



PREMIER WILLIAM ABERHART

**Wife, Daughters Near  
When Premier Died**

## Personal Friends

## Of 15 Years Standing

## To Conduct Funeral

VANCOUVER, May 24 — Premier

William Aberhart of Alberta, who claimed he didn't like politics but entered the political arena to bring a new kind of government to the people, died in hospital Sunday after a week's illness.

The 64-year-old leader of the world's first Social Credit government entered hospital when he became seriously ill with a liver ailment while on a vacation.

Mr. Aberhart entered hospital for a checkup April 18. He later was released but re-entered hospital last week-end after attending physicians held an emergency consultation.

It took a turn for the worse on Thursday. Mrs. Aberhart and his two daughters were at his bedside when he died at 5 a.m. P.D.T.

Funeral services will be held at Canadian Memorial Church Wednesday afternoon and will be conducted by Rev. G. Harrison Villett, a personal friend of the premier's for the last 15 years.

Hon. E. C. Manning, provincial secretary and acting premier, and Hon. W. A. Fallow, minister of public works, left Edmonton Saturday morning and arrived a few hours after Mr. Aberhart's death. They are helping relatives in final funeral arrangements.

Messages of condolences have been received by his family from all parts of Canada.

Surviving besides his wife are two daughters, Mrs. Charles MacNutt and Mrs. James Cooper, both of Vancouver. Other survivors are his mother, Mrs. William Aberhart, residing in Seaforth, Ont., three brothers and a sister. The brothers are Charles and Louis of Seaforth and John of Woodstock, Ont. The sister is Mrs. McIsaacs of Detroit.

# Plan <sup>Alberton</sup> <sup>May 24 1943</sup> <sup>Bro-Aberhart, William</sup> Burial In B.C.

## Memorial Service To Be Held in Edmonton

EDMONTON, May 24—Hon. Solon Low, provincial treasurer, in a statement issued today on behalf of the executive council, said the work commenced by Premier William Aberhart will go on.

Paying tribute to his leader who died at hospital in Vancouver Sunday, Mr. Low said "William Aberhart has passed but the great task to which he set his hand will go on. His spirit lives to inspire us who are left to carry the torch which he kindled. The movement he created will go forward and grow, until it brings into being in all its fullness the glorious Canada for which he worked so hard and for which he finally gave his life . . .

"We who are left to take up the responsibilities that he has laid down can pay no more fitting tribute to a great Canadian and a noble character than to go forward with renewed determination in the inspiring crusade which he led, with a deep gratitude for the privilege accorded us in having known and worked with him."

### NO FORMALITIES

Mr. Low also disclosed that the "usual formalities of state" would be dispensed with in connection with Mr. Aberhart's funeral at Vancouver Wednesday and the funeral service will be semi-private at the request of Mrs. Aberhart.

"Mrs. Aberhart has requested that interment be made at Vancouver where she intends to make her home with her family," Mr. Low said.

"Our acquiescence to these plans precludes the conducting of formal state funeral rites because they will be conducted outside the jurisdiction of this government. Furthermore, since his duties of state and circumstances of domain preclude the official participation of his honor the lieutenant governor (J. C. Bowen) in such rites at Vancouver, it will be impossible for him to attend.

"His honor has expressed his sincere regret that this should be the case." The provincial treasurer added that a memorial service will be held in Edmonton May 30 and details will be announced later.

Flags throughout Alberta flew at half mast during the holiday week-end in mourning for the Premier.

## MINISTERS TO ATTEND

Hon. N. E. Tanner, minister of lands and mines, Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross, minister of health, Hon. Lucien Maynard, minister of municipal affairs and Mr. Low will leave for Vancouver Tuesday morning to attend the funeral. Hon. D. Bruce MacMillan, minister of agriculture will remain in Edmonton.

## 2 MINUTES' SILENCE

Men high in public life in Alberta paid tribute to Premier Aberhart.

