

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

He had a very ready wit. All of us I think recall his native gift of repartee. There are many anecdotes which relate to the corridors of these buildings which will long retain a close association with his name. As a member of parliament he not only took a continuous interest in the affairs of the house but was one of the most active and useful members on its committees, and in the party caucuses took his part in a ready and able way. Indeed he entered into all sides of the life of the commons and of parliament generally. He was constructive, tolerant, broad-minded, liberal in every true sense of the word.

It was little short of tragic that the closing years of Mr. Jacobs' life should have been really saddened by the unfortunate lot which in some parts of the world has overtaken many of those who belong to his race. We think of him, as indeed he was, as one of the outstanding leaders of the Jewish people in this country; one who was proud of his race, and of its faith, always prepared to fight for its rights, and to uphold its traditions with tenacity and dignity. That he should have seen, before the end came, what he saw so clearly approaching, namely the increased persecution of those who belong to the Jewish race, and what perhaps troubled him even more, the growth in our own country in some quarters of prejudices against members of his race, was, I think, one of the most unfortunate and cruel things that could possibly have occurred in relation to his life and work. The last conversation I had with him was in company with some other hon. members of this house, in my office adjoining this chamber, when he came with them to plead on behalf of members of the Jewish community. He earnestly expressed the hope that the government and parliament of this country would maintain an attitude of toleration and moderation in viewing all questions of racial difference and the difficulties to which they might give rise.

I think we do well to remember that Mr. Jacobs never failed to bring into the debates of this house a note of moderation. He was never extreme, he was always ready to see the different and often many sides of a question. He only asked of others that they view difficult situations in a large way. He sounded too that other note which is very greatly needed in these times, and of late increasingly needed, I think, in our own country, the note of toleration. He held to the belief in human personality as the most sacred of all things in life. I think we can best honour the memory of our friend by seeking in whatever we say or do here to keep constantly before us these notes of moderation and of toleration.

I ought perhaps to add that Mr. Jacobs was the first to see that such questions as

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

those of the rights of minorities are often among the most difficult questions with which any government or any parliament may be faced. He was not one who demanded extreme action; but I know what he did hope for above all else was that his fellow members in the house would do all they could, both here and throughout the country, by way of educating the public mind to a generous, kindly and liberal attitude of men towards their fellow-men, to whatever race or class or faith they might belong.

I cannot begin to say what the death of Mr. Jacobs means to me personally. When I reentered this House of Commons in the capacity, with which I had been honoured, of leader of my party, he had been here two years; we had known each other for some years before; from that time on, through the nineteen years that succeeded, we were close friends and associates, and he was always helpful in the matter of his counsel, always ready to give it in a generous and kindly way. No political leader could have had a more loyal supporter or more helpful colleague than myself and all the members of this administration had in our friend Sam Jacobs. His memory will be dear, I know, to all in this house who were privileged to be associated with him. I look upon Mr. Jacobs' passing as a loss not merely to this House of Commons and to our country, but, as an international loss coming at this critical time in the world's affairs, when he perhaps more than any other man of his race in Canada was capable of interpreting to his fellow-men all sides of some of our most difficult problems.

Hon. members opposite have also suffered a serious loss in the passing of Mr. Beaubier. Like Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Beaubier was greatly respected in this house. He had a long, an interesting and useful career. As a young man he had the courage and the vision to go to the west in its pioneering days. He settled at Brandon and his life in large part was identified with the growth of that city. He shared its commercial and social life. At the time of the great war he organized the 181st battalion, took it overseas, and was made a lieutenant-colonel in England. Two of his sons were lieutenants in another battalion and a third son served in the Royal Air Force.

Mr. Beaubier contested the constituency of Brandon four times. On the first two occasions he was not successful, and I think it was a great tribute to him that, having been defeated in two elections, his party should have thought him the strongest candidate to contest the constituency for the third time and that he should have been returned when he so