

member of this chamber, and the contribution which he had made to the public life of Canada, have already been referred to by the honourable leaders on both sides of the house as well as by the honourable senator from Westmorland.

I just want to add that the province of New Brunswick owes a lot, and will always owe a lot, to the late Senator Foster. He gave up a prominent business career to enter public life when he became a candidate in the provincial elections of 1917. He was chosen as leader of the party and became Premier, charged with the administration of the affairs of the province. Although he had never had any previous experience in a legislative assembly, the first time he sat in the house was as Premier. The achievements of his administration with its progressive policies, including the establishment of the Workmen's Compensation Board, the organization of a Department of Public Health, and the development of hydro-electric power in the province, are a matter of public record. He gave freely of his splendid abilities, and his whole public career, in his native province as well as in federal affairs, was marked by unselfish and conscientious service to the state. His charm and graciousness made for him many warm friends among his political and business associates. In his death Canada has lost one of its most distinguished public men, and New Brunswick a worthy son.

I join with other honourable members in extending to Mrs. Foster and her daughters sincere sympathy in their great sorrow.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Hear, hear.

Hon. J. W. de B. FARRIS: Honourable senators, it is always a great pleasure after a sessional intermission to come back here and meet old friends, but there is sadness when we find that some old friends are no longer here.

Coming from British Columbia, as I do, it is fitting that in addition to what our leaders have said I should say a more personal word about Gerry McGeer. He and I were elected to the legislature of British Columbia in 1916, thirty-one years ago. Gerry was then in his twenties, and you who knew him in his later days can understand what an obstreperous member he was at that time, though supporting the government. Mr. Speaker, you and I who were members of that government may, in the most kindly way and with heartfelt affection, record that no government supporter ever gave a government as much trouble as Gerry McGeer did. I say that, not by way of criticism, but as indicating that so early in his life he possessed an energy, a restlessness, that no government moving in its ordinary chan-

nels could ever hope to assuage. The leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) has mentioned that Senator McGeer was made a K.C., twenty-five years ago. It was my privilege and honour to recommend that appointment to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. There was a lot of criticism of it. A good many old fellows in the profession had an idea that age was a better qualification than brains, but time has fully vindicated the appointment.

I look back over the years. Gerry came down here to the House of Commons, and he was mayor of Vancouver at the time. Later he was summoned to the Senate, but with all deference to the wisdom of the Prime Minister I doubt if the Senate was quite the place for Gerry McGeer. It is reported in the *Confederation Debates*, and has been said many times since, that the Senate is a deliberative body. It is our duty to impose on bills coming from the other house the sober second thought of elder statesmen. But Gerry as we knew him was very often impatient of sober second thought; he thought and moved too fast for that. With him, to think and have an idea was to act upon it. He was a striking member of this house, but I never quite thought that this was the best place for a man of his imagination, vigour and restless activity. He took on additional public duties, and after one of those good old-fashioned thumping elections he was again elected mayor of Vancouver by a tremendous majority. The zeal and untiring effort which he put into that job contributed to his early death.

The leader has mentioned a newspaper article about Gerry McGeer's funeral procession. I rode in that procession, and in my more than forty years in British Columbia I have never seen people pay to any public man the tribute which that day, by their silence and bowed heads, they paid to the man who had been mayor of Vancouver and one of the senators from British Columbia. We shall miss him here in this house. I personally, although we used to have lots of differences of opinion, shall miss him greatly. We all join in our expression of sorrow to his family.

Honourable senators, I could not sit down without referring to a one-time premier of my native province, the late Senator Foster. Those who still live in that province can bear better testimony to his immediate activities than I would presume to do. When I came to this house, eleven years ago, Senator Foster was Speaker. Although he and my father had been friends, my acquaintance with him at that time was slight, but he gave me a feeling of welcome here that leaves a pleasant glow of memory to this time. It was the great privi-