

Tributes to Deceased Members

privilege to listen to in the almost eight years I have had a seat in this house. It was always a joy to listen to him and to hear the musical resonance of his striking phrases.

I am sure hon. members agree that it was not improper that I should depart from the usual custom and, for them as well as for myself, offer our sincere condolences to his young widow, who had enjoyed only two years of marital bliss with our late lamented friend.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in the appropriate expressions of sympathy which the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has voiced on behalf of the members of this house in regard to the death of two of the members-elect and of one other colleague who had sat here for so long.

I should like to say something about the member-elect for Toronto Greenwood, Mr. McMillin, because naturally we on this side of the house were personally associated with him. I know that his widow and his daughter will appreciate what has been said here of the regret felt by the whole house at his decease.

It was particularly tragic that a man who had just been honoured by election to this house, and was looking forward very much to taking his place here—as his family were—should have died so short a time and so unexpectedly before this house met. Like other hon. members who sat in this house and whose names have been mentioned, he had a long record of public service in his own community. In his family, service to the public was a tradition. He had been brought up in a home where the idea of public service was natural. His father was mayor of the town of East Toronto before East Toronto was amalgamated with the city. From the time he was a very young man Mr. Ernest McMillin had taken an extremely active part in everything that was in the interest of the community in which he lived. He was particularly interested in the young people with whom his work was always associated. In his business career he followed in the footsteps of his father. He was engaged in the extremely important occupation of building houses and other structures of that kind, and at the time of his death was extensively engaged in that work. He was for many years a member of the Toronto board of education, and was regarded as its financial adviser.

I mention these things because they are the qualifications which he would have brought

to this house. He also took a very great part in the activities of the Toronto East General hospital. The special interests that he had in the nurses' training school there resulted in the training of a large number of young women at a time when they were so greatly needed. I believe an hon. member who was most closely associated with him will have something to say in that regard. But I know that his work was very important, and that he had arranged scholarships for these young nurses, which has encouraged greatly the entry of young women into this useful work.

I join with the Prime Minister, as I know all hon. members do, in expressing our sincere sympathy to his widow and to his daughter, and the regret we all share that he should have been deprived of the opportunity of carrying forward that public service.

The Prime Minister has spoken of the career of Mr. Benoit Michaud, and the tragedy that a young man of such great brilliance and such wide attainments should have been lost to this house by death. All hon. members who were here earlier in the year know that he had been ill at that time. He displayed considerable courage in continuing his service in the house, and equal courage in contesting the election, knowing that his health was not good. In mentioning Mr. Michaud's wide field of attainments the Prime Minister indicated the basis of the type of public service which he was capable of giving. Not only is it a great loss to his associates, to his family, and to those who had chosen him in their own community to serve in their behalf; it is a tragedy to Canada as well that the services of this man have been lost.

I join with the Prime Minister in expressions of sympathy and regret in the death of Senator Ian Mackenzie. The Prime Minister has fully covered the wide and varied career of a very colourful man who so long sat in this House of Commons. He never at any time permitted anyone to forget where he had been born, and he at all times showed his pride in the place of his birth; but having gone to live in British Columbia he was no less insistent that everyone he met should appreciate the outstanding qualities of that part of Canada in which he had chosen to live. That characteristic is in itself one of the things that enrich the whole life of our country. Therefore on behalf of those with whom I am associated in this house I join in expressing our regret that these men should have been lost to the public service of Canada by death. I also join in the message of sympathy to their families who mourn their loss.