

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved:

That pursuant to Rule 77 the following senators, to wit: Honourable Senators Beaubien, Buchanan, Dandurand, Graham, Horsey, Sharpe, Tanner, White (Pembroke) and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate senators to serve on the several standing committees during the present session, and to report with all convenient speed the names of the senators so nominated.

The motion was agreed to.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED SENATORS

THE LATE SENATORS PARADIS, TESSIER,
STANFIELD, FISHER, POIRIER, BEIQUE
AND ROBERTSON

Before the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable senators, the experience of recurring sessions has taught us all that when we part, in the early summer, we can never expect to assemble again the same body of men. Always one or more of our number, as though by inexorable mathematical decree, has in the interval passed from the scene of this life. Rarely, if ever, in the long record of this House, has there been a session when the list of our associates whom we were called upon to lament because of the ruthless hand of death has been so formidable as that which now presents itself. The roll has stretched to seven. The names of each and all, as we recall them, evoke memories of happy associations and personal affections, and a sense of indebtedness to those who are gone, for services rendered their fellows. This time, as too often happens, the roll includes some of the most useful and active of our citizens and the most eminent of our public men.

We had scarcely prorogued when Senator Paradis, in failing health for some time, after sixty-five years of a crowded and active life, surrendered to that power which ultimately must conquer all. The history of his public services in the province of Quebec is a long and creditable one. His activities were mainly in the field of industry, where his efforts and enterprise helped to enlarge the scope of the industrial life of his province and to add to the number of occupations available for her working men. He held a long succession of public offices of a kind which enabled him to do real and useful work for the benefit of the province that he loved; and he was always characterized by a desire for quiet achievement rather than for the light and glare of high political combat. He passed from among us conscious that all his many tasks had been well done.

Senator Tessier was longer in this House, and was amongst the oldest of our number. Without his cheerful, vigorous and wholesome countenance opposite, this hardly looks like the same assembly. He was a barrister by profession, but also gave of his time to industrial pursuits. In the sphere of his own profession he was prominent mostly as a writer, a critic and an authoritative counsellor. It is almost three decades since his appointment to the Senate. During that time he engaged in many other activities. Only about ten weeks ago—it seems less than that—I met him on a street of Quebec, buoyant and hopeful, and looking well. It is sad indeed that a colleague, even at his advanced age, should have to part from the scene of his toil and his joys, to be one of our number no more.

Only a few days ago we were shocked by news of the death of Senator Stanfield. He was one of those who took but a small part in what might be called the vulgar controversies of public affairs. He was interested in industry more than in politics, and the names of John Stanfield and his late brother Frank stand high, and for years will continue to stand high, among those of the great industrialists of the Maritime Provinces. The senator's fine and wholesome domestic relations, his kindness of character and his high sense of public duty commended him to his fellows, and I know that on all sides, in every part of Canada, many will mourn because he can be with us no longer.

I come now to the province of Ontario. For sixteen years John Henry Fisher sat as one of the twenty-four members of this House from the premier province. Senator Fisher was an illustration of what a man can accomplish by the charm of his personality. He was not an aggressive individualist, nor an ambitious public figure. I am not assuming that he had not much above the ordinary in the way of equipment for such a part, but he seemed to achieve his triumphs by virtue of the kindness and fascination of his character. Starting some thirty years ago, he became a councillor in his native town, a reeve, a mayor; then warden of his county, member of the Provincial Legislature, member of the Commons, and lastly a member of this House. I believe I am right in saying that through that long period he never suffered a single defeat; and those of us who knew him can well understand how much can be accomplished by that most useful of all attributes for success in democracy—a fine character and a charming personality.

Senator Poirier spent almost forty-nine years in this House. At the age of thirty he was