

had been in parliament during two or more parliaments, and occupied seats in this house for eight or more years. In the case of one, there was a membership of eleven years, and of another of thirteen. All for a much longer period of time had been active, and had participated in many party conflicts. It can be said that, without exception, each had given a considerable part of his life to public service in one representative position or another, and that each occupied a very prominent position in the affairs of his party in his native province, and, one of the number, a quite exceptional position in the public and business life of the dominion.

It is not without significance that the Angel of Death, in his flight over the membership of this house, should have been no more the respecter of provinces, than of persons. We meet to-day under the shadow that his wing has cast across the sea-girt provinces of the east, the highly industrialized central provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the prairie provinces of the great west.

Of the four, to whose memories we would pay our humble tribute before entering upon the duties and controversies of the session, three were members of the Conservative party and have been taken from the ranks of hon. gentlemen opposite. I hasten to express to the Prime Minister, as he has kindly done to me, my deep sympathy for him in the loss which he has sustained in the passing of so many loyal and able colleagues, and that sympathy I should like to extend upon behalf of the entire official opposition to all hon. members of his party in what is also their loss. To them the loss is political as well as personal. We on this side who enjoyed in greater or less measure the friendships of one or other or of all three, will share what they experience of personal loss; and we are glad to join in the tribute deservedly paid by the Prime Minister to their public service and achievements.

What that service has been, and what these accomplishments were, you have already heard in part. I shall not attempt to repeat the record. With respect to each of the late members I should, however, like to add just a word.

As the Prime Minister has said, the late member for Halifax, in point of years though not of membership in the house, enjoyed, at the time of his death, the distinction of being Canada's oldest commoner. It was a distinction of which anyone might be justly proud. It was something more than a distinction where, as in the case of the Hon.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

William A. Black, it crowned a life that already was full of years, and full of wide and varied disinterested public service.

In these days, when many are beginning to lose their respect for years, and the experience and wisdom which comes with years, it is worth while to recall that it was at the age of 76 that Mr. Black entered federal politics; that, between the ages of 76 and 86, when he died, he had participated in no less than four political contests, three of them general campaigns, and been returned four times as a member of parliament, and that, until his days on earth were ended, he never ceased to be active in the affairs of his party and the country, and never ceased to enjoy the admiration and great regard of members of all political parties in the house.

The late member for Long Lake, Doctor Walter D. Cowan, was scarcely less of an example of high and persistent endeavour. It was not because of labour continued to a great age, though he lived and remained remarkably active up to the age of 68, but because of the fortitude with which, after many years of unselfish service in a variety of directions, he bore one handicap after another in his determination not to permit bodily suffering or infirmity to conquer a spirit devoted to public service and the well-being of his fellowmen. And it was not his fortitude only, and his persistence that were so praiseworthy, but the cheerfulness with which everything in the nature of misfortune or suffering was borne. It never embittered, but if anything softened his nature. I share in all that the Prime Minister has said so feelingly about the late member for Long Lake.

Dr. Cowan knew that most of us on this side had a cordial dislike for some aspects of his politics, and enjoyed provoking him at times into a retort, but he knew equally that this was in order to have the benefit of his quick repartee and that we were always appreciative of his unfailing and kindly humour. We shall all much miss the spontaneous and original wit with which at times he enlivened the debates of the house, and I for one shall much miss the doctor himself.

I was not as well acquainted with the late member for East Algoma, Mr. George B. Nicholson, as with Mr. Black and Dr. Cowan, and therefore cannot speak as intimately of his personal qualities. I believe, however, that those who knew him well were strong in their admiration of his zealous concern for his party's interests; and of a zeal no less great for the well-being of those whose interests he sought to serve in parliament. He began his life in the work of railway construction, and