

Senator Forke's work in public life was confined for at least two decades to municipal activities. He was very prominent in the services rendered by the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, and in that way was brought to the notice of the people of the province in general and of its public men in particular. It was not until after he had passed the age of three score years that he ventured to become a candidate for a legislature. In 1921 he was first elected to the House of Commons, as a member of the Progressive party of that time, and in the course of one year, on the retirement of its chief, he succeeded to the leadership.

The characteristics of Senator Forke were very markedly those that are always present in the Scotch Canadian. His caninness and innate wisdom were qualities which no doubt appealed to his colleagues, and were instrumental in bringing him to a post of great prominence in the federal public service so shortly after he became a member of the other House. None of us who sat in that other House during his time will ever forget the contributions he made to the discussions there. They were unique in their kind, as was his character itself.

In 1929 he resigned the post of Minister of Immigration in the Government of that time and accepted appointment to this body. During the ensuing years his personality won our esteem. His failing health became evident last session. I know that we all, irrespective of party, deeply lament the fact that he is to be with us no more. He leaves a widow and family, and to them we extend in all sincerity our tribute of respect and our sympathy in the loss which they must now endure.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable members, it was not my good fortune to be able to follow at close range the work of the late Senator Forke, a privilege which my right honourable friend enjoyed for several years while they were both active in the same province. My acquaintance with Mr. Forke began when he entered the House of Commons, and I became more closely associated with him when we sat together in the King Administration. I heard that he was a prosperous farmer, and on consulting the Parliamentary Guide I learned that he was also a public spirited citizen, having served his community in various municipal offices. I soon recognized that his principal qualities were common sense, good judgment, tolerance, a capacity to see his neighbour's point of view; also that he had a great fund of information on all matters that interested the people whom he served.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

It is always interesting to me to watch the career of young immigrants who take up farming and by their ability and labour gradually amass a competency, and by their quality of citizenship win the confidence of those among whom they settle. The late Senator Forke offers us an outstanding example of the successful immigrant boy. Several honourable members in this Chamber have had a similar experience. It shows that this is a country where anyone who brings to his task character, courage and industry—and the late Senator Forke had all these qualities—can become prosperous and happy. Our late colleague rose in this Chamber quite often to give us his views on problems that engrossed his mind, and we were always the better for the information which he brought to us. I always felt that we were in the presence of a good citizen, of one who had earned the esteem of his fellow members in both Houses, and I join with my right honourable friend in extending to the family of the late Senator Forke the sympathy of his colleagues in this Upper Chamber.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES BILL

FIRST READING

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN introduced Bill B, an Act to amend the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, 1932.

He said: Perhaps this time is as opportune as any other to lay some general foundation for the attention of the House to this measure. Honourable members will recall that in 1932, by reason of a succession of adverse decisions in the Privy Council which affected, if they did not destroy, the right of the Parliament of Canada to legislate in relation to insurance, and the right of the department erected by Parliament to supervise the operation of insurance within Canada, or even the entrance of foreign companies, it was decided to seek to amend the legislation of that time so as to bring it within the very drastic limitations which those decisions had imposed upon us. Three Acts were involved. The first was the Act establishing the Department of Insurance; but with that, at the moment, we have no concern. The second was the Act respecting British and Canadian Insurance Companies; and with that we shall deal in a measure to succeed this one. The third, the one presently important, was the Act respecting Foreign Insurance Companies, and it is to further amend this Act that I now introduce the Bill.

It may be in the minds of honourable members that there is much futility, and most expensive futility, in a struggle on behalf of