

The last to be taken from this side of the House was the Honourable Mr. Kennedy, Minister of Railways and Canals. Mr. Kennedy's death is so recent, and has come so near to all of us who were his colleagues in the government, that it is not possible to speak of the loss it has occasioned without emotion. That he is no longer with us is due, beyond all question, to the fidelity and tenacity with which, at great risk to his health, and as it has now proved, at the peril of his life, he held to his post of duty at a time when the business of his department demanded close and continuous attention. To his colleagues in the government, and to myself in particular, Mr. Kennedy's death has occasioned profound sorrow.

Mr. Kennedy was elected to parliament as the member for North Essex at the general elections of 1917. He was returned in the general election of 1921. Few men have entered upon public life with more of promise, and even fewer in so short a time have won and merited so great distinction. With early manhood still on his side, his rare organizing genius and business ability had put him in a position of independence, where it was possible for him to place virtually the whole of his time and his talent at the service of the state. His generous nature, social disposition and known integrity combined with his business and political sagacity had gained for him not only hosts of personal friends and the confidence of his fellow townsmen and constituents, but the high regard of his fellow members in parliament and the esteem of the citizens of our country generally. His administration of the affairs of the Department of Railways and Canals revealed a positive genius for the work of government. He seemed to possess the very qualities most needed; untiring energy, undaunted courage, high integrity, sound judgment and vision. All of that is now lost to Canada in whose service he died. In a very true sense his death is a national loss. He was in every way worthy of the many tributes paid his memory from one end of our country to the other.

There is but one thing left to be done by those of us who loved and honoured him, and that is to emulate his courage; to take up our public tasks with renewed vigour and devotion, that the spirit which he exemplified so bravely may be kept alive in our midst.

All that I have said of our friend, the late Mr. Kennedy, might be said with equal truth, and fulness of meaning of the late Honourable James A. Stewart. Indeed, the parallel is so close as to be almost complete throughout.

Mr. Stewart entered the House of Commons as the Member for Lanark in the first session of the last parliament. He was returned at a by-election in May, 1918, and so sat through practically the whole of that parliament. He was again returned at the general elections of 1921, at which time he was holding the portfolio of Minister of Railways and Canals in the government of my right honourable friend, the leader of the opposition. I can sympathize with my right honourable friend, as I am sure he does with me, in the loss of one who was the most loyal of colleagues and truest of friends. I extend to him, and to those who sit around him, the sympathy of all honourable gentlemen on this side of the House, in the loss from their ranks of one whose splendid qualities of heart and mind were appreciated by us all, and who, though opposed to us politically, was genuinely respected and admired.

It may be said of Mr. Stewart as it has been of Mr. Kennedy that without question, the impairment of his health which, amidst the promise of years and fortunate circumstances, brought his life thus early to a close, was furthered by his high sense of public duty, and endeavour conscientiously to discharge his obligations as a representative of the people in parliament and as a minister of the Crown.

There would appear to be something more than chance in the tragic circumstance that these two men, both more or less of a like age, of like characteristics, attainments, and distinction in the business and political world, should have come beneath the roof of the same institution at the same time to wage battle against death, each with the companion of his life, a solitary watcher at his side. For a time it seemed that "one would be taken and the other left." Now they have both passed, "gentlemen unafraid," into the Great Beyond. It may well be that all this has come to teach those of us who are engaged in political controversies a wider tolerance and more of chivalry towards those who differ from us in opinion; and the nation, a larger measure of charity towards its public men!

All four of the honourable members who have been taken from us were alike in this: each loved mercy, each sought to do justly, and each walked humbly with his God. They were alike in yet another particular. Each enjoyed, in all that pertained to his personal and public life, the interest and devotion of a companionship which it was beautiful, and at times touching, to witness, and which it will ever be pleasing to recall. Our sympathy