

be interred in the cemetery beside the church.

The many who gathered to pay their last respects showed the esteem in which the late senator was held by his fellow citizens. This high esteem was also exemplified in his first election, which was by acclamation, and his continued success thereafter in the Legislature of Nova Scotia.

I am sure we all miss him, and we send our sympathy to his wife and family. They can take comfort from his fine record, and with their faith I know they will be sustained. He was a great husband, a fine father and a distinguished public servant who deserved the best.

Hon. Fred M. Blois: Honourable senators; being another Nova Scotian, at this time I would like to pay my respects to the memory of the Honourable J. W. Comeau.

I agree with what has been said by previous speakers regarding the Leader of the Government, and join with them in hoping that he will soon return to his duties. I also congratulate the Deputy Leader of the Government on his appointment and, having observed the interest that he has taken in the Senate during the six years or so that I have been a member, I know that he will do an excellent job.

Honourable senators, as I said in opening my remarks, my chief reason for rising is to pay tribute to the memory of my very good friend J. Willie Comeau. I knew him in the early thirties, but I came to know him well when I sat across the floor from him in the Nova Scotia Legislature from 1937 to 1945. I remember well the first day I entered the house. He approached me and welcomed me, and we discussed one or two mutual friends whom we held in high esteem. He offered me a little advice that day which I recall vividly.

Perhaps a few anecdotes will illustrate the type of man he was. I think it was the second speech I made in the Assembly that I was tipped off by some members of the cabinet that I might speak on a certain subject. At that time I did not realize the side I was taking was opposite to that in which Mr. Comeau was interested, but through the laughter and pounding on the desks of some of the cabinet ministers he soon realized that it was a joke and that they had put one over me. Afterwards he came to me and said, "I think we are both victims of an innocent joke, but perhaps we will turn the tables on them one of these days." A few weeks later we did.

In those days I was Leader of the Opposition, and for the first couple of years I had four supporters and for the next four years I had three, so you will realize what a tough job I had. On one particular occasion when the gentlemen opposite had made things very tough for me, "Willie" Comeau said to me, "My friend, you must not be too gentlemanly. Lash out at them at times with both hands." The opportunity arose a little later, and I did lash out with both hands to the best of my ability. Afterwards he told me, "When I advised you recently to lash out with both hands, I did not mean you should kick them to death." I mention this to illustrate the type of man Senator Comeau was. We had many interesting talks, and he gave me good advice on many occasions.

He was a staunch member of his party, but he could also see the other side of the question. Nova Scotia and Canada have lost a great man. He was held in tremendous esteem in the area in which he lived, and all along that Bay of Fundy shore people went to him for advice.

The Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) and Senator Kinley referred to the way in which our late colleague ran his election campaigns. On one occasion I asked him why it was he rarely toured his constituency. His house was situated on a hill and he sat out on his veranda. He used to call to anyone he wanted to see, and they came and talked to him. On one occasion I asked him, "How in the world do you do it?" He replied, "Well, any time they don't want me, they don't need to vote for me." And that is just about the philosophy he adopted.

He was an honourable man and had a heart almost as large as himself, but he was never abused. A few people tried, but they never did a second time, for despite all his kindness he could put them in their place just about as quickly as anyone I know.

At this time I wish to extend my sympathy to his widow and large family of sons and daughters. They are carrying on his great name in that area. He was tremendously proud of the fact that he was an Acadian, and in discussing with him some of the things that he was doing he said, "You know, I am equally proud that I am an Acadian, a Nova Scotian, and a Canadian." Again, that emphasizes the type of man we down there knew as "J. Willie."

[Translation]:

Hon. Calixte F. Savoie: Honourable senators, as an Acadian, I cannot let this occasion pass