

*Deceased Members*

association with parliament. He was always active in matters pertaining to affairs of the House and of his party. He was very regular in his attendance, and took a keen interest in the work of committees. He was a faithful attendant at the party caucus, over which he not infrequently presided. There were about Mr. Gauvreau, the qualities which characterize the man of thought, conviction and determination. There was strength in his silent reserve, and a resoluteness of character to which his quiet demeanour lent emphasis. I do not know that anything more worthy could be said of him than that he was as much beloved by the members of this House who knew him, as he was honoured by the unbroken confidence of his constituents over a period of nearly twenty-five years.

Though past the age of sixty, neither of the honourable members whose deaths we deplore to-day had reached the allotted span of three score years and ten. Mr. Morrissy died in his sixty-seventh year; Mr. Gauvreau at the time of his death was in his sixty-fourth year. It is not by number of years but by reason of service that the memories of men are cherished. Whilst we honour the years of our late fellow-members, their names will command for all who knew them a deeper reverence.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): It seems inescapable that at each successive opening of parliament necessity arises for a reference to deaths that have occurred among us. On the present occasion those we lament were members of the Liberal persuasion, and the Prime Minister has outlined the chief incidents of their lives and their great services to the country with a familiarity and a knowledge that I could not rival. Suffice it to say that neither gentleman during his identification with this House deserved aught but kindly reference; they were men whose records were honourable and sincere.

Mr. Morrissy's contributions to public service were mainly, of course, in the provincial sphere. His career in the province of New Brunswick is known to all—his long succession of political encounters, his gallant victories, his honourable defeats, his fine domestic life, and I join warmly and sympathetically with the Prime Minister in offering to his widow and his family this testimony of the reverence of the House.

Mr. Gauvreau was the better known among us. He was one of our members of the longest standing. Very seldom is it the lot of anyone to sustain public confidence in a single

(Mr. Mackenzie King.)

county for a quarter of a century. He who achieves that result must have sterling qualities; he must not only be able to command respect but, by talents that few possess, be able to preserve it.

It has been said that Mr. Gauvreau, unlike too many of us in Canadian public life, devoted himself with some energy and some success to literature. I have had the pleasure of reading one of his historical works, and can bear testimony not only to its literary quality but to its value in substance. Gladly I accord him a place among Canadian writers.

The services of his family in the war is something also that we record with pride. His two sons offered themselves in the navy in the early hours of their country's need. Both acquitted themselves creditably and gained a record that is honourable to their family and to their race.

To have been elected seven times a member of this House is itself an achievement greater than anything which might find mention in any eulogy after death. I assure all those who loved Mr. Gauvreau that he gained the esteem of political foes as well as political friends, and that we bear him now in honourable memory by reason of his personal qualities and his public services.

Mr. ROBERT FORKE (Brandon): I would only add a few words to what has been so well expressed by the right honourable Prime Minister, and the right honourable leader of the opposition. Amid life's activities we are being constantly reminded that we have here no abiding state, and that two respected and esteemed members who have sat with us in this House shall know their places no more.

I did not have the opportunity, being a comparatively new member of the House, of forming a very intimate acquaintance with the two honourable gentlemen who have departed from us; but I knew both sufficiently well to respect and admire their character, their ability and their devotion to their duties in this House. I am sure they did their duty to their constituents and served Canada well; and I think the House, as a unit, will pay every respect to their memory, believing they did their best in the service of Canada and on all occasions acted honestly and uprightly.

We can now only tender our sympathy to the families of the deceased members and express the hope that they may find some consolation in the long and honourable records of those who have gone.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the House adjourned at 4.27 p.m. until Monday, February 9.