

Death of Lord Aberdeen

while still a young man; he was not the elder son of his family but, owing to the death of the elder son, he became the Earl of Aberdeen. It was an old and historic title; it was associated with Canada because he was the ninth baronet of Nova Scotia. He took his duties in life seriously and when, at the age of 46, he came to this dominion as governor general he had, by application, fitted himself for the discharge of those great duties.

That he and the Countess of Aberdeen endeared themselves to the Canadian people I think is beyond question, and when he returned home on the termination of his services in this dominion he continued to be actively engaged in the public life of his country. Twice he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, for a few months in 1886 and for a period of ten years from 1905 to 1915. His great services there were rewarded by his sovereign by his being advanced a step in the peerage, to a marquise. He always identified himself with the interests of his church and was high commissioner of the Church of Scotland on more than one occasion. He was lord lieutenant of his county, and I suppose there is no member of this house who does not recall seeing in the Illustrated London News photographic reproductions of his reception of his sovereign, as lord lieutenant of the county, at the great Highland sports held from year to year. In later years he lived a quiet life; he was an author of some repute. Perhaps the Scots were better able to appreciate the humour of some of his anecdotes than were some of us who are Canadians, but his writings were very widely read and he was very well known in America by reason of some of the anecdotes he told of his experiences both in Canada and in the United States. He was a democratic peer, with a high sense of public duty and obligation. He discharged the duties of his great position in a manner worthy of the great traditions of a name that had given a prime minister to Great Britain. If I think it fitting, as I do, that we should record our realization of the way in which he discharged his duties here, I believe, although there is no precedent, that it is but right that in this parliament, if it be in session, when those who have served the state faithfully as representative of the Sovereign pass to their reward, we should pay some tribute to them, to their services, their worth and their work as they pass from us.

I trust, Mr. Speaker, that you will convey to the Marchioness of Aberdeen and her children the sympathy of this house in the great loss that she and they have sustained

[Mr. Bennett.]

in the passing of a devoted husband, a loving father and one who, by public service, greatly endeared himself to all who believe that service to the state is one of the duties and obligations of high position. I am reminded of words that I am sure pass through the minds of many of us when we contemplate service so great to this empire extending over more than four score years. I think we realize that in such service we have some explanation of the reason why, midst the falling of thrones and institutions, those of our empire continue to exist.

The glories of our blood and state
Are shadows, not substantial things,
There is no armour against fate,
Death lays his icy hand on kings.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Leader of the opposition): I rise to associate myself and hon. members on this side of the house with the felicitous tribute which has been paid by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) to the memory of the late Marquis of Aberdeen and Temair, who for five years held the high office of Governor General of this dominion. I should like to express my appreciation not only of the tribute the Prime Minister has paid but of his establishing the precedent of voicing, on behalf of parliament and the country, abiding remembrance of those who, as great public servants, have come to Canada from other parts of the British Empire and made worthy contributions to the history of our land. In this, I think the House of Commons will heartily concur.

To speak of Lord Aberdeen and to recall the fact that it is some forty years or more since he came to Canada as the representative of the crown, causes one to recognize that one is referring to a previous era in British history, the era of Queen Victoria and of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, an age which occupies a unique place in history. The lives of Lord and Lady Aberdeen were closely associated with those of the Gladstones, and the traditions of that time come naturally before our minds.

I suppose the most appropriate reference at the moment is to remind the house, as the Prime Minister has done, of what was said in our parliament of the late Lord Aberdeen on his return to England, after having spent his five years here. An address was moved in this house by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Minister of the day, in which Sir Wilfrid, on behalf of the House of Commons, expressed the warm appreciation felt by the people of Canada of the public services of both Lord and Lady Aberdeen, of the very acceptable manner in