

Obituary

ERNEST CAPRON AMES
GEORGE WILSON GEDDES
JAMES ALLAN MACFARLANE
DONALD NEIL McCORMICK
KENNETH MacLEOD McILRAITH
JOHN BALLANTINE NIVEN
HAINES BOYD WICKES

1875 . . . Ernest Capron Ames . . . 1957

Ernest C. Ames died at his home in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 9, 1957, following an accidental fall.

"Colonel" Ames, as he was affectionately known by his associates and friends throughout the industry, was 82 years of age. He attended the University of Nebraska, receiving an A.B. degree in 1896 and a law degree in 1898. Three years later in 1901 he became associated with the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Nebraska. In 1907 he was made Actuary and in 1922 Vice-President and Actuary. He was Vice-President from 1947 until his retirement in 1955.

Mr. Ames became a Fellow of the American Institute of Actuaries in 1915 and a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries on its organization.

Mr. Ames is survived by his wife, Grace; a daughter, Mrs. Frank Roehl of Lincoln; and his son, John, of Lincoln, who succeeded his father as Vice-President and Actuary of the company.

1891 . . . George Wilson Geddes . . . 1957

G. Wilson Geddes died suddenly at his summer cottage at Rondeau Park, Ontario, on Saturday, August 31, 1957.

Mr. Geddes was born in Belgrave, Ontario, and attended Wingham High School and the University of Toronto. He went overseas in World War I with the 67th University of Toronto Battery of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

His career in insurance began in 1919 when he joined the Northern Life in London, Ontario. A few months later he went to the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada, in Waterloo, with which company he became Assistant Secretary three years later.

He was appointed Assistant Actuary of Continental American Life Assurance Company, in Wilmington, Delaware, the same year, 1923, and in 1925 became Actuary with Ontario Equitable Life and Accident Insurance Company, Waterloo, of which he became Assistant General Manager in 1931.

In 1932 he returned to the Northern Life in London as General Manager and Actuary. In April 1953 he relinquished his duties as General Manager because of poor health. He was appointed Vice-President and, because of continuing poor health, retired completely from the company in June 1955.

Mr. Geddes was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. He was President of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association in 1937-38 and of the Life Insurance Institute of Canada in 1943-44.

Mr. Geddes had an active and continuing sense of civic responsibility. Among his many interests were his activities on behalf of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Community Chest, and First St. Andrew's United Church.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Isabel Maxwell of Wilmington, Delaware; two daughters, Mrs. K. D. Kerr of Waterloo and Mrs. D. B. Decker of Vancouver; and a son, John Geddes, of London.

1880 James Allan Macfarlane 1957

James A. Macfarlane, an Associate of the Society, died in Vancouver on September 27, 1957, in his 77th year after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Macfarlane was born in Madoc, Ontario. He attained his Associateship in the Actuarial Society of America in 1906 and shortly afterwards became Actuary of the Monarch Life Assurance Company in Winnipeg. In 1929 he became General Manager of the company, which position he held until 1935 when he moved to Vancouver as an Agency Manager of the Northern Life Assurance Company.

Latterly Mr. Macfarlane was associated with the London Life Insurance Company as an agency representative. He was also Actuary of the B. C. Workmen's Compensation Board in Vancouver. Mr. Macfarlane was regarded very highly by his associates and he had the ability to engender a feeling of goodwill and complete cooperation.

Surviving are his wife, Hazel Macfarlane; a son, Gordon, and a daughter, Mrs. A. S. Frew of Vancouver; two brothers, the Hon. Mr. Justice A. D. Macfarlane of Victoria, B.C. and Dr. P. B. Macfarlane of Hamilton, Ontario; and six grandchildren.

1909 . . . **Donald Neil McCormick** . . . 1957

Donald N. McCormick, Associate Actuary of the London Life Insurance Company, died on August 16, 1957, in his 49th year. He had been in ill health since December of the previous year.

After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in Honor Mathematics in June 1929, Mr. McCormick joined the staff of the Company in the Actuarial Department. In 1937 he earned his Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries and in 1940 became an Assistant Actuary. In the Second World War he served in the Canadian Army on the Headquarters Staff in Ottawa. He retired in 1945 with the rank of Major. He was appointed Associate Actuary in 1951.

Mr. McCormick was Chairman of the Canadian Association of Actuaries Committee on Mortality for a number of years from the formation of the committee in 1949, during which time he was responsible for the construction and graduation of the Canadian Association of Actuaries Mortality Table. He was a member of the London Chamber of Commerce, serving on its Traffic Committee. He was also on the Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts Association. A faithful member of First St. Andrew's United Church, he was a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees and served for many years on the Committee of Stewards, including a term as Chairman. He was an enthusiastic golfer and curler and was a member of the London Hunt and Country Club and the London Curling Club.

His colleagues will remember Don McCormick as a friendly, approachable man, always ready to turn his mind to a new problem, and able to bring to its solution a wide knowledge of the business and of his Company, and the resources of a keen and logical mind. He was responsible for developing many of the new methods of actuarial calculation and research adopted by his Company, and was particularly skillful in making new methods workable in day to day operation. Above all, he was a man of honor and integrity, one whose opinions were valued because they were always based on his own careful reasoning and research.

