

## CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

### OFFICIAL REPORT

Friday, May 3, 1946.

The house met at three o'clock.

#### THE LATE WALLACE REGINALD McDONALD

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, members of all parties in the house were I am sure much pained to learn last night of the passing yesterday afternoon of one of our number, Mr. Wallace R. McDonald, who for over ten years past has represented the constituency of Pontiac in this House of Commons.

Those of us who sit on this side and with whom Mr. McDonald was more closely associated were aware that he had been suffering a severe illness, but only a week or two ago, on telephoning the hospital to inquire as to his condition I learned that he had returned to his home. It appears that the strain of his illness had been too great. He evidently left the hospital with the desire of ending his days amid familiar scenes and surrounded by those whom he most loved.

Mr. McDonald was in his 70th year. Like several members of the parliament of Canada, he received his early education at the University of Ottawa in this city. He spent the early part of his life developing a profitable business in the county of Pontiac as a general merchant, and later on when engaged also in lumbering operations he was able so to establish his business as to give himself a solid foundation for public life.

What will most be remembered of Mr. McDonald, and it is an honourable record indeed, is the fact that his life for the greater part was devoted to public service, and public service given in a wholehearted and generous way in ever widening fields of influence. He began by serving as mayor of Chapeau, the community in which he lived, and subsequently became warden of Pontiac county. He then went into provincial politics and was a member of the Quebec legislature from 1919 to 1935, having contested successfully altogether some four provincial elections. He then was elected to this house in 1935, and was re-elected in 1940 and 1945.

We who knew him here over the years will recall that he was one of the most faithful of the members of the house in his attendance on its proceedings. He was most active in the work of its committees and on frequent occasions participated actively in the debates. When he did so, and on the platform where he was most effective, he was equally fluent in either of the official languages. He was essentially of a modest and retiring disposition and for that reason did not take as prominent a part as his talents, wide reading and sound judgment entitled him to take. He will be deeply missed in the constituency he served so well, in his native province, and indeed as one who was a true representative of all Canada. Especially will his loss be felt by those of us who have been with him in this parliament for some few years past.

If I were asked what were Mr. McDonald's outstanding qualities I would say that they were his fine personal integrity, his great moderation, his broad tolerance, and above all else his unswerving loyalty to his friends, to his party, its principles and its policies, and may I add to its leader. I do not believe that among the members of the house I had a truer supporter, and a more loyal and constant friend than I had in our late member. As a member of the Liberal party, he was strong in his advocacy of liberal ideas and ideals. He was fearless in expressing his views, and he believed strictly in cooperation with his fellow members. He realized that it is only through cooperation with others of like aims that any principle or policy can be made to prevail, and that it was as a member of a political party, no less than as an individual, that he owed his success in public life.

I can only say that irrespective of the party to which we belong, all of us who had the privilege of knowing Mr. McDonald will always cherish a memory of him as a man, and a trusted public servant that is of the highest and best.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McDonald has left to mourn his loss a widow and a large number of members of his family. I am sure it will be the wish of every member of this house that you would express on behalf of the House of Commons to Mrs. McDonald the deep

63260 (C95)  
98822  
44-87-1171