

to read many of his speeches. I can well recall one of them in particular, delivered, I think, something over ten years ago, in which the grace and elegance of his diction was very clearly and impressively reflected, even in the English translation. He enjoyed that capacity of which so many of his race are possessed—of clear, forceful and easy expression; and I am sure all of us will agree that he was a distinct acquisition to Parliament and will mourn sincerely his loss.

Colonel Harry McLeod has also been taken away since last we met here. The member for York-Sunbury, too, served his country in more fields than one. For some years he represented a constituency in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, and for a short time he was a minister in the Government of that province. His interests were, perhaps, as much in the military field as in the political field. He was a student of military tactics and military matters generally, and attended manoeuvres in this and in other countries for purposes of study—and, indeed, in the late war, served in the fields of Europe. In this House he had, I think, more than the usual number of close friends, attracted to him by that quality of loyalty to his friends which all of us admire so much. His contributions to parliamentary discussions were not many; but they were valuable, and as a man chiefly and as a parliamentarian as well, we are sorry we shall see him no more here.

The mutations of time affect the complexion of every institution in the world; the hut of the poor and the palace of the rich are not exempt, nor is the hall of Parliament; the energy and usefulness of this House rest not only on the fidelity of its present members, but on the memory and virtues of those who have gone.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to join with my right hon. friend in paying a tribute to the memory of our deceased colleagues and in expressing the sympathy which this House as a unit will feel with the relatives and friends of the deceased members. As my right hon. friend has just said, the vacant places which greet us at the meeting of Parliament as we reassemble from year to year are more expressive in their mute eloquence than any words we are capable of uttering on an occasion such as this. But while our words are necessarily few, our sense of personal loss is very real and

our sympathy for those who have been bereaved is deep and sincere.

In view of what my right hon. friend has already said of the hon. members who until but yesterday were to be numbered amongst his supporters, but little remains to be added by way of personal tribute to their memories. Both of them, as he has mentioned, were gentlemen who had played an important part not only in the public life of their respective provinces, but in the larger arena of federal politics and, indeed, in the still wider arena of world affairs.

The late Right Hon. Arthur Sifton's life was associated with the upbuilding of our Canadian West, in which he had lived for considerably over half a century. As a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and as Commissioner of Works in the Haultain ministry, and later as Chief Justice and Prime Minister of the province of Alberta, he was permitted to play an exceptional part in laying the foundations of constitutional government in Western Canada. That he did so in a manner which will be an enduring monument to his ability is perhaps the highest tribute that could be paid to his memory. As my right hon. friend has said, we heard his voice but little in this House. Through ill-health he was prevented from taking much part in the affairs of this Parliament; but he was privileged to take a part in international transactions of the greatest magnitude, and in so doing to add further distinction to his own name and to that of his province.

The late hon. member for York-Sunbury, Colonel McLeod, had a career not altogether dissimilar, though cut prematurely short by ill-health consequent upon services rendered to his country overseas. Like the late Secretary of State, he was a distinguished member of the legal profession. Before entering this Parliament, he had been actively identified with the affairs of his province as a member of the local legislature and also as a member of the Government. When the war broke out, he raised a regiment in his native province and crossed the seas on active service in Europe with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. A life of such disinterested and patriotic public service speaks for itself.

Of the three members whose decease we deplore, the late hon. member for Yamaska, Mr. Oscar Gladu, had the longest association with this House. He was first returned to Parliament in 1904 and was re-elected in 1908. He was defeated at the general

[Mr. Meighen.]