

Besides his relatives and those very close to him, nobody of this present generation has perhaps been more intimately connected with the late Hon. Mr. Veniot than I happened to be during the last twenty-five years. In 1912, I had the honour of being chosen to assist him in his capacity of organizer of the political party to which we both had pledged our allegiance, in New Brunswick. In 1917, I sat with him in the New Brunswick legislature; in 1921, I became his colleague in the government of that province; from 1923 to 1925, I served under him in the same government; in 1934, again I became his colleague in the House of Commons, and finally, in 1935, I succeeded him in the dominion government as the representative of the province of New Brunswick.

A few moments ago, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) said that the main characteristic of that worthy colleague of ours was his courage, and if I take the liberty of making these few remarks in my own language which was also the mother tongue of the late Mr. Veniot, it is in order to point out the spirit with which he made it his duty to regain that very French language which was his own, in spite of his environment and the fact that he had to acquire his primary education in a province where he could not learn the French language.

At the age of twenty-one years Hon. Mr. Veniot, who wished to devote himself to the social and economic re-establishment of his Acadian compatriots, realized that it was necessary for him to recover his mother tongue, and although he was compelled to fight for a living and to learn a trade, he devoted himself to the study of the French language and learned it sufficiently well to become the undisputed leader of his Acadian fellow citizens during the last forty years of his life.

Hon. Mr. Veniot was a patriot in the fullest acceptation of the word; he was truly a Canadian. He had the honour of being prime minister of his province and during the few years that he led the government of New Brunswick it may be said that the impression which he made on public affairs in that province was all to his credit. He promoted primary education, he organized technical schools, he initiated the Workmen's Compensation Act, and also legislation with regard to health, roads, hydro electric services, in a word everything that could make for the economic and social revival of those whom he was leading. He had a firm will, and his conception of duty did not stop at sacrifice. He well deserves to have his

memory honoured by his own Acadian compatriots as well as by his fellow citizens in Canada, that larger homeland which he considered as his own.

Mr. Speaker, I deem it a great privilege to associate myself with those, who a few moments ago, spoke so highly of him, and to say how much we owe to that great Canadian who will surely rank some time in the future among the men who have done much for their country.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is almost unnecessary to say that hon. members in this section of the house desire to join with other hon. members in paying our respects to the memory of those who have passed from us, and expressing our sympathy with the immediate friends and relatives.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ACCESSION OF KING GEORGE VI—DEBATE ON SPECIAL ORDER

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called, may I say a word with reference to the appearance on the order paper of the special order in the following terms:

That an humble address be presented to His Majesty King George VI, extending the greetings of the members of this house upon His Majesty's accession to the throne, and conveying to His Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen the assurance of their loyalty and support.

Hon. members will recall that yesterday when I asked for unanimous consent to proceed with the resolution to-day the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) took exception to my so doing. After what I said in reply to the hon. member I thought he had agreed to allow the motion to be made, but he told me after adjournment last night that you, Mr. Speaker, had misunderstood his intention in the matter, and that in reality he intended to press his objection. I mentioned to the member for Winnipeg North Centre that I thought hon. members generally believed he had consented to the order being proceeded with. Moreover I drew his attention to the fact that if we did not proceed to-day with the resolution we could not deal with it until after the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne has taken place, because of the house having agreed to give it precedence on Monday. I pointed out, further, that if the resolution were not proceeded with until after we had discussed the bill respecting the law touching the succession, it might be some time