

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

other vigorously at times on matters of policy, I never once detected in Mr. Mackenzie King any personal malice as a result of those differences.

In the many private and other talks that I had with him Mr. King always demonstrated a warm friendliness and a helpful attitude which I most deeply appreciated. I have heard that some people described Mr. King as having an iron fist in a velvet glove, but I think it only right and fair to say that even if he had an iron will and a determination of steel I found in him a deeply spiritual quality that tempered them both. In his death Canada has lost one of her foremost native sons and the world a great statesman.

**Mr. J. W. MacNaught (Prince):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my constituents would want me on this occasion to pay a brief tribute to the memory of the late Mackenzie King. From 1919 to 1921 the late Mackenzie King represented the constituency of Prince, which constituency I now have the honour to represent. It was through the constituency of Prince that Mackenzie King entered the House of Commons as leader of the opposition. The people of Prince Edward Island knew that in Mackenzie King they had a true friend. He always had a complete understanding of our island problems.

There is very little that I can add to the tributes that have already been paid to the memory of this great and good man. I believe that among his many great accomplishments none will stand higher than the contribution he made towards national unity in Canada. He was deeply conscious of the fact that Canada was a difficult country to govern, and all his policies were shaped to promote harmony and good will between the two great races which inhabit this country.

My constituents and the people of Prince Edward Island in general mourn the passing of this great statesman.

**TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS**

THE LATE HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL—THE LATE GLEASON BELZILE

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all hon. members were just as shocked as I was by the news of the sudden death of the Hon. Humphrey Mitchell on August 1, 1950. We all knew that his health had been impaired, but all of his friends, and that I think included everyone in the house, hoped that the few weeks' rest Mr. Mitchell was obliged to take during the winter had put him on the road to complete recovery. As hon. members

know, Mr. Mitchell was always cheerful and never given to complaining, but I knew that for many months he had been feeling the strain of the heavy responsibility he had borne as Minister of Labour for the wartime mobilization of manpower, and since the war in carrying out the employment policies of the post-war period.

Humphrey Mitchell's interest in public affairs was not confined to the direction of his department. He was always concerned that the government should, in all its policies, strive to increase the opportunities in life for the ordinary men and women of this country. For me personally, as well as for the government, Mr. Mitchell's death was a special loss. He and I entered the cabinet at the same time, and I know how faithfully he served the country of his choice and how great a gap his passing will leave in parliament and in the public life of this nation.

*(Translation):*

Upon hearing of Humphrey Mitchell's death not only his English-speaking fellow citizens but also those whose mother tongue is the same as mine realized that they had lost a true friend. His relations with members of this country's trade unions were characterized by his understanding of those aspects of our problems that are at times peculiar to this nation and by an intelligent and sincere desire to bring an effective contribution to their solution.

Our colleague, Gleason Belzile, member for Rimouski and assistant to the Minister of Finance, died July 25, 1950. He was a notary and as such a representative of an ancient profession in the legal life of the province of Quebec. His untimely death has put an end to a brilliant but, unfortunately, much too short parliamentary career.

After having suffered the physical devastations of fire, Rimouski was to undergo the moral havoc caused by the loss of its representative in the nation's parliament.

In Gleason Belzile we have lost a citizen to whom his cultural heritage and his province were very dear but who, at the same time, had a sense of duty towards the whole nation. Such are the qualities for which he is honoured, qualities we must practise ourselves and teach our descendants for as long as the Canadian nation will live.

*(Text):*

**Hon. Douglas Abbott (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if I may I should like to add a word to what the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has just said about the passing of Mr. Gleason Belzile. As the house is aware, he served as my parliamentary assistant for almost three years. During a considerable part of that time his health was far from good