

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

That touch of nature that makes the whole world kin, the hand of death, affords us the opportunity to express our concern not only in this present sorrow but in all that affects the welfare and happiness of our King, who is the sign and symbol of that single authority which binds together a quarter of the world's surface into what we know as the British empire.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I support and am pleased to have the privilege of seconding the motion for an address to His Majesty expressive of the sympathy of this house in his recent bereavement. I have nothing to add to what the right hon. the Prime Minister, in his capacity as leader of this house, has just said. I am sure he has expressed the views of all of us not only appropriately but also felicitously. On behalf of the official opposition which I represent may I say we wish to be associated with those sentiments expressive of sympathy to His Majesty in the loss of his beloved sister.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): On behalf of the Independent group in this house may I be permitted to join with the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and all members of the house in expressing to His Majesty our regret at the loss of his sister. We share His Majesty's sense of loss and we desire to convey to His Majesty an expression of our deep sympathy.

Motion agreed to.

#### TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE GEORGE SEPTIMUS RENNIE—THE  
LATE ARTHUR BETTEZ

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, sometimes I have thought that the melancholy duty which devolves upon the leader of the House of Commons at the opening of parliament is one which he would like to be spared. We are reminded that since we last met two of our members have been called to their long homes. From this part of the house we have lost the member for East Hamilton, Colonel George Septimus Rennie; on the other side of the house my right hon. friend and his supporters have lost the services of the member for Three Rivers-St. Maurice, the late Arthur Bettez. Colonel Rennie was a Canadian, born and educated in this country. He proceeded abroad to complete his medical education and while abroad he obtained that knowledge which enabled him thereafter to become one of the famous practitioners in that part of Canada in which he resided. He was always interested

[Mr. Bennett.]

in military matters and in fact was associated with the batteries of artillery in the city of Hamilton. In the service of the artillery he gained the rank of commanding officer. At the outbreak of the war he offered his services to his king and country and proceeded to England where he was in charge of an area for some time. Later he proceeded to France where he served until the close of the war. Three times he was mentioned in despatches, and he retired bearing the rank of colonel. I am told by those who are well able to judge that the services which he rendered in his capacity as medical officer and his wide knowledge and experience and very superior training in the great universities of the old land, both in Great Britain and continental Europe, enabled him to discharge the onerous duties which devolved upon him with a skill equalled by few and to the complete satisfaction of those with whom he served. At any rate his services were so recognized and his courage was indicated by the three despatches I have mentioned. Returning to Canada he once more interested himself in the artillery, with which he had been associated in his pre-war days, and continued to take an active interest not only in the welfare of that section of the militia but also in the public affairs of the community in which he lived. He was not often heard in this house. His experiences in the war made him think sometimes that there was something unreal in parliamentary procedure as contrasted with his observations and experiences abroad. He loved this country however and was profoundly interested in its progress and welfare. In his passing we on this side of the house have lost a loyal and devoted colleague and his constituents a faithful and conscientious representative.

I offer my sympathy to the right hon. gentleman and his followers upon the death of Mr. Bettez. He was also a Canadian. His interest in his younger days in municipal institutions is familiar to those who have watched the progress of the constituency of Three Rivers-St. Maurice. I learned that Mr. Bettez had a very strong hold upon the feelings of the people whom he represented in this parliament. He had a personal following which was not measured by his political support, and those peoples among whom he lived moved and had his being have lost a very firm and devoted friend. His party has lost a most charming colleague; he was not often heard but his interest was always great in matters touching the life of his municipality, educational institutions and the welfare of his country. We sorrow with those who are left behind.

We believe however that those who have passed from us have not lived in vain and