

that in general our references to the passing of others than our own members should be few, but I heartily agree that this is one instance when we should say something. Though not as familiar with Mr. King as the leader of the government was, I have had the pleasure of knowing every Canadian prime minister since the time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who himself was one of our great statesmen. The holders of that high office have been, in turn, Sir Robert Borden, the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, then Mr. King again, until the time of his retirement, when the present Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Louis S. St. Laurent, took over.

Prior to coming to the Senate I had been a member of a provincial legislature, but not of the House of Commons, and therefore had had no opportunity of becoming familiar with the outstanding figures in that house. However, I was not long here before feeling the dominant influence exercised by Mr. King. During the fifteen years that I had an opportunity to observe his work, I saw that he created in parliament a unity that was striking for this country. There were violent differences of opinion as to his policies, yet no matter how widely one disagreed with him one felt that he believed in the policies he was advocating.

I prize very highly my associations with Mr. King over the period of fifteen years. As an ordinary member, and later in the position which I now hold, with the duty of representing in my feeble way the policy of my party, I at times considered it necessary to criticize legislation introduced by Mr. King's government; but nothing that I ever said made the slightest difference in the personal relations that existed between us during all those years. I saw him when he made his last public appearance; it was at the Country Club, on the occasion of the dinner to the British Empire Press party; and I knew at that time that the end was near. When I came up to him he greeted me in the old university style, "Hello, Haig! How are you?" Now he has passed on. History will establish his place among the prime ministers of this country, and I am persuaded that it will be a very high one. Personal animosities that have existed from time to time will disappear and his true worth will be known.

Speaking on behalf of my party, as well as for myself, I am glad of the opportunity to pay this word of tribute. I hope that Mr. King's nephews will ever remember his splendid service to our country. He seemed to have devoted his whole life to that service, for apparently in his university days he was

training himself for public life. It would be a wonderful thing for Canada if more of our young people, especially our young men in the universities, were to dedicate themselves to public careers in this country.

Mr. King held the office of prime minister longer than any other man in the British Commonwealth. He was very highly regarded, and we here can all say that we have had the privilege of knowing a truly great Canadian.

**Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck:** Honourable senators, there are in this chamber former members of Mr. King's cabinet—some of them much older than I—who should perhaps take precedence over me in paying tribute to his recent passing, and so I paused for a moment to see if any others were about to rise.

I knew the late Mr. King for many years. I had the honour to be present as one of his supporters at the great convention of 1919, when he was elected leader of the Liberal party. As early as 1912, I remember attending a convention called for the selection of a leader of the party in the province of Ontario. I held up the convention for a half a day or more in a futile endeavour to have an invitation sent to a young man who, in 1908, had been elected to the House of Commons as member for Waterloo.

**Hon. Mr. Euler:** North Waterloo.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Yes, North Waterloo.

Looking back with the knowledge we have today, one can see what a mistake it would have been to have appointed Mr. King party leader in Ontario at that time. Such a move might have robbed Canada of the greatest prime minister she has ever had.

Since his appointment as party leader, I watched Mr. King's career with infinite satisfaction, and noted his success, his sterling qualities and his truth. He was always on the side of liberty and freedom. As the poet Pope said, "the proper study of mankind is man". Mr. Mackenzie King was an expert in the knowledge of men and in choosing the proper man for the right position. Furthermore, in his book he made the statement that over all is humanity; and throughout his entire life his policies followed the precept of putting the rights, privileges, and welfare of humanity above all other things.

Mr. King was a man of wide sympathies and a kindly attitude; he was an enigma to most people, he was so quiet and yet so efficient. At one time I set down in writing what I thought to be an analysis of William Lyon Mackenzie King and his success. I said at that time that there was nothing