

shortly after a seizure that came upon him while he was performing a community service in Kenora.

Senator Robertson was here for only two years. As men go, he was a young man, being only 51 years of age. He had really just begun to accustom himself to the ways of Parliament and the Senate. He had started to make a valuable contribution when, suddenly, in the inscrutable workings of Divine Providence, he was cut off.

Senator Robertson was affectionately and familiarly known as "Pete". He had a great capacity for friendship, which all of us understood and benefited from. He was a big man; he was also a man of large heart. He was interested in athletics, which he frequently talked about. This in itself gave him a rapport with many of his colleagues here.

Senator Robertson was born and spent his early life in Western Canada—in Alberta—and latterly he lived in Kenora. Twice he contested a seat there, once federally, once provincially, on behalf of his own political party. He saw service in the army in the late war. He was a member of the Canadian Legion, and, in fact, an honorary life member. His business was railroading. For a long time he was a conductor on the railroads, and was also active in railroad unions.

I say with all sincerity, honourable senators, that there is tragedy and great loss to Parliament in his death.

Senator Robertson came here without a parliamentary background, but as a working railroader he knew much of this country; he knew and had met and had contact with many of its people. He had a practical viewpoint about things, which is valuable in the life of a deliberative assembly like the Senate.

The late senator was a modest man, and a prudent man. His family and his friends have been prematurely deprived of his fine lovable qualities.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I desire to associate myself with the eloquent and well-deserved tributes to which we have listened from the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West), which he has paid to our departed colleagues, Senator Taylor and Senator Robertson.

Senator Connolly has given a comprehensive and detailed outline of some of the life activities of these two departed gentlemen. I will confine myself to some general remarks.

I suppose that I knew the late Austin Taylor for a longer time than any other senator in this chamber. Many years ago, as young men, we were associated as officers

in the New Brunswick Rangers, a militia unit comprised of officers and men from our adjoining counties in New Brunswick, Kings and Westmorland.

I recognized his excellent and sterling qualities; and in the subsequent years, although, as everyone knows, we were from active and opposite sides of politics in New Brunswick, nothing ever occurred that altered our association; we always remained the very best of friends. In fact, along with most people in New Brunswick, I was proud of his success, particularly in agriculture, which was his main interest and chosen field of activity.

Our late colleague was born and lived on a farm, and never lost his love for the land. As the Leader of the Government has said, he was Minister of Agriculture in New Brunswick for some 17 years, but his activities fortunately were not confined to only his native province. He became and was recognized as one of Canada's leading agricultural experts. As we have just been reminded, in 1950 Senator Taylor acted as an adviser to and accompanied the delegation of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to Sweden for the meeting of the International Federation of that organization. He toured most countries of Europe at that time, studying the agricultural policies of the different countries, and on his return gave the benefit of his studies and knowledge to the people of Canada.

It has been recalled that just a short time before Senator Taylor passed away the Agricultural Institute of Canada, in appreciation of his great interest in agricultural matters, made him an honorary life member of that organization. We can truthfully say, and we do say in the Maritimes, that he was a true Maritimer in every sense of the word and was always a staunch supporter of any proposition which he felt would benefit those provinces. His speeches in the Legislature of New Brunswick and in this chamber eloquently attest to this fact.

I attended his funeral, as did many of his colleagues, and I am sure we were all impressed by the large number of people present. They came from all parts of his native province and from outside, representing all walks of life. I noted particularly that the men and women of his home parish of Salisbury, New Brunswick, were there in large numbers to pay him their final and sincere respect, which was fitting to the memory of the man they all held so dear and who had been a good neighbour and friend.

Honourable senators, we were again shocked a few days ago to learn of the sudden passing of our colleague Senator John A. Robertson, affectionately known, as the Leader of the