

Hon. A. K. Hugessen: Honourable senators, as the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) has remarked, the member of this chamber who was most intimately acquainted with our late colleague Senator Jacob Nicol is the senator from Wellington (Hon. Mr. Howard). They lived in the same city, the beautiful city of Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships of the province of Quebec, and for many years, they were very closely associated in political and business life and in other respects.

As honourable senators perhaps know, Senator Howard is not at the moment in the best of health, although he expects to be able to attend the sittings of the Senate before long. He wrote to my honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) enclosing a tribute to his old friend Senator Nicol, asking that a member of this house should read that tribute to the house. That duty has now fallen upon me. Perhaps it is not an altogether fortuitous thing, for after all I come from the same province as Senator Howard and the late Senator Nicol; and on one occasion some years ago I had the advantage of enjoying the charming hospitality of the late Senator Nicol and his wife at their house in Sherbrooke.

Now I shall, with permission, read this tribute that one old friend pays to another:

"The death of Senator Jacob Nicol does not solely affect the members of his family. The district where he lived, the province of Quebec, and the whole country lose a prominent citizen whose extensive activity greatly contributed to the progress of our nation. He was one of those few men in a generation who made a success of everything they undertook, through their rare combination of talents.

"A native of the Eastern Townships, this district which is called a province within the province of Quebec, he was born in a modest family where he acquired a love for work, a sound judgment and exceptional broad-mindedness, which qualities account for his subsequent success in the political and business world. In the Legislature and in the Legislative Council of Quebec, as well as in the Senate he never deviated from the line of conduct which his duties imposed upon him; his political opponents as well as his friends are unanimous in admitting that he was a great Canadian.

"Successively provincial member for Richmond and Compton, Provincial Treasurer, Minister without Portfolio, President of the Quebec Legislative Council and member of the Senate of Canada, he showed exceptional talents which were frequently called upon by his colleagues.

"His influence was widely felt in his native Eastern Townships, to whose development he

contributed to a marked degree. He had faith in the future of his district where French- and English-speaking Canadians live in full harmony and work together toward the prosperity of their province and their country. Due to his energy, his extraordinary capacity for work and his sound judgment, during more than half a century, he spared no effort to establish and administer enterprises and institutions which today constitute the greatest monument to the grandeur of his conceptions.

"He founded a French language daily newspaper in Sherbrooke, and actively interested himself in newspaper work to the extent that during several years he was publisher of four dailies who owe to him most of the prestige they presently enjoy. When radio came into existence, Senator Nicol soon understood the importance of this new means of communication. He closely followed its developments and in 1937 he gave the Eastern Townships their first local broadcasting station. Soon after, an English language station was established in order to provide for the needs of both racial groups of the population. He also interested himself in television and followed all its progress. It is due to him that the city of Sherbrooke can boast of having an excellent television station.

"While working for his district, he also worked for his province and his country. Therefore it is not surprising that his influence soon spread beyond the limits of his district in order to encompass wider horizons. To business activities he added politics, in which he took an active part from 1928 until his death. He was one of the last citizens of his province to hold both the office of member of the Quebec Legislative Council and member of the Senate of Canada.

"But a man with such a wide-ranging mind could not restrict himself to a few aspects of our national life. He also interested himself in finance, as director or president of various insurance and trust companies, and in educational problems. Since he had had to work to pay for his secondary studies and his university training, he made it a point of duty to show his generosity toward all those who were worthy of it, and today many may be grateful to him for having been able to enjoy the benefits of advanced studies. He considered the cause of education to be extremely important, and many universities recognized this fact by awarding him honorary doctor's degrees.

"We are mourning the passing of a man who will rank high in the history of our country and particularly in the history of his province. He leaves behind him seeds which will continue to grow and bear fruit and which will benefit future generations.