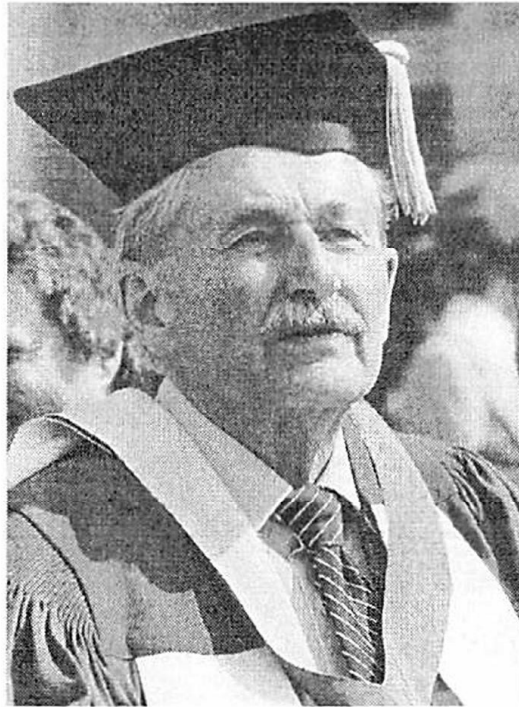


Eugene Forsey

1904 - 1991

Eugene Forsey, scholar and constitutional expert, was born in Grand Bank, Newfoundland, and earned a BA and MA at McGill University. As a Rhodes Scholar (for Quebec) he studied for another BA and MA at Balliol College, Oxford, and was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1932. He capped his learning with a PhD from McGill in 1941. In later years there followed a torrent of LL.Ds, from the University of New Brunswick, McGill, Saskatchewan, Toronto, Waterloo, Dalhousie, York, Carleton and Queen's. As well, a D.Litt from Memorial, Acadia and Trent universities. He married Harriet Roberts in 1935, and they had two daughters



who followed his political footsteps. He ran twice for Parliament under the CCF banner in the 1940s, and was appointed by Pierre Trudeau to the Senate (1970-79).

Eugene was the author of *Economic and Social Aspects of the Nova Scotia Coal Industry* (1926); *The Royal Power of Dissolution of Parliament in the British Commonwealth* (1943); *Social Planning for Canada (with others)* (1935); *Freedom and Order* (1974);

The Canadian Labour Movement 1812-1902 (1935); and *How Canadians Govern Themselves* (1979).

Eugene was Chancellor of Trent University and President of the Canadian Political Science Association (1961-2). For many years he was the research director for the Canadian Labour Congress. He was a Privy Councillor and a Companion of the Order of Canada.

His knowledge of Canadian political, constitutional and trade union affairs led him into many public discussions, which he often prompted through a regular flow of letters to the newspapers. He must have held the record for published letters over many years, and for their wit as well as wisdom. One remembered example of his wit dates to his later years: asked his precise age at a supper

party, he replied: "I am in the prime of my dotage."

Robert Fulford, in a review of Forsey's autobiographical memoir *A Life on the Fringe*, wrote: "His book is, among other things, an astonishing guided tour of our entire political horizon over three generations". Jack McLeod, writing for the Thomson News Service, called it "an exuberant, witty, graceful account of a distinguished public career. It is a splendid book. I cannot think of another work in the field of Canadian politics that I've found more instructive or entertaining during the past decade".