

= John Lymburn =

John Farquhar Lymburn (September 25 , 1880 ? November 25 , 1969) was a Canadian politician who served as Attorney @-@ General of Alberta from 1926 until 1935 .

Born and educated in Scotland , he came to Canada in 1911 and practiced law in Edmonton . In 1925 , John Edward Brownlee became Premier of Alberta , and sought a lawyer without partisan affiliation to succeed him as attorney @-@ general . Lymburn accepted the position , and was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in the 1926 election .

As attorney @-@ general , Lymburn took part in negotiations between the Alberta and federal governments over natural resource rights , prepared Alberta 's submission in the Persons case , and played a minor role in the sex scandal that forced Brownlee from office .

In the 1935 provincial election , Lymburn and all other United Farmers of Alberta candidates were defeated , as William Aberhart led the Social Credit League to victory . Lymburn briefly returned to prominence during the Bankers ' Toadies incident , and made an strong but unsuccessful attempt to return to the legislature in 1942 , before dying in 1969 .

= = Early life = =

Lymburn was born in Ayr , Scotland to William and Margaret (Farquhar) Lymburn . He attended Ayr Grammar School and Ayr Academy before studying law at Glasgow University . After graduating , he apprenticed with Dougall , Gouldie , and Douglas ; he qualified as a solicitor in 1903 . In 1911 he emigrated to Canada , settling in Edmonton where he joined Short , Cross , and Biggar . Two years later , he co @-@ founded Lymburn , Mackenzie , and Cooke (later renamed Lymburn , Reid , and Cobbledick) . In the interim , he had married fellow Scot Isabella Marguerite Clark on July 19 , 1912 . The couple would have three daughters : Marguerite Dormer , Mary Doreen Farquhar , and Constance Clark . John Lymburn was made King 's Counsel in 1926 .

= = Attorney @-@ general = =

In 1925 , attorney @-@ general John Edward Brownlee succeeded Herbert Greenfield as the leader of the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) ' s provincial caucus and Premier of Alberta . Brownlee was the only lawyer in the UFA caucus , which was dominated by farmers . In appointing an attorney @-@ general to replace himself , he looked outside his caucus and appointed Lymburn , in part because of his lack of affiliation with any provincial political party . By convention , cabinet ministers , including attorneys @-@ general , were expected to sit in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta . Accordingly , Lymburn ran in the 1926 provincial election in Edmonton as a UFA candidate . He finished first of eighteen candidates in Edmonton , and became one of Edmonton 's five Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) .

As attorney @-@ general , Lymburn was involved in many of the Brownlee government 's most important initiatives . He was a major figure in securing the transfer of resource rights from the federal government to the Alberta government . Once the Great Depression proved fertile breeding ground for labour militancy , at Brownlee 's request he prepared a list of Communist leaders so that the government could take action to deport the non @-@ naturalized residents among them , (although no deportations were ordered) . Alberta was the only provincial government to support the appellants in the " Persons case " , and Lymburn was responsible for its submission .

He was also involved in scandal : the former head of the Liquor Investigation Bureau made allegations against him after Lymburn eliminated the Bureau to save money , though the charges had little effect either in the legal system or in the public eye . During the John Brownlee sex scandal , in which Brownlee was sued for the seduction of a family friend , Lymburn became the focus of controversy after his department hired a private investigator to look into claims that a Liberal lawyer had offered a young woman money to " put Mr. Brownlee in such a position that Mrs. Brownlee could get a divorce " . Taking the stand during the trial , Lymburn stated that the investigation had been initiated not to aid in the premier 's defense , but because the alleged solicitation was a

criminal offense . He noted further that Brownlee had insisted on refunding to the government the cost of the investigator .

When the scandal forced Brownlee 's resignation as premier , Lymburn stayed on as attorney @-@ general in the short @-@ lived government of Richard Gavin Reid . The popularity of the Reid government faltered during the Great Depression due to its inability to take radical action to ensure employment and a reasonable standard of living for all Alberta residents , while radical economic theories , most notably the version of social credit espoused by Calgary evangelist William Aberhart , gained support among the public . The government 's position was that Aberhart 's proposals were beyond the legal authority of the provincial government , since they involved banking , which the Constitution of Canada makes a responsibility of the federal government . As attorney @-@ general , Lymburn played a major role in defending this position . When Lymburn 's UFA government brought Social Credit leader C. H. Douglas from the United Kingdom as an advisor , Lymburn provided him with a copy of one of Aberhart 's speeches and asked him to critique it ; Douglas concluded that Aberhart 's proposals did not align with " Douglasite " social credit , and that many of them would not have the desired effect .

= = Later life = =

In the 1935 provincial election , the UFA was wiped out of the legislature by Aberhart 's upstart Social Credit League . As historian Franklin Foster has noted , " it was an ironic footnote to the demise of the most politically successful farmers ' group in history that the one UFA candidate who came closest to re @-@ election was lawyer John Lymburn in the City of Edmonton . "

After defeat , Lymburn remained active in community life as an elder in Edmonton 's First Presbyterian Church , chairman of the Advisory Board of the Students ' Christian Movement , chairman of the Board of Directors of the Beulah Home for unmarried mothers , and president of the Edmonton Scottish Society . He was also a long @-@ standing member of the Mayfair Golf and Country Club . He was an aficionado of the work of fellow Ayrshire native Robbie Burns , whose poetry he could recite in Gaelic , and often spoke at Burns suppers .

Lymburn briefly re @-@ entered the public eye in 1937 , when he was named in a Social Credit @-@ produced pamphlet as one of eight " Bankers ' Toadies " who should be " exterminated " ; Social Credit whip Joseph Unwin was convicted of criminal libel in relation to the pamphlet .

In 1942 , Lymburn contested a by @-@ election in Edmonton ; In the initial vote count , he finished third of five candidates . After subsequent re @-@ distribution of the votes as per the STV system in use , he came in second in the final vote count , with Elmer Roper of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation emerging victorious .

Marguerite Lymburn died in 1958 . John Lymburn died eleven years later , on November 25 , 1969 .

= = Electoral record = =