

Hon. James Drummond MacGregor, Lt. Gov. of NS

James Drummond MacGregor, was grandson of Pictou County's pioneer minister of the same name and the great grandson of Roderick MacKay, a passenger of the Ship Hector. He was born in 1838 and had a career that included several professions over his lifetime.

MacGregor's business career began as a clerk with his father's grocery, shipping and foreign trade business. He later formed a partnership with his brother, Peter. This venture was known as J.D. and P.A. MacGregor Ltd. And was extensively involved in wholesale grocery, lumbering and gold mining as well as other lesser interests. He was an astute businessman but would not sacrifice the morals of himself or his fellowman to make money. He refused to sell either liquor or tobacco with his wholesale grocery line – even at a time when independent businessman could sell liquor legally.

He was a large shareholder, director and vice-president of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company Ltd. From the time the first steel was made in 1883. He was a director of the Eastern Trust Company and loaned his cousin George MacGregor money to start the Steel Furnishings Ltd. Plant. This later grew into MacGregor Bedding Ltd, manufacturers of beds, mattresses and similar products.

MacGregor was the fourth mayor of New Glasgow from 1879-1880 and was elected as MLA in 1890. He was defeated in the election of 1894 but was re-elected in 1897. He resigned his provincial seat in 1900 to run in the federal election against Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and A.C. bell, and lost.

MacGregor was appointed to the Senate in 1903. He held this office until 1910 when Prime Minister Laurier helped him realize a lifelong dream – Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. He was the second consecutive Pictonian to serve this office – the first being Hon. D.C. Fraser, another Ship Hector descendant.

Hon. J.D. MacGregor was soon engaged in recruiting drives and financial appeals for wartime charities. He retired in 1915 and died in New Glasgow on March 4, 1918 after a lifetime of service.

"Sons of the Hector" by Leonard M. Reid