

country to the colonies, the fears that Canada would be absorbed by the United States, the secular decline of British agriculture, the vacillations of British trade policy—all these factors affected the readiness of British capital to flow to Canada, and all must be taken into consideration in analysing the rate and style of economic development in Canada before 1850. The question therefore arises whether in focussing our attention on capital scarcity we are not concentrating on one symptom of growth (and perhaps not the most informative one) rather than on the process of growth itself. When a child is growing up, we expect his old clothes to become too small for him; but we may still ask why his parents do not take him to the tailor.

KENNETH RAMSAY WILSON, 1903–1952

KEN WILSON, whose tragic death in an air crash at Newark, N.J., on January 22, 1952 cut short a brilliant career in economic journalism, was born on April 24, 1903 at Barnbrough in Yorkshire. His family moved to Canada in 1909 and settled in Brantford, Ontario. He was educated in the public and high schools of Brantford and at Victoria College, Toronto, where he obtained his B. Comm. in 1926. His distinction among his fellow students was evidenced by his election as life-president of his graduating class. Immediately after graduation he joined the staff of the *Financial Post* (Toronto) and moved rapidly up through the varied posts in that organization. By the early thirties he had become one of its top reporters and feature-story writers, specializing in the economic aspects of public affairs. In 1941 he was transferred to Ottawa with the title of Ottawa Editor of the *Financial Post*, and was given complete freedom as to the nature and field of his coverage and activities. From Ottawa he made frequent trips to New York and Washington and as many visits to the United Kingdom and Europe as war and post-war conditions permitted. He covered practically every important international economic conference from Bretton Woods to Geneva, and from international Chamber of Commerce meetings to the operations of the European Payments Union.

Naturally most of Ken Wilson's writing was done week by week for the *Financial Post*, where both his news stories and his commentaries established the highest reputation for accuracy, integrity, and understanding of underlying forces. In addition he was the author of several pamphlets in the "Contemporary Affairs" and "Behind the Headlines" series dealing with wartime price controls, post-war trading problems, the dollar shortage, and the St. Lawrence seaway. He prepared the centennial history of the Bank of Nova Scotia published in 1933, and he wrote the chapter on the external background of Canada's economic problems in Gibson's *Canada's Economy in a Changing World*, published in 1948.

He served a two-year term (1946–7) as a member of the Council of the Canadian Political Science Association and he was active in the Canadian Institute of International Affairs both as a member of its national council and as President of its Ottawa branch. From 1948 to his death he served as economic

Vol. XVIII, no. 4, Nov., 1952

adviser to the joint United States–Canada Chambers of Commerce committee on trade.

Ken Wilson was primarily a journalist—the most outstanding economic journalist that Canada has produced. He had a keen appreciation of the fundamentals of economic problems, unusual skill and industry in searching out all the relevant facts, and a happy facility in analysing and presenting economic statistics. His skill in foreshadowing and interpreting events and policies was due to his carefully acquired understanding of men and events and his ability to put himself into other men's minds and thus estimate their decisions. He enjoyed to a rare degree the confidence and friendship of leaders in government and business not only in Canada but also in the United States and Great Britain. He was, moreover, full of kindness and warm sympathy. He found time not merely for advisory service to church and welfare organizations but for personal unobtrusive help to those in trouble or difficulty. His death at the height of his powers is a severe loss to his host of friends and to his country.

[K. W. Taylor]