

Mr. Buckley had everything before him; he had pioneered in the land of his adoption, he had risked his life in the service of his country overseas, he had obtained an enviable place in his profession, he had won for himself a seat in parliament, and had gained the happiness of a home. Though he was but a short time a member of parliament, he gave such evidence in this house of manly character and of ability that the promise of future prominence in his profession and in public life was self evident. By his death his province, this parliament, and our country have suffered loss. It is difficult indeed to understand the decrees of fate in circumstances of the kind. We can only hope and believe that somehow, somewhere:

—that force,
Surely, has not been left vain!

That:

Somewhere, surely, afar,
In the sounding labour-house vast
of being, is practised that strength,
Zealous, beneficent, firm!

Mr. Robitaille was a member of the same profession as Mr. Buckley. He was, however, considerably his senior in years, he had been for a much longer time a member of the bar, and was a much older member of parliament, having been in this house during the last ten years. To many of us he was a very close personal friend and we shall miss him greatly, particularly because of the quality which has been referred to by the Prime Minister, the quality of loyalty to those whom he supported in the house and to the principles and convictions which he held as a public man and which he espoused so ably. His death too was tragically sudden. Only two days before, he had been at his office, apparently in good health; he passed away almost without warning in the midst of his family circle, leaving to mourn his loss a wife and eleven children.

As has been said, Mr. Robitaille did not take an active part in debate, but he was very faithful in his attendance upon the duties of parliament, and in watching and serving the interests of the large constituency which he represented. The fact that representing, as he did, one of the most populous and important constituencies, namely that of Maisonneuve, he was returned to this parliament by very large majorities on all occasions shows the confidence and affection in which he was held by those who knew him best. All of us in this house will I am sure, as the Prime Minister has said, cherish his memory irrespective of party. We can truly say that he has honoured the name of the province from which he came, and the race which in so many

ways has contributed so much of what is best to the public life of this dominion.

I join very warmly, Mr. Speaker, with the Prime Minister in expressing the hope that through you will be conveyed to those who in their homes have been so greatly bereaved, the sympathy of the entire house.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted on behalf of those who sit in this corner of the house to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in conveying our sympathy to the families of the two members who have left us since the house last met.

I had known Mr. Robitaille ever since I became a member of the house. It is true that he was of a very quiet disposition, but I am sure all of us who had come in contact with him for any length of time were very much distressed to hear of his sudden death.

With regard to Mr. Buckley, we in the province of Alberta felt a great affection for him because of the fact that he was one of us. Probably I was the last member of this house to see him, having had the privilege on the sixteenth day of November of meeting him in his home town and congratulating him on his fortieth birthday. I had made arrangements to see him a couple of days later, and when further east of the town of St. Paul I was advised by telephone of his death I can assure you, sir, that I was very much shocked by the tragic news. Mr. Buckley was in the best of health when I saw him and was looking forward to meeting the members at this session. During the succeeding days I had the privilege of meeting many of his constituents, and they assure me that they felt they had lost not only a good friend but a man who would have gone far in his profession and in public life had he been spared.

When, Mr. Speaker, you convey the sentiments of this house to the bereaved families, will you please include the members in this corner as sharing in the general regret at the passing of our two old friends.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES

PORTFOLIOS OF LABOUR AND FINANCE—ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY RIGHT HON. MR. MEIGHEN

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform the house that owing to the ill health of the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) I have been compelled to advise His Excellency to accept his resignation. The Hon. Wesley A. Gordon has relinquished the portfolio of immigration and colonization to