

*The late J. Alpee Poirier*

### Wednesday, November 22, 1944

The house met at three o'clock.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

##### NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS OF MEETING CALLED FOR THIS DAY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to report to the house that under and by virtue of a resolution passed by the house (*Votes and Proceedings* August 12, 1944, page 869) dealing with the adjournment of the house, I sent, on 15th November, 1944, a telegram to each member of the house notifying him and her of the meeting of the House of Commons this day, and on the same date I sent by air mail to each member the following notice:

In pursuance of the order of the House of Commons passed on August 12, 1944, I am satisfied after consultation with the government, that public interest requires that the House of Commons which was adjourned on August 14, 1944, until Wednesday, January 31, 1945, should meet at an earlier time and I hereby give notice that it shall meet on Wednesday, November 22, 1944, at 3 o'clock p.m., and transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that day.

J. Allison Glen,

Speaker.

Ottawa, November 15, 1944.

I also caused this notice to be published in the *Canada Gazette* of 18th November, 1944.

#### VACANCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the adjournment I received communications from several members notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation, viz:

Of Donald Alexander McNiven, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Regina City, by resignation;

Of J. Alpee Poirier, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Bonaventure, by decease.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

#### THE LATE J. ALPEE POIRIER

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Since the house adjourned on August 15 last one of the hon. members of this house in the person of J. Alpee Poirier has passed away. Mr. Poirier came into the House of Commons in the election of 1940. It was his first session in parliament, and being a modest man he did not seek to take any important part in the proceedings

[Mr. Speaker.]

of parliament, though he was very faithful in his attendance and in his work on committees.

Mr. Poirier was born in the county of Bonaventure, Quebec. Throughout his life his interest had mainly been in the affairs of that county. He was primarily interested in the industry of agriculture. For ten years before he entered the house he was an instructor in agriculture in Quebec. During the time that he was in this house he was a faithful and loyal supporter of the administration. I personally feel very keenly the loss of one who was so true and constant a friend. I am sure that my loss will be shared particularly by all hon. members of my party, and I believe it will be shared by all hon. members of the house who had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Poirier. His career was cut off at the early age of forty-five years. Had he been spared, he might have been expected to take a large place in the public life of our country, more particularly in the public life of his own province. Through a heart attack he was taken suddenly away and is now no longer with us.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure it will be the wish of all hon. members that we should express to Madame Poirier, and her three children who have been left, the high respect in which the memory of our late fellow member is held by all hon. members, and that you will also extend to them in their bereavement the very sincere sympathy of all hon. members of the house.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): I desire at this time to associate myself and the members of my party here with the remarks which have been so well made by the Prime Minister on this occasion, and to say to the government and to the Prime Minister that they have our sympathy in the loss of a loyal and faithful colleague. I wish also to join our party with the message of sympathy of such a genuine character to the widow and to the family of the deceased.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): We never meet, Mr. Speaker, without having this sad duty to perform. I wish to extend to the government and to the colleagues of our deceased friend the sympathy of our group in the house, and I would join with the Prime Minister in the expressions of sympathy he has addressed to the family.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of our group I wish to join with the Prime Minister