

The late Mr. Thomas McMillan

to the interests of any one class. He was essentially a man of the people, whose highest concern was with their well-being. It was this interest, which he inherited and which was fostered by parental example, which caused him to devote much of his time to municipal affairs, and to serve his township as councillor and reeve before being honoured by nomination as a candidate for parliament. He was unsuccessful in his first two political contests, those of 1917 and 1921. In the three succeeding general elections, those of 1925, 1926, and 1930, he was returned as the member of the county in which he was born and had continued to live.

To his parliamentary duties Mr. McMillan brought personal qualities and attainments of a high order. He was a man of great integrity, rare independence, and deep convictions, and these qualities were easily discernible in all that he did and said. He was ardent in the advocacy of every measure which he believed to be for the good of his fellow-men. His political opponents might not agree with his views, or like his militant attitude, but no one, as the Prime Minister has just said, would ever have questioned the sincerity of his motives, nor his moral earnestness. In his personal and public relations he was the soul of honour, and fidelity was a watchword with him in the discharge of his public duties.

For the right, as Mr. McMillan saw it, no sacrifice was too great, if the occasion demanded. In other lands, and at other times, his name would have found its place on the roll of honour of those sturdy yeomen who are the bulwark of their country's freedom. It might, as readily, in any Christian cause, have found its place upon some roll of martyrdom. In the happier age and land in which he lived, he was an example, to his day and generation, of those qualities of manhood which are bred of loyalty to the homely virtues; and which find their expression in the highest loyalties to friend and cause, and to church and state. These are qualities which make greatly for the vigour, the strength and the enrichment of our public life, and Canada to-day is the better for Mr. McMillan's life, his work, and his example.

Mr. McMillan's death removed the last member, save one, of the family of five—a father, mother, two sons and one daughter—who, but six years ago, were members of one household on the McMillan farm. To Miss Margaret McMillan, the sole survivor, still young in years, and thus so greatly bereaved, this house will extend the fullest measure of its sympathy.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately at the beginning of each session we have to record the passing of one of the members of this house since last we met. Fortunately, however, friendships run across party lines, and I am sure that in so far as our late friend and colleague, Mr. McMillan, is concerned, he had many friends in all parties in this house. That in itself is a tribute to his honesty and integrity and to his desire to serve the Canadian people. May I on behalf of those sitting in this corner of the house join with the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition in expressing our regret at the passing of the late member for South Huron.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, may I ask that you will be kind enough to convey to the family of the late Thomas McMillan the expression of the sympathy of this house as indicated by those who have spoken.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I desire to lay on the table of the house the report, in English and French, of the Imperial economic conference, 1932; also a copy in English and French of the Canada-Ontario St. Lawrence agreement; and a copy in English and French of the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway treaty, signed at Washington on July 18, 1932.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RESPECTING LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR FALL SESSION

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before we pass to the order calling for introduction of bills, and in view of the fact that there are no bills to be introduced, I desire to make a statement with respect to the conduct of business, so far as the government is in a position to do so at the moment.

Parliament has been called at this time because of the necessity of ratifying at the earliest possible moment certain trade agreements that were entered into at the Imperial economic conference held in this city during the months of July and August. We were uncertain as to what date would best suit the convenience of all the countries affected until just before the time the call was issued for the meeting of parliament. There are agreements with the United Kingdom, the Irish Free State, Rhodesia and South Africa which require consideration at the present session of parliament. There are agreements,