

CANADA—BULGARIA TREATY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I beg to lay on the table a copy of the minute of council approving and confirming an agreement entered into in London between the government of the Dominion of Canada and the government of the Kingdom of Bulgaria, pursuant to the terms of the treaty between the allied and associated powers and Bulgaria signed at Neuilly-sur-Seine on November 27, 1919.

THE LATE HON. R. F. PRESTON

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, only yesterday this House of Commons gave expression to its sense of loss at the death of an hon member who had been taken from us since the last session of parliament. To-day we have again to express like feelings with respect to another vacancy which has been created by the hand of death.

Yesterday our words had reference to one who sat on this side of the house and who was a lifelong member of the Liberal party; to-day in the passing of Dr. R. F. Preston, the member for Lanark, we mourn in common with hon. gentlemen opposite the loss of one who sat on the opposite side and who was a lifelong member of the Conservative party.

Dr. Preston was in his sixty-ninth year. Few men have, in the course of their lives, devoted themselves more completely to public service. He entered the House of Commons at a by-election in the constituency of Lanark in 1922. He was returned at the general elections of 1925 and of 1926. Prior to his entry into federal politics he had taken an active part in the politics of the province of Ontario, having entered many contests in both the federal and provincial arenas. He was returned to the provincial legislature on no less than five different occasions. While a member of the provincial legislature, his ability and services were recognized through his selection as the whip of his party, and by his appointment as minister without portfolio in the administrations of Sir James Whitney and Sir William Hearst. At an earlier age Dr. Preston had been scarcely less active in municipal politics, having filled respectively the positions of reeve and warden of the county. He was the first mayor of Carleton Place after its incorporation and was elected to that office on three occasions.

Dr. Preston was an able physician and an honoured member of his profession. Yesterday reference was made in this house to the great services rendered to sufferers by the members of the medical profession. Today

we are reminded of the attendant risks which often wait upon their service. I believe it is true that it was in the faithful discharge of his professional duties that Dr. Preston contracted the cold which later developed into an illness which proved to be fatal.

On behalf of the members of the government and all who sit on this side of the house, may I extend to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, and to those who sit around him, our sincere sympathy in the loss they have sustained of one who was foremost in the councils of the Conservative party and one of its recognized leaders in the province of Ontario. And may I also express, on behalf of the House of Commons as a whole, its sense of loss in the passing of one who was held in high regard and esteem by members of all parties.

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we who sit to your left are deeply grateful to the right hon. Prime Minister for the very moving terms in which he has referred to the death of one of our number.

Dr. Preston had a very varied career; it has been fittingly referred to by the right hon. Prime Minister. He was not only interested in public affairs in his county, in the legislature and in parliament, but he continued to practise his profession and to meet the onerous demands made upon him by the community in which he lived. It is now over half a century since Dr. Preston graduated from Queen's university. For a short time he carried on his profession with his brother, then moved to the Ottawa valley, and it is now nearly fifty years since he began to practise in Carleton Place. I recollect a conversation which I had with Dr. Preston not more than a few months ago extending over several hours, in the course of which he discussed the great advances in medical science during the last twenty-five or thirty years. I could not but think that he was almost the last of that great number of useful servants whom we call family physicians, of whom Ian MacLaren wrote so beautifully in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, and, as I walked to the chamber this morning I thought of a few observations made by the author in respect to the heroic Dr. MacLure. I turned up one sentence in particular that I think well expresses the life of Dr. Preston in his county:

There were no specialists in Drumtochty, so this man had to do everything as best he could and as quickly. He was chest doctor and doctor for every other organ as well; he was accoucheur and surgeon; he was oculist and aurist; he was dentist and chloroformist besides being chemist and druggist.