



## Looking Back: “An Outstanding Voice”



*James. F Bryant, fourth president of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association*

After James F. Bryant of Regina was elected in 1918, he went on to serve as President of the then-named Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association for seven years, one of the longest terms in Association history. Registration at conventions retreated to the 1,000 to 1,500 range, but language of instruction continued to be a familiar theme of debate.

Early in his time with the Association, Bryant, whose public speaking skills were outstanding, founded the Bryant Public Speaking Contest for high school students. He sponsored the contest until his death in 1945. It continued with support of his family until 1971.

Bryant retired as president in 1925. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1929 to 1934, as Speaker and then as a cabinet minister. As Minister of Public Works, he was largely responsible for the project that constructed the Albert Street Bridge in Regina and dredged and deepened Wascana Lake. He became a Judge of the District Court in 1935.

Upon his retirement in 1925, he delivered this challenge to trustees: “Saskatchewan! In your faith lies her strength; hats off to the past – coats off to the future!”