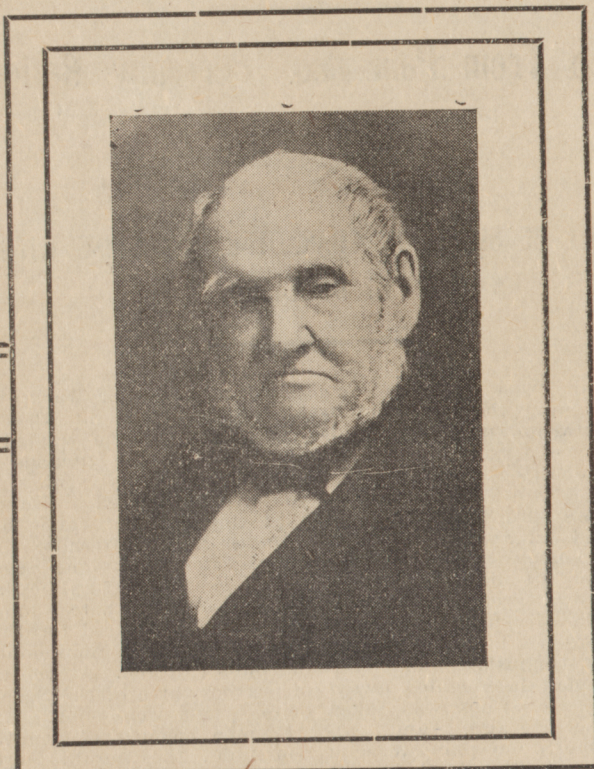


SENATOR WARK CALLED TO REST.

Eminent Public Man and the World's Oldest Legislator

LAYS DOWN THE WEARY BURDEN OF LIFE AT THE
GREAT AGE OF 101 YEARS, 6 MONTHS
AND 1 DAY.

A Sketch of His Long and Notable Career.



HON. DAVID WARK,
SENATOR OF CANADA.

Born near Londonderry, Ireland, Feb. 19, 1804

Died at Fredericton Aug. 20, 1905, aged 101 Years, 6 months and 1 day.

After but a week's illness Hon. David Wark, senator of this city, and the world's oldest legislator, passed peacefully away at his home on York Street at 8.40 a. m. Sunday, and his death is sincerely mourned by his fellow citizens as well as by the whole people of Canada to whom his name was a household word.

An Epitome of His Life.

Born near Londonderry, Ireland, Feb. 19, 1804.

Arrived in New Brunswick in 1824, landing at St. John.

Settled at Moncton in 1826, where he taught school for a time.

Removed to Richibucto in 1830 and continued teaching until 1836.

Opened up a mercantile business in Richibucto in 1836, continuing it for many years.

Elected to the House of Assembly for Kent in 1842.

Appointed to the legislative council in 1851.

A member of the Tilley government of New Brunswick from 1858 to 1862 without portfolio.

In 1867 for a few months filled the office of Receiver General of New Brunswick.

Married in 1862 to Elizabeth Burpee of Sheffield, Sunbury Co., who died some six years ago.

Appointed to the Senate and removed to Fredericton in 1867.

Celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth Feb. 19, 1904.

Died Aug. 20th, 1905.

Sketch of His Career.

The late Senator Wark was born near Londonderry, Ireland, February 19, 1804, came to this province in 1824, remaining a year in St. John, went to the Bend, now Moncton, in 1826, to Richibucto in 1830, became a trader in 1836, member of the assembly in 1842, member of the legislative council in 1851. He was a member of the late Sir Leonard Tilley's government from 1858 to 1862, and for a short time in 1867 was receiver general. He removed to Fredericton soon after his appointment to the senate in 1867.

In his reminiscences, Senator Wark said that he worked for a term in a shipyard at the Bend, for the remainder of the two years with Mr. Kelly as clerk, and then two years as master of the district school, and one of his surviving pupils is Judge Steadman of Fredericton. Senator Wark himself lived to see the Bend transformed into the city of Moncton. There was not much sign of railways in the province at the time of his residence. But the Bend was the divisional point, so to speak, on the stage line between St. John and Halifax.

Those who remember Mr. Wark as a trader and in provincial politics are more numerous. Elected first in 1842 with others some years younger he has long outlived every one of his colleagues, and the writer believes every other member of the assembly.

bly elected four years later.

Appointed to the legislative council in 1851 at the age of 47, he has long been the only survivor of those who were then members. Called to the senate at the age of 63, in 1867, with seventy-one others, some of them not more than half his age, he and Senator Miller of Nova Scotia, and Hon. A. R. McClellan of Alberta, are the only original senators left.

He has outlived his brethren and peers in three legislative bodies. Mr. John Wesley Weldon, his colleague in the representation of Kent, became a judge, and died. The son of that colleague came to St. John, and represented that county three terms at Ottawa, and he, too, passed away.

Sir Leonard Tilley began a long political career ten years after Mr. Wark entered the legislature. That distinguished career closed years ago.

