

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

He had always been a member of the Liberal party, but he had his own ideas on many subjects and also as to the conclusions to be drawn from the great principles of the Liberal party. He had no hesitation in voicing his views quite frankly and openly in this house.

He was, of course, very fluent in his mother tongue, but he spoke English with equal ease, and was thus able to express himself objectively in both languages.

As I said a moment ago, we deeply regret that so promising a career was interrupted so soon. I am sure that all the members of this house wish to be personally associated in the expression of our most sincere condolences to Mrs. Michaud and the four children of our lamented colleague.

(Text):

I had not the privilege of personal acquaintanceship with the member-elect for the constituency of Greenwood, but I am sure all members of this house wish to extend to his family, to his friends and to the leader of the opposition and his colleagues sincere condolences on the untimely death of a colleague so shortly after his successfully contesting the election in that constituency.

Mr. Speaker, though it may not be the usual practice, I am sure the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and all other hon. members will not find it surprising that on this occasion I should depart from the usual custom and say just a word about a former member and distinguished colleague who was long associated with this house. I refer to Senator Mackenzie, who died at the beginning of this month.

The late Senator Mackenzie was born in Scotland of humble parentage, on July 27, 1890. He put himself through the famous highland school of Kingussie and the university of Edinburgh, almost entirely on scholarships won by his own achievements. He had always been a brilliant scholar, and had specialized in Celtic languages and literature. That fact did not prevent him, however, from bringing close and careful attention to the study of law; in two years he qualified for the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In 1914 he came to this country as an immigrant, but we remember that before the end of that year the institutions of this country—indeed, those of the free world—were under a serious threat. He immediately joined the Canadian forces and went overseas as a member of Canada's Seaforth Highlanders. I shall not at this time say anything about his career in the army. We know that it was distinguished, and we know that his physical prowess was

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

such that it must have made a considerable impact upon any enemy who came within reach of him.

On returning to British Columbia after the war he took up the practice of law, and immediately evinced keen interest in the affairs of the veterans. He became president of the Vancouver command of the Great War Veterans' Association, and soon became its dominion vice-president. His interest in the welfare of the veterans never lagged from that moment up to the day of his untimely passing to a better world.

Ian Mackenzie was elected to the British Columbia legislature in 1920 and re-elected in 1924. He was again elected in 1928, in which year he became a member of the British Columbia cabinet. In 1930, after ten years in the British Columbia legislature, he began his eighteen-year representation of the constituency of Vancouver Centre in the federal house. He was successful in the federal election of that year, but though shortly before the election he had become minister of immigration and colonization, after the election the administration was in the hands of one other than my distinguished predecessor, and Ian Mackenzie sat in the ranks of the opposition until 1935.

On the return of the Liberal party to power in 1935, Mr. Mackenzie never ceased to urge the importance of military preparation. He was appointed minister of national defence, and in that position had much to do with the reorganization of the Canadian militia and with the obtaining of some increases in the military budget. I say "some increases", because, in the light of what is now regarded as necessary for the defence forces of this country, those increases would appear to be relatively quite small.

I am sure that our late lamented colleague will be best remembered for his administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs when that department was created under him in October, 1944, and for the beneficial schemes which he worked out for the rehabilitation of the men who served their country so effectively during the last terrible war. In 1947 he was honoured by His Majesty the King, who made him a member of his imperial privy council. In January of last year he was appointed to another place, where he continued to advocate, with the vigour we knew him to possess, the causes which appeared to him to be in the interests of the Canadian public.

I am tempted to make just one reference to the fact that Ian Mackenzie was one of the most colourful speakers it has been my