

Tributes to Deceased Members

We join with the Prime Minister, and the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe), in expressing to Mrs. Wood and the family our sincere sympathy in their great personal loss. We also extend to the Prime Minister and his colleagues our sympathy in the loss of one who was a faithful friend and colleague.

Robert Fair came here in 1935, the same year as I, and during that time those of us who knew Robert Fair grew not only to respect him and admire his good qualities, but to like him. We shall miss his rich Irish wit and his brogue, and the soldier settlers in Canada will miss his very warm advocacy of their particular cause.

We wish to record our appreciation of the work he did in this house. Though party lines often divide us, nonetheless we can respect those who with integrity advocate views that are not always consonant with those we hold ourselves. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, to Mrs. Fair and the family, who have watched him suffer over a period of time, and now know that suffering is ended, we wish to extend our sympathy in their loss, and to members of the Social Credit group we extend our sympathy in the loss of a good colleague and advocate of their views throughout the country.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and other hon. members for the kind words they had to utter about our very good friend and colleague, Robert Fair, and at the same time, on behalf of the Social Credit members of parliament, I would like to pay tribute to the sterling qualities of this good man whom we came to know and love through our long years of association with him.

Bob, as he was called by all who knew him, was born in Keelogue, county Mayo, Ireland. He came to Canada in 1914 and settled in the Paradise Valley district about 45 miles south-east of Vermilion, in the province of Alberta, where, by hard work and good management, he was able to build up a very fine farm.

He was intensely proud of his Irish blood, and lost no opportunity to pay tribute to his native land and the good qualities of Irishmen everywhere. But at the same time he had an intense love for Canada and an undivided loyalty to this his adopted land. Throughout his whole life he worked hard to make of Canada a place where every citizen could enjoy freedom, justice, and a good standard of living.

Our friend Bob was mild, but doggedly persistent in everything he undertook to do. He was careful not to hurt those who were in

opposition to his ideas, and valued his friends highly. He was devoted to his work in and out of parliament, and to his constituents. He never spared himself in the 19 years that he represented his constituency in this house.

Mr. Fair enjoyed robust health throughout his whole life, never having known a sick day until he was stricken about a year ago with what finally was diagnosed at Rochester as cancer of the pancreas. To all of us who knew how healthy and robust he really was, it was a shock to see how he went down under the onslaught of this terrible affliction. Mr. Fair suffered unusually long with this particular disease, because it usually develops rapidly; but through it all he maintained high morale and a quiet determination to win in the battle for his life. To the very end he looked forward with hope and through it all exhibited unusual courage. These were characteristics of the man in everything that he undertook to do. By those who were with him in his last days I am advised that he had achieved peace of mind which, Mr. Speaker, is a great blessing.

Bob had many friends and few, if any, enemies. He was beloved by all who knew him and those of us who are left will miss him sorely. We join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and with the others who have spoken so kindly, in once again expressing to Mrs. Fair, their two sons and the eight grandchildren, our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

In the second place I should like to join with the Prime Minister and the others who have spoken in paying tribute to our late departed friend, Mr. Wood from Selkirk. I did not, of course, know him as well as I knew Bob Fair, but from what I knew of him I loved him. I had the pleasure of meeting him on many an occasion during the time he was here since 1949. I bowled with him at times on bowling teams. I found him to be a congenial companion and a good sportsman, and I enjoyed being with him. I am sure that we all join in paying our deepest respect to his memory and in paying these tributes to a loyal follower of the Prime Minister, to whom we express our deep sympathy in his loss. To his family and those who are left behind we express our sympathy in the loss of a good husband and father.

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of those in this house who are fellow members from the province of Manitoba, I should like to express our deep regret on the passing of the late Bert Wood. He was our faithful and just friend and, I think, the faithful and