Mr. Wark was in public life two years before Sir John A. Macdonald, thirteen years before Sir Charles Tupper, nearly twenty years before Alexander Mackenzie and nine years before Mr. George Brown.

It takes us back to old issues when we consider the questions in which Mr. Wark was interested during his eight years in the house of assembly. In educational matters he was always foremost, and it is worth noting that the interest that he took in the University, whose doctor's degree he held, first shown in the legislature three score years ago, was recently exhibited by a handsome donation of \$1,000 to one of the college funds.

Mr. Wark was the promoter of a movement for the reformation of the postal service, and he was made the chairman of a committee to carry it forward. The whole control of the postal affairs of the colony was in the hands of the imperial government. The post master general, the late Mr. John Dove, was appointed by and responsible to Downing street. Rates of postage, mail routes, and all the details were arranged under imperial authority, and Mr. Wark did not give up the controversy until the post office department was rescued from imperial control. When he ceased to be a member for Kent, Mr. Francis McPhelin took his place, and he became post master general.

It was in the forties that the agitation over the repeal of the colonial trade policy took place. Before Cobden's time colonial products enjoyed an imperial preference. Under this protection our pine timber trade with Great Britain grew and flourished. The nearest thing to an annexation movement, ever seen in this province resulted from the withdrawal of the preference. On the 18th of March, 1850, Mr. Wark moved a resolution expressing the fear that the imperial policy "would produce such feeling of dissatisfaction as must inevitably lead to a separation from the mother country." Mr. Fenety in his notes says that Mr. Wark's speech introducing this resolution occupied over fourteen columns of a newspaper. He had grappled with Earl Grey on the post office question and he did it again on this one, and he seems to have thrown out broad suggestions that the im-

perial policy might lead to separation.

Senator Wark was a strong confederate and took his share in giving effect to his views. It was in the nature of things that he should be one of the senators called by royal proclamation.

Until the last few years he was an assiduous committee worker. Until his 101st birthday he never missed a session at Ottawa. When there he seldom missed a sitting of the house. He frequently advocated that the senate take a more active part in the legislation.

This appeal to a more strenuous life was made to the senate by the veteran when he was ninety-nine years old. At that age he was not satisfied to be as idle as his neighbors desired him to be.

During his residence in Fredericton, he was an active member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and a generous giver towards its support as well as to the missionary and other schemes of the church.

His Centennial.

On Feb. 19th, 1904, the late Senator Wark celebrated his one hundredth birthday. During the day he received a large number of the citizens of Fredericton who called upon him to offer their congratulations, and telegrams were received from many distinguished personages, including His Majesty the King. A few days later he left for Ottawa to attend to his parliamentary duties. During the last few years of his life he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest parliamentarian in the world. The addresses presented to Senator Wark on his centennial celebration were one from the city of Fredericton by Mayor Palmer, one from the University of New Brunswick by Chancellor Harrison, one from St. Paul's church by Rev. Willard McDonald, one from leading citizens of Richibucto by Mr. J. D. Phinney.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

Among the many telegrams Senator Wark received on that occasion were the following:

FROM THE KING.

Ottawa, February 19.

Sir, I am commanded by the Governor General to inform you that His Excellency has received a telegram from the King requesting him to convey to you His Majesty's congratulations on the attainment of your hundredth birthday, and his satisfaction at the services which you have rendered to Canada. (Signed) MAJOR MAUD.

FROM SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.

Hon. David Wark, Fredericton: My colleague, the Hon. H. R. Emmerson, will be in Fredericton today to offer you the congratulations of the Canadian government on the occasion of your one hundredth anniversary. At the same time I beg to join my own personal voice to the voice of all your fellow citizens in thanking Providence that your life has been spared, and in hoping that by God's blessing it will be preserved for many years.

FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

MENT.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.

Hon. Senator Wark, Fredericton. In behalf of the government of Canada and myself, I desire to offer you our congratulations on the celebration of your centenary. Your long and useful life marked by equanimity and temperance presents an example for youth and middle age to emulate. I hope to see you next month in your place in the senate when you will receive a hearty welcome from that body in whose deliberations you have for so many years taken an active interest.

(Sgd.) R. W. SCOTT.

Among the prominent men who attended the celebration were Governor General Snowball, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Senators Thompson, Ellis and Baird, Alex Gibson, M. P., W. T. Whitehead, John A. Campbell, M. P., P. P.'s, the Bishop of Fredericton, Premier Tweedie, Hon. James Steadman, Judge Wilson and Mayor Palmer and many others.

IMPROMPTU REPLIES.

The Senator's replies to the addresses from the University and St. Paul's church were impromptu and well illustrated the clearness of his intellect and his remarkable memory of the past.

