

*Mr. Fielding—Sir Lomer Gouin*

cial field and three in the federal field, having won as many as he lost. For a number of years he held the position of postmaster and later of sheriff. Each position he resigned to enter a political contest. He was a staunch Liberal, and a loyal and devoted supporter of his party and its cause.

I am sure hon. members irrespective of their affiliations, will join with me in expressing our sincere sympathy with Madame Leger and the several members of the family in their great bereavement.

#### RIGHT HONOURABLE W. S. FIELDING

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is not customary, I know, to allude to the absence through illness of honourable members, but the House will permit me, I am sure, to give expression to the regret which we all experience at the circumstances which prevent the right hon. the Minister of Finance from being in his seat to-day. I called on Mr. Fielding during the morning and found him full of regrets at being unable to be with us, most anxious to be able to do his part. The old zeal and energy were there, but unfortunately not the necessary strength. I assured him that his disappointment at not being present with us would be more than equalled by our disappointment at not having him here. We can only hope that the breakdown which he has sustained and which is due to overwork in the discharge of his public duties may not be as serious as at first it threatened to be, and that in his advanced years he may be permitted to enjoy the health as well as honour which his great career so richly deserves.

#### SIR LOMER GOUIN—RETIREMENT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the honourable the former Minister of Justice found it necessary by reason of the impairment of his health to ask at the close of last year to be relieved of the responsibilities of office. I am happy to say that accepting the resignation of Sir Lomer Gouin from the ministry has not involved his resignation also from the House and that we may look forward to the pleasure of having him with us very shortly after the House has resumed its business. At the next sitting of parliament, on Monday, I shall lay on the table the exchange of correspondence which has taken place between Sir Lomer Gouin and myself in reference to his resignation.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, very rarely has it been our good fortune, in the now somewhat protracted period of years that I have been a member of this House, to open a session without being called upon to regret the demise of one or more of our members. Indeed, such has been the visitation of Providence on our numbers that at the moment I cannot recall any single session when the sad duty has not devolved upon us. This time, in the case of only one, the hon. member for Kent, New Brunswick, we are called upon to lament his absence from our midst. It was not my personal good fortune to come closely in contact with the hon. member for Kent when he was in the House. I did, however, on many occasions meet him, and I formed of his character an opinion much in consonance with that expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) this afternoon. His companionable disposition, his concentrated devotion to his duties in parliament, his anxious fidelity on behalf of his own constituents, impressed all with whom he came in contact. It is for me a privilege to be permitted to join on behalf of hon. members on this side of the House with the words of the Prime Minister and with the expressions of sympathy which he has uttered in reference to the unfortunate widow and family of the late hon. member.

May I also associate myself with the expression of regret which has fallen from the Prime Minister's lips for the absence on account of illness of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and the former Minister of Justice, adding only this word, that we regret alike their indisposition and that of other hon. members who are unable at this time to be amongst us.

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): Mr. Speaker, I think I may speak on behalf of hon. members in this part of the House and concur in the remarks that have been made in reference to the death of one who was a member of this House. I am sure we all regret that such an occurrence has taken place, and I would express my sympathy to the family of the deceased member in the great loss which they have sustained.

In regard to the absence of the hon. the Minister of Finance, I can safely say that it will be a distinct loss to this House, and I am sure that hon. gentlemen in every part of the chamber will regret the fact that the hon. minister is not with us to participate in our deliberations. We all undoubtedly recognize his ability, his strength of character and his honesty of purpose, and no doubt the