

= Leverett George DeVeber =

Leverett George DeVeber (sometimes spelled De Veber) (February 10 , 1849 ? July 9 , 1925) was a Canadian politician who served as Member of the Legislative Assemblies of Alberta and the North @-@ West Territories , minister in the government of Alberta , and member of the Senate of Canada . Born in New Brunswick and trained as a physician , he joined the North @-@ West Mounted Police and came west , eventually settling in Lethbridge after leaving the police force . He represented Lethbridge in the North @-@ West Legislative Assembly from 1898 until 1905 , when Lethbridge became part of the new province of Alberta . He was appointed Minister without Portfolio in Alberta 's first government , but resigned four months later to accept an appointment to the Senate , where he remained until his death .

= = Early life = =

DeVeber was born February 10 , 1849 , in Saint John , New Brunswick . His great @-@ grandfather , Gabriel DeVeber , had been a British army officer who was rewarded for his service in the American Revolution with land in New Brunswick , where his descendants had lived since . Leverett George DeVeber was educated in Saint John and Kingston before attending King 's College in Windsor , Nova Scotia . He was a prominent rower in New Brunswick , and also played cricket and baseball and took part in shooting , hunting , and fishing events .

He studied for a year at Harvard College and then completed his medical studies at St. Bartholomew 's Hospital in London , from which he graduated in 1870 . He then studied at the University of Pennsylvania for a year . He practiced medicine in Saint John for six years , before coming west to join the North @-@ West Mounted Police as a surgeon in 1882 . Over the next three years he was stationed at Fort Walsh , Calgary , and Fort MacLeod ; it was in this last town that he left the NWMP to set up a civilian practice in 1885 .

In 1885 DeVeber married Rachael Ann Ryan , who was born in Melbourne where her father was posted with the British Army . The pair would have two children : Marion Frances DeVeber , who married shipbuilder Francis Dunn and moved to England , and Leverett Sandys DeVeber , who worked in Toronto for the Bank of Montreal .

DeVeber moved to Lethbridge in 1890 , and became its Medical Officer of Health in 1893 , in which capacity he continued until at least 1924 . In Lethbridge he was involved in music : he took charge of his church 's choir in 1891 , and the same year sang at a local concert after the intended headliner , Nora Clench , failed to show up . He was also active with the Episcopalian church and the Canadian Order of Foresters .

= = Political career = =

= = = Territorial and provincial service = = =

DeVeber was acclaimed to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in the 1898 election , and re @-@ elected in the 1902 election . Though he was a Liberal , he wholeheartedly supported the efforts of Premier Frederick W. A. G. Haultain to conduct territory politics along non @-@ partisan lines . As the federal government prepared to create two new provinces , Alberta and Saskatchewan , out of the Northwest Territoes , DeVeber joined with Haultain in advocating the continuation of this non @-@ partisan approach into the governments of the new provinces . This position put him at odds with the Liberal federal government , led by Wilfrid Laurier , who wanted the new provinces ' governments to be Liberal . A Liberal , George Bulyea , was therefore appointed Lieutenant Governor of Alberta , and it was understood that he would appoint a Liberal as the province 's first premier .

After Alberta 's two most prominent Liberals , Peter Talbot and Frank Oliver , made it clear that they were not interested , DeVeber considered himself as a possible candidate . Less than two months

before Alberta 's formal creation , he wrote to his colleague in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories , Alexander Cameron Rutherford , that the possibilities " practically came to you and I , both of us weak enough God knows but we have the sense to see it . " DeVeber 's belief that he may be appointed premier does not appear to have been well @-@ founded : his opposition to the introduction of party lines earned him the enmity of some Liberals , not least because it aligned him with Haultain , a Conservative . In the estimation of historian L. G. Thomas , DeVeber 's fellow Liberals " were not inclined to take him too seriously " as a potential premier .

Once it became clear that he was not to become premier , DeVeber turned his ambitions towards the Canadian Senate . Though he had little interest in sustained involvement with the government of Alberta , he accepted Rutherford 's (for Rutherford had been named premier) invitation to serve in his first cabinet as Minister without Portfolio . He made clear that he viewed the appointment as an interim one , to give Rutherford time to evaluate the many novice politicians entering the new province 's legislature and , in DeVeber 's words , " ascertain who of the new blood will rise to the surface " . In keeping with the expectations of a government minister in the Westminster system , DeVeber ran in the 1905 provincial election , defeating Conservative William Carlos Ives by a comfortable margin in the Lethbridge electoral district .

= = = Senator = = =

DeVeber did not serve long either as minister or Member of the Legislative Assembly : having received word that he was to be appointed to the Senate , he resigned from cabinet on March 1 , 1906 ? exactly four months after his appointment ? and from the legislature March 7 . He formally began his term as Senator the next day . His time as an MLA was so short he did not sign the rolls in the Alberta Legislature and was never sworn in .

While in the Senate , DeVeber chaired the Standing Committee on Public Health and Inspection of Foods . One issue examined by this committee was water pollution : beginning in March 1909 and for nearly a year afterwards , it studied the question in view of the increasing mortality from typhoid fever , and concluded , in the words of the University of Michigan 's Jennifer Read , " that the country required some form of legislation to manage the problem . However , it was at a loss about the form it should take and from what body it should emanate . " As chair of the committee , DeVeber attended an October 1910 federal @-@ provincial conference in Ottawa called to attempt to coordinate all Canadian jurisdictions ' responses to water pollution . Besides recommending that provincial governments use their constitutional authority over health and municipal government to prevent undue water pollution from municipal sewage systems , it advised the federal government to use its authority over navigable waterways to prohibit the dumping of most waste into them ; DeVeber supplied a draft bill for Parliament 's consideration .

At the same time , DeVeber 's colleague Napoléon Belcourt was championing a similar measure in the Senate (as an Ottawa resident , Belcourt was disturbed by the effect on the city 's water supply by the dumping of waste upstream , in Aylmer , Quebec) , and while doing so he quoted extensively from the report of DeVeber 's committee . When Belcourt 's bill came up for debate , DeVeber scolded him on the floor of the Senate for misrepresenting the committee 's report as being much more supportive of the bill than it actually was ; in the estimation of University of Ottawa law professor Jamie Benidickson , DeVeber 's comments assured the bill 's defeat .

DeVeber remained a Senator until his death in 1925 . Alberta 's Mount DeVeber , located in Willmore Wilderness Park , is named in his honour .

= = Electoral record = =