Speaking in reply to the address from the session and trustees of St. Paul's church, Senator Wark said that he first came to Fredericton for his legislative duties in the same year that the late Rev. Dr. Brooke assumed the duties of the pastorate of St. Paul's, and immediately associated himself with the church as a communicant, in its sacramental ordinances. The "disruption" in the mother church followed and the members were divided for a time, but a reunion occurred later, and he was glad to know that in St. Paul's at the present time all was smooth and harmonious, and that the church was greatly prospering in material as well as spiritual things.

STORY OF SENATOR WARK'S LIFE

As Told by Himself Just Previous to His Hundredth Birthday.

BORN IN IRELAND.

"I was born," wrote Senator Wark, "on the 19th February, 1804, in the County of Donegal, Ireland, five miles from the City of London-

derry. In my fifth year I was sent to the parish school. The teacher taught reading, writing and a little arithmetic, but nothing more. A few families who could afford it had employed a better scholar at their own cost, and in my eighth year I was sent to this school, where I commenced my education in English grammar with which the teacher was well acquainted. Unfortunately, however, he did not have the gift of teaching, for I remember that when we came to the conjugation of verbs we skipped them, yet he expected that when we were called to parse a sentence that we could tell the mood or tense of a verb, when as a matter of fact we were ignorant of them.

"I could commit to memory with great facility and could repeat Murray's Introduction from the beginning of orthography to the end of syntax, but never having had the meaning of a single definition explained to me I was totally ignorant of the meaning of that experience that a child should never be set to commit anything to memory without first understanding its meaning. Our teacher died and I was afterwards sent to a private school kept by our Presbyterian minister.

TO NEW BRUNSWICK 1825.

"When I reached my sixteenth year, my elder brother left home for the United States, and I was taken from school. My eldest brother had entered the service of the Hudson Bay Company, and did not wish me to give up my studies, as he hoped that when old enough he would get me a situation in the company's service. I therefore helped on the farm and went to school alternately, and I was well qualified for a clerkship when I received a letter from him in the fall to prepare to join him the next spring. Soon after that word came that the Hudson Bay Company had joined the North West Company and that the new company would have more servants than they required, and consequently there would be no room for me.

"At the end of my 21st year I came to New Brunswick. That was in 1825. At that time New Brunswick had two great industries, namely, ship building and the shipping of pine lumber. The province had only 74,000 inhabitants, but it was a hive of industry. I found, however, that clerks were not wanted but men to work at manual labor. There was plenty of employment in the shipyards and good wages prevailed. I worked in a shipyard during the first fall and winter and the next year I helped to build a brig at Dorchester. The year following I helped to build a schooner at Moncton, or rather at the Bend, where Moncton now stands. When the schooner was finished I painted her, and as the owner wanted to go to sea in her he engaged me to take charge of his store and keep his books, which I did for a time.

AS SCHOOL TEACHER AND MERCHANT.

"The school at that place was then vacant and I engaged with them as a teacher and taught there for the two years following. There was no Presbyterian Church there, and hearing that there was one at Richibucto, I wrote to the minister at that place who encouraged me to go. I taught school at Richibucto for eight years, commencing with twenty-eight pupils, only a few of whom I had read. When I gave up school I had over sixty pupils, all of whom I had taught all the usual English branches except geometry, algebra, trigonometry, mensuration and navigation, but I found that I was doing too much for one person.

"My health began to fail and I up teaching. I then engaged in mercantile business in Richibucto, and continued in it thirty out of the forty years that I spent at that point. I did not confine myself wholly to that, however, but got a farm and took great pleasure in raising good crops and owning good animals. The most valuable service that I rendered the agricultural interests was bringing Prof. Johnson to the province. He was an agricultural chemist occupying about the same standing in Great Britain that Liebig did in Germany. I had noticed in a paper that he was coming to the United States, and I moved an address to the lieutenant governor asking him to invite Prof. Johnson to visit this province and report on its agricultural capabilities. As a result of this action Prof. Johnson visited New Brunswick, and his report proved of great value. A large edition was printed at first, and afterwards a second edition of 50,000 for circulation in Great Britain.

ELECTED M. P. FOR KENT.

"In 1842 the people of Kent elected me to represent that county in the House of Assembly. My colleague was the late Hon. Judge Weldon. The first vote that I gave in the house was to place Mr. Weldon in the speaker's chair. This left me alone to represent the county in the active work of the house, and the committees, as a result gave me very much extra work. At that time Kent sent only two members, while other counties had four and five. We had some committees in the house composed of a member from each county and as a result I had to serve on them all, while the members of the large counties could divide the work. Besides that, I took part in all the legislation on agriculture and education that came up during the time that I sat both in the assembly and legislative council, and when I left the council I was a member of both the provincial board of agriculture and the senate of the University.

FATHER OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

"In 1847 a large majority of the representatives of the three parliaments in the North American provinces were extreme protectionists, those who favored a revenue tariff being in the minority. After several lengthy debates, I moved a resolution that an act should be passed, authorizing the governor, by proclamation in The Royal Gazette, to admit goods, the growth and manufacture of any North American province, free of duty, whenever it should

(Continued on third page.)

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