

Crusading At End



MRS. EMILY MURPHY

'Janey Canuck' Bold Crusader, Dies At Home

Paralytic Stroke Fatal to Ex-Magistrate Emily Murphy

First woman magistrate appointed in the Dominion, crusader on behalf of all public endeavors on behalf of women and leader in the fight for women's rights to sit in the Canadian Senate, Mrs. Emily Murphy, known to a wider public as "Janey Canuck," noted author, died at her home, 11011 83 avenue, about midnight on Thursday.

Death came suddenly and unexpectedly from a paralytic stroke.

She was 65 years old.

Vigorous, active and in complete possession of all the mental activity for which she has been noted throughout the years, Mrs. Murphy was shopping in the business section of the city on Thursday afternoon.

WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS

Returning home before dinner, she was in good spirits. At her customary hour she retired. Just before midnight, she awoke for a few minutes, spoke a few words to members of her family, and then relapsed into a state of coma, succumbing almost immediately and without suffering.

Word of her death caused a heavy pall to hang over women's organizations of this city and province as women's rights had no greater champion than she.

Mrs. Murphy had a distinguished

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

'JANEY CANUCK' BOLD CRUSADER DIES AT HOME

Continued from Page One
public, magisterial and literary career.

She was born at Cookstown, Ont., on March 14, 1866, the daughter of Isaac and Emily Ferguson. She received the greater part of her education at Bishop Strachan's school, Toronto. In 1903 she was married to Rev. Arthur Murphy, M.A., Anglican clergyman.

The year after their marriage the young couple heeded the call of the west and moved to Winnipeg. For the succeeding few years, Mrs. Murphy conducted the literary section of the Winnipeg Telegram and then the family moved to Saskatchewan and later came to this province in 1907, residing here ever since.

Western scenes, and environment provided fresh inspiration for an already successful pen and Mrs. Murphy gained fame and power as an author. She thoroughly studied the west she had learned to love and mirrored its life in the books she wrote under the pen name of Janey Canuck.

Among her better known books are, "Janey Canuck in the West," "Open Trails," "Seeds of Pine," "The Black Candle," "Our Little Canadian Cousins of the Great North West" and "Bishop Bompas." She contributed numerous articles to Canadian, British and United States publications.

MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

Possessing a magnetic personality, a rare sympathy and humor, she brought cheer into the backwoods country homes which she loved to visit. Her advice and help was eagerly sought in cases of illness or other troubles and was always generously given. In the midst of her other activities she found time to aid her husband in his coal mining work, in a coal mining venture, horse-trading and farming and on many occasions amply demonstrated her ability as a business woman.

Mrs. Murphy came from a legal family. The late Mr. Justice W. N. Ferguson, of the Ontario bench was her brother, while two prominent Toronto barristers, Harcourt Ferguson, K.C., and T. R. Ferguson, both of whom are now dead, were brothers.

In 1916 she was appointed magistrate of the juvenile court in this city, a post she retained until 1931 when she resigned in order to devote herself more to literary and business affairs.

Her commission as magistrate gave her power to sit as magistrate anywhere in Alberta.

UNDERSTANDING SYMPATHY

In all cases brought before her she showed sympathy and understanding, on the expressed theory that "a police court is a casualty clearing station." She believed that most of those arraigned before her were not viciously bad, but were products of environment. "We magistrates should not be there to blister people," she stated, "but rather to help them. We should try to use remedial measures."

During the World War she was prominent in patriotic work and it was at her suggestion and that of Mrs. Nellie McClung that the Dominion government adopted the scheme of registering women for war work.

DECORATED BY KING

One of the few in the Dominion to receive such an honor, her work was recognized by His Majesty King George when she was appointed Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Mrs. Murphy was probably the most vigorous campaigner on behalf of the rights of women to sit in the senate, a fight which was carried to the Privy Council and which was ultimately crowned with success. On all sides she was given the credit for having waged the heaviest part of the battle and it was believed here senatorial appointment would not have been long delayed.

HELD MANY OFFICES

She was associated with many organizations and was prominent in women's conventions. She was president and honorary president of the Canadian Women's Press Club; honorary secretary of the Society of Women Journalists of England; member of the Imperial Press Conference of 1920; member of the executive of the Canadian Authors' Association from 1922 to 1927; president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada from 1919-1921; vice-president of the National Council of Women from 1918 to 1920; member of the war conference of women held in 1918 and a member of the general committee of the League of Nations Society of Canada.

