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BROWNE, William Joseph

MG 32, B 20

Finding Aid No. 1432 / Instrument de recherche no. 1432

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BROWNE, William Joseph (b. 1897). Cabinet Minister, Lawyer.

Originals, 1957-1960. 1.75 m. Finding Aid No. 1432.

William Joseph Browne was born on 3 May 1897 in St. John's, Newfoundland. He attended Holy Cross School and St. Bonaventure's College in St. John's. In 1915 Browne was awarded Newfoundland's Jubilee Scholarship. He then studied Civil Engineer at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1919 with honours. Browne was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship from Newfoundland in 1918 and attended Merton College, Oxford University, from 1919 to 1922 where he studied Law. Browne's degrees include a B.A. and a B.A. Sc. In June 1922 Browne was called to the English Bar and in October 1922 he was called to the Newfoundland Bar. His legal career has spanned the years 1922 to 1934 and 1949 to the present.

Browne served as the Assistant Clerk to the Newfoundland House of Assembly from 1923 to 1924. He was defeated as the Progressive Conservative Candidate for the District of Placentia, St. Mary's, Newfoundland in 1923. He was elected for the District of St. John's West in 1924 and then defeated in 1928. In 1932 Browne was elected for Harbour Main-Bell Island. He was a member of the Alderice Government as Minister without Portfolio from 1932 to 1934. Browne was acting Minister of Finance in 1932 and the acting Minister of Justice in 1933. He was appointed King's Counsel in 1934. On 1 July 1935 Browne was appointed Judge of the Central District Court. He resigned on 7 June 1949 to contest the federal general election.

Browne was first elected to the House of Commons for the riding of St. John's on 27 June 1949, but was subsequently defeated in 1953. He was then elected to the Newfoundland House of Assembly by acclamation on 9 March 1954 and was re-elected in the general election of 1956. On 10 June 1957 Browne was again elected to the House of Commons for St. John's West. He was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council and appointed Minister without Portfolio in the Diefenbaker Cabinet on 21 June 1957. He was re-elected in 1958 and remained Minister without Portfolio until 10 October 1960. In October 1960 Browne was a Canadian delegate for the Columbo Plan Consultative Committee in Saigon. From 11 October 1960 to 9 August 1962, Browne served as the Solicitor-General.

In the 1962 general election Browne was defeated as the candidate for St. John's West and then defeated again in 1965 in St. John's East. He was re-elected to the Newfoundland House of Assembly for St. John's East External in 1962.

Presented in 1977 by William Joseph Browne of St. John's, Newfoundland.

Maps and photographs have been transferred to their appropriate divisions.

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BROWNE, William Joseph (b. 1897). Cabinet Minister, Lawyer.

Finding Aid No. 1432 is a file list. The collection is arranged by existing file numbers except the "subject files" which are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Personal Correspondence, 1957-1958. Originals, 25 cm (volumes 1-2).

Personal correspondence of W.J. Browne related to topics such as: the Progressive Conservative Party Association, federal government departments and his former law practice.

Newfoundland, 1957-1958. Originals, 60 cm (volumes 2-5).

Correspondence of W.J. Browne on matters related to Newfoundland including: financial aid, social assistance, public works, transportation, communications and federal government departments.

Subject files, 1957-1960. Originals, 90 cm (volumes 5-9).

Correspondence of W.J. Browne on matters related to Newfoundland. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

William Joseph Browne

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