

GREAT RESPECT SHOWN FOR MR. ROBERT McLAUGHLIN

Largest Funeral in Oshawa's History

Many citizens of Bowmanville and the rural sections of West Durham attended the funeral services on Saturday afternoon, November 26, of the late Robert McLaughlin in the Presbyterian Church, Oshawa.

It was the largest funeral ever seen in Oshawa, and from far and near came men and women in all ranks of life to gaze upon the familiar face of the departed and follow all that was mortal of him to their last resting place in the Union cemetery. Business was practically suspended, while flags at half mast on

H. R. and W. B. Tudhope, prominent manufacturers, Orillia; Commodore C. G. Mariatt, Oakville; R. E. Benard, Toronto; Rev. J. P. Wilson, Belleville; F. Hatch, Whitby; J. J. Sule, Montreal; Stanley Pettit, Toronto; Casey Wood, K. C., barrister, Toronto; J. B. Laidlaw, Toronto; Captain Oliver Hazlewood, Toronto; R. J. Young, Montreal; Hon. Wm. Smith, P. C., Columbus; A. L. Gourley, manager J. J. McLaughlin Ltd., Toronto; H. McMillan, Standard Bank, Toronto; T. Hill, Toronto; Alex. Rowland, general manager Steel Co. of Canada, Toronto; Wilbur Mariatt, Oakville; J. W. Alexander, Bowmanville; J. B. Mitchell, Bowmanville; Mr. Briston, Canadian Manufacturers' Association; H. E.

OSHAWA'S GRAND OLD MAN



ROBERT McLAUGHLIN

various buildings told of the mourning and respect of a loving people. As the body of deceased lay in the church between 1.30 and 3 o'clock

it is estimated that over four thousand people from Oshawa and elsewhere looked upon the kindly and familiar face of Oshawa's Grand Old Man. They passed in front of the casket a continuous stream of humanity for an hour and a half.

Thousands waited outside until the service was over, being unable to gain an entrance to the church which was crowded to the doors, every available space for standing or sitting being utilised.

For the church service the entire auditorium was reserved for the mourners, outside visitors, General Motors employees in various capacities, members of the Town Council and the Church Board of Managers. Behind the mourners and a number of prominent outside visitors, including the lieutenant governor, were seated 25 or 30 factory employees who has served upwards of 20 years. Behind these employees were members of the Advisory Board, executive staff and branch managers.

A touching incident in connection with the draping of the church in mourning was the empty seat of the late Robert McLaughlin, where for years he was wont to sit. The seat was draped in black and purple, and a beautiful floral crescent was placed there by members of the Masonic Order, deceased being a member of Cedar Lodge Oshawa. The choir gallery, pulpit and front pews were draped with black and purple, and on the black and purple screens hung the many floral tributes. They came from all parts of Canada and the United States. Wreaths, crescents, gates ajar, sprays and a large wheel, beautifully gotten up by the General Motors employees as a silent tribute to the industrial captain and citizen of merit, were among the flowers that almost completely covered the front of the church auditorium. No such magnificent contribution of floral tributes has ever before been seen in this part of Canada.

Among the visitors from outside were representatives of the State, great business concerns, financial institutions, manufacturing plants, religious and fraternal bodies, immediate relatives and persons, friends and men long in the service of deceased and the great industries arising as the result of his energy.

The province of Ontario was represented by His Honor Harry Cockshutt, Lieutenant Governor and his aide, Col. Fraser. Other prominent men were: J. C. Dalrymple, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Railway System; C. A. Bogert, general manager of the Dominion Bank, and three directors, H. W. Hutchinson, W. K. Pearce and A. E. Reid; His Honor Judge McGillivray, Whitby; H. A. Alywn, head office, Bank of Hamilton; Richard McKenzie, Winnipeg, oldest branch manager in point of service; J. J. Westren, Dunlop Tire and Rubber Co., Toronto; J. E. Walsh, manager Canadian Manufacturers' Association; H. E. Cooper, Manager Oshawa Railway Co., Gananoque; W. Sampson, president Cananogue Spring & Axle Company; Col. F. H. Deacon, Toronto; J. C. Fraser, Toronto; J. A. Secord, A. O. Heather, General Motors Acceptance Corporation, Toronto; Col. Henry Otway, Secretary Men's Social Department, and Col. Richard Adby, Secretary of the Canadian Department, Salvation Army Headquarters in Canada; Senator Robert Bell, John McMurtry, M. A. James, W. B. Couch, James Rickard, Bowmanville; Peter Werry, Tyrone.

Senator Mellinoland, Port Hope;

Blood and W. Davidson, Walkerville; Norman S. E. James, W. B. McMurry, Bowmanville; and many others from various places.

General Motors branch managers and representatives were present from all parts of the country and others who came to pay their last respects to the late industrial captain.

