

Frank W. Fraser (1878 – 18 Oct. 1960)

Frank W. Fraser, born at South River Road, Antigonish County, N.S. was a 60 years resident of Fort William. At the time of his death, he was the managing director of the Royal Edward hotel. From the time of his arrival in Fort William in 1900, he was involved in wholesale business until his retirement in 1948. He was also a member of the hotel board of directors, was a former member of the Port Arthur and Fort William Rotary clubs, Kam club and McKellar hospital board. A man who was heavily involved in his community, he was also part of committees during the war that lobbied to have 'enemy alien' labour used in the Thunder Bay district.

References

"Fort William City Appoints Strong Committee To Urge Need Of Local Aliens in District Hereabouts." *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, 19 December, 1914.

"Pioneer of City, F.W. Fraser Dies." *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, 19 October, 1960.

FORT WILLIAM CITY APPOINTS STRONG COMMITTEE TO URGE NEED OF WORK OF LOCAL ALIENS IN DISTRICT HEREABOUTS

GEO. EOLL'S BIRTHPLACE VERY MUCH NON-GERMAN

The meeting last night was not without its humorous side. When Ernie Jones got up and solemnly asked whether he would be intruding personalities on the meeting if he asked Alderman Eoll a question, the expectation of the crowd rose to the tip top of excitement. Drawing a long breath, Mr. Jones fired his personal question in tones of thunder:—"Mr. Eoll, are you a Geerman?"

A buzz went through the whole auditorium, gradually degenerating into a giggle, and winding up with a laugh, as Alderman Eoll got to his feet and fired back: "No! If it is any satisfaction to the gentleman to know it, I was born in Bristol, England."

Thus the haunting suspicion in the breast of the loyal Briton was lulled to rest and the meeting proceeded with its business.

CHILDREN TO WATCH FOR MEN WITH RED CAPS

With Christmas and his "nibs" Old Santa Claus coming to all the boys and girls of the twin cities next Friday, and the theater party that the Khartum Shrine club, is to hold for the youngsters the following day, Saturday, at the Orpheum here and the Colonial at Port Arthur, next week promises to be a big week for the boys and girls of both cities.

Those who in the past have been the guests of the local Shrine club, have conceded them to be entertainers of no small dimensions and when the announcement is made that both these theaters have been secured for the kids of both cities it is little wonder that young Fort William and Port Arthur are looking forward to a great afternoon's fun as the guests of the Shriners. Both show houses have been secured in their entirety for the little ones, and they will be well looked after.

Special funny pictures as well as educational ones will be shown and the bill will be one to delight the childish heart.

Tickets for the affair will be distributed through different channels next week and the Shriners themselves will be on hand in both cities to see that those who present themselves are admitted. While the Shriners club will endeavor to take care of all who apply for tickets at the theaters, an age limit of 14 is set so that those who are regular patrons of the movies may not crowd out younger children whose privilege to see an entertainment is only irregular. Now boys and girls, keep Saturday afternoon next, Dec. 26, well in mind, and look up the men with the bright red caps any time after two o'clock at the entrance to the Colonial in Port Arthur and the Orpheum in Port William.

Endeavor Will Be Made To Prevent Exportation of Some 2,000 Citizens.

"That the Dominion government be asked to place all aliens of enemy nationality registered in the city, to be interned, in the local agricultural grounds under the direction of qualified officers. That these men be put to work in such numbers as conditions may warrant from time to time in clearing government lands in this district with such other work as may be necessary to make these lands accessible. That the selection of lands to be cleared be left in the hands of a committee composed of his worship Mayor Young, C. W. Jarvis, M.P.P.; F. W. Fraser, Jas. Tonkin, W. F. Hogarth, Geo. Eoll and Jas. Murphy; that if this committee consider it advisable, they immediately proceed to Ottawa and Toronto to interview the Dominion and provincial governments with the view of having the recommendations herein contained carried out.

