

*The late Hon. R. F. Preston*

As I listened to the tale of the early days of the medical practitioner in Lanark county, I felt how similar it was to the career of Dr. MacLure. The life of the medical practitioner has been greatly changed in these modern times, but there are those at whose birth Dr. Preston had been present who still looked upon him as the physician whom they must call to attend them, and so he journeyed to remote sections of the county, although in these days it was far more easily done than in the early days of his manhood. It is quite clear, as the Prime Minister has said, while undertaking one of those journeys in the early part of this year he contracted a cold which terminated fatally. Such was his devotion to duty. But physicians perhaps more than any other people in the world are given to devotion to duty. In the pioneer days of this country they performed a service of which we have no record, but its value is incalculable.

Dr. Preston will be greatly missed in the county where he lived so long. There were at least two generations who knew him well. In his death they have lost a great and personal friend, a man whose kindly word and warm sympathy did almost as much to assist nature in her curative processes as did the medicines that were prescribed. We on this side have lost a wise, sagacious counsellor, one who knew much of the province of Ontario, who was trusted by Sir James Whitney as few men are trusted—he discussed with him the most intimate matters connected with his leadership—and one who had a fund of knowledge upon which we on this side could draw in matters affecting his native province.

His place will not easily be filled, but he has left behind him a memory of which any man might well be proud. I have talked with the younger men and women and with those of middle age in the county of Lanark, and the warm affection they expressed for Dr. Preston made me think that after all there is something in the struggle of life that is worth while, when such enduring friendships are made. We on this side are under a singular debt of gratitude to him, because he happened at an opportune moment to be present when an accident befell another of our members, and but for his timely intervention I doubt whether anything would have prevented that accident from having had fatal results.

As I was thinking of him to-day, I could not conceive of any happier terms in which I might express the thought which is in the minds of the older men and women of Lanark, as well as of some of the younger men and

[Mr. Bennett.]

women, than the thought to which Ian MacLaren gave expression after MacLure had fought the great battle of death for Saunders. The London practitioner was of opinion that in the fight with death Doctor MacLure would be unsuccessful, but he fought the fight and won. But he himself contracted—not just then but a little later—that illness that brought his own life to a close. As he lay dying he turned to his friend and asked him to say a word of prayer. So Drumsheugh knelt and prayed with many pauses:

“Almichty God, . . . dinna be hard on Weelum MacLure, for he’s no been hard wi’ onybody in Drumtochty. . . . Be kind tae him as he’s been tae us a’ for forty year. . . . We’re a’ sinners afore Thee. . . . Forgive him what he’s done wrang, an’ dinna cuist it up tae him. . . . Mind the fouk he’s helpit. . . . the weemen an’ bairnies. . . . an’ gie him a welcome hame, for he’s sair needin’t after a’ his wark. . . . Amen.”

Mr. JOHN EVANS (Rosetown): We in this corner associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bennett) regarding our departed brother. The re-assembling of parliament each year serves to solemnify the public side of life; it reminds us that what we have to do we had better do while we have the opportunity. Dr. Preston was one of the kindest of men, and while our views were often extremely divergent regarding political affairs, we learned to look upon him as a friend. With the rest of the house we shall, I am sure, miss his kindly face.

#### IMMIGRANTS AT TORONTO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. B. ADSHEAD (East Calgary): I wish to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan) a question. Is he aware that recently there have been imported from Germany a large number of immigrants who have taken the place of Canadian workmen in the city of Toronto? If so, what action has been taken in the matter by the Department of Labour?

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Minister of Labour): I have had conferences with committees representing, respectively, the management and the men, and only this morning they arrived at a basis of settlement of the dispute. For the present I would suggest, in the interests of a settlement, that we ought not to discuss the matter further.

#### ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Is the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King)