

*Evidence before Special Committee of the House of Commons on the British North America Act*, March 5, 1933, pp. 25-9.

"Fifty Years of Political and Economic Science in Canada" (in *Fifty Years' Retrospect*, anniversary volume of Royal Society of Canada, 1882-1932, pp. 85-90).

*Our Generation, Its Gains and Losses*, being the Inaugural Course of Lectures delivered under the Green Foundation at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, 1937 (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1938).

Numerous notes on current events signed O. D. S. (*Queen's Quarterly*, 1908-21).

Editorials and comments (*Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association*, 1919-24).

State papers in the drafting of which he collaborated include: *Reports of the Imperial Conferences of 1923, 1926, 1932, and 1937*; *Report of the Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation and Merchant Shipping Legislation, 1929*; and *Report of the Imperial Committee on Economic Consultation and Cooperation, 1932*.

---

*Robert McQueen, 1896-1941*

Economists all over Canada were terribly shocked by the death of Professor Robert McQueen in the tragic T.C.A. accident at Armstrong, Ontario, on February 6. He had an exceptionally large circle of friends to whom he was known as "Pete," a name that stuck to him from his undergraduate days. His passing leaves a void that will not be filled. He was in the full tide of his powers: head of the Department of Economics in the University of Manitoba, a Director of the Bank of Canada, a valued adviser to the provincial government and engaged in many other activities, all of which will suffer from the loss of his sound and forthright judgment.

Born at Edmonton, a son of the manse, he carried something of the moral urgency of his Presbyterian upbringing into his economic convictions. He came comparatively late in his academic career to his chosen field but his previous studies peculiarly fitted him for economics. After attending the Edmonton schools he entered the University of Alberta in 1913 in the Faculty of Applied Science. He completed the first two years in engineering and then transferred to the Faculty of Arts. Before completing his work for a degree he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to begin the study of architecture. After repeated attempts to enlist he was accepted by the R.A.F. in April, 1918. On the close of the war he returned to the University of Alberta where he received his B.A. degree in 1919, and his M.A. degree in 1920. He was a lecturer in philosophy during 1920-1. McQueen shared deeply the general malaise and sense of futility common to many young people after the war. His work in philosophy, particularly his study of Hobhouse, fortified his native liberalism but he found his

interests shifting to economics. Two years followed at the London School of Economics. These two years broadened the young western Canadian in many ways though he did not take his formal studies too seriously. It was not really until 1924 that he made up his mind on what course he would pursue. In 1924 he became Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan where he remained until 1934.

During those years at the University of Saskatchewan he strengthened and deepened greatly his knowledge of economics. For a number of summers he attended the summer sessions of the University of Chicago where he particularly came under the influence of Professor Viner and Professor Knight. Later his interest in monetary problems and his appointment to the directorate of the Bank of Canada led him to take a summer term at Columbia University to meet Professor Hansen of Harvard. While his vacations were thus spent in study despite heavy schedule of teaching he found time to visit various law courses in the University of Saskatchewan Law School. All of this preparation illustrated McQueen's determination to master his field and to leave no avenue of approach to the study of economic problems unexplored.

For the university year of 1934-5 he was visiting professor at Queen's University during the absence on sabbatical leave of Professor Mackintosh. He greatly enjoyed his year at Queen's where he found congenial intellectual companionship in his own field of study and was not burdened with administrative duties. In succeeding summers he returned to Kingston either to lecture in the summer school or to read and holiday in the neighbourhood.

In 1935 he became Professor of Economics and head of the Departments of Political Economy and Political Science at the University of Manitoba. It was characteristic of McQueen that when the post was first offered to him by the Board of Governors he declined it on the ground that he did not feel he was adequately prepared to assume its responsibilities. Only the urgent persuasions of close friends led him to reconsider his decision and accept.

McQueen brought new life into the study of economics at the University of Manitoba. He reorganized and added to the courses given in his departments in order to bring them into touch with modern problems. At the same time his sound and fearless judgment quickly made him a valuable member of the faculty. He became chairman of the Commerce Committee and took a large part in organizing courses in the Commerce Department when it was established. A born teacher, beloved by his students, he insisted upon high standards of scholarship. Particular mention should be made of his work in the extension courses of the

university where he lectured to members of the Workers' Educational Association in the city. Without abating in any way from his point of view in the inevitable sharp controversies he won their respect and affection. For several years he was a member of the Manitoba Tax Commission. His wide training and knowledge of western conditions admirably fitted him to discharge the extra-mural duties that fall to the head of a department of economics in a western Canadian university. He was behind the scenes when the provincial case was prepared for the Rowell-Sirois Commission. Later he prepared confidential memoranda for the Commission itself. He touched the life of the province at many points and was in wide demand as a speaker.