Rev. Geo. Yule, minister of the church, who had been associated with deceased for nine years of his pastorate, spoke feelingly of him, and paid him some worthy tributes. Basing a brief discourse of the 14th Chapter of John, Rev. Mr. Yule stated that in this character were revealed glorious realities of the future life. We are reminded of the Christian hope—a sure and steadfast hope; and it is a great thing to realize that he whom we loved, and mourn and honor today, was sustained by that hope. The pastor stated that no better evidence of the existence of such a hope in deceased could be had than in the brief reference made in a letter written to an old and close friend last Christmas, when he said that both must realize that they were approaching the brink of the river which all must cross, and that as for him he had no fear as he knew his Pilot would be awaiting him. Such was the sentiment expressed by Longfellow, when he wrote:

I hope to meet my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

Eighty-five years of a busy life had closed, and to-day people met to pay tribute to the memory of a noble and upright character.

Robert McLaughlin was pre-eminently a man of business. The factories left behind him were monuments which spoke eloquently to us of his enterprise, ingenuity and integrity. They were founded and built upon the principles of righteousness. Robert McLaughlin was a man of influence. His gifts did not manifest his real power but the spirit behind them. He was also a great church man.

On November 27th, 1881, 41 years ago, he was ordained as a member of the Presbyterian church session in Oshawa, and in his early life he was interested in the Sunday School. Of recent years he had found it impossible to devote his time actively to the duties of the church but he was nevertheless regular in his attendance. Seldom had he been missed from his seat in nine years. Robt. McLaughlin & Co. a full man—full of years, of honor, and of hope.

Eloquent and touching tribute was paid to the deceased by Rev. J. P. Wilson, B. A. Belleville, a former Simcoe Street Church pastor and an old friend of Mr. McLaughlin. Rev. Mr. Wilson said that he met his old friend 25 years ago, and during that time a warm friendship had existed between them. Deceased was a man who followed the path of duty religiously and sternly, turning not to the right hand or to the left. He did justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly before his God. In industry he had few peers, and if character were to be graded by service then Bro. McLaughlin occupied a high place in the community. It was not so much a man's religious creed but what service he rendered to his fellow men and what sacrifice he made for mankind which counted in the final analysis. A man who does not serve does not live. Jesus taught that the great end of life was to serve. Man's great end was to serve even without the reward of his fellow men.

No person ever doubted what side of any great public question Robt. McLaughlin was on. He was to be found on the side of everything

(Continued on last page)

GREAT RESPECT SHOWN FOR MR. ROBERT McLAUGHLIN

(Continued from page 1, section 2)

which was right for the town, community and the state. The church, Salvation Army, needy consumptives, the poor, were all helped by him. God lives forever, and he who does His will also lives forever. It is not what a man does but what he is that lives forever. In closing Rev. Mr. Wilson said that nothing grander could be said of Mr. McLaughlin than that he was a good man. He had seen him in times of adversity and prosperity, sorrow and joy, but he was always a good man. "He has served his day and generation and he has now fallen on sleep", said Mr. Wilson. Death, after all was a home coming, and all shall know each other in heaven.

After the church service, while Organist Henley played the "Dead March in Saul", the vast audience stood reverently as the casket was taken from the church. Flower bearers, members of the General Motors staff, preceded the casket and stood as a guard of honor, as it were on either side of Bruce Street exit to the church, while the pallbearers passed out to the waiting hearse. Thousands stood outside, with hats raised during the transfer of the casket from the church to the hearse and as the funeral cortege passed them along Simcoe Street and King Street West. Never before in Oshawa's history have so many people stood in silent reverence to watch a funeral cortege of 60 cars pass through the streets to the city of the dead. Nine large automobiles conveyed the flowers, over 200 designs, to the cemetery. The cortege was headed by the massed bands of the Ontario County Regiment and Salvation Army, who played the "Dead March in Saul". During the passing of the cortege through the streets business was suspended and all blinds, along the route were drawn, a mark of respect to the deceased by business men who had known him long and well. Overhead as the cortege passed hung dull leadened skies, adding solemnity to the occasion, seeming as if Nature even was in mourning for a great and a good man.

The pall-bearers were Oliver Hezlewood, Toronto; Richard McKenzie, a prominent Winnipeg business man; John Gibson, Joseph Lane, Thos. Hawkes and D. Haverson. The latter four have been employees for the past thirty years or more.

Robert McLaughlin is dead, but his spirit still lives, likewise his influence for good in the community.

A Gift

Ever since the T
myrrh to the lowly man
this time with gifts of pr



The sentiment th
or relative is best expres
gestive of your regard,
in a sturdy, beautiful c

The Dominion is
tistic design and excellen
craftsmen. Dominion
delphia, London, Chicag
ception awarded the hig
an assurance not only o

SOLD ON EASY TERM

F

Mitchell Bldg.