

Tributes to Deceased Members

their departments." The point was that before they addressed the house the Prime Minister should have intimated the changes.

Mr. POULIOT: If they rose before they should have, it shows they have no discipline

Mr. McINTOSH: We will discipline them all right.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE JOSEPH ARTHUR DENIS—THE LATE
HON. WILLIAM ANDERSON BLACK—THE
LATE WALTER DAVY COWAN—THE
LATE GEORGE BRECKEN NICHOLSON

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since last we met the grim reaper seems to have gathered a greater harvest than usual. In the interim four of our members have passed to the great beyond. I must first offer my sympathy to the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and his colleagues in the loss of one of their members, namely the late member for St. Denis. I was not privileged to know Doctor Denis very well, but I used to see him frequently and upon those occasions passed the time of day. I believe however one might state truthfully that he was a very constant attendant in this chamber and followed the debates with great interest and care. That he was a loyal party man there can be no question, and that he was held in high esteem in the community in which he lived is evidenced by the fact that he was returned as the member for the constituency of St. Denis in 1921, 1925, 1926 and 1930. He was thirteen years in this house and in point of service was becoming one of its oldest members. On behalf of the government and myself I should like to express our very warm sympathy to the family in the great bereavement they have suffered by reason of one so young having been called. I offer also to the leader of the opposition and to his colleagues the sympathy of those sitting on this side of the house in their loss of a loyal and devoted colleague.

In point of time the next of our members who passed was the senior member for the city and county of Halifax. The late Hon. William Anderson Black was the oldest member of the House of Commons. Although he did not come to parliament until late in life he had been a very active business man and was closely associated with the growth and development of the city of Halifax and the province of Nova Scotia. He was interested in all commercial pursuits, had a strong individualist turn of mind, and was always frank in expressing his opinions. He

[Mr. Bennett.]

was an authority on shipping, and as a governor of Dalhousie university he took a keen interest in educational matters and especially in the commercial department of that institution of learning. The late Mr. Black was held in the highest possible esteem not only by the citizens of his own community and the people of the province in which he lived, but by those throughout Canada who knew him. For a short period of time he served the crown as a minister, and although he had then passed the three score years and ten he showed great interest and activity in the discharge of the duties of his office, indicating that his years did not in any sense determine his age or his outlook upon the problems of life. He will be missed not only by hon. members on this side but, I believe, by all members in this house who had the privilege of knowing him, and by those who had met him in that wider sphere of business activity in which he had continued as long as his health permitted. His place will not easily be taken. I express the opinion of my colleagues to which the hon. member sitting to my left (Sir George Perley) has already given public expression when I state that in the death of Mr. Black we have lost a very valuable friend, a devoted supporter, and a great citizen of the province in which he lived and of the dominion of which he was so proud.

In point of date the next hon. member who passed from our midst was Doctor Walter Davy Cowan, who sat for the constituency of Long Lake. When I first went to the city of Regina in 1898 to attend the sittings of the Northwest legislature the late Doctor Cowan was a resident of that city. A more kindly hearted man it would be difficult to conceive, and I believe he was much misunderstood by some of our friends in this chamber. He was a tolerant and broad-minded man, but one who held strong convictions which he never for a moment failed to express. I believe the kindness of his disposition might best be explained by a little story which I shall now repeat. He was a practising dentist, occupying a very high position in his profession, and when the dental organization became dominion wide for a long time he held the position of secretary. By reason of his office he found it necessary to relinquish much of his practice. I learn from what I regard as sound authority that when his books of account were examined after the late member's death they found that in order that there might be no possible chance of those whom he had attended being harassed he kept their names