J. A. Robb, Minister of Trade and Commerce; the Honourable T. A. Low, Minister without Portfolio; and the Honourable John E. Sinclair, Minister without Portfolio, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as Commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the Eleventh Chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, intituled "An Act respecting the House of Commons."

DECEASED MEMBERS

TRIBUTES PAID BY RIGHT HON. MESSIEURS MACKENZIE KING AND MEIGHEN, AND FORKE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since last we assembled, some of our members have visited distant lands, have crossed continents and oceans, and, in the providence of God, have safely returned, or are returning, to resume their legislative duties. Four of our number have made "upon a vaster sea the unreturning voyage."

It is fitting that before proceeding with the business which parliament has been summoned to transact, we should pause for a moment, to give some expression to the sorrow which at this time we feel in our hearts; and to pay some tribute, however slight, to the memory of those who, in the brief interval which has elapsed since our previous session, have been taken from our midst.

As I have already mentioned, no less than four honourable members, each enjoying in special measure the regard and esteem of this House, have been removed by the Hand of Death; three of them in the month of October, and the fourth but a fortnight ago. Both sides of the House have been bereaved. Each has sustained a loss which is deeply felt in this parliament and throughout the coun-We on your right, Mr. Speaker, have suffered most; no less than three of the four who are gone having been loyal and devoted supporters of the government, and one of them a member of it.

The first on this side to be taken was Mr. David Lafortune, K.C., at the time member for Jacques Cartier. Who is there, who has been in parliament during the twelve years Mr. Lafortune was a member of the Commons, will not deeply deplore the fact that

he is no longer with us?

Mr. Lafortune was active in politics for many years. He was first returned to parliament in a by-election in 1909, was reelected in 1911, and again in 1917 and 1921.

At two previous general elections he 4 p.m. had also been the Liberal candidate. For some thirty years he practised

law in the city of Montreal, and attained in his province a distinguished position as a

member of the legal profession. Few members shared a more intimate knowledge of the lives and needs of their constituents or enjoyed more completely their confidence. His early life had acquainted him with the hardships and struggles of those in humble circumstances, and his energies in public life were directed in the main toward an improvement of industrial and social conditions.

Mr. Lafortune possessed rare gifts as a public speaker and as an advocate. Both at the bar and in parliament his talents were employed with zeal and effectiveness in the cause of the people. His fluency and ready wit, on more than one occasion, lent not a little merriment to the proceedings of this House. They were a part of a generous and kindly disposition which made him hosts of friends, left him without an enemy, and endeared him to to all who knew him well.

Dr. Edward Blackadder, one of the honourable members for Halifax, died within three days after Mr. Lafortune. He, too, had taken an active part in politics for a number of years, though he was returned to parliament only at the last general election. He was one of the Liberal candidates in 1911, and was again nominated as a Liberal candidate in 1917, withdrawing subsequently when it was decided to avoid an election in the constituency because of the Halifax disaster of that year.

It was apparent to us all that Dr. Blackadder was in failing health. The news of death was not therefore, wholly unexpected, though it brought with it a sense of real loss to our public life. We all recall, as one of the most touching incidents of the last session of parliament, the fidelity with which, despite his all too evident infirmity, he attended the several sittings of this House, and sought to further to the utmost of his strength and opportunity the interests of his constituents.

The most modest of men, Dr. Blackadder was also one of the most cultured. He possessed a wide range of knowledge and experience and rare literary gifts. These he used with zeal in the advocacy of Liberal principles and ideals. Few men, in a brief career, have enjoyed activities as important and manysided. He was a practising physician, a journalist, a university professor and a member of parliament. His time and his talents were employed in the most unselfish manner in the service of his fellowmen, and in upholding a high standard in matters of public concern. At all times unassuming, wellinformed, intensely earnest and sincere, he was a type of citizen this parliament and our country can ill afford to lose.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]