

*The late Mr. Goodison*

drawn the attention of hon. members of this house to the vacancies which have arisen in its membership since the last session of parliament. Of the number, one has been occasioned by the hand of death. The constituency of West Lambton was represented in the last two sessions of this parliament and in the previous parliament by Mr. W. T. Goodison of Sarnia, Ontario. Mr. Goodison's place in the representation of that constituency is filled to-day by a new member who has just been introduced.

Before we enter upon the duties of the session it will be the wish of all present that some expression should be given to the loss which we have sustained in the death of the one who has been taken from our midst, and that to Mrs. Goodison and to her son and daughter there should go from this house an expression of the sympathy which, by all its members, is felt for them in their great bereavement.

It not infrequently happens, especially with men of unassuming and unobtrusive ways, that we come to know the extent of their public service and the degree to which their lives have become a part of the communities in which they live only when we witness the void which their passing creates. This was particularly true of our late friend, whose great modesty and retiring disposition served to conceal a wealth of service to a variety of interests that might well be the envy of any man in public life. Indeed, so much was this the case with Mr. Goodison that, with profit to ourselves, and honour to our parliament, we might well pause to consider how many-sided his activities were, and how deep-rooted were the associations which made him an integral part of the community in which he lived and which he served so well.

Mr. Goodison was born at Strathroy, Ontario, on February 18, 1878; he died on the 3rd of December of last year. In the brief period of little more than fifty years, he had come to be identified with most of the important interests of the community in which he lived, and of the constituency he represented in this parliament.

Most of Mr. Goodison's life was spent in Sarnia, the county town of West Lambton. Shortly after graduating as a barrister from Osgoode Hall, Toronto, he became the president and manager of the John Goodison Thresher Company, Limited, an industry intimately associated with the manufacturing and agricultural interests of western Ontario. With the advancement of both those interests, the latter half of his life was closely identified. To the activities incidental to his interests

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

as an industrialist he added many of the activities of an agriculturist. He was known as a successful farmer. He had a special interest in live stock, was the owner of a large stock farm and a racing stable. He was closely identified with the business and commercial life of Sarnia, and with its educational work. He was president of the Industrial Mortgage & Savings Association of Sarnia, a director of the Ontario Commercial Travellers Association, of the Sarnia chamber of commerce, and chairman of the Sarnia board of education, as well as chairman of its building committee. The present collegiate institute and technical school at Sarnia, one of the finest of its class in Ontario, is generally referred to as a monument to his breadth of vision and business acumen. He was not less closely associated with the work of the church to which he belonged.

There was something even finer about Mr. Goodison than this record of service and achievement, splendid as it is. It was the nature of the man himself. He was one of the most sincere, most upright and most lovable of men. There was nothing assertive or ostentatious about him, indeed he was the very embodiment of modesty and humility. As I heard an intimate personal friend say of him, "His simplicity of character was really alluring." It mattered little to what walk of life a man belonged, no one could long be associated with him in any pursuit without becoming conscious of a sympathy which helps to make all the world akin.

It is not a matter of surprise that one of so great experience, so wide a range of interests, and possessed of so sterling a character should have found his way into parliament, as the representative of the community with which his many activities were so intimately identified, and that in the brief period of his membership in this house, he should have won so completely the confidence of the men of his own party, and the good will and admiration of hon. members opposite.

Mr. Goodison was first returned to parliament at the general elections of 1925. He was again returned at the general elections which took place in the following year. His membership in the commons was, therefore, of little more than three years duration, but in that brief space of time he had come to be recognized as one who held a foremost position in the councils of the political party to which he belonged and in this parliament. I need not recount his endeavors here on behalf of his constituency and in the pursuance of the principles and policies he upheld. They are known to us all and have found more