McQueen approached economics from the equilibrium standpoint, but money and banking rather than general theory interested him most intensely. His appointment to the directorate of the Bank of Canada brought him into direct contact with problems in this field and gave him a surer theoretical grasp of monetary economics. Readers of the last issue of the *Journal* will recall in this connection his review of Professor Plumtre's book on *Central Banking in the British Dominions*.

"Pete" loved to discuss economic problems with other economists. As Professor Viner wrote in the *Winnipeg Free Press*: "McQueen could be absolutely relied on to approach any problem which attracted his interest with an objective and fresh point of view, uncontaminated by though fully informed of, the standard easy formulae and the routine biases."<sup>1</sup> In a congenial group in a lighter vein his wit and stories, not without a touch of Rabelais, made him the centre. The writer recalls his inimitable description of the late Professor Cannan lecturing on Ricardo and warning his class not to take too seriously the "*ipse dixit*" of a retired stock broker." His encounter with a certain western Member of Parliament at Ottawa a couple of years ago when, metaphorically speaking, he smote the enemy hip and thigh for advocating soft money is one of the good stories that circulated widely at the time. Even before his death "Pete" was already in the way of becoming a legend.

Apart from his article on "Economic Aspects of Federalism: A Prairie View," a study as valid today as when it was written, McQueen's published work is mainly in the form of book reviews and short articles dealing with current events. Some years ago he made a comprehensive study of the circumstances surrounding the building of the Northern Alberta Railways and their eventual absorption by the two trans-continental systems. While he collected a large amount of material and made personal contacts with men then living who were able to clear up

<sup>1</sup>*Winnipeg Free Press*, Feb. 28, 1941.

various aspects of the situation, he never got down to putting the results of his investigation into literary form. More recently with Professor Mackintosh a joint work was projected on general economics, which would make use of two broad criteria, national income and the principle of equilibrium. In this instance the stress of war conditions caused the work to be laid aside; his article, "An Approach to Economics" (a review of *A Social Approach to Economics* by H. A. Logan and M. K. Inman) gives some indication of the nature of this project. The absence of mature finished contributions was partly due to McQueen's genuine distaste for writing, partly due to lack of time, but more to an innate modesty which made him reluctant to put his conclusions about intricate problems on paper until he was fully convinced that he had something new and of significance to add to what had already appeared on the subject.

[D. A. MacG.]

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

1933

"Douglas, Dodds, Depression and Co." (*Winnipeg Free Press*, April 29, 1933, unsigned).

1934

"The Douglas Theory of Credit" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, March 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1934).

1935

"Report of the Royal Commission on Price Spreads" (*Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association*, vol. XLII, July, 1935, pp. 479-87).

"Price Spreads Report Explained" (*Queen's Quarterly*, vol. XLII, summer, 1935, pp. 253-63).

"Economic Aspects of Federalism: A Prairie View" (*Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, vol. I, Aug., 1935, pp. 352-67).

"The Farmers' Creditors Arrangements Act, 1934" (*ibid.*, Feb., 1935, pp. 104-8).

Review: Fournier, Leslie T. *Railway Nationalization in Canada: The Problem of the Canadian National Railways* (*Canadian Historical Review*, vol. XVI, Sept., 1935, pp. 334-6).

1936

Submission to Royal Grain Inquiry Commission, Honourable Mr. Justice Turgeon, Commissioner (*Record of Proceedings at Winnipeg*, Manitoba, Dec. 19, 1936, pp. 422-73).

"Viner: An Economist" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, March 18, 1936).

"Douglas Credit Theory" (*Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association*, vol. XLIII, July, 1936, pp. 430-9).

Review: Jackman, W. T. *Economic Principles of Transportation* (*Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, vol. II, Feb., 1936, pp. 86-90).

1937

- "Public Finance" (*Proceedings of Extension Course on Public Administration and Finance*, University of Manitoba, June, 1937, pp. 96-106).  
 "The Problem of Federal Subsidy" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, Sept. 23, 1937, unsigned).  
 Review: Innis, H. A. and Lower, A. R. M. *Settlement and the Forest and Mining Frontiers* (*Canadian Historical Review*, vol. XVIII, March, 1937, pp. 74-6).

1938

- "Educating Our Masters" (*Manitoba Arts Review*, vol. I, spring, 1938, pp. 33-7).  
 "The Bank of Canada" (*Proceedings of Extension Course on Public Administration and Finance*, University of Manitoba, June, 1938, pp. 39-50).  
 With R. O. MacFarlane, "Politics on the Prairies" (*Round Table*, no. 112, Sept., 1938, pp. 819-25).  
 Review: Angell, J. W. *The Behavior of Money* (*Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, vol. IV, Feb., 1938, pp. 115-18).

