

When the constituency of Bagot became vacant before the first and only session of the last parliament, through the death of the member-elect, J. E. Marcile, the Liberals of that constituency selected Mr. Morin to be their standard-bearer in the by-election which took place prior to the assembling of parliament. It was in more respects than one a bitter contest, but Mr. Morin carried his banner to victory against an opponent who had been Solicitor General in a previous Conservative administration. Mr. Morin was obliged, within nine months of the time of his election, to contest the constituency again in the general election of 1926. Again he won a substantial victory. He had, therefore, been in this house as a member during the three sessions of the present parliament and the single session of the previous parliament.

Being comparatively young in years and without parliamentary experience, and of a retiring disposition, Mr. Morin did not take much part in the debates of the House, but he followed its proceedings with the keenest interest, and was most faithful in his attendance, and in the discharge of his parliamentary duties. Like the late Mr. Robb, who during the first five years of his membership of parliament, took little part in debate, Mr. Morin spent his time familiarizing himself with public questions rather than speaking upon them, and in watching the interests of the constituency which had returned him as its member. Outside of parliament, however, he devoted considerable time to public speaking, and the suddenness and untimely nature of his death will be realized when I mention that on the day which immediately preceded it, he had addressed a public meeting of his constituents and only a few days before had entered upon his 46th year.

The selection of Mr. Morin by his party as a candidate in a by-election which was recognized as one of exceptional significance, the success which attended his candidature at that time, and in the general elections which followed, were evidence of his ability and capacity for public affairs; evidence which was unmistakable to those who, in this house, enjoyed the pleasure of his acquaintance and shared with him the responsibilities of its membership.

I am sure all honourable members will join with me in expressing our high regard for the character and worth of the late member for Bagot, and our deep regret at his untimely death, and will be grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, if you will convey on our behalf, to Madame Morin and her two children, the expression of our profound sympathy in their bereavement.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my first duty is to convey to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and his colleagues and associates an expression of the deep sympathy of those who sit to the left of the Speaker in the great loss which they have sustained through the passing of the former Minister of Finance and the member who represented the constituency of Bagot.

Mr. Robb, of course, was much better known than his colleague from Bagot by reason of the great office which he filled. Sometimes it is difficult to determine the causes which operate to enable one man to exercise great influence and power. In the case of Mr. Robb it would be very difficult, I take it, for any of us to determine why he exercised so commanding a place in this house and so great an influence in this country, but if I were asked to answer that question I would do so in a single word: character. The late James Robb was a man of character, and all the factors which go to make a strong human character were present in his case. In his domestic life, of which the Prime Minister has so feelingly spoken, he was indeed the devoted husband and the loving father, and those of us who have heard him speak of his home will realize how great indeed has been the shock to Mrs. Robb and how grievous has been the loss that she has sustained. We desire to associate ourselves with what the right hon. Prime Minister has said in expressing the hope that you, Mr. Speaker, will convey to the widow an expression of the loss that we of all shades of politics in this house have sustained by the passing of her husband.

In his private business Mr. Robb was the soul of integrity and made for himself a position as a business man predicated largely on his qualities of integrity and sincerity. Of his public life we who sit to the left of the Speaker will entirely agree with what has been said by the right hon. Prime Minister except with respect to those matters that are controversial and concerning which we cannot say that we now have a true perspective. There are differences of opinion and there will be very keen differences of opinion with respect to some of those matters, but as to the purity of his motives, the sincerity of his purpose, his devotion to duty and his sincere desire to serve the country he loved so well, there can be no question, no controversy and no doubt.

May I venture to say in the words of a great poet that he was one