In the above resolution, moved by A. A. Wilson and seconded by Geo. Eoll, the sentiments of the meeting of last night were crystallized into the form in which they will be sent down to the government at Ottawa.

When President Fraser of the board of trade opened the meeting there were over two hundred interested citizens on hand to discuss the question of foreign relief and local want, a number which was largely augmented before the meeting had been long opened.

The chairman briefly reviewed the purpose of the meeting and pointed out that the Dominion government had only control of the aliens of hostile nationality, so that the questions and proposals submitted to the Ottawa authorities must be confined to that phase. He outlined briefly the steps that had been taken hitherto and ended by reading a letter from J. McK. Hunt, of Slate River, who suggested that ten or twelve places in various districts should be selected by the homestead inspector, and that on each location from three to five acres should be cleared and a small log house and stable erected, this work being done by about ten men under a foreman; as the Austrian was not a man of much initiative. He thought that many of these Austrians would rather be on the land than in the city, and would make good settlers. He suggested that this might be done on lands in townships of Lehigh, Pearson and Pardee.

Mayor Young gave a history of his negotiations with the department of militia and with the premier since he recommended Alderman Eoll as registrar on Nov. 11 and stopped the influx of foreigners at the rate of about twenty-five daily from the west into the city. He advised that a committee be struck to advise with Ot-

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tawa so as not to let this work conflict with the work among our town citizens.

C. W. Jarvis, M.P.P., pointed out that there was any amount of work possible on clearing lands and building roads, both in Fraleigh and in another tract of forty square miles, now being surveyed. The matter however, was in the hands of the Dominion government, and must go through them to the provincial government, and he would personally be glad to lay before Premier Hearst any plans evolved by the committee.

G. A. Foll, registrar of enemy aliens, gave some figures regarding the numbers registered, stating that there were 1,540 already registered in Fort William and about 800 in Port Arthur, and he looked to see the number reach 2,500. Out of the whole he expected that 45 per cent would be interned by the Dominion.

Alderman put up a strong plea for the ready-made farm, which he said had been successfully tried out in Australia and New Zealand. He said that the back to the land movement was our only salvation and that we ought to be able to put from 500 to 700 families on farms here. This would require time but we should all co-operate with this end in view.

Captain Allan, of the Salvation Army, stated that there must be some relief to the English speaking people, but that it was work they needed, not charity. Many of them would be glad to get on to the land if they had a chance. A man could do well on forty acres, with the great market afforded by the city.

J. T. Horne, rather pooh-poohed the idea of there being as much want in the city as was imagined, and doubted whether the city would allow any family to suffer. He asked how many were now in distress. The mayor stated that there were now 3,000 out of work and the relief lists were doubling every two weeks.

F. Blain, relief officer, gave the statistics of the relief for the past month showing 875 persons affected, of whom 641 were Austrians, 91 non-English and 143 English speaking people. New cases were now coming in from among the Italians.

Mr. Horne, just before leaving the meeting, advised the renting of the fair building by the government and advocated the ready made farm movement, believing that the transcontinental highway mentioned by a previous speaker would only serve owners of motor cars.

A. A. Wilson then introduced his motion which was subsequently carried, remarking that just at present the business before the meeting was to dispose of the alien question.

W. F. Hogarth suggested that the area of farm lots be cut down to 80 acres instead of being 160 acres, as he thought that the latter acreage was too much for a man to utilize unless he had a lot of help and capital.

Alderman Foll suggested that the city get the government to turn Fraleigh over to it and then clear up fifteen acres of each forty acre lot and put 500 families on the land.

The discussion then became general and was continued by A. Snelgrove who strongly endorsed Mr. Hogarth's ideas, by J. King, G. O'Brien and others. C. H. Clayton appealed to the sentiment of the meeting when

he stated that aliens of enemy nationality are being kept at work while Canadians and English are let out, the first man to be let out, when staffs are reduced, being the British subject. E. Jones thought that it was pretty nearly time that all enemy aliens were interned, judging from the events on the east coast of England. He thought that the poor Austrian laborer was far less dangerous than the man higher up in education and society.

