

Honourable gentlemen, let the names of those two great and good men stand out as an object lesson of union and forbearance to all Canadians. One was a Scottish Englishman, the other a Frenchman; one was a Catholic, the other a Protestant. They both were broad-minded, large-hearted Christians; they both served their country well; and, alas, they have both disappeared beyond the horizon, enshrined in the admiration of their fellow-men, carrying with them the hearts of the whole nation, to be judged by Him whose angels called for unity and good-will among men, by Him who declared brotherly love divine, making it half of the law.

Hon. P. A. CHOQUETTE (Translation): Will you permit me, honourable gentlemen, to add a word to the eulogistic speeches to which we have just listened—speeches which have come from the heart rather than from the lips, and which attest our great sorrow at the death of our illustrious compatriot, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"On this morrow of victory," as was said the other day in Quebec by Dr. Choquette, member of the Legislative Council, "when Canada was preparing to re-enter the bright and certain path of her normal activities, suddenly she is again plunged into general mourning by a new bereavement. In the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the country has lost the most beloved of her sons, the most illustrious of her subjects, the most Canadian of her leaders. He has not been carried away, it is true, from a post of direct responsibility and immediate authority; yet every one feels that his absence removes from the field of Canadian patriotism a combination of qualities so rare as to constitute in him who possesses them a leader, by his goodness, by the tact and the nobility of the gentleman, mingled with all the extensive intellectual talents of the statesman. It is the fact that his prestige remained as unaffected after reverses and defeats as after triumphs." I endorse in every respect these beautiful words; but if there is one fact calculated to reveal fully the enormous loss which the Canadian people have just suffered, it is the general accord which has instantly united all races, all peoples, all languages, all classes, in a unanimous chorus of homage and of regret at the bier of this statesman.

The most touching and at the same time the most fitting speech on Sir Wilfrid Laurier I have not heard in this Chamber, nor did I hear it from the pulpit of the Basilica, nor have I found it in any book or newspaper. I merely heard it the other

evening fall from the lips of a simple child who was looking tenderly on the giant proportions of his coffin, and who whispered to his companion, "I did not think he was so big." Does this not express, and well express, the feeling of every one of us in these days of mourning?

To be sure, we knew well what a great place he occupied for nearly half a century in the public life of our country; we had no doubt that he would take a still greater place in history. But we did not think him so great when, as a young member of the Legislature of his province, he began to lay the foundation of the work of unification and of national greatness to which he unceasingly devoted his efforts. We did not think him so great when, after having consolidated our Federal system and forged an armour of autonomy and of liberty for our colony, he proudly proclaimed it a nation. We did not think him so great when, at Buckingham Palace, in his personal majesty, with his simple crown of white hair, he stood in the presence of other Crowns and other Majesties. We did not think him so great, and it was but yesterday, as we witnessed the great honours which the Canadian people in great hosts had gathered to pay him at his obsequies, that we comprehended the enormous place he occupied in the heart of our country, and I might say of the whole world.

Canada will mourn him deeply, and, as was said by the same legislative councillor at Quebec, our old French province will mourn him more deeply than any other. She will be consoled, however, by the thought that in times of agitation, in the face of attacks or denunciations, she will still be able to hold his name aloft, to recall his teachings, to invoke his words of wisdom and of concord; because, in truth, he is of those who though dead yet speak. This is why, I imagine, among all the dreams of success and ambition and of glory which he conceived for himself, his race, and his country, history will pronounce his most beautiful dream to have been that of national unification, for which he constantly laboured, and which, with his aged but restless hands, he strove to consolidate on the very eve of his death.

I cannot close these few remarks without quoting to this honourable House a few lines from a paper which has been one of his strong opponents. *La Patrie* of yesterday, on its first page, below an illustration representing the province of Quebec as a woman in mourning placing a crown on the tomb of the great departed, said this:

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the illustrious leader of the Liberal party, former Prime Minister, now