

and so sudden—but I feel that today I should like to do honour to him as well as to the others.

The Honourable John Joseph Bench, K.C., or "Joe" as we all knew him, was the youngest member of this house. He came here in November, five years ago, and his brilliant mind soon impressed itself on all of us. He was not only a good lawyer but a clear thinker whose word was as good as his bond. He was very able not only in formal debate in the chamber, but in the discussions before committees of this house. We will sorely miss his great ability, of which he gave so freely for the benefit of legislation and the good of Canada as a whole. We could ill spare a young man of forty-two from the councils of the nation, and his passing will be a loss, not only to the people of Ontario, whom he represented, but to all the people of Canada. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his young wife and baby daughter.

I just wish to say one more word with respect to Senator Bench. It very rarely happens that lawyers can interpret legal matters to a layman so that the latter can understand them as though he too were a lawyer and trained in the law. "Joe" Bench had that characteristic. Another priceless characteristic that he possessed was that his word was as good as his bond. Sometimes it was difficult to get him to come to a conclusion on a point of law or an argument; but when he did you could depend that he was giving you his very best and considered opinion.

I wish to pay my very great respect to these four men who, while representing different parts of Canada, at the same time represented every class of society in the Dominion.

Hon. A. B. COPP: Honourable senators, I desire to add a word or two to the very appropriate tributes that have been paid to the members of this chamber who have passed away since we last met. At the same time, I feel it more incumbent upon me to say a few words about my personal friend and colleague from New Brunswick, the late Senator Foster.

I had known Senator Foster very intimately for the past thirty-five years. I first met him in Saint John when he became a candidate of the party of which I was then the leader. From that time on we were very closely associated in a business, political and social way.

As has already been so well said, he was an outstanding man in the community where he lived. He was deeply interested in business and for many years carried on a prosperous business in the city of Saint John, and as our leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) has said, he was elected to the office of the premier of

New Brunswick. As a matter of fact, on the last occasion that I appealed to the people of that province they decided that I should be honourably discharged, and when I came to Ottawa in 1915 the late Senator Foster succeeded me there as the leader of the party.

Senator Foster played a prominent part in all walks of life in his native province. As the honourable leaders of both sides have so capably said, his gentlemanly instincts were outstanding. He occupied the prominent position of Speaker of this chamber most acceptably, as we all know, and I am sure we shall always hold his memory in the highest regard and the deepest affection.

I was not completely taken by surprise when I heard of his passing a few weeks ago. During the last year or two I had known that his health was not as robust as it should have been. He has gone away with others; and I want to join with our leaders in offering my most heartfelt sympathy to his widow and family in their irreparable loss.

I might say just one more word in regard to the sudden death of our young friend, Senator Bench, who passed away today. He came here a few years ago and showed an intense interest in the work of the Senate. He was a very faithful attendant, not only in this chamber but in the committees, where he was very useful and gave a great deal of information. His untimely passing only goes to show that the old saying is true: "The young may die; the old must die". However, it does seem unfortunate that a young man with the abilities displayed by the late Senator Bench in this chamber had to be taken away from us so early in his life, when he had so much to offer to his country.

I was not so closely associated with the other members who have passed away, but I wish to join in paying tribute to them, and to extend to families they have left behind my deepest sympathy.

Hon. GEORGE P. BURCHILL: Honourable senators, I should like to join with other honourable senators in the deep regret and sorrow which has been so well expressed regarding the members of this chamber who have passed away since last session. The tragic news that reached us this morning regarding Senator Bench has shocked every one of us.

Like the honourable senator from Westmorland (Hon. Mr. Copp), I should like to add a word regarding a great personal friend and colleague from New Brunswick, the late Senator Foster. The universal esteem and regard in which he was held by all who knew him, his long and distinguished career as a