Promoted to higher service
July 10, 1931

IN MEMORIAM

LOUISE C. McGINKEY
President Alberta Provincial W.C.T.U.
1908-1931

I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider, as a beverage and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

Signature

Date

Sec.

Pres.
Louise C. McKinney

Louise Crummy was born a pioneer spirit—it was in her blood. For in 1842, when only twenty, Richard Crummy came from county Cavan, Ireland, to settle in Upper Canada. Later he bought a farm in Leeds County and in 1857 brought Esther Empey there as his bride. Seven boys and three girls were born to them, the sixth child and second girl being christened Louise (1868). They were a happy family, brought up in the strict code of Methodism, but ruled by love rather than by law. Graduating from Athens High School, as did all the others, Louise went on to the Athens Model and later Ottawa Normal School, thus completing her training as a teacher. Her girlhood ambition was to be a doctor, but at that time it was almost impossible for a woman to go to Medical School, so she chose the more conventional career. It was characteristic of her that while she might chafe at the restrictions then imposed on girls, she would not allow that to spoil her life.

After four years of teaching in Ontario schools, Louise Crummy moved west and joined her married sister in Drayton, North Dakota. There she taught for three years before the call of temperance work became insistent, and she was made W.C.T.U. Organizer in 1894. While in this work she met James McKinney, of Maza (born at Ashton, Ontario, also of Irish parents). Here was a kindred spirit, and in 1896 they were married at the bride's old home near Frankville, returning shortly to take up the duties of the North Dakota farm. One son was born to them, named Willard in memory of Frances E. Willard. A farmer's wife has few spare moments, but Mrs. McKinney still
found time for W.C.T.U. work. In 1898 she was elected First District President, and the next year went to the Silver Jubilee National Convention in Seattle.

In 1903 the west called again and the family moved to the virgin soil of southern Alberta. They were active in organizing the first church in the new town of Claresholm, but Mrs. McKinney saw the need for the W.C.T.U. too. No provincial union existed, because it was not until 1905 that two provinces were formed from the Territories of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Assiniboia. So the W.C.T.U. is older than the provinces, for it was in 1904 that Mrs. McKinney went to Calgary to meet with Mrs. Craig, of Olds, and others of like mind from Edmonton, as well as from Regina and Medicine Hat and elsewhere, to form the Northwest Territories’ Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, with a total of twenty local Unions.

Following the formation of the two provinces in 1905, the name naturally became the Alberta and Saskatchewan Union, with Mrs. Craig continuing as President. On her retirement because of ill-health three years later, Mrs. McKinney became President. By 1912 the membership had grown too large for one organization in so vast an area, so two Provincial Unions were formed, Alberta with forty-three local Unions keeping Mrs. McKinney as President, so that she was continuously in office for more than twenty-two years. Even earlier, however, she had helped to organize a local in her own town in 1903, where she was the first and until 1930 the only President. And in 1907 she established her contacts with the Dominion Union, serving as a Vice-President from 1908 to 1930, when at the death of Mrs. Wright she became acting President. This meant preparing for the World’s Convention in 1931, where she was hostess and was elected World’s W.C.T.U. Vice-President.
As Provincial President, Mrs. McKinney was both able and energetic. For a few years an organizer was kept in the field for part of the time, but later she did most of her own organizing and travelled the province over and over to encourage and sustain the work. The outlay of physical and moral energy required by such a program is not ordinarily appreciated. To keep a speaking schedule in country places with long drives by cutter and buggy, contending with primitive railway travel in the north country and with indifference and scattered population everywhere, is not easy. But also to plan these tours, to be stimulating, always cheerful in the face of discouragement, and to supply the drive needed for any reform movement, calls for rare force of character and deep-seated conviction. Alberta was fortunate, for rarely can be found the combination of mental capacity, moral courage and physical endurance which Mrs. McKinney possessed. She was patient and could wait for the purposes of God, but how she could drive slackers! She was truly tolerant — of people, the last to condemn a sinner, but how she could flame in condemnation of evil!

Under her guidance the W.C.T.U. made its influence strongly felt in the occasionally turbulent life of the young province, and her emphasis was always on the second letter of the title. The Union stood not merely for Temperance but for everything Christian in life, and could succeed only as a Christ-centred body. All intelligent social reform had the support of the W.C.T.U., which played a major part, for instance, in obtaining equal franchise for women in 1916. Social service and immigrant work received due attention, too. But nothing ever altered or submerged Mrs. McKinney’s reasoned conviction that beverage alcohol has no place in modern civilization. Temperance education was stressed and continuously promoted — by Loyal Temperance Legions, in schools and in any other up-to-date way, for example by
slides in the University Extension Department. And she believed in the educational value of Prohibition campaigns—a local option campaign fought in Claresholm in 1907 failed due to the two-thirds clause. But she had a major part in the successful provincial campaign of 1915 which made Alberta the second province to have prohibition. From then on she fought to keep the temperance people awake to the need for continuous education to hold and enforce the law. In that she failed, and saw repeal coming because of the apathy of those who should have been alert. Yet her labors did not go for nothing, such work must bear fruit in years to come as civilization gradually learns to banish liquor.

