

contested the riding. That was in 1930, when the fortunes of hon. gentlemen opposite were better than they are to-day. But what was perhaps the highest tribute of all was that in the last general election, that of 1935, when the Conservative party suffered very heavily in western Canada, Colonel Beaubier was the one member of his party to be returned from the province of Manitoba and one of three members of his party to be returned from the three western provinces.

I do express to my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Manion) the very sincere sympathy of all of us on this side of the house in the loss, particularly at this time, of one who, had he been spared, would have been to him a most helpful and valuable colleague.

May I ask you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all hon. members of the house, to convey to Mrs. Jacobs and to Mrs. Beaubier the deep sympathy of this House of Commons for each of them, and for the members of their respective families in the bereavements which they have sustained?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join my words to those of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in expressing to the families of the two members who have left us the deep sympathy of this house. In that I am speaking particularly for the party to which I belong.

With the Prime Minister I realize full well the very heavy toll which has been taken of this parliament. We on this side particularly feel that we have been rather heavily afflicted in that regard, considering the small numbers of the party which came back from the election of 1935.

David Wilson Beaubier was a very close personal friend of mine. I think I had the opportunity and pleasure of participating on his behalf in every one of his elections, beginning in 1925. As the Prime Minister indicated, he was born in the east. That was in 1864, so that he was blessed with being allotted more than the biblical span of three score years and ten. When he went to the west he was not quite twenty years of age, and he became acquainted with pioneer conditions in that growing country. He knew something of the life out there which many of the present members of this house experienced, as I did, in those early eighties. He lived on the pioneer fringe and no doubt experienced some of its hardships—the very hardships that reinforce courage and contribute so greatly to the building up of character in a man.

Dave Beaubier, as everyone who knew him called him affectionately, was highly respected by all who had the privilege and pleasure of

his acquaintance, not only in this house but in that section of the country wherein he spent the greater part of his life. The very fact that he was always called Dave, both in the House of Commons and in his own neighbourhood, is an evidence of the respectful familiarity with which he was regarded by all who came in contact with him. Indeed, as I heard the Prime Minister this afternoon refer to him, and quite properly, as Colonel Beaubier, it struck me as being the first time that I had ever heard anyone so describe him. I mention this fact merely to illustrate, and to bring out more clearly, the friendly feeling which everyone had for him throughout the time that I had known him, going back to 1925. His high standing in his own community was demonstrated in the recent by-election, by the fact that his son, who was a young man without much experience and who had been carrying on business in a different part of the country and therefore was not so well known in Brandon as was his father, carried on such an admirable campaign against a very well known, an old and respected citizen in that community, who succeeded in winning the seat for my right hon. friend opposite.

Without in any way detracting from the merits of the younger man, I think I am safe in suggesting that the respect with which he was treated, as was shown by the support he received in the election, was due in large measure to the love which the people of Brandon and vicinity felt for Dave Beaubier the father.

Dave Beaubier had a genius for friendship, and a love of all classes and creeds, which bespeak that broad-minded type of charity, religion and friendship which enriches life. He came into the House of Commons in 1930 and, as the Prime Minister has observed, he was reelected in 1935. The latter election, at any rate, proved his high standing in that western country; for when a wave against the party to which I belong swept the country in the election of 1935, Dave Beaubier was the only man who came back from Manitoba to represent that party. This was a further proof of the respect with which he was regarded in his constituency.

It is true that in the House of Commons he did not speak very often; nevertheless he was of great value to us not only on committees but as a counsellor. His common sense and the humanitarian spirit in which he looked at every question made him an invaluable colleague to all of us on this side of the house.

The Prime Minister has mentioned his service in the war. In 1916, when he was well