

HOPKINS, William



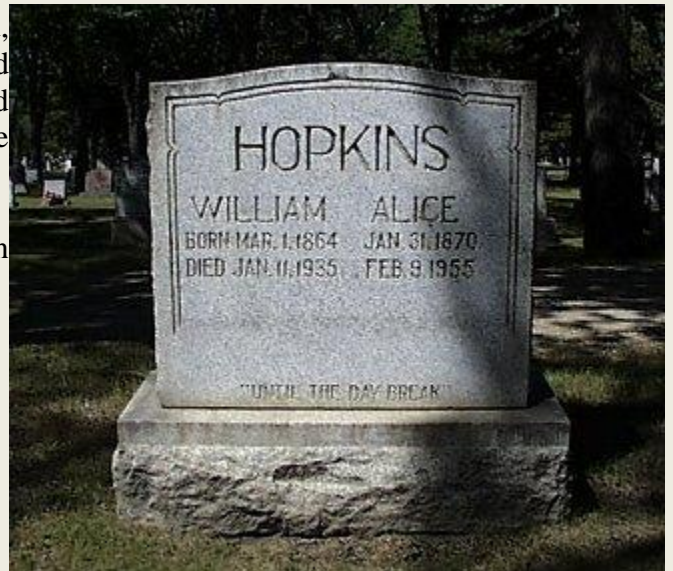
William Hopkins was born on March 1, 1864. Originally a Riversdale hardware merchant, he became Mayor during the opening days of Saskatoon's 1910 to 1913 real estate boom. By 1913, he was President of the W. Hopkins and Cameron Company, Ltd., "Real Estate, Farm Lands, City Property, Loans and Insurance".

In 1909, during his time in office, Saskatoon dealt with its first major labour dispute. The Saskatoon Federal Labour Union, representing 150 men who were digging the city's new sewers, complained about wages and working conditions. A Board of Inquiry was established under the federal *Industrial Disputes Investigations Act*, consisting of Mayor Hopkins, an unnamed labour representative and E.J. Meilicke, who was the Chair. During discussions, Mayor Hopkins is reported to have

said, "*Mr Chairman, we will not concede the recognition of the union shop. For us to do so would be against the laws of man and God.*"

Mayor Hopkins is also reported to have suggested, in 1910, that "*within a few years*" the city would grow to 100,000 inhabitants and that all farm land within a 10 mile radius of the city should be subdivided.

He died on January 11, 1935, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Block 76, Lot 99.



Information and photograph of William Hopkins, courtesy of the City of Saskatoon Archives