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Sir Frederick Banting

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Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with your permission and that of the house, I should like to supplement the words of the Minister of National Defence. On behalf both of the government and of hon. members of this house, may I say what a shock it has been to us all to receive the said intelligence which has just been imparted to the house. May I also express our deep sympathy with the relatives of those brave and gallant men whose lives have been so unhappily sacrificed in the disaster of which we have just heard.

Perhaps I may be allowed to add a special word touching the loss which our country has sustained in the passing of Sir Frederick Banting. It was not so long ago that this parliament, in recognition of the distinguished services which he had rendered to science, voted to him an annuity that he might the better devote his life to scientific research.

In his passing our country has lost one of her most distinguished sons, who was proceeding to Britain on a mission of high national and scientific importance.

Doctor Banting was honoured by the universities and learned societies of the world. He was the winner of the Nobel prize, which he generously shared with his associates. His medical discoveries have brought honour to his native land. The name of Sir Frederick Banting will live in the history of medicine as a great benefactor of mankind, who by his discovery of insulin brought new hope to the suffering and the promise of life to many who were doomed to early death before his researches were crowned with success. Great will be the grief that his own life, so full of promise for human welfare, should have come to such an untimely end.

Sir Frederick offered his services to his country as soon as war broke out. He organized a particularly important branch of medical research. With a band of devoted fellow workers he had dedicated himself to the solution of the new medical problems associated with aviation, and the speed, height and low temperatures involved in the operation of modern aircraft. Already his work had proved of inestimable value. The world of medicine will deplore his loss as his fellow citizens join with men of many nations to mourn his passing and record their gratitude for the rich achievement of his devoted labours.