

I am sure that I am expressing the keen regret of every honourable member when I say how much Senator Rainville will be missed in this House. It is truly to be regretted that, as I said at the opening of my remarks, so many of our useful and experienced senators have passed to the Great Beyond. But Senator Rainville—in common with Senator Sharpe—has left behind him a record that must be a source of pride for his family, his province and his country.

We all join with the honourable leader and those on the other side of the House in expressing our deepest sympathy with Madame Rainville and the members of her family.

Hon. A. D. McRAE: Honourable senators, it is with great sorrow that I rise to pay tribute to two of my best friends in this Chamber who have left us since we last met. As the shadows lengthen for most of us, the removal of very dear friends cannot fail to impress on us the frailty of human life, the uncertainty of existence.

Senator Sharpe I had known for many years before the first war, and it was my good fortune on coming to the Senate to have a room adjoining his. For ten years we had very close association, and I want to pay this tribute to him, a tribute of which any man might well be proud: Senator Sharpe was a Christian gentleman and at all times endeavoured to live up to the doctrines of his church. Not once in ten years can I remember that the Colonel ever said an unkind word about anyone. He had a marvelous personality. Deep in his heart was love of his fellow-men and a warm appreciation of every member of this honourable House.

In his long career Senator Sharpe had proven his usefulness to Canada. In my own case I found his guidance, his judgment and his kindnesses most helpful. That debt I now wish to acknowledge.

Senator Rainville was also a personal friend of mine. Probably I had no better friend from the province of Quebec than Joe Rainville. I learned to admire him very much. His loyalty was never open to question. His vision extended beyond his own province; his interest was Dominion-wide. He was anxious about our dual nationality, and I remember the last time I met him he spent an hour with me deploring misunderstandings between our French and English sections, and urging on me the prime importance of giving our English-speaking press a better understanding of the situation in Quebec in order to bring about closer national unity. That was the uppermost thought in his mind. He was a Canadian whose outlook one might well be proud to share.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE.

I do not expect that for a long time any bereavement of my personal friends will affect me more poignantly than the loss of Senator Sharpe and Senator Rainville, and I only wish I could do full justice to the many fine qualities of both my departed friends.

Hon. G. V. WHITE: I desire to associate myself with honourable senators who have preceded me in expressing the loss which the Senate has sustained in the departure of two of our distinguished colleagues.

The sudden demise of Senator Rainville was, I am sure, a shock to us all. Joe Rainville was in his seat just prior to the Easter adjournment and at that time appeared to be in his usual good health.

He occupied a prominent position both in the life of his native province and of the Dominion as a whole. As has already been said, he became a member of the House of Commons in 1911, representing at that time the constituency of Chambly-Verchères. In 1930 he was appointed to the chairmanship of the Montreal Harbour Commission, an office which he vacated in 1932 on being summoned to this Chamber.

As the honourable leader of the Senate has pointed out, Joe Rainville was an advocate by profession, but he also took a deep interest in the development of his native province, especially of the mineral resources of northern Quebec.

It was my privilege to have known Senator Rainville ever since he came to Ottawa, I having sat with him in the House of Commons and latterly in this Chamber. Typical of his race, he was a kindly, courteous gentleman, and I am sure that we shall all miss him very much.

I desire to express my sympathy to his widow.

Senator Sharpe and I were associated together for many years. As has been said, he died on the seventy-fourth anniversary of his birth. He had been a member of this Chamber for more than a quarter of a century. Although his health had been somewhat impaired during the last few years, he was in his seat during our last sitting.

A native of the province of Ontario, Senator Sharpe when a young man migrated to the Middle West. He homesteaded there and later engaged in mercantile business.

In 1904 he was a candidate for the House of Commons, having as his opponent Hon. Thomas Greenway, a former premier of Manitoba. He was not successful on his first venture, but in the elections of 1908 and 1911 he was returned as the representative of Lisgar.