

knew of his record. Senator Bouffard has reminded us that in his native Province of Saskatchewan he was a very able businessman, and we all know of his excellent qualities and the work he did as a senator.

I join with Senator Bouffard in expressing to the families of these three distinguished senators the sincere sympathy of myself and those who are associated with me on this side of the chamber.

Hon. John J. Kinley: Honourable senators, it seems to me that this is a rather sombre meeting of the Senate. We miss our colourful and able leader who is absent because of illness. We do hope that he will soon recover and once again take his place as our leader in this chamber.

I am sure I speak for all members of the Senate when I say that we have long had a real affection for Senator Vaillancourt. He is a kindly man of courage and of judgment, and one to whom we all listened with great respect in this chamber. Now that further honours can be bestowed upon him, he is unable to accept them and is being permitted to withdraw from some of the burdens of his office. We all hope that the future will be good to him and that he will be with us for many years.

There are, however, a few bright spots to be considered at the opening of this session. We have a new Speaker who, I believe, will be eminently successful in carrying out the duties of his office. We congratulate him and wish him well.

Senator Bouffard we know as an able solicitor and counsel, eminent in his profession in his own province. We also know of his connection with national institutions. I have no doubt that he will be successful in carrying out the duties of deputy leader, and wish him well.

Honourable senators, I would like to speak now of those members of this chamber who have been gathered to their fathers. Senator Norman Lambert was a national figure, an eminent journalist and a leader in the councils of agriculture. He was a most capable man, with a wide knowledge of men and affairs which was of benefit not only to this chamber but to Canada. He was vigilant and active and gave wonderful service to his country.

Senator Wood I did not know so well. He came from the west. He had been ill for a long time, but we know of his fine character and record.

Of Senator Comeau I can speak with knowledge. He and I had been friends since

boyhood. I knew him in the Legislature of Nova Scotia and in the Executive Council where we both served, and again when I came to the Senate. He was very happy to be a member of this chamber, which he felt to be his rightful place because of his many years of service to Canada. I think he had a longer career than any other public man in the service of Canada. As a member of the Government of Nova Scotia he was most loyal to his colleagues and also to his premier, the Honourable George H. Murray. However, he was not just a follower; he had great political sagacity and was consulted about various matters because of his knowledge and wisdom. He had very strong feelings about the liberty of the subject; perhaps this could be expected, because he represented the Acadians in Nova Scotia. We look with pride at his record in that province, where he always secured a large part of his majority in the Protestant and English section of his riding. In fact he always led at the polls because of the English vote. He was a strong man and loyal to his church, but he was also very liberal. He was not a man who was narrow or mean.

It was my privilege to drive over from Lunenburg to the County of Clare with a friend to attend the late senator's funeral. We first went to the home and met his widow and his numerous relatives and friends. He was the father of 14 children, all of whom proved a success in life. I believe his youngest daughter, whose mother tongue is French, received a gold medal for English at the Pictou Academy.

His people were very proud of him and loved him. Of course, they were sorry that he had passed on but they all felt that goodness and mercy had followed him all the days of his life; he had come to the end of a long life which had been productive and during which he had given grand service.

Then we set out for the magnificent church, one of the finest in Canada. The solemn Mass was celebrated before a multitude of people. The college is situated alongside the church, and the priests, professors and scholars of the college assisted at the ceremony. I was amazed at the culture and beauty of the Mass. In fact, I had never seen anything before like the ceremony which took place in that rural part of Nova Scotia. The service lasted almost two hours, and the fervent prayers and beautiful singing had a tremendous impact. As our late colleague was being carried from the church my thought was, "He is going to the unknown in a blaze of glory." We left our good friend "Willie" Comeau to