

in an effort to maintain the principles of British jurisprudence that have come down through an untold number of years to this day. Some of the members of the Saskatchewan Bar were only beginning practice, and it devolved upon the leaders in that new field to direct them in accordance with the highest principles.

We always listened attentively to the opinions expressed by Senator Willoughby in this House and in committees. We were grieved indeed to observe the decline of his health during the days of last session. His departure from our midst is a great loss to this Chamber and to the country.

Senator Belcourt, as my right honourable friend has said, was born in the city of Toronto and educated in the Province of Quebec. He was my companion at the university, and we were both called to the Bar of Montreal at about the same time. I can still see him coming in to tell me he had decided to establish himself on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River, in a community where, although some lawyers from across the river had offices there, no French lawyer had ever practised at the Bar. The first thing he did was to go to Toronto to qualify himself as an Ontario barrister, and it was not long before his legal acumen and sound judgment brought him a considerable practice.

I will not emphasize the role played by Senator Belcourt in the House of Commons. My right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) was a witness of that. All I will say is that he showed there, as he has shown here, indomitable courage and tenacity. He was ailing all his life; hemorrhages laid him low, and often he faced death; but he defied it, because, as he told me more than once, his responsibilities were so great that he must not die, and he continued to live because the time had not come for his departure.

When Regulation 17, to which my right honourable friend has alluded, was enacted in the Province of Ontario, Senator Belcourt became the leader of his compatriots. For seventeen years he fought against it relentlessly and aggressively, in public, on the platform and at the Bar, and retired from the fight only after he had succeeded in securing the formation of the Unity League of Toronto, an organization composed of influential and intellectual men in that city who took up the cudgels on behalf of the minority. As adviser, Senator Belcourt corresponded with them and with the Prime Minister of Ontario, and finally he saw the day when the fight was won. He was actuated throughout by the conviction that he was right, and conducted

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himself, as my right honourable friend has said, in such a way as not to hurt the feelings of anyone.

As President of the Canadian Group of the Interparliamentary Union he attended many meetings in Europe. In 1925, with my honourable friend from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien), after attending the meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in Washington, he took charge of the hundreds of delegates assembled there, from many parts of the world, brought them on a visit to Canada, and succeeded in convincing them that Canada was really a glorious country to live in, and Canadians were ideal hosts.

During the War he was a member of the delegation of parliamentarians who went to Europe. They chose him as their spokesman at the Elysée, Paris, before the President of the French Republic, who has since remarked more than once that Senator Belcourt's speech was one to be long remembered. He attended the London Conference of 1924, where a reparations settlement was made—I will not say it was a final settlement, because I am not quite sure that the Dawes Plan is considered final—and there too he did honour to Canada and to himself.

I join with my right honourable friend in expressing the sympathy of this Chamber to our late colleague's devoted family, all the members of which are dear to us.

Hon. GUSTAVE LACASSE (Translation): Honourable members, I desire to join the senators who have preceded me in honouring the memory of our colleagues who since last session have left us for ever, and to lay a tribute of profound regret and heartfelt sympathy upon a tomb that is particularly dear to me, the tomb of one who was the dean of the senators from my province.

It is needless for me to repeat the eloquent words that have been spoken of him by the honourable leaders of the House.

I have not the honour of belonging to Senator Belcourt's "generation," to that galaxy of eminent men, himself among the number, who rose steadily and rapidly in the public life of our country, and most of whom, thank God, are still with us. But I had the privilege of sharing certain responsibilities and duties with our departed colleague and of being associated with his labours in a sphere of action involving the destiny of the French race outside the Province of Quebec; and in return for his confidence and friendship I gave him my affection and placed at his disposal my absolute loyalty. To this Chamber, composed as it is of members who have themselves on many occasions appreciated Senator Belcourt's