

bucket, and also when the minority does not equip itself better to force the others to recognize its competence. This is part of the problem that was ever present in Lapointe's mind in these last few years, that still remains to be solved and that still demands the energies and good will of those who believe that in its solution lies the ultimate greatness of the country.

Ernest Lapointe's own parliamentary career is a splendid example of the value of preparedness achieved over quite a number of years of obscure work and patient assimilation. It can be said that from his arrival here, in 1904, he "made his way silently and single-handed to the front", and that after the long early years of training, "he rose by the upward gravitation of natural fitness." His career is also a model of tolerance and understanding because his outlook on all questions was broad and liberal. A champion of fair play, of liberty and of social justice, he was deeply convinced that the democratic institutions, so dearly conquered over intolerance and absolutism, were our most precious heritage, and although he always granted others the right to their opinion, he could never understand as sane the gesture of a free man who decried democracy and advocated totalitarianism.

A good lawyer, a brilliant platform speaker, an outstanding statesman, Lapointe was above all a great parliamentarian, and it is in the House of Commons that he lived most of the great moments of his public life.

Two paragraphs from Sir William Harcourt's speech in the British House of Commons on the occasion of Mr. Gladstone's death, at this moment come naturally to one's mind:

What inspires confidence and sympathy in the midst of conflicting opinion is the belief that a man is acting from sincere conviction, that what he is doing is that which he honestly believes to be for the advantage of his country.

On this count I think all members of this house will agree with me that Ernest Lapointe was most deeply imbued with a sense of civic duty and most deeply conscious of his responsibilities, and that for him the first criterion to be applied to all ideas, to all measures, was their advisability or their timeliness for the good of the country at large, and I may state that all his decisions were motivated by his desire to make Canada a great, prosperous and united country.

There is one more quotation from Sir William Harcourt which I should like to read, because it applies so well to Mr. Lapointe:

He greatly revered the House of Commons. He desired to maintain its reputation as the

great organ of the will of a free people. . . . His conduct in the House of Commons, whether in government or in opposition, bore all the marks of a lofty spirit. He respected others as he respected himself and he controlled both by his magnanimity. He was strong but he was also gentle; he was to us not only a great statesman, but a great gentleman. . . . The House of Commons was greater by his presence, as it is greater by his memory.

I need not say here how heartily I join with those who have spoken this afternoon in offering to Madame Lapointe; their daughter, Madame Ouimet, and their son, my friend and our colleague, Lieutenant Hugues Lapointe, the assurance of my deep sympathy.

In closing, I wish to make mine these words of a great English Liberal leader, Mr. Asquith, on the demise of another great Liberal, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman:

He has gone to his rest, and to-day in this house, of which he was the senior and most honoured member, we may call a truce in the strife of parties, while we together remember our common loss, and pay our united homage to a gracious and cherished memory.

Mr. H. E. BRUNELLE (Champlain): In 1933 a large group of citizens of my city of Cap de la Madeleine formed a social and political organization which they called the Club Lapointe. I have the honour of being the president of that club, and, aware as I am of the inspiration which the members derived from their patron, I feel that I might be looked upon as negligent in my duty were I not to say a word of tribute to the memory of the late Minister of Justice, and to express my profound sympathy to his wife and family.

At home a special confidence was placed in the late Minister of Justice, and on this occasion I must crave the privilege of expressing in a humble manner the heartfelt sentiments of my friends. After the eloquent addresses which have been made in this chamber this afternoon, and particularly the address of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), who so kindly and feelingly spoke of his late friend and colleague, the only merit my words can have is that of sincerity.

The Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe died on November 26 last; but the period of time which has elapsed since his passing away has not even begun to make us forget him, and that empty seat before us, where the least imagination makes one still see his genial face and strong, imposing body, is a sight that is both painful and depressing. His personality, his broad-mindedness no doubt made a lasting impression upon those who knew him. As one of the members from the province of Quebec, during the six years I have been in this house I have always been glad and proud that he occupied such a high position in the