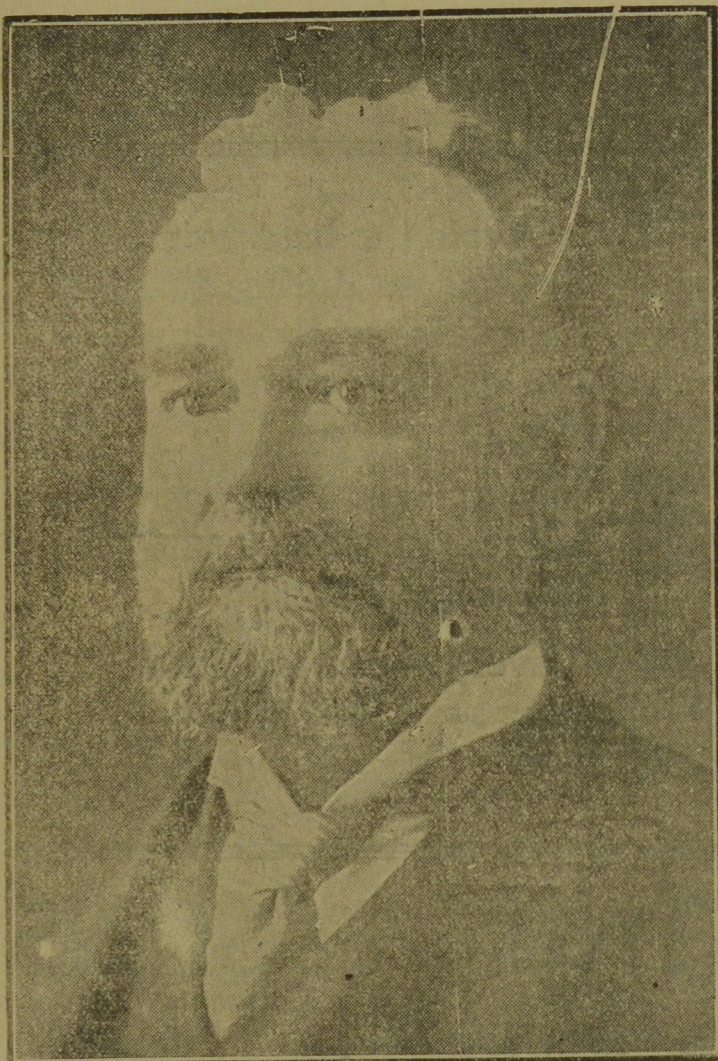
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