

tion. He felt that Confederation would not be to the advantage of his people, whose influence would be thereby decreased. The tenets of his youth were those of his whole life. He was a protectionist in the Conservative party when that party was for free trade, and a protectionist still in the Liberal ranks when that party was for freer trade.

His literary work on the lives of the Patriots of 1837-38, who fought for constitutional government, made his name familiar throughout his province. Senator David's writings covered the political history of Canada from 1791 to our own day. For many years President of the French-Canadian national organization, the St. Jean Baptiste Society, and member of the Legislature of Quebec for Montreal East, he constantly helped by his efforts to improve the social and educational conditions of his province. In his frequent contributions to the English press he expressed the views of his own people, in order to remove misunderstandings. He was fair minded and generous in debate. He was beloved by his province, and, I have reason to believe, by all his colleagues in this Chamber. They listened to him with attention and respect on all matters which he approached, because of his ripe judgment and his earnestness.

With our two Ontario colleagues I was less intimate. Their demise occurred at about the same time, just as this Parliament was being called.

Senator McHugh was a farmer who had but a primary school education. As he grew up he soon became interested in matters of public concern. He was not content to do the routine work of his occupation. His mind travelled beyond his farm and township, and he gave his leisure hours to reading books and papers which came within his reach. He soon interested himself actively in political debate and participated in many an electoral fray. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1896 and sat for four years in Parliament. Defeated in 1900, he was called to the Senate in 1901. He was a close attendant of our committee and Senate meetings, and frequently expressed his views on matters with which he was familiar. He spoke to the point, and with conviction, plausibility and common sense. He was a fine representative of our farming community. I am told that among his people he was noted for his kindness of heart, his constant readiness to help, his religious mind and profound convictions.

Senator Blain had not completed the span, generally hoped for, of three score years and ten, yet had a most fruitful career in public

life. He was a hardware merchant in the town of Brampton, but his influence soon radiated beyond its borders. When quite young he entered the Town Council, in which he served for ten years. He became Reeve of Brampton, and soon thereafter Warden of Peel County. The electors of that county showed their confidence in him by electing him to the House of Commons in 1900, and that confidence he retained in the three following elections, 1904, 1908 and 1911. He had strong party convictions and was one of the main participants in debate in the popular House. He was quite aggressive and often in the thick of the fight. He did not fear the blows, which he returned gallantly. Called to this Chamber in 1917, he soon felt the influence of our more peaceful atmosphere, and, like many of our colleagues who have hailed from the House of Commons, mellowed in a marked degree. He interested himself in the serious work of the Senate, which is mostly done in committees, and gained the esteem of his colleagues to the point of being made Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways. He leaves us much too soon, for the experience which he had gathered would have continued to be of great benefit to us; but the designs of Providence are inscrutable.

To the families of our departed colleagues I desire to extend the warm sympathies of the Senate.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Honourable gentlemen, for myself and for the other members on this side of the House I wish to join with the honourable gentleman who has just spoken, in extending our sympathy to the families of the four Senators whose loss we mourn.

It is sad to part with men with whom you have sat for many years, not only in this House, but also in Committee, and whose work you have seen and admired for the care and thought which they gave to it. Nevertheless, when a man attains a good old age, as did all four of these gentlemen, and leaves behind him a record of work well done and a name that is respected by everyone, we may well ask what better fate awaits any of us. We shall be lucky indeed if we can leave behind us a life record like that of the late honourable member for Mille Isles (Hon. Mr. David), whom I knew so well and admired so much. The others I knew not quite so well, but still well enough to be able to concur in all that has been so aptly said about them by my honourable friend. They were worthy of the position they held in this House. To the families of those departed Senators we extend our sympathy.