

Death Takes Another Pioneer

VACLAV JAN SLAVIK

On Tuesday, February 14th, death claimed one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Viking, when Mr. V. J. Slavik quietly passed away at his home here, at the advanced age of 81 years. He was in apparently good health for one of his years until a few days previous to his death when he complained of dizziness and weakness, but such a condition was to be expected and no great importance was attached to it. He awoke Tuesday and said that he felt quite well but about noon collapsed in his bedroom and passed away without any struggle or apparent pain.

The late Mr. Slavik was born in Czecho-Slovakia on August 22, 1858. In 1880 he migrated to America and settled in the State of Nebraska, and was married there in 1886. In 1891 he moved to Oklahoma and took up a homestead near the town of Yukon. He lived in Oklahoma until 1911 when together with his wife and family he came to Viking and settled on his former farm south-west of town. About 15 years ago he retired from active work and moved to the village of Viking where he remained until his death.

In November 1936 the late Mr. Slavik and his wife had the happiness of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their wedding. After High Mass in Prague church, offered for their intentions, a splendid dinner and other entertainments were given in their honor at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. and Mr. John Pratt.

He leaves to mourn his loss, besides his aged wife and one step-son, Mr. Joseph Wesley, three sons, John L., of Viking, Frank, in Prague district, Viking, and James of Killam, and three daughters, Anna, Mrs. John Pratt, Josephine, Mrs. Chas. Ruzicka, and Mary at home, together with 23 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. As at his Jubilee, in 1936, so also at his funeral on Thursday, all his children and a great many of his grandchildren were present.

The funeral took place on Thursday morning, February 16th, from his late residence to St. John's church, Prague, where Requiem Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. by his pastor, Rev. R. J. O'Neill. The interment took place in Prague cemetery.

The pall bearers were Mr. John Antos, and five of his grandsons, Messrs. Vincent and Louis Slavik and Frank, Louis and John Pratt.

In the death of Mr. Slavik the district mourns the passing of a grand old man, who knew difficulties and trials, but whose simplicity of life, intelligence and strong faith gave him courage. His life and deeds should prove an example to those who knew him and to his children may the God, whom he loved and served on earth, bring peace to his soul.

The following is a list of the spiritual and floral offerings: The Family, Mother and Mary; Jack, Agnes and family; Frank, Vickie and Ray; Jim, Gertie and family; John Pratt family; Charles Ruzicka family; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pratt; J. F. Wesley and family; John Antos family; Chas. Wesley family; Village of Viking; Curling Club; Viking Garage; Viking and Boston Cafes; Father McCarthy, Killam; Sisters of General Hosital, Killam; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hennessy; A. Streit family; Mrs. M. Powell family; Prague C.W.L.; Mr. and Mrs. W. Comisarow; J. F. Finn family; J. P. Rozmahel family; Mrs. M. Sullivan and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. Stupka and Victoria; Mr. and Mrs. John Golka family; V. Voltner family; Wilem Bucek family; W. G. Mer-ta family; Mrs. John Hruza family; L. Lonoski family; Frank Svobuda family; John Ruzicka family; Viking C. W. L.