

the session, and wishing to commence, as I am sure we all wish to do on both sides of the House, with due moderation. I think the time of the evening is so far advanced that I may be allowed to move that the debate be adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier). I presume that my hon. friend is exhausted by his efforts down in the county of Queen's and Sunbury, and that he is not, perhaps, ready to go on with the speech that he intended to make this evening. Although the hour is still early and rather premature for adjournment, I suppose we shall have to agree to his request; but I would like to tell my hon. friend that we intend to have, if possible, a short session, but, at the rate we are proceeding, it is going to be a very lengthy session.

Mr. FOSTER. I will not be long.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—DEATH OF SENATOR MACPHERSON AND MR. CLARKE, M.P.

The PRIME MINISTER (Mr. Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before that motion is carried, the painful duty devolves upon me of calling the attention of the House to the loss by death of a very prominent Canadian. I refer to the late Sir David Macpherson. Sir David Macpherson, as the House well knows, occupied a very conspicuous position for many years in Canada. As a contractor, as a gentleman connected with large financial institutions, as representative of a large constituency in the old legislative council of Canada, and subsequently as a senator of the Dominion, as president of that body, and as a member of the Government of Canada, having held for some time the position of Minister of the Interior, the late Sir David Macpherson became well and widely known in every portion of Canada. It was my good fortune, from the time I first became acquainted with this portion of Canada, to enjoy the personal acquaintance and confidence of that hon. gentleman; and I believe my opinion will be confirmed by hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, when I say that he was in every way, not only a most estimable man, but one who, possessing great ability, took a very deep and keen interest in everything calculated to advance the interests of Canada. I feel that his death marks the passing away of one of the comparatively few remaining senators who sat in the old legislative council of Canada. I am quite sure that I am expressing the sentiments of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House when I say that I feel the death of that hon. gentleman is greatly to be deplored by the people of Canada.

Mr. FOSTER.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman, I am sure, has rightly expressed the feelings entertained on both sides of the House, which are called forth by the lamentable event which has just taken place. Sir David Macpherson, as we know, was one of the most important personalities in our country for more than forty years. His great business ability, his experience as a legislator, as a man of the world, as a contractor, and as a merchant gave him a place accorded to but few men during their lifetime. His removal of course comes at the end of the natural term of life, and in that circumstance takes away a good deal of the bitterness which death always carries.

Death has dealt severely with us during the present Parliament. This is the second death we have had to deplore since the last election. Apart from Senator Macpherson, we have to regret the death of a colleague, Mr. Clarke, whom I had not the pleasure of knowing personally, but whose acquaintance I made during the last few months. We did not know him, but those who are associated with him feel sure that if we had had the privilege of his company as a colleague he would have proved one of the most excellent members of this House. But such are the incidents of life. His death is still more deplorable because he was in the prime of life. Death respects neither sex nor person, and though we know this, and though it is a truth that has been recognized since the commencement of the world, still whenever it is recalled to us it renews the same pang and we deplore the event.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 25th August, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

REPORT—DEBATES COMMITTEE.

Mr. CHOQUETTE presented the first report of the Select Standing Committee appointed to supervise the official reports of the Debates of the House, as follows:

The Select Standing Committee appointed to supervise the official reports of the Debates of this House during the present session beg leave to submit the following as their first report:—

Your committee recommend that their quorum be reduced from eight to five members.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. A. CHOQUETTE,

Chairman.