A two minutes' silence was observed for the Premier by more than 1,000 servicemen on the grounds of the legislative buildings where they had marched in a parade, a prelude to the city's annual highland games next Saturday.

Hon. Frank Ford, justice of the Supreme Court of Alberta and Chancellor of the University of Alberta said the death of Mr. Aberhart would "bring sorrow to a large section of our people who followed him with devotion and will be regretted by many who disagreed with him politically.

"Speaking as chancellor of the university, I can sincerely say that he will be missed, for, as premier and minister of education, he displayed a genuine and practical interest in its work.

## "LOST REAL FRIEND"

"His work on behalf of primary  
(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)



# ABERHART

and secondary education is best known to those who worked with and for him. I would like to express my sympathy for Mrs. Aberhart and her family in their bereavement."

H. H. Parlee, K.C., chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta, recalled the support shown by Mr. Aberhart in all matters pertaining to development of the university, and said:

"He wanted all deserving students in the province to have a cheap access to its advantages. I should add that at no time did he insist on his own views prevailing. . . . The university has lost a real friend and supporter in the death of Mr. Aberhart. . . ."

S. Parson, president of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, speaking on behalf of the executive, said: "We feel that the labor movement has lost a very able and sincere friend. We admired his courage in standing for the principles which he believed to be right. In the field of social welfare, we feel that his government has accomplished more than any other government in Canada. . . . It is to be regretted that he did not live to see his desire fulfilled — a world in peace without want and without fear."

R. E. Shaul, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, said that with the death of Premier Aberhart "Canada loses one of its foremost educational leaders. During his administration, education in Alberta forged ahead. The reforms he courageously pioneered won national and international acclaim. . . . In his services to education and through it to Canadian youth, Mr. Aberhart has built a monument that that will long endure."

## ELECTION NEEDED

The Premier's death will necessitate a provincial bye-election in Calgary. Under provincial statutes, the bye-election must be held within 180 days to fill the vacancy in the legislature.

Legislative quarters said the premier's death would not necessitate a provincial general election unless the government wishes to appeal to the people. The present government's term of office does not expire until early in 1945.

These quarters said the procedure where the head of a government dies is that the acting premier and other cabinet members carry on for a short period until the calling of a party caucus to choose a new leader.

(Hon. E. C. Manning, provincial secretary, is acting premier.)

## MUST APPROVE LEADER

When a leader is selected by the caucus, his name will be submitted to the lieutenant-governor J. C. Bowen who has power to approve the name or call on some one else to form a government.

The new premier would have the power to carry on with the present cabinet, or he could re-shuffle its members or drop some and add new members, these quarters said.

Under provincial statutes, there is no necessity for a member of the legislature to face a bye-election upon being taken into the cabinet, but all members of the new government must be re-sworn into office.

Premier Aberhart was the first Alberta premier to die in office since the province was formed in 1905. Since that time Alberta has had seven premiers. Of these, four are still living—Hon. Charles Stewart, Herbert Greenfield, J. E. Brownlee, K.C., and R. G. Reid.

## "IRREPARABLE LOSS"

VANCOUVER, May 24—Death of Premier Aberhart "has caused a sense of irreparable loss in the hearts and minds of his thousands of friends throughout the entire Dominion," Hon. E. C. Manning, provincial secretary and acting premier, said.

Mr. Manning's statement:

In the death of Premier William Aberhart, the people of Alberta and of Canada have lost one of their greatest statesmen.

His untimely passing has come as a terrible shock and has caused a sense of irreparable loss in the hearts and minds of his thousands of friends throughout the entire Dominion.

In a very real sense Mr. Aberhart gave his life in the service of his fellowmen. The boundless energy with which he applied himself to his work and the unselfish zeal with which he labored tirelessly on behalf of others took their inevitable toll of his vitality and contributed to the illness that has resulted in his death at the very height of his outstanding career.

Of him it may be truly said: "He fought a good fight."

