

tered this Parliament. He is the first member of the Parliament of Canada who has made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of liberty and justice, the cause for which this Empire is fighting in this war. He came of a family that had great traditions in public life. His grandfather was in the Legislature of the province of Quebec as far back as 1834. His father had a service of no less than twenty-five years in this Parliament, and, I believe, of nine years in the Legislature of the province of Quebec. Lieutenant-Colonel Baker came into this Parliament in 1911. His voice was not very often heard here, but, knowing him well, I had the warmest appreciation, not only of his character and ability, but of the great promise which he gave of usefulness in the future public life of this country. I do not think it is too much to say that there is no place in the public life of Canada to which, if he had been spared to serve his country in this Parliament, George Harold Baker might not have aspired. I remember very well, when he spoke to me about his offer of military service, the over-mastering sense of duty to his country which he evinced. I remember well my conviction that it was not possible for me to interpose any objection in the face of such a sense of duty as that which possessed him. He took up his work in a characteristic way. He knew the necessity of absolute thoroughness of training, and he searched not only Canada, but the other side of the Atlantic, and even India, to have associated with him a man who could undertake duties for which we believed himself not adapted by previous training and experience. He went to the front. I remember that shortly before he left I had the privilege of making him acquainted with a very distinguished American gentleman who was on a visit to Ottawa at that time. This gentleman, after conversing with Lieutenant-Colonel Baker for a short time, said to me, "If your Canadian officers and men are of the type of that man I do not wonder at the splendid record that they have made at the front." We know of the splendid spirit and magnificent courage and patriotism that have animated, and still animate, the men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force; but I venture to think that no finer spirit, no truer patriot, no man of more brilliant promise, ever left the shores of Canada to make the supreme sacrifice beyond the seas than George Harold Baker. Somewhere in France is his grave. I believe that in the House, as in the country, all who knew him mourn his loss. I feel that in him the country

[Sir Robert Borden.]

has lost a man of the highest possible promise in public life, and personally I know that I have lost not only a loyal follower, who was most truly an encouragement and a support to me on many difficult occasions, but one of the most valued intimate friends I have ever known since I entered public life.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with every word which has been spoken by my right hon. friend with respect to the four colleagues whose loss we mourn. My right hon. friend has spoken fittingly of them, especially of his colleague the late lamented Postmaster-General. Mr. Casgrain was not long enough in this present Parliament to give to it his full measure of strength. His health was not good, and it was noticeable to all who had known him formerly, and especially during last session, that perhaps we might anticipate what has occurred. Everything that my right hon. friend has said of Mr. Casgrain is perfectly true. He was, as those who knew him in a former Parliament know, a very able member; and those who knew him before he came to Parliament know that he was not only a very able man, but just as courageous as he was able, and as fair in debate and in political combat as he was courageous. I have known him personally since he was a law student. I met him when he had been called to the bar, and afterwards, when he had entered politics. It was my lot to meet him upon many platforms and in very hot contests, at a time when the political atmosphere was rather charged with electricity, and I am proud to remember at this date, now that he is no more, that not a single offensive word ever passed between us; nor did I ever hear such a word used by him. I may say further that, though we were opposed on almost every question, there was always between us what I will not call an intimate, but a very strong friendship.

With regard to the late Mr. Lovell and the late Mr. Gray, one sitting on one side of the House and one on the other, both seemed to me to be of very much the same character; men unobtrusive in this House, but endowed both with a very high sense of honour and strong common sense, and upon whose judgment the leader of the party could always depend for solid advice.

As to Lt.-Col. Baker, it was not my privilege to meet him except on the floor of this House, but it was my privilege to meet his father, whom I knew very intimately in the province of Quebec, and in this House