

The late T. L. Church

James cathedral in Toronto and at the cemetery where people stood with tears streaming down their faces as they remembered the man they loved, as they remembered perhaps in many cases the things that he had done in an unselfish way to help them along the road to life.

Tommy Church was one of those rare beings to whom these words of Alexander Pope apply in their full meaning:

Who broke no promise, serv'd no private end,
Who gain'd no title, and who lost no friend.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, not only on behalf of those associated with me, but perhaps as one who has had a fairly long membership in the house, I wish to express both regret at the passing of Mr. Church and sympathy for his sisters who have survived him. As the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) has said, when a young man arrived in the city of Toronto the one person who was almost sure to welcome him was Tommy Church—just as, on the arrival of a new member, Tommy was the one older parliamentarian who was sure to greet him. No matter what his views were, no matter what party he belonged to, no matter under what auspices he came, Mr. Church immediately took an interest in him as a younger member of the house.

I am glad that, although we differed so much in our views, I was able to form a friendship with him, a friendship that was possible because there were some things we had in common.

I think it was obvious to all of us at the last session of parliament that Mr. Church was failing fast. The manner in which he went through the session, the energy which he put into the debates of the house, the way in which he spoke of policies for which he will long be remembered, was amazing.

The leader of the opposition has spoken of the interest of the late Mr. Church in the Ontario hydroelectric system, that great publicly-owned institution. We shall all remember, because of that interest of his in the public ownership of public utilities, how prominent a part he played last session in the discussion of certain matters which came before the house. I said to some of my friends one evening when Mr. Church was speaking that he was failing, and I thought that what we were witnessing was like the bright flicker of light before the candle goes out. Therefore I was not surprised when I heard with sorrow over the radio that Tommy Church had passed to the great beyond, upon which he had fixed a sure and certain hope.

Mr. Church loved this House of Commons; he loved this parliament. He was old-fashioned, as the Prime Minister (Mr. St.

Laurent) has said, in his adherence to the British empire rather than to the commonwealth. He preferred the old term. I am sure my hon. friends of the official opposition will not misunderstand me when I say that Tommy Church was a survivor of an old-fashioned conservatism which served its day and generation well. We shall miss him here because of the views that he invariably expressed, and the forthright manner in which he expressed them.

As has already been said, Mr. Church's life was one of kindnesses. He represented Broadview, a constituency in which there are a good many underprivileged Canadians, and Tommy Church was the friend of all, poor and rich alike. I have heard it said that when he went into his constituency he could meet almost everyone there and call them by their first names. I believe there is little exaggeration in that statement. He was a friendly soul, a man greatly beloved and respected by all who knew him. I recall the words of William Wordsworth:

That best portion of a good man's life,—
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.

I think those words might well serve as an epitaph to Thomas Langton Church.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, we in this corner wish to associate ourselves with others in paying tribute to our late good friend and colleague, Tommy Church. Our very high respect for Mr. Church grew as a result of his warm friendly personality, his integrity and his deep devotion to his public duties. We respected and admired him also for the courage he displayed in remaining true to his strong and deep convictions to the very end. I am glad that I knew Mr. Church and gained inspiration from what I consider to have been a good life.

Mr. Church viewed with some sorrow and considerable alarm the steady and progressive disintegration of the British empire during the past few years. On numerous occasions in this house I heard him express that alarm. Indeed he was among the few to voice his fears about the forces that appeared to be wrecking the British empire. I think his courage and devotion reached their highest peaks on the occasions when, almost alone, he expressed his keen desire to see the empire preserved, with Canada playing a leading role in its regeneration.

In Mr. Church's death the house has lost a good and faithful member, the constituency of Broadview a devoted servant, the Conservative party one of its pillars, and his relatives and associates a warm and true friend.