Alderman Manson trusted that the motion did not mean that all our honorable citizens like the Assyrian merchants, who, he was convinced, were loyal to Britain, were to be taken from their business and interned, and he asked that the motion be made to read in such a manner as to eliminate such a meaning from it.

The motion was then carried unanimously, and was followed by a further motion to be forwarded to the provincial government, which read as follows:

Moved by W. F. Hogarth, seconded by A. Snelgrove: That we recommend to the provincial government through our representative that the township of Fraleigh be divided into eighty-acre lots, and also recommend that the government have from fifteen to twenty acres on each lot cleared, and that a log house and stable be constructed on each homestead—the cost to be a first charge against the land at the government rate of interest, to be repaid in convenient instalments spread over a term of years.

The meeting then turned its attention to the question of relief and work for the coming winter, and the mayor made a statement in which he said that the city was thinking of doing certain work. There was a difference of opinion as to how help was to be given, whether in work or in doles of food and money. The meeting with one consent cried out that it was work it wanted. The mayor continued that he was of the opinion that \$100,000 would fill all the needs of the city, and if they can get the money he was in favor of spending it. Meanwhile the Grand Trunk Pacific had notified him that any man who needed wood could cut it on their property west of the

bridge, where there were about five hundred cords available.

C. W. Jarvis rose to assure the meeting that the legislature was prepared to legalize any emergency debentures issued for this purpose which are within reason.

Jas. Tonkin suggested that the city should open up three miles of road along William street, with side roads, on surveyed property, and he believed that the additional assessment arising from the improvements would repay the city for the money outlay.

Mayor Young approved of this plan and also stated that he was in favor of starting the quarry up and getting rock broken for the street improvements.

The meeting adjourned after pass-

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CUTHBERTSON BUILDING



ing the following resolution to strengthen the hands of the council.

Moved by C. H. Clayton, seconded by Alf Brown: That the citizens and ratepayers, in meeting assembled, strongly urge upon the mayor and council the necessity of carrying on a considerable amount of public work so as to give employment to as many people as possible.

SKATING Arena Park

Every afternoon. Band nights, Mondays and Thursdays. Rink can be rented for hockey. Apply Robt. Tremblay. Phone S. 1577. Other nights reserved for hockey.

Here For 60 Years

Pioneer of City, F. W. Fraser Dies

A 60-year resident of the city and Royal Edward hotel managing director, Frank W. Fraser, of 329 Catherine street, died in hospital late Tuesday afternoon following a brief illness. He was 82 years of age.

Long-time Rotarian and McKellar Hospital board member for a number of years, he was active in the wholesale business here almost from the time of his arrival in 1900 until retirement in 1948. He first worked for the late John King and became manager of the Cameron-Heap firm after it took over the King enterprise. He continued in that capacity when Western Grocers Ltd. acquired Cameron-Heap.

Upon amalgamation of the two Lakehead branches, he became manager of the Port Arthur warehouse until his retirement. Latterly, he had been managing director of the Royal Edward hotel.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Fraser, he was born at South River Road, Antigonish County, N.S., receiving his education there and at St. Francis Xavier university.

A member of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral, he was a member of the hotel board of directors, and former member of Port Arthur and Fort William Rotary clubs, Kam club and McKellar hospital board.

Surviving are his wife, the former Evelyn O'Rourke, whom he married in 1909 at Winnipeg;

a daughter, Elaine, at home; and two sons, Grant, of Boston, at present in the city; and Robert F., of 2015 Hamilton avenue. Five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive.

He was predeceased by his parents, a brother, Grant, in 1921, and a sister, Rev. Sister Mary Matthew, of the Sisters of Charity, in 1957 at Halifax.



FRANK W. FRASER