

OBITUARY

Norman McLeod Rogers, 1894-1940

The tragic death of the Hon. Norman Rogers on June 10, 1940, deprived Canada of the services of one who had quickly become one of her senior Ministers, and who, though the youngest of a seasoned, war-time Cabinet, had been selected for its heaviest portfolio, National Defence. It removed from the Canadian Political Science Association one of its most distinguished and well-beloved members.

Norman Rogers was of that generation whose orderly passing through the University was rudely interrupted by the War of 1914-18. Invalided out of the army, he completed his course at Acadia and was chosen Rhodes Scholar in 1919. At University College, Oxford, he read history and law. After taking Honours in History, he obtained his B.Litt. and B.C.L., submitting a thesis on the Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, which he was later to administer as Minister of Labour. Returning to Acadia in 1922, he was for five years Professor of History and in that period he was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar. From 1927 to 1929, he was the Prime Minister's Secretary for Privy Council affairs, and then followed six years as Professor of Political Science at Queen's University. From his election as Member of Parliament and his appointment as Minister of Labour in the King administration in 1935, his career is a matter of public record.

He was a man whom people instinctively trusted. They believed unhesitatingly in the soundness of his standards and the rightness of his motives. They responded to the earnest attention with which he listened; they were impressed by the eager sincerity with which he spoke; his urchin's smile put them entirely at their ease. These qualities, which were a political strength in later years, were also his strength as a teacher. He took students seriously, assumed that they were interested in public affairs, and that their opinions were important. He took it as a matter of course that political questions, whether of today or yesterday, were both significant and exciting to university students. Beyond all this, there was a warmth and kindness which left a permanent mark on many a student.

Not only as a teacher will he live in the annals of Canadian universities. His own character and the wise counsel of Principal Fyfe made possible his contesting an election, entering Parliament, and becoming a Minister of the Crown while still a member of the Department of Political and Economic Science at Queen's University. Few events

have so strengthened academic freedom in Canada and in a period when it sadly needed to be buttressed.

His earlier writings were historical narratives, but he soon turned to the historical and legal roots of present-day problems. More than any one he was responsible for smashing that product of the parochial ignorance of Ontario and New Brunswick, the compact theory of confederation. He made solid and illuminating contributions to the understanding of federalism, adding to the common stock of ideas which bore fruit in the *Sirois Report*. In dealing with problems of this sort he had admirable perspective, a persuasive pen, and a profound Canadianism. His submission, as counsel for the Province of Nova Scotia, to the Jones Commission drew a good deal of fire from economists and St. Lawrence Valley manufacturers, but it placed a refractory problem of a far-flung federal economy in a clear light and was the beginning of much fundamental study of it.

For a young man whose life abruptly ended just as he was testing his growing powers on a most difficult and exacting task, Norman Rogers's career was singularly complete in form. It was no fragment of a life which had not shown its essential character. Earlier than most, he found his bent, and followed it. More firmly than most, he held to his standards. In those unbelieving, post-war years, he had an unabashed, passionate, yet realistic belief in democratic methods, in liberalism, in Canadian nationalism, and in the importance and dignity of public service. From these came his vocation, whether at the University or Ottawa. He was diverted by neither the levity nor the cynicism of his contemporaries. He was drawn neither to the "light half-believers in our casual creeds" of the twenties nor to the zealots of the thirties. He knew his goal, and he drove toward it.

This is neither the place nor the time to write of Norman Rogers's public career. It drew him far from his college associates, but among them his place is secure. [W. A. M.]

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Murdoch Campbell MacLean

Murdoch Campbell MacLean, M.A. (Dalhousie), A.M. (Harvard), Chief of Social Analysis in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was accidentally drowned at Britannia, near Ottawa, on July 12, to the profound regret of his colleagues and friends in the Bureau and of all who knew him either personally or through his writings.

MacLean, after graduation from Dalhousie University, spent a number of years in the teaching profession in Western Canada, but resigned his position at Moose Jaw Collegiate Institute to enlist as a private at the beginning of the first World War, in which he saw four years of arduous service, being wounded and invalided home to Canada in 1918. In 1919 he was appointed Assistant Chief of the newly established Education Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics,