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WAS POLITICAL KNIGHT ERRANT

Joseph Martin's Career Took in Two Provincial, Federal and Imperial Legislative Halls

KNOWN AS FIGHTING JOE

Was Premier of B.C. For Three Months; Broke up Ministries

If ever there was a political knight-errant, Joseph Martin, who died yesterday in Vancouver, was one. He travelled far and wide seeking adventure at the polls, on the hustings and in the legislatures. For thirty years where the smoke of political battle blew thickest, there one was almost certain to find the lance and pennant of "fighting Joe." And, true knight-errant that he was, he was always concerned more with the zest of the contest than with any end he might achieve. He liked politics for the fighting politics involved; and if there wasn't a fight, he made one. But once the battle was won he was apt to lose interest in the subsequent proceedings and to turn his attention if not his activities in some other direction.

During a part, at least, of the thirty years referred to — from about 1883 to 1913—Joseph Martin was probably the most-talked of man in all Canada. His record was unique. No one in the entire political history of the Dominion even approached it. He served in two provincial legislatures and in the cabinets of two provinces. Others have done that. But, in addition, he played his part as leader of the opposition and as premier in one of these provinces; he sat in both the Dominion House of Commons and in the Mother of Parliaments, and he figured—if one is to believe his enemies—as the hero of a novel which achieved considerable circulation. He was a radical of the first water, almost an iconoclast, indeed, and was responsible for the wrecking of more than one ministry. The fact that during the last few years of his life he played no active part in politics was due to no fault of his own, but rather to his sinister record as a disruptive force, which made all parties fear his support as much as they did his opposition.

Born in Ontario

Joseph Martin was born on September 24, 1852, at Milton, Ont. He was educated by private tuition, at the Michigan Normal School, at the Toronto Normal School and Toronto University. In his youth he was a telegraph operator. Later, he taught school at Ottawa and finally studied law there in the office of McLeod Stewart. In 1882, he went west, was called to the bar of Manitoba and took up the practice of his profession in Portage la Prairie and later in Winnipeg. Almost at once he jumped into politics, and to such good purpose, that he was elected to the legislature for Portage la Prairie in 1883. This seat he held until the general election of 1892, when he declined re-election.

In 1888, he entered the Greenway cabinet as minister of education and attorney general, and retained his double portfolio until 1891, when he retired after a disagreement with the premier. While in the ministry, he led the fight for southern railway connection, and he framed and introduced the measure abolishing separate schools in Manitoba. This bill proved one of the most contentious ever brought before a Canadian legislautre, and, after occupying a place in the public eye for six years, it resulted finally in the introduction of the Remedial Bill at Ottawa, the general election of 1896, and the defeat of the Tupper government.

Martin defended his separate school measure before the Privy Council, but when the heavy fighting was transferred to Ottawa, his crusading spirit led him there. He was a candidate for the federal house in Selkirk in the general election of 1891, but was defeated by the late Hon. T. Mayne Daly. Two years later, at a by-election, he was returned for the city of Winnipeg, the first Liberal ever returned by the Manitoba capital, and he took an active part in the Remedial Bill debates. In the general election of 1896, he was again a candidate but his opponent was Hon. Hugh John Macdonald, and "Fighting Joe" was defeated.

Comes to B.C.

In 1897 Mr. Martin set his course for British Columbia. He opened a law office in Vancouver and began at once to interest himself in politics. Party lines were not very definitely drawn on the Pacific coast at the time, but the Turner government was becoming unpopular and Martin took the opposition view. A general election was announced, and the new opposition recruit secured a nomination in Vancouver, and by his vigor, practised skill on the platform, and slashing attacks, added to the interest and piquancy of the campaign. The Turner government was not exactly defeated in the election, but the lieutenant governor forced its resignation, and in the Semlin ministry which took its place, Martin was given the position of attorney general.

The new government was not many months old, when it began to appear that it was divided against itself, Martin and F. L. Carter Cotton, minister of finance, both Vancouver men, were personally antagonistic. They quarrelled about various things, particularly about Deadman's Island, which was a live local issue in Vancouver at the time and finally, following a banquet at Rossland, at which a speech by Martin had provoked a fight, the premier asked for the attorney general's resignation. It was refused at first, but when Martin found the majority of the government supporters were against him, he left the cabinet.

Led Dog's Life

From that day he was the Semlin government's most determined and vigorous opponent. For six weeks he led it a dog's life in the House, where, sometimes a majority of one, and sometimes only the speaker's casting vote stood between it anr defeat. At length, on February 14, 1900, he succeeded in getting a majority of one against it on a redistribution measure. Semlin clung to office for a week or so, but the lieutenant governor dismissed him and called on Martin to form a cabinet. Martin complied, but had considerable difficulty in finding men to fill his portfolios. He had to go outside the House, and when he appealed to the country on June 7, on a platform which included an anti-Oriental plank and a proposal to build a railroad from the coast to the Kootenay, he was defeated. He had been premier a little over three months.

Mr. Martin remained in the legislature until 1903, part of the time as leader of the opposition, and later a supporter of the Dunsmuir and Prior ministries. At the general election of 1908, he ran for the House of Commons in Vancouver as a candidate of the Asiatic Exclusion League, but was defeated and in December of the same year, he left for England, intending he said, to argue Canadian cases before the Privy Council and enter British politics. In the general election of 1909, he ran for the Imperial House as a Liberal in Southwest Warwickshire, but was defeated. Another general election came on in 1910, and "Fighting Joe" was elected for East St. Pancras. In 1911 he was back in Vancouver, though he had not resigned his seat in the Imperial House, and did some skirmishing against the government in the reciprocity campaign. He made one or two attempts afterwards to re-enter politics in British Columbia but never succeeded in getting a nomination. He was a candidate, too, for mayor of Vancouver, but was defeated. He even started an evening newspaper in Vancouver, and seemed for a time to get some excitement out of it, but it didn't prove a success, and he discontinued it after a few weeks.