But while the W.C.T.U. was always central in her thoughts, Louise C. McKinney’s interests were as wide as life and her capacity for work seemed almost without limit. Perhaps the secret of her strength was in her home, for it was a true Christian home, where spirituality and tolerance, idealism and common-sense mingled in just proportions. Husband and wife worked together in harmony of purpose for the realization of the best life. Each relied on the other in all their problems. The housewife found time for community service, all the way from sewing for some poor family to organizing a poetry and reading club, and could always take an hour to counsel someone in trouble. And as the busiest people often have the most time for service, she was a leader in the Ladies’ Aid and the Woman’s Missionary Society. The home was a centre of church life; in Sunday School the husband taught a Bible Class and the wife was Primary Superintendent for many years. They helped to organize church services in Claresholm as soon as they came, helped to build the Methodist Church two years later and were always ready in support as every pastor knew. They supported the Church Union Movement. Mrs. McKinney was a delegate to the final Methodist General
Conference in 1925, then attended the first General Council of the United Church of Canada and signed the Basis of Union as one of the Commissioners—the only woman to do so.

So public-spirited a citizen as Mrs. McKinney could not fail to be interested in politics; such an idealist could not fail to be disgusted with party politics. The power of liquor contributions to party funds made her despair of both the old parties and when the Non-Partisan League was introduced into Alberta she gave it her enthusiastic support. She was persuaded to stand as League candidate in the 1917 provincial election and somewhat to her own surprise was elected—the first woman legislator in the British Empire. She became known very quickly as one of the ablest debaters in the Assembly, speaking seldom but alert to catch the joker in any bill. She was interested in some new legislation to aid the feeble-minded, and was a thorn in the side of the government until the prohibition laws were made more effective, but her major project was to improve the impossibly antiquated legal status of widows and especially separated wives. With the help of Mrs. O. C. Edwards, of Macleod, a bill was drafted which she introduced and which was passed to become the Dower Act, one of Alberta's most progressive laws.

Defeated in her second election, she was well satisfied to retire from active politics, for she could do nothing by halves, and to continue that and the W.C.T.U. work as well would have been too heavy a load, even for her. In 1929, of course, she was one of the five women of Alberta who carried the appeal to the Privy Council which finally established the status of women as "persons" under the British North America Act, and as such eligible to sit in the Canadian Senate. In recognition of that work Mrs. McKinney was made a World Vice-President of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, and later the women's organizations of Alberta
raised a fund to honor the first woman legislator, having her portrait painted by Mrs. J. W. L. Förster, of Toronto. Sittings were interrupted by her death, but the portrait was completed from photographs and now hangs in the Legislative Buildings in Edmonton.

In 1938 the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs brought to a fitting conclusion the project of hanging a bronze plaque to the memory of the five women of the famous "persons" case. With suitable ceremony, broadcast from coast to coast, the Prime Minister unveiled the tablet, so their names are enshrined in the lobby of the Senate Chamber in Ottawa. Canada and the Canadian Senate honor themselves in honoring their prophets.

Mrs. McKinney loved travel, that is sight-seeing travel when she could relax, and was a delightful travelling companion. She knew how to value the historical traditions of a district and whatever of interest a tour might offer, but above all she appreciated scenic beauty. A family motor tour of the Canadian Rockies in 1921 is a fragrant memory. Apart from these rather infrequent holidays she was able to indulge her love of travel and at the same time keep in touch with W.C.T.U. work by attending World's Conventions. She and her husband went to Boston in 1907, Brooklyn in 1913, and London in 1920. She was also at Lausanne in 1928, after which she toured Italy and Switzerland, and stopped to view the White Mountains of New Hampshire on her way home.

Then came the Toronto Convention of 1931 where she presided so happily as hostess and directed the sessions with such kindly grace and tact. She was well prepared for the World Vice-Presidential responsibility and seemed to have many years of service in prospect. Her death so soon after her return home was a great shock to her many friends.
as well as to the family. Surely her work was not done. No, her death so early was a mistake, a human mistake from someone's ignorance and carelessness. God never intended it, for now other human hands must be found to carry on that work. Perhaps some would prefer to go at the full tide of life's energies, but she loved her work and valued her life as God's gift. She was content to accept the events of life as they came, but at the same time did her utmost to make "all things work together for good." Just after the Convention she had written, speaking to Mrs. Gordon Wright—"The other world seems nearer and more real when so many of earth's loved ones are there, and it comes to matter little whether it is a place or a condition—we know it is prepared for those who love Him and that those who serve Him here will continue to serve Him throughout Eternity." She must have found a welcome on the other side!

