

enemy in it. I knew him from the time he entered the House. He had preceded me three years, having entered the House on the admission of British Columbia into the Union. He was always, no matter upon what subject he addressed the House, clear and forcible. He never descended to personalities; he never was known to say an offensive word to any hon. member of the House. I believe he has left a record here which all of us must respect, and which all of us may envy. It is with the greatest regret that we see, as must be inevitable with those who sit in this House year after year, chair after chair vacated, filled as they have been by those, no matter of what party, no matter what our relations might have been with them, in whom we must always feel a peculiar interest, sitting as we do together, counselling as we do together, endeavoring as I hope we ought to do, to carry forward in some small degree as best may in us lie, the interests of this great country. Sir, Mr. Thompson was a representative of the farthest corner of this great Dominion; but he was nevertheless one of us, knit together by the common bond of fellowship, which brings us here, each to endeavor to carry on so far as he may the little part in the great work which is entrusted to us by the people. We shall no longer hear his voice among us; but I trust, I believe, in fact I know that there are few men who would leave behind them a more cherished memory than that of the hon. member whose demise has been announced by my hon. friend. Therefore, I think, that it is entirely fit that an adjournment of the House should be moved. I have been very ready at the request of my hon. friend to second his motion, and I trust the House will not hesitate to adopt it.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I am quite certain that there will be a general concurrence in the proposition made by my hon. friend to adjourn until to-morrow, as an expression—a very slight expression—of the regret that every hon. member of this House will feel in the announcement which has just been made. Some three or four weeks since, when Parliament was summoned, we understood that Mr. Thompson was in ill health, and it was doubtful if he would be able to reach Ottawa this Session; but, in his great anxiety to be present and take part in the important questions that were to be brought under our notice, some of them affecting very materially the section of the country that he represented, he left his home and reached Victoria, and this morning we heard of his death. I cannot speak of him, perhaps, as my hon. friend behind me has spoken of him, because I was not so intimately acquainted with him; but all of those who have been present in Parliament, who have heard his speeches, and been brought in contact with him in various ways, will join with me in the expression of opinion that he was a man of very considerable ability and most genial and kindly in his sentiments and sympathies. I think, under these circumstances, it is unnecessary for me to say more than to express in union with my hon. friends our sincere regret, and to hope that the proposition made may be generally concurred in by the House as a testimony of the appreciation in which that hon. gentleman was held by his colleagues in this branch of the Parliament of Canada.

Mr. ANGLIN. I share fully the regret for the loss of Mr. Thompson, expressed by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken on the other side. Still there is a duty to this House which, I think, I should not now fail to discharge. Many years ago it was resolved by this House that the old custom of adjourning on the death of a member should be discontinued, and from that time to the present I believe there is no case in which the House has adjourned for any purpose of this kind. It has frequently happened that members of the House died in Ottawa while the House was in Session, and the House did not adjourn. I think it was the late Mr.

Mr. PLUMB.

Sandfield Macdonald who first pointed out that in a House so large as this it would be more convenient to follow the example of the Imperial Parliament where this mode of paying respect to the memory of deceased members was discontinued many years ago. My own impression is it would be injudicious to go back to the old system. I think the expression of regret pronounced by the hon. gentlemen opposite, and repeated by myself in my own weak way, an expression in which, perhaps, other hon. gentlemen may choose to join, will suffice to show how much we regret the loss of the gentleman whom we all knew and all liked. I am reminded by an hon. friend behind me, that last year there was a special case in which we adjourned in order to enable members to attend the funeral of the late Mr. Holton. That was the only instance of the kind I can remember.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I quite concur in the statement of the hon. member for Gloucester that the House arrived at the decision that the practice of adjourning on the death of a member should be discontinued: but I am certain that hon. members on both sides, after the allusion to the melancholy event which has deprived us of one of the most respected members of this House, will not feel any desire to continue the sitting to-night. That is all we propose.

Mr. BLAKE. Of course we all recollect that the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald proposed that the practice of adjourning on the death of a member should be discontinued, and in deference to what we knew were his opinions the House did not adjourn on the occasion of his death, although he had filled the most distinguished positions in the gift of the Crown here. I believe that the same conclusion was arrived at on the death of Sir George Cartier, another gentleman who occupied the highest position in the gift of the people of the old Province of Canada, and whose death also took place during the sitting of Parliament. It having been proposed even at this late hour to adjourn out of respect for the late hon. member, I should have felt that it was an innovation which might become the subject of observation, but that the hon. member for Vancouver has simply made a motion for adjournment. He has stated the reason verbally, but upon our journals it will not appear that the adjournment is made for this particular reason. Having regard to this fact, as well as to the lateness of the hour, I do not think that any reasonable objection can be made to the adjournment. As to the reason for which the adjournment is asked I join very heartily in the expressions of regret which have fallen from other hon. members on both sides of the House at the melancholy event which has deprived us of the society of a colleague whom we have known since British Columbia entered the Union. We must all feel solemnized at the visits of death to an assembly, not so very large, which have been so numerous during the last few months; and there will be a disinclination on the part of hon. members to engage in the business of the House after the sad announcement which has just been made.

Motion agreed to; and (at 11:10 o'clock, p.m.) the House adjourned.