

*Hon. George A. Drew*

manner in which he always greeted those of us who, though often disagreeing with him in the policies that he followed, none the less respected him very highly.

Miss Bennett was a newcomer to the house and she brought charm to it. As the Prime Minister has said, she came here in May suffering serious illness. I noted at the time that she looked ill and I inquired how she was. She said she was very much better. Consequently I was very sorry to learn of her passing. We join, Mr. Speaker, in the expressions of sympathy that have already been made by the Prime Minister and the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe).

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, we in this group would like to associate ourselves with the tributes that have been paid by previous speakers to these two former members of the house, our associates. I did not know Miss Bennett long. She was a newcomer to the house but it is quite evident that she was an eminent lady and one of great distinction who, as has been said, conducted herself here in a most charming manner. She was ill during most of the time that she was in the house and it was an inspiration to me to see how she bore her afflictions without complaint and how calm and patient she was in the face of her adversities. We feel that her passing was a distinct loss to the whole house and naturally our sympathies go out to the members of her family and her friends and to the Conservative party in the loss of such a fine supporter and member.

I was also exceedingly sorry to learn of the passing of my friend, Tom Ross. He was indeed a friendly fellow, one with great and wide interests. I think that Tom must have discovered the secret of diversified living because it was evident to me over the years I had known him that he believed that the whole secret of living was in being interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well. Mr. Ross took a great interest in new members of the house and invited them one by one to visit his constituency. He had a double purpose. As I recall it, one was to teach members of the house the great things he believed and felt about his constituency and also at the same time to get acquainted with them and make them acquainted with his own people.

I enjoyed the privilege of a visit to his constituency. I enjoyed not only the things I saw but the very wonderful hospitality extended to me by both Mr. and Mrs. Ross. I counted them amongst my great friends and, along with others, I wish to record my sorrow at his passing. I extend to Mrs. Ross our very warm sympathy and to the Liberal

party our sympathy in the loss of a very devoted follower and a good member of parliament.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

### EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AT ABSENCE OF FORMER LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there is one other circumstance of this day which saddens us all, and that is the absence from his usual place in the house of the former leader of the official opposition. We were all very sorry to learn some several weeks ago that the state of the hon. gentleman's health was such that he proposed asking his followers to relieve him of the heavy responsibilities of leadership of that party. I make no comments upon that because the matter has not yet been considered by the members of that party, and I understand that it is to be considered at a relatively early date.

But I do want to put it on the records of the house that we were all shocked when we heard that there was going to be—not a cessation, we hoped, but an interruption in the service to the Canadian nation of Mr. George Drew. I hope it is only a temporary interruption and that circumstances will be such that he will have many more years when he can contribute, as he has contributed in the past, to the advancement of public affairs in this country. I am sure that I express the feelings of all my colleagues on this side of the house when I say to our hon. friends of the official opposition that we do sympathize with them in the circumstance that made it necessary for Mr. Drew to consider the course which he has proposed to submit to his followers.

It is unfortunate that in these trying days Mr. Drew is not the only one who has spent his energies to the very limit in the service of his fellow citizens. I am sure we were all saddened to hear that Sir Anthony Eden had also been constrained to take quite a long rest at a time when we all know how anxious he would have been to continue to share in the responsibility for the decisions that the world situation requires to be made at this time.

We rejoice that Mr. Drew is making such a splendid recovery. It was my privilege to see him for a few minutes the other day and to say to him that I sincerely hoped that he felt as well as he looked. That is my hope and the hope of all my colleagues for the future of the hon. gentleman, and we will certainly rejoice with all his friends in the other parties in this country when circumstances make it possible for him, without departing