

Tributes to Deceased Members

just friend of every person with whom he was on terms of intimacy in this house; certainly he was recognized as such by hundreds of those citizens residing in the inter-lake area of Manitoba amongst whom he was born, lived a life of service and died. He was not much younger than his province. That means that he was born in that province in a pioneering community and lived the life of a pioneer under pioneer conditions until just recent years. I think it was probably due to that fact that he possessed the endearing qualities of a pioneer, the loyalty to which reference has already been made, and the fair-mindedness of a pioneer; and also those qualities of the pioneer which served him in such good stead as a member of this house: courage, pertinacity and resourcefulness in the discharge of those duties other than making speeches which are such an important part of the work which a member does for his constituency.

We in the west have a term which we apply seriously only to those for whom we have a strong and peculiar combination of love and respect. To us Bert Wood was and always will be remembered as an old-timer. I think the same thing could be said of Robert Fair. He too was an old-timer. There are not too many of them. It is a great tribute to them that we can think of them in these terms.

On behalf of my fellow members from Manitoba I should like to express to the families of both of these gentlemen the heartfelt sympathy which we feel and shall continue to feel for them in their loss.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without saying a brief word. I knew these two members as personal friends. Day in and day out we met. We were like kindred spirits. At the funeral service at Stonewall I was greatly pleased to see present so many members from both sides of the house and of the Senate. That fact told its own story.

I met Bob Fair on the first day he came into the house because I got to know that he was born not far from where I was born; and I knew that we did not have too many Christian Irishmen in the house. I found him to be kind and considerate. Like Mr. Wood, Mr. Fair played the game in the way that it ought to be played. Both men belonged to our bowling league. Both men gave of their best to win; but if they did not win, they were happy to congratulate the man who won. I cannot pay a better tribute to any human mortal than that which I am going to pay to these two fellow members when I say that I found them to be Christian gentlemen in practice.

[Mr. Garson.]

Mr. C. E. Johnston (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pay a tribute to Robert Fair at this time. I knew him probably more intimately than I knew anyone else in this house. We both were elected in 1935. We came to this house together and we had been roommates every year since that time. For 19 years we roomed together. We were still more closely associated than that because, throughout that entire period, we were desk-mates here in this chamber except for part of one parliament.

I know Bob Fair to have had a very mild temperament. In our association we had to deal with problems which arose concerning all parts of the country. There was hardly an occasion on which a problem arose that we did not converse about it one with the other. There was hardly a problem that came before this house, and with which we were connected, that we did not discuss thoroughly in our office before we came down here to the chamber.

I think I can fairly say that everyone who knew him was aware of the fact that he was a confirmed supporter of the farmers of this country. Not only was he concerned about those who lived in his own constituency in his own province but he was concerned greatly about agricultural problems throughout this whole Dominion of Canada. All of us here in this house remember him as a staunch supporter of the old soldier settlers; and I think it will be agreed that had it not been for the persistence that Bob Fair showed in sponsoring the cause of the returned soldier, their condition might not be so good as it is. In fact, he was a staunch supporter of all those who found themselves in less fortunate circumstances than himself. Therefore I should like to express my sincerest sympathy at this time to his wife, Mrs. Fair, and to his two sons, Robin and Lester. I know them personally. They are going to miss him. I am going to miss him a great deal and I am sure that everyone who knew him will also miss him.

Along with the other members of the house, I should like to extend my sympathy on the passing of Bert Wood. I knew him very well. I knew him in sport, in our bowling league, where we became very well acquainted. I knew him as an intimate friend in connection with other phases of the work done by members of the House of Commons. I should like to take this opportunity to express my sympathy to his wife and family and to the government.