

MacMILLAN, Frank Roland



Frank Roland MacMillan was born in Chicago, Illinois on May 15. Accounts at the time of his death vary as to whether he was born in 1881 or 1882. His family moved to Toronto, Ontario when he was three, and it was there that he was educated and where he married Clara McGrath in 1905.

Mr. MacMillan travelled in Saskatoon and area for John Macdonald & Co. for seven years, and in 1908, he started a men's wear business. He purchased Currie Bros. on 2nd Avenue in 1911, and on October 1, 1913, the new MacMillan Building was opened on 21st Street and Third Avenue. In 1927, he sold his business, which at the time included 106 employees, to Eaton's, and turned the MacMillan Building into an office building, renaming it the Avenue Building.

Mr. MacMillan was elected Mayor of Saskatoon in 1919. He also sat as an Alderman on City Council. He ran for a federal seat in parliament as a Conservative in 1925 and 1926, and in 1930 was elected as part of the Bennett Government as the member from Saskatoon. He is considered instrumental in obtaining funding from Ottawa for construction of the 19th Street Subway and the Broadway Bridge, as well as the Canadian Pacific Bridge at Borden.

F.R. MacMillan was President of the Saskatoon Club (1944 to 1945), the Board of Trade, the Kiwanis Club and the Conservative Association of Saskatchewan. He was also Honorary Life Member of the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club and Honorary Colonel of the Saskatoon Light Infantry.

His wife, Clara Maud MacMillan, died on July 19, 1938, and a daughter, Dorothy Gordon MacMillan, died of pneumonia on December 23, 1914, at the age of two.



Mr. MacMillan died of a heart attack in a Vancouver, British Columbia hotel on April 7, 1948. He was survived by two daughters.

Picture of F.R. MacMillan from a photocopy of an article in a Biography Binder in the Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library