

in thought, or word, or deed, of any act which could bring discredit to his name, or lessen the lustre of any circle in which he moved.

I need not make more than a passing allusion to Mr. Robb's public services. They are well known to all present and to the country. He held successively in the present administration the portfolios of Trade and Commerce, of Immigration and Colonization, and of Finance. As head of these departments he gave many evidences of his executive capacity, shrewd insight into affairs, and deep knowledge and understanding of human nature. Entering upon his duties as a minister of the crown at a time of great political uncertainty and instability, and of widespread industrial depression, Mr. Robb lived to see his name become a proverb, almost a synonym for prosperity. As Minister of Finance he directed his attention more especially to the problems of debt and taxation, and was able for the period during which he held office, to point to substantial reductions in both. Making due allowance for any difference of view which members of this house may have, it may, I think, be said of the several budgets which he introduced, that while they may have occasioned controversy at the time, and may continue to occasion controversy, they will always bear in the mind of the public an association with his name alike welcome and worthy.

In debate in this house, Mr. Robb gave, and I believe also received, more perhaps in the way of consideration than almost any other member. This was due to his essential kindness of nature and a certain lovable-ness, which all who knew him will always be glad to recall. "Jim" Robb, as we called him, was both liked and respected by members of all political parties, and the fact that to-day, because he is no longer with us, there will be sorrow as genuine and almost as great, in the hearts of honourable members opposite, as there is in the breasts of those who sit on this side, is perhaps the highest tribute that could be paid to his memory.

As I think of my late devoted friend and colleague, one who was a friend of all who are here present, of his life lived so quietly and unostentatiously, and yet so full of meaning and power in the affairs of our country, and ask myself what were the attributes of character which made him so highly and universally esteemed, there come to my mind those beautiful lines in Wordsworth's "Ode to Duty":

Give unto me, made lowly-wise
The spirit of self-sacrifice;
The confidence of reason give;
And in the light of truth thy Bondman
let me live!

James Alexander Robb was "benignly vested with humility". It lent to his every act, and to his faith, the note of simplicity. It was the spirit of self-sacrifice which caused him, in service and fortune alike, to give his all to the community and to the country he loved.

Of him, it might always have been said that he was one

Whose armour is
His honest thought,
And simple truth
His utmost skill.

It was his loyalty in every relationship of life that endeared him to the hearts of all. These are great qualities, but they remain the simple and homely virtues. Of what they may mean to other lives and to our country, his life and his memory, will continue to speak.

In the presence of death we are prone to think of our own loss. There is one, however, the irreparableness of whose loss is, I am sure, very much in the minds of all. Mrs. Robb has been, indeed, greatly bereaved. To her our hearts go out in feelings of profound sympathy. May I ask, Mr. Speaker, that expression of the sympathy of the House of Commons be conveyed by yourself to Mrs. Robb on our behalf.

THE LATE GEORGES DOREZE MORIN

In the thought that something has been spared of the infirmity which comes with years, there is much in the way of consolation where death comes to one, who with health and faculties unimpaired, has passed the three-score years and ten. There is, however, less of consolation and more of mystery where a young life, full of promise, and just at the threshold of years of public service, is snatched away, seemingly without warning and with but little apparent cause. Such, Mr. Speaker, were the circumstances of the death of the other hon. member, the late Georges Dorèze Morin, who has been taken away since the last session of parliament, and whose loss is more particularly mourned by those who sit on this side of the house.

Mr. Morin was the member for Bagot, also in the province of Quebec. He was born at St. Hyacinthe on December 2, 1884, and had just completed his 45th year when he died at St. Pie de Bagot, on December 24 of last year. Mr. Morin was by profession, a notary public, and during the time he was practising his profession, had been called upon to fill more than one important public position, the duties of which he had performed most acceptably.