1939

- "Canadian Monetary Policy" (*Manitoba Arts Review*, vol. I, spring, 1939, pp. 32-8).  
 "Sturdy Saskatchewan" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, May 25, 1939, Canadian Province Series, signed R. M.).  
 "Big News from Toronto" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, April 11, 1939, signed Neepawa Nuisance).  
 "An Analysis of the Hansen Brief Submitted by the Province of Manitoba to the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations" (*Proceedings of Extension Course on Public Administration and Finance*, University of Manitoba, June, 1939, pp. 16-24).  
 Review: Lower, A. R. M., Carrothers, W. A. and Saunders, S. A. *The North American Assault on the Canadian Forest* (*Winnipeg Free Press*, Feb. 11, 1939).  
 Review: Richter, L. (ed.). *Canada's Unemployment Problem* (*Journal of Political Economy*, vol. XLVII, Oct., 1939, pp. 755-6).

1940

- "War Effort and Canada" (*Proceedings First Meeting of the War-Time Committee on Agriculture, Province of Manitoba, held in Winnipeg, February 1, 2, and 3, 1940*, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg, 1940, pp. 8-24).  
*War Finance*. Winnipeg Bankers' Lecture Club, Feb. 28, 1940. Pp. 12.  
 "The McPhail Diary" (*Winnipeg Free Press*, Dec. 23, 1940, unsigned).  
 Review Article: "The Approach to Economics" (*Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, vol. VI, Feb., 1940, pp. 79-85).  
 Review Article: "Central Banking in the Dominions" (*ibid.*, vol. VI, Nov., 1940, pp. 599-610).  
 Series of nine articles on War Finance in *Canadian Chartered Accountant*, 1939-41. Vol. XXXV. "The Budget Speech—A Commentary" (Oct., 1939, pp. 291-2, unsigned). "Canadian Agriculture and the War" (Nov., 1939, pp. 348-9). "Further Thoughts on War Finance" (Dec., 1939, pp. 414-16). Vol. XXXVI. "War-Time Finance" (Jan., 1940, pp. 36-8). "War-Time Finance" (Feb., 1940, pp. 104-6). "Notes on War Finance" (March, 1940, pp. 181-2). "War Finance" (April, 1940, pp. 279-81). "War Finance" (May,

1940, pp. 348-51). "Economic Maturity and Stagnation in Investment" (June, 1940, pp. 413-16).

Other articles in *Canadian Chartered Accountant*, 1940-1. Vol. XXXVII. "Report on Dominion-Provincial Relations" (July, 1940, pp. 39-40). "Criticism of the Budget" (Aug., 1940, pp. 119-21). "Economic Notes" (Sept., 1940, pp. 173-4). "The Rowell-Sirois Report and the War" (Oct., 1940, pp. 259-61). "Economic Notes" (Nov., 1940, pp. 332-4). "Canada's Resources Must be Allocated to War Purposes" (Dec., 1940, pp. 399-401). Vol. XXXVIII. "More Centralized Direction of War Effort Needed" (Jan., 1941, pp. 51-3). "The Rowell-Sirois Report" (Feb., 1941, pp. 123-30). Reprinted in *Winnipeg Free Press*, Feb. 17, 1941, under title "Events, not Men, Decide." "The Rowell-Sirois Report" (March, 1941, pp. 202-5).

[W.J.W.]

---

*Dr. James Bonar*

The death of Dr. James Bonar at the advanced age of eighty-eight years was reported in the *London Times* (January 20, 1941). Dr. Bonar had established his reputation as a distinguished economist well before the turn of the present century. This brief note relates only to his connection with Canada. He was a member of the British Civil Service and when the Royal Mint decided to establish a branch at Ottawa Dr. Bonar was placed in charge as Deputy Master of the Canadian branch. He spent twelve years in Canada until the date of his retirement, June 30, 1919.

Apart from his professional duties Dr. Bonar took a keen interest in Canadian economic life. In 1909 on the occasion of the visit of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to Canada he read a paper on "The History of Canadian Currency." He was active in the formation of the Canadian Political Science Association, serving on the first nominating committee and becoming a member of the first executive. At the Ottawa meetings of the newly formed Association in 1913 his paper on "Canada's Balance of Trade"<sup>1</sup> opened up for consideration a field later to be so brilliantly explored by Professor Viner. After his return to England he read a paper to the Royal Statistical Society on "The Mint and the Precious Metals in Canada" which drew the comment from Professor Edgeworth that Dr. Bonar had "only two rivals in the literary treatment of mintage details—Jevons and De Foville."

In addition to the establishment of the Canadian branch of the Mint, chiefly for the routine purposes of coinage, Dr. Bonar's tenure of office was marked by the important services the Ottawa Mint was able to render to the British government during the Great War. At that

<sup>1</sup>*Proceedings of the Canadian Political Science Association*, vol. I, pp. 82-9.