

*Tributes to Deceased Members***TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS**

THE LATE ROBERT J. WOOD—THE LATE  
ROBERT FAIR

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, since we last met we have received the sad news of the death of two of our colleagues. I refer of course to Mr. Robert J. Wood, who represented the constituency of Selkirk, and Mr. Robert Fair, the member for Battle River-Camrose.

Mr. Wood's death was an unexpected shock to his many friends both within and beyond this chamber. He appeared in excellent health and spirits before he left the capital at the end of June and he was looking forward to the long drive home by automobile.

Mr. Wood was born and raised on his father's farm at Teulon, Manitoba, and he was a resident of that province all his life. In addition to carrying on a successful business he served as reeve in Bifrost municipality at the early age of 31.

Later he was chairman of the Teulon chamber of commerce, and a member of the executive of the Manitoba associated chambers of commerce.

He was first elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1949, and he was given a renewed vote of confidence by his electors in 1953. Immediately after his arrival in Ottawa Mr. Wood became recognized by his colleagues as an assiduous and friendly member of this house. Although he did not participate frequently in debate, he served conscientiously on several committees and took most seriously his responsibilities to his constituents. Feeling himself very closely associated with them, he endeavoured at all times to be their true representative both in this house and outside.

I am sure I speak for all members of the house in saying that Robert Wood will be remembered with genuine affection and respect by all of us, and in extending sincere sympathy to Mrs. Wood and other members of the family in their bereavement.

Mr. Robert Fair was among the first members of his party to be elected to this house in 1935. Since he first took his seat he gave unstintingly of himself in the service of his constituents. Their appreciation of his efforts was shown by his re-election at each of the four general elections since that date.

Mr. Fair was an active debater and only ill health prevented him from taking his usual part in the deliberations of this house during the last session.

As the representative of a prosperous farming area, Mr. Robert Fair made his principal contribution in the agriculture committee and during the discussions of subjects related

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to agriculture. He also took a keen and humane interest in legislation concerning war veterans and soldier settlers.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that all members would wish to join with me in expressing sympathy to his leader in the loss of an esteemed colleague, as well as to Mrs. Fair and the other members of the family in their great loss.

**Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Acting Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and I am sure I speak for all my colleagues on this side of the house when I express keen sympathy at the loss this country has suffered in the death of these two gentlemen.

I did not know Mr. Wood as well as I knew Mr. Fair, but I knew of his long and creditable record in public affairs. I know he was a very kind man and a loyal friend, and I am sure his companionship will be greatly missed by all members of the house. He was elected twice to this parliament, and on several occasions served in other capacities in his native province. I am certain all members will join with me in extending to Mrs. Wood and the family, to his former associates here and in his riding, our keen sympathy and regret.

Mr. Robert Fair was a member of this house for a longer period of time. He was, I believe, elected five times. He was an aggressive member and will be greatly missed by his associates. He was a kind man and yet at the same time he was vigorous and did not hesitate to say where he stood on matters that occupied his keen interest.

I am sure veterans throughout the country will miss Robert Fair's representation in this parliament, and I know that his many friends in his riding will feel his loss very keenly. To his wife and family, on behalf of this group, I extend sincere sympathy.

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** Mr. Speaker, for those of us who have been here a long time these occasions of the meeting of parliament are occasions of a happy nature, but unfortunately they are often marred by the loss of one or more members of the house with whom we have been associated over a period of time. This meeting of parliament is no exception.

In the loss of Mr. Wood the government and his friends in his constituency, together with his family, have lost a fine individual. It is true, as the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said, that he did not take a very great part in the debates in this house, but nonetheless those of us who met him, and knew him, respected him and regret that he has passed away.