

in his books of record in terms such as this: "The man with the grey overalls." Some service had been rendered to that man, but the entry had been made as I have indicated so that by no chance could his personal representatives after his decease determine the name of the debtor or endeavour to secure payment of the outstanding account. That I believe is typical of the man. He was warm hearted and conscientious, he was a good citizen and one who occupied a very important position in the dental profession of our country. The late Doctor Cowan will be mourned by a very wide circle of friends in the communities in which he had lived. I suppose it is within the knowledge of hon members that when he lost the devoted companion of many years of his life he ceased to take a great interest in public affairs, and I am quite certain the death of his wife hastened his own demise.

The last of our members to leave us was George Brecken Nicholson, the late member for the constituency of East Algoma. Born in Prince Edward Island, early in life the late Mr. Nicholson came to what was then called the western part of Canada. In those days any part of the country beyond the northern boundaries of New Brunswick was known as Canada West. He had been associated with the building of a section of the Canadian Pacific railway, and had always been proud of the fact that he continued to carry his union card. I believe that for a short period he was a fireman, and rejoiced in the fact that he retained his standing in the union organization. The late member was deeply interested in the growth of the community in which he lived, namely, the town of Chapleau. His business expanded to the point where in the latter days of his life he controlled a very large enterprise employing great numbers of men. He was a man I think at times much misunderstood. He was blunt of speech, strong in his convictions, determined in his ways, those who knew him and lived in the community in which he resided or in the district which he represented always spoke of him in warm and kindly terms. I recall reading in an Ottawa newspaper a letter from a correspondent written after he had passed, and I thought then, as I still think, that if any of those who knew us could speak in terms such as that correspondent used, we must indeed have been something out of the ordinary to warrant it. In public affairs Mr. Nicholson was, of course, deeply interested. He was a strong adherent of the church of his choice and took a very active part in organizing many funds which will

long ensure his being remembered. In this house he took a fair part in debates, and expressed himself in terms as strong as were warranted by the convictions which he held. To those of us who sit on the right, news of his death brought to us a sense of real, personal sorrow. I might add that in the last conversation I had with him, only a few days before he passed to the great beyond, he was discussing a means by which he could better serve the country and assist the party to which he belonged.

I cannot take my place without indicating that one of the saddest circumstances connected with the office of the Prime Minister is that year after year as we gather here we realize how great the mortality is amongst our members. I think that since we were elected we have lost twelve members of this house—that is my recollection—out of 245, a rather large number. It reminds us not only of the uncertainty of life but also, and especially in view of the fact that at least one of them was a fairly young man who was called suddenly, that members of parliament are subject, it seems to me, to perhaps a higher mortality than a similar number of men engaged in the ordinary vocations of life.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to convey to those who mourn, the sympathy of this house in their great bereavement, and I am sure that I voice the sentiments not of a party but of all of us when I say we deeply regret the passing of our colleagues and hope that they have passed to a reward which is not dependent upon popular favour.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has just referred in feeling terms to the extent of the mortality of the membership of this house. He has mentioned that in the course of the present parliament no less than twelve members have been taken from our midst. His remarks come with added emphasis when we recall that no fewer than four of that number have been taken away in the short time that has elapsed since the prorogation of this house in July last. I am sure that none of us assembled here at that time ever thought that there would be owing to death such a number of vacancies in the membership of this House of Commons when parliament reassembled. I do not remember a year when the house in the interval between sessions suffered so large a loss in its membership.

It is, I think, worthy of note that all of those who have been taken were members for a considerable period of time. All four