

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

May I add this one further word with reference to a part played by Sir George in the proceedings of this house. His practical knowledge, and sound judgment of men and affairs, as I have already said, meant much to his party, both in office and in opposition. I should like to add that it meant much, as well, to all parties in parliament. In the nature of things, difficulties and differences are bound to arise between a government and an opposition, which, if they are permitted to develop and become acrimonious, are bound to destroy what is best in our parliamentary system of government, namely, the settlement of all matters by reasoned discussion, and the avoidance of unnecessary bitterness, or attempts at coercion in any form. In situations of the kind, Sir George always sought to exercise a moderating and a restraining influence, one which had its effect for good in the relations of all.

I have still to make mention of one more hon. member who has been taken from us since the last session.

It was only the day before yesterday that word was received of the sudden passing, in Edmonton, of Doctor William S. Hall, the member for Edmonton East.

Doctor Hall was in his sixty-seventh year at the time of his death. He was a dentist by profession, and his education had been gained, in part, at the University of Toronto. Like Mr. Cameron and Mr. Ryan, he entered parliament for the first time in 1935. It was his interest in the Social Credit movement which brought him to the fore, first as a candidate for the legislature of Alberta, in 1935, and, later, in the same year as a candidate for the House of Commons. He was not successful at the provincial election, but succeeded in winning a seat in the federal parliament at the general election. His participation in the affairs of this House was necessarily limited. Dr. Hall hardly had the opportunity to become familiar with public life, and we had only come to know him when he was called away.

In what I have just said of the six of our number who have been taken from us, I have necessarily enlarged somewhat upon the services of those who have been longest in public life, and whose part in public affairs has been best known.

Thinking, however, of all of them, one feels that each, in his own way, and to the best of his abilities, sought to serve his community, his generation, and his country. They were all good Canadians, and their

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

names and their lives and their public services will be remembered through years to come.

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, kindly to convey to the immediate members of the families of those of our number who have passed away, the sincere expression of the sympathy of this House, in their bereavement.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, there has grown up a custom, now almost established as a parliamentary practice, whereby before entering upon the active work of a session we pause to contemplate the work of those who have left us during the recess. For many reasons I think it is a sound practice. The right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) gave one excellent reason when he said that it afforded us an opportunity to record upon the pages of Hansard the achievements in public service of those who have left us. But it serves another purpose; it serves to remind us of the brevity of human life, and of the unimportance of the individual in the march of time. A few months ago none of us could have thought that by to-day six of our number would have passed to the Great Beyond. Serving as it does those purposes this custom enables some of us who for a brief moment may occupy official positions in the house to record briefly the contributions which have been made to the public life of Canada by our former fellow members.

Three hon. members who have left us were supporters of the government of the day. I cannot think of Mr. Cameron other than as my old friend Dan Cameron. We were classmates at Dalhousie. He was a Cape Breton Scotchman, a highlander through both sides of his parentage, and was blessed with what I regarded as one of the most powerful intellects with which I came in contact. To some extent I think circumstances limited the operation of that mind, but when I knew him as a student I knew one whose very powerful mind made a deep impression upon me in those youthful days. He served for many years in a judicial capacity as a stipendiary magistrate at Sydney. In the public life of Nova Scotia, whether in the legislative council or the legislative assembly, he brought to bear upon the questions he had to consider a moderation, a dignity and a calmness of judgment worthy of emulation.

In ill health he came to this house, and we did not see the strength and force of the man. However on more than one occasion his independence of judgment was manifested