His name will go down in history as one of Canada's greatest economic reformers. His memory will live on in the hearts of thousands who knew him as the great Christian gentleman that he was. The influence of his life and

influence of his life and service long will continue to inspire those who were privileged to be associated with him to carry on, with unrelenting determination, the work from which he has been called.

The heartfelt sympathy and the prayers of his thousands of friends will be with Mrs. Aberhart and the family in their bereavement.

### **"NEVER FALTERED"**

WINNIPEG, May 24.—John Bracken, national Progressive Conservative leader, paid the following tribute to Premier Aberhart:

In his passing, an interesting figure in Canada's public life has gone. Mr. Aberhart came on the political scene in the depth of Western Canada's worst depression. He felt he had the solution of many of our economic problems and he never faltered in the support of his convictions.

Many of us who knew him well, but who could not follow him in all his views, gave him credit for sincerity and perseverance in his furtherance of them.

He will be greatly missed by his associates in the political movement he sponsored as well as by many of us who from time to time sat with him in conference in recent years.

### **LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE**

OTTAWA, May 24.—House of Commons party leaders today joined in tributes to Premier Aberhart.

New Democracy Leader Blackmore, chief of the Social Credit group in the House and a long-time colleague of the Alberta Premier, said that even those who opposed Mr. Aberhart's money-reform proposals would recognize the loss of an

able, public-spirited and energetic man.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, speaking after Mr. Blackmore, said those who did not agree with Mr. Aberhart's point of view still would deeply regret his death. He said he felt a sense of personal loss in the passing of Mr. Aberhart who had been a friend.

Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House Leader, said a large section of the Canadian people would mourn Mr. Aberhart's death. He was a "real Christian gentleman," a pioneer in social and economic reform, and a staunch supporter of the principles and ideals of the British Commonwealth.

Angus MacInnis (C.C.F. Vancouver East) said he joined with the spokesmen for other parties in their appreciation of Mr. Aberhart, and in extending sympathy to Mrs. Aberhart and the family.

# Aberhart Is Honored In Church He Founded

## 'Sponsored Cause of Common People', Rites Are Held by Prophetic Institute

Packing the church which he founded 16 years ago, and of which he was dean, devoted followers paid their last tribute to Premier William Aberhart in a memorial service in the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute, Sunday afternoon.

Calgary

Albertan

Mon. May 31, 1943

Memorial

Service at

Institute

There were tears in the eyes of many men and women in the congregation, as the qualities of the late premier and dean of the Institute, as statesman, educationist, economist and, simply, a "preacher of the word of God", were extolled by a number of speakers.

The service opened with the hymn which in the past at many church services and meetings had served as an inspiration to many of "Brother Aberhart's" disciples, "O God, Our Help In Ages Past".

It closed with an impressive and sorrowful funeral march played on the church organ while the congregation stood with bowed heads.

### MANY WITHOUT SEATS

So eager were friends of the late premier to join in this last tribute to their beloved dean, that many stood in the balcony and main auditorium throughout the two-hour memorial service, every seat being occupied.

"He was a great man who towered high above his fellowmen," E. Geehan, vice-president of the Calgary Social Credit Constituency Association, asserted. "Dean Aberhart touched thousands of lives and made them better. He was compassionate, considerate and the soul of generosity.

"The man we loved has gone, but he has left us a heritage," Mr. Geehan continued. "We have the inspiration of his unbounded courage. Our task is to take up the torch he has handed down to us and press fearlessly on."



**MOURNING THE LOSS** of the late Premier William ...  
of their church, part of the large congregation which at ...  
in the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute Sunday afternoon

## SACRED TRUST

Speaking in behalf of provincial women's auxiliaries of the Social Credit movement, Mrs. M. Jury declared Dean Aberhart had labored unceasingly in behalf of his fellowman.

"He gave us a sacred trust," Mrs. Jury said. "We must not flag nor falter until we have attained his objective — economic freedom for the people."

Association of the late Premier Aberhart with the Crescent Heights High School, of which he was principal for many years, was recalled in a tribute by James D. Ferguson, M.A., vice-principal of the school.