She is survived by her husband and two daughters, Mrs. J. C. Kenwood and Miss Evelyn Murphy. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

SHOCK TO POLICE

The word of Mrs. Murphy's death came as a distinct shock to officials

at police headquarters, who vividly recalled a humorous, and in the light of the events of the past 24 hours, touching incident which took place at the noon adjournment of court Thursday.

Mrs. Murphy, as is her custom, was paying one of her periodical visits to her friends, the magistrates, prosecutor and other employees of the court. She sat through a case and as court adjourned exchanged a few words with Col. George B. McLeod, and Prosecutor, Charles Becker.

"The acoustics in this court are bad," she remarked. "It is very hard to hear anything."

Turning to Eardley Jackson, defence counsel and veteran court strategist, Col. McLeod asked him to go up to the bench and speak while Mrs. Murphy, Col. McLeod, Prosecutor Becker and two newspapermen listened at the rear.

"MR. MAGISTRATE" JACKSON

Mr. Jackson walked to the magisterial dais.

"No, go right on to the bench," smilingly ordered Mrs. Murphy. At a nod of approval from Col. McLeod, "Magistrate" Eardley Jackson took his seat on the bench, folded his hands, cleared his throat and assuming the dignified pose of a jurist spoke:

"We are honored today with the presence of Mrs. Emily Murphy, police magistrate and judge. A feminine note, missing from this building for some years is brought back to mind by the kindly smiling countenance of the beloved lady cad. I am sure you all join with me in welcoming her back again and agree with me that her happy face strikes a joyous note in the hearts of all here."

Mr. Jackson's impromptu speech was surprising and all in court were silent for a minute then burst into approving applause.

"Thank you, Mr. Jackson, that was sweet of you," smiled Mrs. Murphy and with Col. McLeod and Prosecutor Becker she left for the private chambers of the jurists.

COMES AS SHOCK

News of the death of Mrs. Murphy came as a great shock to her Canadian wide circle of friends. Especially in women's organizations and among the women who had been associated with her in her various battles for recognition of women's rights was the loss felt, and floods of telegrams and telephone messages were received in Edmonton during the day, all of them testifying to the high regard in which Mrs. Murphy was held and the deep personal loss the senders of the messages felt they had sustained through her passing.

Among those paying tribute to the late Mrs. Murphy were the following:

Hon. J. E. Brownlee, Premier of Alberta: "I deeply regret the very sudden death of Mrs. Emily Murphy. In her capacity as one of the magistrates of the Edmonton police court, she performed excellent service for this province. As a writer under the pseudonym of 'Janey Canuck' she was widely known throughout Canada. Her greatest contribution to the public life of Canada, however, was as one of a group of Alberta women who were foremost in Canada in the women's movement and played an important part in securing many of the legislative and constitutional changes for the betterment of the position of women both in the home and in public affairs."

"I join with her wide circle of friends in expressing deepest sympathy to the family in their bereavement."

Hon. J. F. Lymburn, K.C., attorney-general of Alberta: Mrs. Murphy's untimely and sudden death has shocked me. She played a large part in the life of this province and her passing leaves a blank, especially in the field of women's and humanitarian activities that will be difficult to fill."

Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, noted author and women's leader: A great soul has left us and in this hour of loss I have no feeling but a sense of desolation, but I know her work will live on and so will her memory keep green in the hearts of us who worked with her and loved her."

Mrs. Will J. Ross, president of the Local Council of Women: "I am terribly shocked at the news of Mrs. Murphy's death. I believe that the women of Canada have lost their most wonderful advocate of women's rights. Mrs. Murphy's accomplishments in that direction were extensive."

"The most recent of these was the 'Persons' question. Mrs. Murphy spent a great deal of time to have women recognized as eligible for seats in the senate and was the most active worker of the five Alberta women who carried the appeal to the Privy Council."

"I find it hard to adequately express my regret at her passing and my sympathy towards her family."

"Mrs. Murphy established a precedent as Alberta's first woman magistrate and her work in that field was most valuable."

Mrs. Ferren E. Baker, former president of the Women's Press Club, of which Mrs. Murphy was national president: "I deeply regret Mrs. Murphy's passing. She was a woman of sterling character, with high principles and ideals. Her generosity and kindness of heart will long be remembered—particularly by those unfortunate women who

VICE."

Mrs. George D. Miesner, president Women's Canadian Club: "In the passing of Mrs. Murphy the women of Alberta have lost a loyal friend. She was a pioneer in women's organizations and a leader in reform movements, particularly those relating to women. Mrs. Murphy was a charter member of the Women's Canadian Club and was its first president. Her departure will be deeply felt by her many friends and I feel, personally, that I have lost a kind neighbor."

