

EDMONTON

The Talmud Torah, the Hebrew School, has lost
a champion, and a brilliant scholar.

Leo Bekarsky's influence will be felt for
generations to come.

Loyalty to Jewish interests, knowledge of
Jewish affairs, dedication to the Hebrew
language, respect for learning - all of which,
made for his greatness.

He left a record of achievements that cannot
be measured in terms of one brief span of life.

He was a man, who worked hard for his success,
and having attained it, he continued to be
unassuming, modest, and to be a good friend, and
a useful and upright citizen - a credit to his
people, to his Community, and to his Country.

It is because of this, that all of us, join
in the grief, and anguish, that has befallen the
family of our departed and distinguished citizen.

May some comfort come to them, ^{who mourn} from the
thought that their dear one-left, not only many
grieving friends, but a living, pulsating monument
to his memory - the Edmonton Talmud Torah -

May his soul rest in peace.

This is the Yorchait Service of the late Leo PEkarsky, who passed away just one year ago.

Those of us who have gathered here this morning, have done so, to pay homage and respect, with bowed heads in sorrow, and fond, ^{and} kindly memories, of a man whose influence, will be felt for generations to come, a man who was loyal and dedicated to all things Jewish.

It was Leo Pekarsky's knowledge of Jewish affairs, his dedication to Hebrew language, his respect for learning, all of which made for his greatness.

He left a record of achievement that cannot be measured in terms of one brief span of life.

Leo Pekarsky arrived in Edmonton at the youthful age of eighteen, coming direct^{ly} into my parents' home, where he lived until he married.

He gave long, and devoted service to our T. T., beginning as a teacher, then as principal and then as Chairman of the Board of Education, ~~and~~ culminating his career of service to the school, as President in the year in which we dedicated this new school building.

He was a self-made man, who had made a success of his life, in every field of endeavour. He was a man with remarkable energy, and extraordinary capacity for hard, ceaseless work, an almost bewildering driving force, and above all, a clear understanding of the duties, and responsibilities, of a Jew to his country, his community and, uppermost, to his family.

He, it was, and together with others, who experienced the most formative decades of the T. T. with its struggles, and achievements, its failures, and its successes.

The tottering twenties, the impoverished thirties, the fearful forties, right into the fateful fifties, when the fate of the whole human race, including our own people in heroic Israel, seemed to hang

on a slender thread - as the fate, of the T. T. today, which has scaled the heights, in Hebrew education hangs on a slender thread ~~today~~ because of heavy demands, and ~~x~~ seemingly, lack of resources.

~~Ladies and Gentlemen~~, this school must always remain, as a living memorial, to Leo Pekarsky and others, who put so much of themselves into making it, what it is today.

As President of the T. T. I wish to remind you, that last year we had established, located in the board room, a library in his memory, known as the "Leo Pekarsky Memorial Library," so that each, and every time, we enter the board room, for our deliberations we are reminded of a man, who was so loyal a worker, so inspiring a leader, and so unselfish and dedicated to this Institution. We have done, so, that his name may remain on our ^{LIPS} ~~lips~~ and in front of our eyes, for generations to come.

To me the T. T. and the name Leo Pekarsky are synonymous. He built his own memorial, a living, pulsating memorial, the T. T. May his soul rest in peace. *Step.*

Ladies & Gentlemen! This concludes the Yorchait Service sponsored by the two communal organizations, that were so dear to him, the Zionist Council and the T. T.

You are invited to attend the unveiling of his tombstone at the Jewish cemetery, at which time Rabbi Postone will ~~x~~ conduct the religious service.

Those of you who wish transportation to the cemetery, cars will be at hand in ~~front~~ front of the building.