Premier Aberhart, while principal, he said, had built Crescent Heights High School into one of the largest and most progressive high schools in the west.

## HELPED EDUCATION

As minister of education, Premier Aberhart introduced legislation which had an excellent educational effect, Mr. Ferguson continued. By enlarging the school districts, many rural children were offered educational opportunities unavailable previously.

This was an outstanding educational achievement. Also due to Premier Aberhart was credit for legislation making teaching a profession.

Rev. William J. Laing, pastor of the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute Baptist Church, declared Dean Aberhart had the life and character of a saint.

"What Brother Aberhart was to this province as a statesman, he was to this church as an apostle," Rev. Mr. Laing asserted.

"He made a rich contribution to



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# Aberhart Is Honored Here

the Christian church in the west. He fought a good fight."

### **GOD-FEARING MAN**

"This building stands as a visible reminder that Dean Aberhart was a God-fearing, righteous man," Miss Mabel Giles, B.A., member of the staff of the Crescent Heights High School, said.

"As a high school teacher and a Bible teacher he was the most talented and distinguished in Canada. He was one of the most able Bible teachers of his time."

Premier Aberhart had a great and noble character, Dr. William E. Spankie, declared. "A star of the first political magnitude has passed at a time when the destiny of the people of the province seemed linked inseparably with their beloved premier," he said.

"He had the finest personality of any man who entered public life in my time," Dr. Spankie continued. "No man had a greater love for democratic institutions—freedom from want and freedom from fear. He sponsored the cause of the common people as no man in public life has done in history."

### **HAS GONE TO HEAVEN**

Cyril Hutchinson, secretary of the Institute, spoke with sadness of the passing of Dean Aberhart. He had gone to the heaven of which he had often referred in glowing terms, Mr. Hutchinson said.

"He died trusting in the Lord and his work will follow him for many a day," he continued. "He sowed seeds which have not yet sprung up in the hearts of many men."

Mr. Hutchinson said one of Dean Aberhart's favorite hymns was "In a little while, we're going home". Brother Aberhart had gone home.

C. R. Pearce acted as chairman during the service. Prayer and a special tribute were offered by Rev. Christopher Burnett, while solos were rendered by Mr. Hutchinson and Miss Marian McClune. Organ music was provided by Harold Rimmer.

The front of the church was banked with floral tributes.



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# 1,600 Pay Tribute To Premier's Memory

## Was Greatest of Provincial Leaders Says Dr. Spankie

Representing the church, the home, the school and the man on the street, some 1,600 odd persons congregated at the Bible Institute Baptist church Sunday afternoon to pay tribute to the memory of Premier William Aberhart who died in Vancouver a week ago.

The ceremony, held in the church he had founded and from which he had conducted a broadcast a few Sundays prior to his death, lasted two hours in which simple but warm tributes were paid to his life as a religious, educational and economic leader.

The altar was banked high with floral gifts in the centre of which hung a black crepe draped portrait of Mr. Aberhart. During the Funeral March, played by Harry Rimmer on the organ, the congregation stood. Men wiped their eyes unashamed; women and children wept silently while many who had crossed verbal swords with Mr. Aberhart on economic questions, stood reverently with bowed heads.

"Star of the first magnitude has been struck from our political firmament at a moment when the destiny of our province seemed so inseparably tied to the foresight and initiative of our beloved Premier. . . . He is called 'away', said Dr. William E. Spankie, personal friend of Mr. Aberhart.

He said he had known the latter a great many years and "I recall the value placed on him as a high school teacher when I was a member of the Calgary School Board some 25 years ago."

### STRONG PERSONALITY

Dr. Spankie spoke of his closer relationship with the Premier since 1935 and said he did not hesitate to say that he possessed the strongest personality of any man to enter the political life of Canada, during the speaker's life.

