

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to my fellow creatures, let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Hon. O. TURGEON (Translation): Honourable senators, I should not intervene in these magnificent tributes to our brethren whom death has taken from us since last session, for I cannot reach the high level attained by our honourable leaders in the expression of our sentiments with regard to our departed colleagues and their families.

But I cannot resist the impulse to make known to this generation and to posterity the qualities and virtues of that great Acadian patriot, Pascal Poirier, whom I have had a better opportunity of appreciating than others have had, because of our close and intimate relations extending over a period of about sixty years.

As is well known throughout Canada, our deceased colleague was endowed with great literary talent. From his early years in St. Joseph's College, now the University of St. Joseph, this talent was recognized and appreciated as a special gift. Great literary and philosophical institutions in France seemed eager to express their appreciation of it by honouring his literary and philosophical works with their highest awards. The French Academy and the Institut de France hastened, as it were, to study his works and proclaim to the world their real value by awarding them prizes and medals, and the Government of France appointed him Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. His principal works, "Father Lefebvre and Acadia," "The Origin of the Acadians," "The Acadians Deported to Boston in 1755," are certainly of great merit, and the reading of them reveals the philosophical as well as literary genius of their author. Each point of history is accompanied with reflections which touch the heart and arouse the spirit of the reader.

Senator Poirier was an Acadian by birth, and no Acadian loved his race more than he; no one regretted more the persecutions to which his ancestors were subjected in this land of America. Yet there has not been in Canada, nor even in the United Kingdom, a more sincere admirer of the high and noble British ideal of the last two centuries. To this fact I would draw the attention of all Canada. He was a true Acadian and also a true British-Canadian. He proved this in his history of Father Lefebvre. After having described the situation of the small number of Acadians remaining in 1767, despoiled of their goods and their homes, he says, on page

81: "But let us draw the curtain upon this most pitiful scene." He had pardoned all. "My purpose," said he in recalling the events of 1755, "is not at all to evoke the revolting memories associated with our disappearance as a people, and still less to arouse feelings of animosity towards our oppressors of those times. In spite of all, the Acadian race has preserved its religion and its faith." Then he continues: "Mr. Edouard Richard has proved that the Acadian deportation and the despoiling of the Acadians were done without the consent of the British Cabinet, and were the personal work of the governors of Halifax and their greedy henchmen. It is better that this is so," he adds, "and that we can without bitterness turn our eyes towards that august Crown under which we live."

His devotion to the British ideal I would recall as one of his great qualities. It was his constant desire to have that ideal better known not only by his compatriots, but also by the entire English-speaking population, by statesmen, and by the Sovereign.

It was with this object, it was to arouse the spirit of the Acadian race, that he undertook in 1915 to have an Acadian name placed on the list of honorary titles conferred by His Majesty the King—the name of Judge Pierre A. Landry, of New Brunswick, who had devoted his life to the advancement of the Acadian race; a jurist of great distinction, whose judgments still stand as precedents in the New Brunswick courts of justice. Senator Poirier had accomplished this task, but I had known nothing of it. One day I met him and he said: "Everything is arranged for the conferring on Judge Landry of the title 'Sir'; but Sir Robert Borden would like to have also your request, so that the petition to His Majesty may come from both political parties." "Certainly," I replied at once. Sir Robert Borden received me with his gracious smile and I added my signature to that of Pascal Poirier. Everything was indeed arranged. Three weeks later Judge Landry received his title, "Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George."

With all his other good qualities Senator Poirier had a generous heart. He was a Conservative, grateful to Sir John Macdonald and Senator John Costigan, who, in perfect accord, had had him appointed to the Senate at an early age. But he was not dominated by party spirit. He became also a great admirer and friend of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who generously reciprocated his friendship and esteem.

On the 15th of February last, his birthday, I went to visit Senator Poirier in his room, close to mine, and to wish him many more