

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: And he could drive a good horse.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: And he did drive a good horse, and drove him well. I do not mean that he was a David Harum, but in handling a horse he had all the joy that any lover of horses could have.

As my honourable friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has said to-night, Senator Webster was an absolute leader in his own particular industry. We had an illustration of this in the Senate on one occasion when some question of agriculture arose. I think everybody in the House was extremely grateful to the late senator for the fund of precise information which he at that time placed at our disposal. That was an example of one of the great advantages possessed by this House—that the members are recruited from all ranks, and are all specialists in their own departments, who contribute, as do the members of the English House of Lords, very valuable information in their own line. We knew that Senator Ross was failing for some time, but none of us thought that Senator Webster would not live for a long time to come. It was with the profoundest regret that we learned of his death.

Hon. C. E. TANNER: Honourable gentlemen, coming from Nova Scotia, which was the adopted home of Senator Ross, I should like to say a word or two. Although we regarded Senator Ross as a Nova Scotian, his birthplace was Prince Edward Island. His family, however, were all brought up in the province of Nova Scotia, and while we in that province claim him and other distinguished members of the family, we are nevertheless glad to pay tribute to the island which gave him birth.

I knew Senator Ross almost from the beginning of his career as a lawyer; also I was more or less associated with him at a time when he took a somewhat active interest in public affairs in that province. My object in speaking is merely to give expression to the deep regret which I, in common with all in Nova Scotia, felt at his death, and in knowing that the province had lost a really great man.

One of the fundamentals of the late Senator Ross—I think honourable gentlemen who knew him will agree—was his thoroughness. That was characteristic of him, as I learned from my observation of him from the very beginning of his career. When he had to deal with a matter he was never satisfied until he got to the bottom of it; if he was dealing with a legal question he wanted to get at the root of it. While we in this House might

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not regard him as a brilliant orator, everyone knew that he was a safe man, and that in all questions affecting the welfare of Canada his one desire was to do his best for Canada, irrespective of how it might affect the parties.

I should like also to join in the regret expressed at the death of our late colleague, Senator Webster. I knew him for a great many years. He was a man of sound common sense, and, I believe, most successful in the sphere in which he moved. I should like to join with all honourable members of this Chamber in conveying to the relatives of these two gentlemen our sincerest regret.

Right Hon. GEO. P. GRAHAM: Honourable gentlemen, although it is not necessary, may I be permitted to add just a word. I would not like this opportunity to pass without paying my tribute.

We who are not learned in the law, in endeavouring to get clearly before us something that our legal friends are trying to present, sometimes become lost in the intricacies of legal discussions, and in the end are no nearer being able to form a judgment than we were before. I always waited to hear what Mr. Ross had to say. At times he appeared to be thinking of something else, but at the proper moment, without any extravagance of words or multiplicity of ideas, he would strip the whole matter bare, and in a few sentences would make it so clear that those of us who knew nothing about law could understand it perfectly.

In addition to his clearness of thought and expression, Senator Ross had a personality all his own. No man in this House could describe him; he could not be compared to any person else, or contrasted with anybody else; his personality was so distinct that one had to know him to really appreciate him. Not only did I admire his great ability, but I formed a very affectionate regard for the man himself, and I am sure we all unite in a sincere expression of sympathy for his family, and regret at his departure.

The late Senator Webster was a neighbour of mine, and although we clashed at times—and I recall one real clash in which I came off second best—Senator Webster was always a gentleman. He was a successful business man, and an authority on agriculture and dairying. John Webster was not always in the dairying business. He started life in a very humble manner. After receiving hard knocks as a boy he went into the employ of the James Smart Manufacturing Company in a very humble position; he made good in