

Tributes to Deceased Members

Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest moments in my life has been when I was interrupted while praising the last disciple trained by Laurier. From the moment he was removed from office until the inception of the great war, Mr. Cardin has been a sincere Liberal, but not a fanatic, for he always recognized merit where merit lay. Of course, he believed that the Liberal party was a body bound to implement certain principles in the interest of our country.

What I wished to refer to, a while ago, Mr. Speaker, was the contribution of Mr. Cardin to the bringing together of the great races of our country. If you preclude me from reading the excerpts that refer to this subject, I shall recite them from memory, because his words have made such a deep impression on my mind. First, Mr. Cardin stated that he was not an isolationist. He was accused of isolationism because he was a patriot. He was not ashamed of being a patriot and he considered Canada as his only fatherland. He did not object to helping other countries, as long as service to Canada was the first consideration. I wished to quote some more excerpts, but in view of the feelings which oppress me at this time, Mr. Speaker, I shall leave it at that for the time being and quote them as soon as the occasion arises.

Before closing my remarks, let me recall to the Prime Minister a classical recollection which came to my mind while following the imposing funeral procession over that distance of a mile and a half which separates Mr. Cardin's residence from the church where the service was held. This classical recollection, which then came to my mind, consists of a few verses of Horatius. I am sure the Prime Minister, who is the most cultured of our colleagues, knows these three verses of Horatius' ode to Virgil, on the death of Quintilius:

Quando ullum inveniet parem?
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit
Nulli flebilior quam tibi, Virgili.

If my hon. colleagues wish to have the translation of these verses, here it is: When will the Prime Minister find another Cardin, mourned by a multitude of upright men, "but who should mourn him more than you, O Virgil."

My last word is this, Mr. Speaker: To my mind, it is a great honour for Mr. Cardin's successor to represent in this house the constituency which he made famous.

Mr. FERNAND VIAU (St. Boniface) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as the representative not only of the electoral constituency but of the city of St. Boniface, that bulwark of the French language in western Canada,

[Mr. Pouliot.]

I am pleased to share in the eulogy so ably expressed by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) as well as by the Right Hon. Minister for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent), in memory of the man for whom the people of this country are now mourning, the late Mr. Cardin.

It will be remembered that our fellow citizens in western Canada have often had to struggle not only for their language but for their faith. In those struggles many Quebec voices then joined those of the French Canadians of western Canada and among those voices there was one we shall never forget, and that was the voice of the man whose loss we now mourn.

When, a few years ago, we celebrated the centenary of La Vérendrye, the rich and ringing voice of Mr. Cardin was heard in St. Boniface where he addressed a very large audience. And now, his relatives mourn the loss of a distinguished Canadian, the nation mourns the loss of an illustrious citizen, the Commons, the loss of a member who was so faithful.

Thus, the French Canadians of western Canada wish to extend their deepest sympathy to all who have sorrowed and still sorrow over the loss of this unforgettable Canadian.

(Text):

VACANCY

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CARTIER

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that pursuant to the order passed yesterday I have issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the electoral district of Cartier.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS—FURTHER DOCUMENTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) asked for any further submissions with respect to the dominion-provincial tax conference. I have before me the request made by the leader of the opposition on April 29, 1946, which was in these words:

The government is now engaged, with the provinces, in a further dominion-provincial conference, of which there have been several since last August. Will the government give consideration to putting together in one printed form, for the information of hon. members, the official statements made by this government and by the official representatives from the provinces? These would be the statements since the first conference last August, including the present one.