

took part. He was a genial man likewise, possessed of a very friendly disposition and enjoyed doing a good turn for others. During the latter years of his life he was an invalid, and was obliged to spend most of his time abroad. But Canada was his country by adoption, and it was the country of his affection likewise. He came to Canada in his youth, and it was here he acquired his wealth and his honours. I take a special interest in referring to him because such was his feeling in regard to this country that he gave his life for the purpose of visiting once more his home here and his family. Other hon. gentlemen will be able to say more of him than I can. I should not have done justice to my feelings without saying this much in reference to the Hon. Sir David Macpherson.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The painful duty which has been discharged by the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, is one which has devolved upon me every session since I have had the honour of a seat in the Senate. It is a painful duty when we have to refer to those with whom we have been so intimately associated as I have been for over half a century with one of the gentlemen to whom reference has been made, I mean the Hon. Robert Read. It was my good fortune, as a young man, when he first came to Canada, so long ago as 1836, to form his acquaintance. At that period of life he was all that the hon. leader of the House has said in reference to his character. He was one of those men who was always ready and willing, as far as his means would permit, to assist not only his own countrymen, but everyone who came in contact with him and who required assistance. I need scarcely say to the gentlemen in this Senate who have occupied seats here for a number of years and have had the pleasure of his acquaintance and association, that he was one of those rare men whose word was his bond, knowing no nationality or creed when he was called upon to aid his fellow men. He was strong and firm in his convictions—just what the hon. gentleman has said, one of those politicians who never swerved, believing, as he did, that the policy of the party with which he was allied was most beneficial to the country. I think it is a good trait in the character of the human race that when those with whom we have associated and whom we have learned to

respect pass away, no matter what their individual opinions may have been politically or religiously, that we can speak of them in terms such as we have heard to-night. No man in Canada will miss the Hon. Robert Read more than I shall. He was a firm, consistent and devoted friend of mine, personally and politically, and I think I can safely say it will be a long time before I shall meet another in whom I can place the same confidence and for whom I can have greater respect. I was familiar with his rise and progress in business and in his social relations with the section of the country where he lived; and I know the great influence which he possessed. It was proved by the success which attended his first entrance into public life, in 1862, when he ran in the Quinté Division for a seat in the Legislative Council. At Confederation, as was well known to those who were in public life at that day and those acquainted with the history of this country, there was an agreement entered into that there should be in the Senate an equal division of seats between the two parties. The Conservatives having then, as they have now, a large majority in the Legislative Council, Mr. Read placed his seat at the disposal of the then leader of the party, Sir John Macdonald, telling him that he could select whom he pleased. All he wanted to know was whether he was to be one of the selected or to be left out. I remember, when he went to visit Sir John Macdonald at the time, he told him that if his seat in the Senate was wanted, he would contest one of the ridings in the County of Hastings; Sir John Macdonald thanked him for his kind offer, and he at once announced himself a candidate for East Hastings, which he carried by six or seven hundred majority. He had an influence the result of stern integrity and a level head. He was a man who was not only capable, but formed independent opinions on all questions which came before the country and took that side which seemed to him to be in the interests of Canada as a whole. Like Sir David Macpherson, Canada was the home of his adoption. An Englishman by birth and Canadian by adoption, he was a British subject under all circumstances. In reference to Sir David Macpherson, I had not the same personal acquaintance with him that I had with the Hon. Robert Read, but it was my good fortune to have sat in the