

opportunity to participate. He resented very strongly in public affairs anything of a sectional nature. He did not like to have consideration restricted to the affairs of one part of the country, without regard to the wider vision. To present the larger Canadian outlook, he resigned his position of Speaker and took his place anew as a private member on the floor of the legislature. There could have been no better example of his independence of mind and integrity of character. From the floor of the legislature he was most active in presenting strongly the view which he, as a young man, held, and which I believe young men generally throughout our country hold, that too much importance cannot be attached to the conception of Canada as a nation rather than of Canada as a group of provinces. He felt that there could be no higher position which our country could aspire to than to become a united nation. Without ever neglecting the special needs of his own province, he was deeply devoted to Canada as a whole. And so, from then on, he took a special interest in furthering the status of Canada as a nation. He was able the better to place his point of view before his constituents in public discussions. In this House of Commons he presented the same view with great earnestness and vigour.

As I have said, Mr. Bridges was in the ministry but a short time, but during that time he disclosed exceptional talents as an administrator. Nothing has pleased me more and, may I say, few things have touched me more, than communications that have come to the government, since he passed away, from organizations of employers and employees from the Atlantic to the Pacific, having to do with the fishing industry, referring to the way in which he had gained their confidence as administrator of the Department of Fisheries.

I recall very well the first time I met Mr. Bridges. It was in 1935. He was then quite active in politics, both in provincial and in federal affairs; and from that time on he was one of the foremost leaders in the province of New Brunswick. In the general elections of 1945 he scored a real triumph by winning York-Sunbury, which had been a Conservative stronghold for many years. It was natural, therefore, when Hon. Larry MacLaren resigned as Minister of National Revenue that Mr. Bridges, though he had not been in this house in any previous parliament, should have been selected as minister to succeed Mr. MacLaren in the ministry. It was a grievous loss that one so young and talented should have had his career terminated so suddenly. I

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

know I pay a tribute which will be echoed by all who knew him, and by none more than his erstwhile fellow members of this house, when I say that in Frank Bridges' passing at the early age he was taken from us, our country lost one of the most promising young men in its public life, and the British commonwealth of nations one of the bravest, most loyal, and best of her sons.

You, Mr. Speaker, will no doubt send to Mr. Bridges' mother, who has survived him, the expression of the feelings of all the members of the House of Commons, and their deep sympathy for her in her great bereavement.

In speaking of Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Speaker, may I say that I feel a real personal loss in his passing. He and I were members of the same year at the university of Toronto. We entered the university as undergraduates in 1891 and graduated in the class of 1895. We became close friends at the time, and from university days on were associated more or less closely in the politics of our country. Mr. Sinclair had a strong sense of public duty. His was a lifetime of service to his city, his province and his country. Many times he was elected mayor of Oshawa. Mr. Sinclair was a member of the Ontario legislature over many years—I think, over twenty-one years. He was leader of the Liberal party in Ontario for some seven years, and for three or four additional years he was house leader of the opposition in the legislature. During those years he rendered his province—I should say our country—a real service in the contribution he made to the various questions that came up for consideration.

Mr. Sinclair was a man of high principles and of sterling integrity. His was a powerful influence in the support of all that was best in provincial and federal politics. While he was but a short while in this house, and because of ill health did not participate to the extent that he doubtless otherwise would have, I do not hesitate to say that his name will always hold a high place in the records of the party which he led in the province of Ontario, and an honourable place among the names of the members of this House of Commons. Again, Mr. Speaker, may I ask you to be so kind as to convey to Mrs. Sinclair, the widow, and to her daughter, the expressions of the very sincere sympathy which I know in their bereavement is felt for both by all hon. members of the house.

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my associates I wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in paying