

*The late Hon. R. J. Manion*

was chosen its leader at the national Conservative Convention in 1938. He then became for the ensuing two years its leader in this house and also the leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

The failure of his party to gain office at the general elections of 1940, and his defeat in his own constituency, must have been, for Doctor Manion, a bitter disappointment. Without recrimination he accepted the verdict of the country, and sought to continue his service to it in other directions. Shortly after his resignation as leader of his party, he offered his services to the government and, as is known, they were promptly availed of. The house is fully aware of the devoted manner in which Doctor Manion's time and talents were subsequently given to the country's service up to, and including, the day of his death.

It was evidence of the energy Doctor Manion possessed and of his desire to impart something of his own spirit to others, that he should have found time in the course of his active life to have written one or two books, and thus to have added to his record of surgeon and soldier, parliamentarian and patriot, the distinction also of being an author. His autobiography published under the title: "Life is an Adventure," contains in its pages many of the thoughts he would have wished most to bequeath to his fellow-men. Its pages disclose his genial nature, his sense of humour, his fearless attitude, and above all, the spirit of service which was the underlying purpose of his life.

It was on the 5th of July, 1938, that Doctor Manion was chosen leader of his party. To-day is the fifth anniversary of that memorable day in his career. The period of his leadership was brief. Brief indeed was the course of his life on earth, brought as it was to its close at the age of 61, when from him, had he been spared, so much more might have been expected. This morning, members of all parties accompanied his mortal remains to their last resting place. As we meet this afternoon, we pay common tribute to his memory.

Life, truly, is an adventure; an adventure far beyond our ken. In these halls of parliament, in which, in bygone years some of our political battles were fought, I take my leave of him, with the thought, that surely all is not over here, that—

Somewhere, surely, afar,  
In the sounding labour-house vast  
Of being, is practised that strength,  
Zealous, beneficent, firm!

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, following the well chosen remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) I should like on behalf of the Progressive Conservative party to add a word to what he has said on this occasion.

It was truly and appropriately said in the House of Commons on an occasion similar to this that in the midst of life we are in death. The passing of the Hon. Robert J. Manion in the midst of his public duties serves, I think, to recall that thought. Doctor Manion died in harness. He had a full life, and a long heritage of accomplishments and friendships which all might properly envy. He was one of the many Canadians who have risen to high position by following relentlessly the royal road of honesty, integrity and hard work. For well over a quarter of a century he was intimately associated with the public life of Canada. Prior to his entry into the House of Commons in 1917 he had reached a high peak in his chosen profession and had been decorated for gallantry in the service of his country in the first great war.

The contributions which Doctor Manion made as a surgeon, a soldier, an author, a member of parliament and a cabinet minister, and later as the leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, will be long remembered by the people of this dominion who loved him as a fearless fighter, a warm-hearted friend and a brilliant parliamentarian. His deep attachment to the things that are best in Canadian life, both in peace and in war, prompted him to offer his services again in world war No. 2. As before, he acquitted himself in the discharge of his duties with high credit to himself and to his country. Great as was his record in public affairs, equally great was his exemplary life as a family man, one who loved his own home. He believed that the real bulwark of a nation must lie within the home and family relationships.

Doctor Manion's passing comes as a great shock and will be a cause for deep sorrow on the part of his widow and his three sons, two of whom, in pursuance of their father's example, are to-day to be found in the armed forces of our country. It is of them we think at this time, and to them we send our sympathy and our condolences. In the midst of their loss they may properly take consolation from the thought that this good husband and father discharged his high duties in a full life with great credit, both in the public and in the private domain. Doctor