

without joining with the previous speakers and those who will follow to express the very deep sorrow we all felt upon hearing of the unexpected death of our distinguished and esteemed colleague, my Acadian compatriot, honourable Senator J. Willie Comeau.

Senator Comeau, as you have been told, was born in Comeauville, in the county of Digby, Nova Scotia, on March 12, 1876. His ancestors were among those who came back to Acadia after the great upheaval of 1755 and settled in that part of Nova Scotia commonly known as Baie Sainte-Marie. Senator Comeau was therefore a direct descendant of those Acadian exiles who came back home after having been deported.

He studied at Ste. Anne College of Church Point. Upon his graduation from college in 1896, at the early age of twenty, he took up teaching and, during four years, taught in the Acadian schools near his home.

In 1900, at the age of 24, he was appointed assistant commissioner of the Paris Exhibition. He was elected, in 1907, by acclamation, member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, re-elected in 1911 and 1916, and appointed Minister of State on June 28, 1911. Called upon to sit as a member of the legislative council of his province in June 1925, he was re-appointed in 1928 and in March 1933. When the legislative body was abolished, he became Minister of State in the MacDonald Cabinet, and fulfilled this role until 1945 at which time he resigned as member of the legislative assembly and Minister of State. He was appointed to the Senate in December 1945.

There were no outstanding events in the political career of Senator Comeau, but it was a long one and a very valuable one for his own people. If he was a member for the riding of Digby in the provincial legislature for so many years, it is because his constituents, both French-speaking and English-speaking, trusted him.

It would be superfluous to repeat everything that has been said about him, but I endorse all the praise addressed to him. Let me add only that all his life, Senator Comeau took an active part in all Acadian activities. He was always an admirer and benefactor of his Alma Mater, the Ste. Anne College. He was in turn general vice-president, general president and general chancellor of the Société l'Assomption, this great Acadian mutual society which has played an outstanding part in the economic and cultural life of the

Acadian people. In short, he was a great Acadian and an exemplary Canadian. To his grief-stricken wife and to the members of his fine family, I extend my deepest sympathy.

[Text]:

**Hon. M. Grattan O'Leary:** Honourable senators, it was not my privilege to have known, or to have known very well, the late Senators Comeau and Wood, but one other who is no longer with us, Senator Norman Lambert, was for a stretch of almost fifty years my cherished friend. As has been so well and feelingly said by the two leaders, Senator Norman Lambert's career embraced a number of fields, in all of which he pursued excellence. At university he was a noted athlete. He was a distinguished member of my craft. He was successful in business, and in the end he brought to politics and to this house a well-stored, capacious and civilized mind.

Norman Lambert was a partisan, but he was a partisan only because he had a deep and shining faith in our party system, in our parliamentary way, and he would never in any circumstances make a difference of opinion a cause for hatred. He was not a party bigot.

Over a long period of time his political thinking and mine were poles apart, but that never interfered with a dependable friendship. There was one thing about Norman Lambert of which you could be absolutely sure: he would be closer to you in your hour of trial than in your hour of triumph. Almost every Sunday he came to my home, and for an hour we would discuss old newspaper days, politics, of course, and books, poetry and literature—literature which he knew very well, the earthy worst and the heavenly best. He had ideas about journalism which, alas, are not too prevalent today. He believed that a journalist, whether he knew it or not, and whether he liked it or not, was, in fact, an advocate, and that when he refused to take up a position he was, in fact, taking up a position, but one that could not bring admiration.

Senator Norman Lambert was a Liberal of the old British school, of that high tradition which produced giants such as Cobden and Bright, whose speeches he all but knew by heart. In our own land the Liberal giants he revered most were George Brown and Wilfrid Laurier.

He was also a student of Lincoln, and he used to delight to tell how on the evening that Lincoln left Washington for Gettysburg