

sitting, discussing the welfare of one of his constituents. The solicitude which Mr. Perras felt for those who applied to him for help was characteristic of the man. It explains, in large manner, the hold he had on the affections of the people of his constituency.

Mr. Perras was born in Hull, Quebec, in 1876. He received his early education in a primary school of Hull and was a graduate of Ottawa university. His business and political interests were for the most part identified with the county of Wright, his native county. For a time he was mayor of the municipality of Gracefield, where he subsequently resided, and was warden of the county.

Mr. Perras was elected to parliament as the member for Wright in 1925 and was returned at the general elections of 1926, 1930 and 1935, each time with an increased majority. In this house Mr. Perras did not take much part in political discussions, though when he spoke he was equally fluent in either the French or the English language. He took however a considerable part in the work of the committees, and he enjoyed a close friendship with members on all sides of the house. Few members have been more zealous in the manner in which they have sought to serve the interests of their constituents, and it is not surprising the electors of Wright county gave to their representative the increasing measure of confidence which Mr. Perras enjoyed. I know that members of the Liberal party will greatly deplore his loss, for both in and out of parliament he was a loyal supporter and advocate of the party's principles. To me he was always a loyal supporter and a true friend. May I say that, irrespective of party, I am sure his passing will be deeply felt by hon. members generally.

Only a few days had elapsed after Mr. Perras' death when word was received of the death of the Hon. Peter Veniot, a former colleague in the government, and one who was a very close personal friend. Mr. Veniot's death cannot be said to have been altogether unexpected. All will recall how during the last session, despite great pain at times, suffering as he did from a malady which was incurable, and which he must have known to be so, he continued to keep his place at his desk and to participate in the debates in this house. He did so until, no longer able to bear the strain, he was removed to a hospital in Montreal, and subsequently to his home in Bathurst, where very soon he had to give up all thought of further activity in public affairs. His courage was a very part of him, and was nowhere better exemplified than in the brave

and patient manner in which he faced death. It was on July 6 that at the age of 72 Mr. Veniot passed away in his home at Bathurst, New Brunswick, the town which for some forty years had been the centre of his personal, business and political activities.

I hardly need to review Mr. Veniot's public career. It was a distinguished career well known to hon. members of this house and scarcely less so in all parts of our country; for he had been a minister in the government of his province—Minister of Public Works—and also premier of the province of New Brunswick; and for some years he was Postmaster General in the government of Canada. It might, however, be well to recall that Mr. Veniot was for the most part a self-educated and self-made man. He was one of the few remaining members of parliament who were born prior to the date of confederation, having been born at Richibucto in 1863. His early education was obtained at the Pictou Academy, Nova Scotia. His first association with public affairs came as owner and editor of an Acadian weekly newspaper in the maritimes. He was elected to the New Brunswick legislature in 1894. After a few years in the legislature he became collector of customs at Bathurst, which position he occupied for a little over ten years. It was in 1917 that he became Minister of Public Works in the government of New Brunswick, and from that time on until the end of his life, he was continuously in the legislature or parliament.

Mr. Veniot's personal characteristics will be much in the minds of all who are present here. Outstanding, as I have already said, was his courage and, born of deep conviction, a fearlessness with which at all times he was prepared to express his views. He belonged to the old school of political fighters who rather enjoy the rough and tumble of politics. He was one of the most vigorous in party contests. At times he was given to striking hard blows, but he was always equally prepared to receive them. He did not, however, cherish bitter feelings towards his opponents. As an administrator he was most industrious and efficient. He worked tirelessly in whatever office he held.

With Mr. Veniot I personally enjoyed a very close association, and I confess that his passing has left a blank in my life. When it came to the formation of the present ministry, a year or two ago, it was a source of disappointment both to him and to myself that we were both obliged to recognize that having passed the age of three score years and ten, with health somewhat impaired, it seemed inadvisable for him, either in his