His death at such an early age has been a great shock to his associates in the London Life and his many friends in the industry. He will be sadly

missed by us all. He is survived by his wife, the former Margaret Johnston, three children, Catherine, Neil and Paul, all at home, and a brother, Arthur, of Shedden, Ontario.

1906 . . . **Kenneth MacLeod McIlraith** . . . 1957

Kenneth MacLeod McIlraith, an Associate of the Society, died on August 9, 1957, after a short illness.

Mr. McIlraith was born at Lanark, Ontario, on December 27, 1906. He received his early education in Lanark and Perth and graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, in 1931 with honors in mathematics and physics. He became an Associate of the Society in 1937.

In 1931 he joined the staff of the Canadian Department of Insurance, first in the Actuarial Branch and later as a member of the Examination staff. Much of his service with the Department was devoted to the examination of insurance companies and he thereby became well and widely known throughout the insurance industry in Canada. In recent years he occupied the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Department and in that capacity extended his already wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the insurance world.

His courtesy, experience and judgment made him well liked by his associates in the Department and by all with whom he had to deal in his capacity as a senior officer of the Department. By reason of his education and experience he had a breadth of knowledge of all lines of insurance—life, fire and casualty—that is rarely encountered.

His death at such a comparatively young age is a heavy loss, not only to his family and friends but also to the Department and to the insurance industry in Canada.

He is survived by his widow and three children.

1871 . . . **John Ballantine Niven** . . . 1954

The death on November 17, 1954 of John Ballantine Niven, an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, marks the passing of one of the founders of the C.P.A. profession in the United States.

Mr. Niven was born in Edinburgh in 1871, and was educated at George Watson's College. He never had any hesitation over the selection of a profession—heredity determined his career. His father, Mr. Alexander Thomas Niven, was one of the Charter Members of the Society of Ac-

countants in Edinburgh and practiced in Edinburgh for many years under the firm name of A. T. Niven & Company.

In 1887 Mr. Niven was apprenticed to Mr. David Pearson of C. & D. Pearson, C.A., of Edinburgh. After going through the ordinary course, and attending the usual classes in the University of Edinburgh, he was admitted to membership in the Society of Accountants in Edinburgh in February 1893. He became associated with his father until 1897, when he resolved to seek a wider field and went to America. There he joined the accounting staff of Messrs. Price Waterhouse & Company, and remained with them during 1898 and 1899, chiefly in their Chicago office.

In March 1900 he formed an American partnership under the firm name of Touche, Niven & Company. In 1947 the firm joined with George Bailey & Company, and Allen R. Smart & Company, to form the firm of Touche, Niven, Bailey & Smart. In the 1902 annual report for the International Steam Pump Company, which became the Worthington Corporation, Mr. Niven prepared the balance sheet in consolidated form. This is reputed to be the first consolidated balance sheet contained in an annual report to stockholders.

Mr. Niven took an important part in the Life Insurance Companies investigation conducted by Mr. Charles Evans Hughes in the early part of the century. He was one of the first public accountants ever to be appointed a receiver of a large corporation in this country.

In addition to being a Chartered Accountant of Edinburgh, Mr. Niven became a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New York, by examination in 1901, and later was granted C.P.A. certificates by a number of other states. He was also a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, Canada, and became an Associate of the Actuarial Society of America in 1906. He was admitted to membership of the American Association of Public Accountants in 1904, which was later organized as the American Institute of Accountants in 1916. He was elected a Director of the American Institute in 1914, and was a member and Chairman of the Board of Examiners from 1917 to 1924. He was elected Vice President of the Institute for the year 1921-22 and was elected President of the American Institute of Accountants for the ensuing year.

Mr. Niven was also elected a Director of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and was President of that Society in 1914, 1915, and 1916. He was also a Director of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants in 1918.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Niven was prominent

in government and church activities in his community. His loss will be felt not only by his family, but by all who have been associated with him.

Mr. Niven is survived by his widow, Susan W. Niven, and their son, William Seton Niven.

Haines Boyd Wickes

With deep regret the California Life Insurance Company announces the untimely death of their friend and associate, Haines Boyd ("Mike") Wickes, on June 5, 1957, in Reno, Nevada. His passing brings to a close a long and distinguished career in the life insurance business and leaves a void in the lives of those who knew him as a genial friend and brilliant associate.

Mr. Wickes was born in England at the turn of the century. He migrated to Canada at an early age. After graduation from the University of Toronto he entered the insurance business with the Manufacturers Life in Toronto. After a few years with that company he became connected with the Royal Insurance Company and later with Montreal Life, where he served for seventeen years as Assistant General Manager and Actuary. In 1941 he joined the Security Mutual Life Insurance Company, Binghamton, New York, as Vice-President.

Late in 1953 he resigned his position as Vice-President of Security Mutual and opened a consulting actuary office in San Francisco. There he became associated with California Life as Consulting Actuary to the Company and a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Wickes was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a member of the Olympic Club, Life Insurance Association, Life Insurance Agency Management Association, and other insurance organizations.

He is survived by his wife, Anne; a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Foster, wife of Dr. John S. Foster of Livermore; and three grandchildren, Susan, Bruce and Scott Haines Foster.