Tributes to the greatness of her life and service were many, so full a life must be widely missed and greatly mourned. They came from men and women in public life all over Canada, they came from W.C.T.U. leaders in every land around the world, and all had the same burden—"A great leader has fallen, what shall we do without her!" Perhaps the real key to her spirit was given by Mrs. McClung, who said—"Mrs. McKinney was a great lover of people and because she loved them she could not look with complacency on any of life's evils." Yes, she loved people and was like her Lord.

J. Willard McKinney.
Programme

1927-28

Meetings Held in Harrison Hall

You Are Always Welcome

For God and Home and Canada

Claresholm Woman's Christian Temperance Union
March 22—Social Evening with the "Y"
Glimpses of Our World-wide Work- Mrs. Ferelson

February 23—Willard Memorial
Mrs. Hillard

November 24—Parlor Meeting
Report of Delegates to Provincial Convention

Monthly Programs
At each meeting there will be a drill on "Current Events" and "White Ribbon Tidbits"—Mrs. King.

Their work. An afternoon with our Superintendent.

September 27—An afternoon with our Superintendent.

August 23—Annual Meeting: Election of Officers.

July 25—Little White Ribboners' outdoor meeting.

Problems

June 28—The Relation of Drink to Child Welfare.

Miss Davidson

Sabbath Observance


Miss Brain

April 26—Poets About Government Control—Mrs. Bridge.

Monthly Programs
OFFICERS OF CLARESHOLM UNION

President
Mrs. L. C. McKinney

First Vice-President
Mrs. G. Simpson

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. J. Dahl

Recording Secretary
Mrs. F. Stouck

Treasurer
Mrs. E. Crummy

SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPARTMENTS

Evangelistic
Mrs. Barlow

Scientific Temperance
Mrs. J. W. Morrow

Press Work
Mrs. Dalglish

Little White Ribbons
Mrs. Ringrose

Literature
Mrs. McEwen

Travellers' Aid
Mrs. S. M. Ferguson

Flowers, Fruit and Delicacy

...
This invitation is sent by Maud A. Miller.

From 3 to 6 p.m.

Saturday afternoon, May the twenty-first

at the home of Mrs. R. W. McInnis, 1501 7th Street West

MAY TEA

Invites you and your friends to a

THE UNITED W.C.T.U. OF CALGARY
PLEDGE BOOK

Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

PRINTED BY THE
WOMAN'S TEMPERANCE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION,
CHICAGO.

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." — Isa. 144: 12.

Y. W. C. T. U.

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all Alcoholic Liquors, including Wine, Beer and Cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

Date

"For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, fear not; I will help thee." — Isa. 41: 13.
W. C. T. UNION

Name
Address
Date

Pledge

I HEREBY PROMISE, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including beer, wine and cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

Name
Address
Date

Woman's Christian Temperance Union
W. C. T. UNION

Name
Theresa M. Siegel

Address
729 5th Ave W.

Date

Women's Christian Temperance Union

I HEREBY PROMISE: God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including beer, wine and cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

PLEDGE
TOTAL ABSTINENCE PLEDGE CARD

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from the use of all Alcoholic Drinks for beverage purposes, including Wine and Beer.

Name: ......................................................

Address: ...........................................................................

Sunday School or Organization: .................................................

State Age: ............................................................

When signed, return to: ALBERTA PROHIBITION ASSOCIATION

714 Teardrop Building, EDMONTON

When certificate of membership in the "Total Abstinence Club" will be issued.

Women's Christian Temperance Union

MEMBERSHIP CARD

PLEDGE

I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from the use of all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including Beer, Wine, and Cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

This certifies that having signed the above pledge, and paid the dues for the year, beginning ................................... I am a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of ..........................................................

_________________________  __________________________
Pres.  Sec'y

Loyal Temperance Legion

PLEDGE

"God helping me—
I promise not to buy, drink, sell or give
Alcoholic liquors while I live;
From all tobacco I'll abstain,
And never take God's name in vain."

Signature: ........................................................................

Address: ........................................................................

Women's Christian Temperance Union

PLEDGE

I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including beer, wine and cider, as a beverage, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of the same.

Name: ..............................................................

Address: ............................................................

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**WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF CANADA**

**PLEDGE**

I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled fermented and maltuous (including beer, wine and cider) as a beverage, and employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.
pledge
Ghost of Penance

Pledge: become a member of having signed the subscribed pledge, has

Ghost is to go to, next day that

Certificate of Penance