" . . . . He called years ago for the very things that are now mentioned in the Atlantic Charter — freedom from fear and freedom from want," he continued, citing Mr. Aberhart's two most outstanding qualities as "steadfastness of purpose and an organizer of great and exceptional ability."

"He was the greatest reformer to ever sit in the provincial premier-ship of any of our provinces," said Dr. Spankie pointing out he was the greatest friend labor ever had.

Cyril Hutchinson, secretary of the Bible Institute and convert of Mr. Aberhart, gave the sermon basing his text on the Scripture: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

Eulogizing his work as a Christian leader, Mr. Hutchinson said: "The Dean took what God had written in His Word and believed it in his great heart."

### WORK WILL CONTINUE

He referred to Mr. Aberhart as the seventh and greatest premier of Alberta and a "Christian gentleman," who was not ashamed to confess his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "He has laid down his labors but his work will follow him for many a day. The influence of his teaching and his preaching is still drawing many after him."

"He has gone but he lit a great light," he said in conclusion, as he urged those who were left to carry on the work Mr. Aberhart had started—"take that light and light another with it."

Rev. Christopher Burnett, formerly pastor of Crescent Heights Baptist church, told of his association with the premier in the early days of 1921 when he had baptized some 30 or 40 of the latter's converts, "some of whom are here this afternoon."

Rev. Mr. Burnett paid tribute to the deceased's "strong religious convictions" and though, he said, paths of duty had separated them latterly, "my respect and admiration for him have never faltered or wavered . . . his light shall ever burn and he will reap a rich harvest for his sowing."

James D. Ferguson, vice-principal of Crescent Heights high school, where Mr. Aberhart had taught for 20 years prior to his election as premier in 1935, paid tribute to his "enviable reputation earned in this province for his scholastic attainments."

He spoke warmly of his association with him in the class room and of what he had done for education. He cited the larger school units; the creating of teaching as a profession, and the teachers' retirement fund, as a grateful and enduring memorial.

## TRIBUTE BY SCHOOLS

The closing of the schools last Wednesday, the day of Mr. Aberhart's funeral in Vancouver, was not just an official act, he declared, but a "tribute to a minister who had contributed so much to education."

Speaking of his work in the fields, in which she declared she knew him best, Miss Mabel Giles, member of the teaching staff at Crescent Heights high school, said of Mr. Aberhart: "He was one of the most talented and distinguished teachers Canada has ever produced and an able Bible teacher." Miss Giles also taught classes at the Bible Institute with Mr. Aberhart.

She recalled her own student days when the premier, then the principal, had stressed the "higher values of life," and she paid tribute to his "outstanding sense of fairness . . . his high standard in sports, scholarships, the boundless enthusiasm with which he entered every task, and the skill with which he organized his work."

"His rigid adherence to the great guiding principles of life made him appear, at times, harsh and unyielding but to those of us who knew him intimately, he was the soul of graciousness and kindness and he was compassionate and considerate," said E. Geehan, vice-president of the Calgary Constituency, Alberta Social Credit League.

Mrs. G. H. Jury, president of the

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Women's Auxiliaries to the Alberta Social Credit League spoke of the confidence Premier Aberhart had placed in women and their work. She spoke of his courage and his contribution to Alberta, Canada and "the whole world." "We have a trust to keep—a sacred trust and we must not falter until we have attained his objective . . . economic freedom of the people," she concluded.

C. R. Pearce, Institute treasurer, was chairman, and spoke of the Premier's career as one that was devoted to the betterment of his fellow men.

## AN APOSTLE OF CHURCH

Rev. W. J. Laing, pastor of the church, gave the invocation and told of the work Mr. Aberhart had done among the students of the Institute. He was to the church an apostle, as he was to the province a premier, he said.

Mr. Aberhart's favorite hymns were sung by Miss Marian McClune, "No Night There" and "Take My Life and Let It Be" and by Cyril Hutchinson who sang "There's No Disappointment in Heaven" and "The Holy City."

Mr. Pearce announced that the church would be open all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for those wishing to see the floral tributes and portrait.