

received a large measure of publicity in the newspapers, but in the room where the delegates assembled, the memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was still lingering on. Mr. Lapointe's great success among the delegates from all the provinces in his appeal on behalf of the present leader of the Liberal party was due to his insistence on having them select as leader of their party a man who had been faithful to Laurier, who had never betrayed him, who had followed him in defeat and who was ready to revive this tradition for the good of the party. In thus appealing to the memory of Laurier, Mr. Lapointe contributed more than anyone else to the election of the man who is to-day and, I hope, will long continue to be the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it was touching indeed to hear at St. Lin the Minister of Justice's last message to the people of Canada. It was a eulogy of the man who had been his chief, of the man he so greatly admired, of the man under whose orders he had served for fifteen years—seven years while the great leader was in power and eight years while the great leader was in opposition. It was his last message to the Canadian people. We must never, Sir, forget the memory of the man whose death has left such a void in this House of Commons. The reason why I sometimes followed Mr. Lapointe blindly is that I had confidence in his uprightness, in his integrity, in his absolute honesty.

During the touching ceremonies that took place on the occasion of the funeral, both in Quebec and Rivière-du-Loup, many things have been said; however, at Rivière-du-Loup, the old parish priest of St. Patrick, a venerable old man, gave expression to thoughts which I shall be allowed, I hope, to repeat at this moment. They were uttered while the remains of our lamented Minister of Justice lay in state in the mortuary chapel at the Rivière-du-Loup City Hall. During his Sunday sermon, Reverend Roy, parish priest of St. Patrick, Rivière-du-Loup, while inviting his parishioners to pray on the remains of the dear departed, added the following words: "He was an outstanding Canadian whose memory we should cherish and bequeath to our descendants. Go, my dear brethren, see him, show him to your children. For them, as for us, he will become a model of faith and enlightened patriotism."

Mr. Lapointe did not use dual arguments, one set for Quebec and a different one for the

other provinces. What he told our English-speaking fellow-citizens was identical to what he said to his French-speaking compatriots. Everywhere he used the same language and, my leader said so only a few moments ago, during the last general election, he visited the whole country, as far as Vancouver, where he supported one of my friends seated on the government side of the house, and the arguments he used in Vancouver were exactly the same as those he used in Quebec, Montreal or any other Canadian city.

Neither did he care for appeals to prejudice. He was far above all prejudice. While making himself respected, Ernest Lapointe was gaining respect for his compatriots, and that is the reason why his disappearance from the political scene is so keen a loss for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I frequently had occasion to discuss informally with Mr. Lapointe matters of public interest in which we were mutually concerned and I never feared to open my mind fully to him. I had no secrets from him. I spoke to him as if he had been an elder brother, and I was never rebuked by him. There have been, of course, periods that were very sad for him. He did not always succeed in bringing others to accept his views. But he always succeeded in commanding the respect of all his fellow-citizens, which is the finest tribute that can be paid to him.

Mr. Speaker, once again I tender my deepest sympathy to the Prime Minister of Canada, and to Mr. Lapointe's family, to Madame Lapointe, his distinguished wife, to our excellent and popular colleague the hon member for Lotbinière (Mr. Hugues Lapointe) and to Madame Ouimet.

MR. SPEAKER: I assume the house will wish me to convey to Madame Lapointe and her family some expression of the tributes paid to-day to the memory of Mr. Lapointe, and I shall be very glad to do so.

THE WAR

PROCLAMATIONS DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A STATE OF WAR WITH ROUMANIA, HUNGARY, FINLAND AND JAPAN

On the order for motions:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): I wish to lay on the table of the house copies in English and French of proclamation dated Ottawa, December 7,