

lege of my wife and myself while here in Ottawa to get to know Senator and Mrs. Foster better every year, and it is our proud consciousness today that they were among our best friends. I feel his passing keenly, and I join with my colleagues in extending to Mrs. Foster and her daughters our very genuine sympathy.

I never felt more shocked in my life than today at lunch when the waiter at the Chateau whispered in my ear that Senator Bench had died. It was only last summer, a few months ago, that my wife and I were at Niagara. With Joe Bench and his charming wife we spent the afternoon and evening and had dinner, and the next afternoon they came to our hotel. I am sure that every senator will agree that in personal charm Senator Bench was outstanding. He had character, personality, and great ability. I think it is a consciousness of loss along with grief that we feel here today. To his young widow and their infant child we extend our real sympathy.

Hon. GUSTAVE LACASSE: Honourable senators, I wish to add a few words to what has been said about our departed friends. Today we are under the shadow of sadness. Within the past few months death has struck across this broad land of Canada in three areas: east, west and centre. We are reminded that there is an eventual reckoning for us all. The chair I am now touching has been made vacant; death has struck at my very side, removing the deskmate whose friendship, sympathy and geniality I have enjoyed for a number of years.

The late Senator Harmer was most deserving of the eulogies which were uttered over his grave. Though a man of retiring disposition, one who seldom spoke in this house during all the years I knew him, he was a sound adviser, and many times when I rose to speak it was to voice his intelligent and sensible suggestion.

I visited the late senator in the Civic Hospital in Ottawa at the conclusion of the last session, and was perhaps the last member of this house to see him alive. He was cheerful and full of hope, but my professional eye discovered in his thin features the signs of death already indicated. He lived but a few weeks longer.

Let us bow with reverence over the graves of those who periodically depart from our midst at the call of their Creator, the Master of us all.

Honourable members will scarcely believe that the complexion of this house has changed to the extent of 75 per cent since I became a member of it two decades ago. That is the

cycle of life; that is the will of God, and we must respectfully submit to it. Let the devotion to public duty of those we mourn be an inspiration to us in discharging our responsibilities in the service of our fellow-citizens.

Hon. ARISTIDE BLAIS (Translation): Honourable senators, I wholeheartedly subscribe to the laudatory remarks which have been voiced this afternoon in memory of our deceased colleagues.

They were all outstanding men in their avocations or in politics, and their deaths are a very great loss to this country.

As the representative of northern Alberta, I especially wish to join the honourable leader of this house (Hon. Mr. Robertson) in paying tribute to the memory of the late Senator William Harmer, and in tendering to his family our deepest sympathy. The late departed senator was known as an upright and charitable man, greatly devoted to this country, which he served faithfully not only as Deputy Minister of Railways and Telephones in Alberta, but also in the Senate, to which he was appointed in 1918. It was not my privilege to be one of his intimate friends, but our relations were always most courteous and quite cordial. Those who knew him best agree that he was easy-mannered, most genial in conversation and ever ready to help. He showed his friendship in many ways, and his friends greatly prized his sterling qualities of mind and heart.

Once again, I wish to tender to the bereaved family my deepest sympathy.

Hon. ANTOINE J. LEGER (Text): Honourable members, on behalf of the French-speaking population of New Brunswick, may I extend to the widow and family of the Honourable Senator Walter E. Foster our sympathy and our sincere condolences. His passing at the relatively young age of 74 years removes from the scene of his activities one who has worked faithfully and well not only for the welfare of his native province but for the whole of Canada. Admired, trusted and well liked, he was honoured with many positions in both the economical and political arenas of our country, wherein he rose to the highest level. May we say with admiration that he never failed us in the confidence we entrusted to him.

His passing, and the passing of other honourable senators, will be lamented widely.

Hon. G. P. CAMPBELL: Honourable senators, I desire to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by other members of this