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SPLENDID SHOWING OF ANYOX COMMUNITY LEAGUE FOR YEAR; BALANCE IN BANK IS SUBSTANTIAL

(continued from page one)

rected as requested, and the business of the meting proceeded.

On the reading of the minutes of the semi-annual meeting held in August last, it was moved by Mr. Armour and seconded by Mr. Murdoch that they be adopted as read. This motion carried.

The Chairman asked for reports from the heads of the different departments of the league. Mr. Lowry talked on the financial statement. Mr. Noel told of the activities connected with Recreation Hall and mentioned the billiard tournaments which had proved so successful. Mr. Sedelman's report went fully into the different athletic achievements of the league, the banquet for all sport participants held some time ago, the gymnasium and the interest taken in its various departments. Mr. Rowley stated there was nothing to report in connection with the choral and dramatic department.

Library Successful

Mr. Armour asked the chair if there was a report forthcoming from the forum department. The secretary replied that since Mr. Warwick's resignation of that office, the library, etc., had been functioning successfully, that a number of new books had been added as well as several newspapers, and that the opinion of the council had been to leave the appointment of Mr. Warwick's successor to the incoming council.

Upon a request from Mr. Rowley, the chair asked the secretary to make a general report. This went into details of the league's operations covering the year 1922. The profit and loss statement for 1922 showed a gain in commercial activities of $6,308.99, with a loss in general operation, library, social service and athletics of $3,857.55. Writing off a depreciation on equipment owned by the league amounting to $1,165.47 this left a net profit of $1,648.18.

Valuable Assets

The trial balance for December 31 shows that there would be in the bank if all liabilities were paid, cash amounting to $2,500, merchandise to the value of $2,500 in the Mine and Beach pool-rooms, with equipment of various kinds valued at $12,000, including the buildings erected for gymnasium purposes at the Beach and Mine.

The Secretary told of the success of the summer camp at Alice Arm last summer, when the league entertained some hundred and fifty residents of Anyox to a week's outing, the weekly publication of the Granby News by the Granby Company in the interests of community service; the establishment of a daily bulletin service, which was posted in the library, recreation hall and the mine hall every evening for the benefit of the citizens. This bulletin had also been phoned to the workers on the dam while construction work was being carried on there, and had been much appreciated. Magazines were supplied to the hospital and were being sent to the camp of the Granby Company at Maple Bay. Writing material was at all times available in the library for anyone who wanted to take advantage of it.

Metropolitan Advantages

A qualified teacher of music had been induced to settle in Anyox, and the children could now have the same advantages as those of bigger towns outside.

The band was something that should receive more support from the Community League than it was getting. Until November last no insurance had been carried on equipment and inventories owned by the league. Insurance to the amount of $3,500 was then placed on stocks and equipment carried in Recreation Hall, Mine Hall and the Library, at an annual cost of $164.50.

The membership of the league in February, 1922, had been 360; in February, 1923, it was 430. In the meantime two hundred and fifty members had left Anyox in the labor turnover, which showed that 320 members had joined in the past twelve months.

On the completion of all reports, Mr. Armour moved a vote of thanks to the retiring council for the gratifying reports presented. This was seconded by Mr. Esplin and carried by the meeting.

Mr. Rowley handed in his resignation in writing and Mr. Conway stated that owing to his frequent absence from Anyox it would be impossible for him to continue as a member of the council and do justice to the position and asked to be relieved.

Nominations

Nominations for council men being in order, the following names were presented: Mesdames Oxley, McKay, Eve, Hoffman and Jenkinson; Messrs. Brown, Simpson, Blaney, Callanan, Gibson, Manzer, McAllister, Oleson, Lewis, Roye, McTaggart, Jones, Crone, Esplin, Stalker, Herrin, Thornton, Armour, Harper, Thorley, Barr, Murdoch, Gigot, Rowley, Lowry and Buck.

Mr. Blaney, addressing the chair, stated that on account of what had happened at the last regular meeting, he would move a vote of confidence in Mr. Kelley and his work as secretary and asked the meeting to endorse it. The vote of confidence was seconded by Mr. Kyle and carried unanimously by the meeting, only one negative being registered.

Over a question by Mrs. Hoffman as to certain clauses in the constitution, there was considerable discussion as to the worth of the bylaws and constitution of the league, the final verdict of the meeting being the appointment of a committee to draw up an entirely new constitution. The members of the committee appointed follow: Mesdames McKay and Hoffman, Messrs. Armour, McAllister, King, and Herdman, with the secretary.

For Young People

Mr. Herdman suggested that with the incoming council something might be accomplished in connection with young people's work, and he would very much like to see something attempted along this line.

Mr. King, who has been an energetic worker for and an enthusiastic booster of the Anyox brass band, told the meeting about the difficulties of that organization, what it cost to run it, and suggested the league make a monthly contribution, so that its music might be kept up to date.

How much does it mean to you to keep your wife young?

Who hasn't met old women of 25, and young women of 40? It isn't years alone that age—any physician will tell you that undue expenditure of physical and mental energy will make the young old at 30.

It is such things as washing that soonest wear women out—handling of heavy clothes; stooping and lifting; working in cold water, and then hot; wet feet; trotting in and out from a warm, steamy room, to a cold outdoors.

More and more men are coming to appreciate that if for no other reason than that of health, it is inadvisable to permit this work by women.

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