Mayer D. E. Knott: "Words can scarce compass the regret I feel at the death of Mrs. Murphy. She held a position which was unique in the history of women's activities in Canada, and women, in their fight for what they believe to be their rights, never had a stronger champion that she. Proof of her capabilities is contained in the fact that she was among the few to receive honors at the hands of His Majesty, who recognized her services by appointing her Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem."

"Her several books met with instant favor on the part of the reading public. She was particularly noted for her description of pioneer life in Canada."

"Her position as police magistrate gave her perhaps the greatest opportunity of doing good. Broad-minded as far as her connection with the unfortunates was concerned, she was loved for the sympathetic way in which she gave her decisions and exerted the powers she held to help those who fell foul of the law."

"She was a close friend of mine for years, and I am indeed sorry that she has passed."

Magistrate Col. P. C. H. Primrose, of the Edmonton city police court: "It was quite a shock when I was advised of the sudden death of Mrs. Murphy, for our work had brought us together over a period of many years. Only a couple of days ago she told me that she had never felt better in her life." Mrs. Murphy was a woman of outstanding ability and was instrumental in having laws passed for the betterment of women and children throughout this western country. She was a tremendous worker all her life and never spared herself. My sympathies go out to Rev. Murphy and their two daughters."

Magistrate Col. George B. McLeod: "It was with the deepest regret that I learned today of the death of Mrs. Emily F. Murphy. As Women's Police Magistrate here, Mrs. Murphy and myself have been in close association in police court work for many years and those associations have always been most pleasant. Mrs. Murphy will be remembered by many for the kindly interest she took in them while they were in difficulties, and by many she assisted through their troubles, at all times sacrificing herself in the service of the public. In the passing of Mrs. Murphy, the city of Edmonton has lost one of its leading and most highly respected citizens, and in many circles there will be a vacancy hard to fill. In those circles she has labored long in the interests of the community generally. I personally feel that I have lost a very close friend."

Mrs. A. H. Rogers, Fort Saskatchewan, national secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada: "Thousands of Women's Institute members throughout Canada will be shocked at the sudden passing of Mrs. Emily Murphy who, as first president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, was known to them all. Less than a month ago she was made a life member of that organization, the highest honor within their power."

"Her passing leaves an ache in the hearts of a host of friends who loved her, not only for her scintillating wit and her brilliant mind, for her undaunted courage, her warm heart and her marvellous capacity for unselfish friendship. The poor, the sad and the unfortunate have lost a real friend and a doughty champion."

Chief of Police A. G. Shute: "It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that I have learned of the sudden death of Mrs. Emily Murphy who has been one of the most prominent and outstanding women in the Dominion of Canada."

"For fifteen years she presided over the Women's Court in this city as Police Magistrate, discharging her duties in the most efficient manner, and being ready and willing to co-operate at any hour of the day or night when called on by members of the Police Department, and always having a kind and cheery word for everyone from the highest police official to the scab-stable on the beat. She was in my

office no later than yesterday afternoon discussing various matters, and as usual having a pleasant greeting for all with whom she came in contact."

"She was a noted author, and through her writings and her work as Police Magistrate has done much to raise the status of women throughout the Dominion of Canada. She was a kind and clever woman of strong sterling character and honor and the City of Edmonton, the Province of Alberta and the Dominion as a whole will suffer a great loss through her death which has come as such a shock to everyone."

Mrs. J. W. Field, vice-president of the United Farm Women of Alberta, an association which has held the late Magistrate Murphy in the highest esteem, expressed deepest sorrow. Mrs. Field has just undergone a serious operation herself, and was therefore unable to put into words the regret she desired to express, but stated that the loss to Alberta and Western Canada, and especially to women's organizations, would be keenly felt."

Hon. Irene Parby, minister without portfolio in the Alberta government and former president of the United Farm Women of Alberta: "It is difficult in a few words to express one's deep sense of loss, both from a personal and a public point of view, in the passing of Mrs. Murphy. Personally, I feel that I have lost a friend whom I greatly valued and I feel strongly that the public has lost one who never spared herself or her many talents in its service."

G. Walter Thomson, president Edmonton Branch, Canadian Authors' Association: "In the sudden passing of Emily Murphy not only the local community of city and province has suffered a great loss, but also the wider community of the Dominion and the British Commonwealth, which knew 'Janey Canuck' by her distinguished literary achievements. Hers was a splendid life, devoted to the advancement of the highest ideals in Canadian literature. Her works and memory will live."