

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

warm-hearted, genial companions, men who served their party loyally but whose relations were most friendly with every member of this house.

The first to meet his death was the hon. member for Athabaska (Mr. Buckley), who had attained the age of forty years only the day before his death. Although born in the neighbouring republic he was a citizen of Great Britain and came to this country while still a young man. After serving with great distinction in the war he attended one of the Inns of Court in London and as his vocation in life adopted the profession of law. Settling in northern Alberta he gained for himself a very creditable reputation not only in his immediate community but throughout that large district, and was elected to this house by a substantial majority.

With the improved conditions for transport there is also an enhanced risk; while motor-ing on the day succeeding his birthday he met with sudden death. The very large number of people who attended his funeral—the largest known in that section of the country—attest to the high regard in which he was held by the people in the community he served. We have lost one of our number who gave promise of being not only a very worthy citizen in every respect but one who, I doubt not from what I knew of him, would have attained a high place in the councils of his party. I am sure the sympathy of this house is extended to his bereaved widow, who had become his wife only within the year, and to all those who were dear to him through family ties.

The second one of our number to cross the river, the late Mr. Robitaille, represented a riding in the great island of Montreal. He too followed the law as his profession, and although he took no great part in the debates and business of this house he had those qualities which so endeared him to the community in which he lived that time after time he was elected not by majorities of a few hundred but by majorities of many thousands. I am told by those who are well able to express opinions that his position in the profession was one of singular importance because he acted not only for municipalities but as a wise and loyal friend for all those requiring the services and advice of a sound counsellor. We recall him as he sat in his seat, but he will be with us no more. He left behind him a large family, and it will be a matter of satisfaction to them, as it is to us, to know that occupying a place of great importance and having been elected several

[Mr. Bennett.]

times by the people of his constituency he was held in such high esteem not only by them but by hon. members in this house of all shades of political opinion. Mr. Speaker, we desire to convey our expressions of sympathy and regret not only to those who will miss him most in this house but also to the immediate families directly concerned and to that wider circle of friends who will feel a deep sense of loss in his passing.

Alas, as I said in my opening words, we had hoped that in the short time we have been separated we might meet with no breaks in our ranks. Such is not the case; we are constantly reminded that death is ever about us and that the span of life, although it is becoming longer through the learning and teachings of science, is always uncertain.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) very warmly for having expressed to those of us on this side of the house who have lost two of our colleagues the sympathy of himself and his party. I thank him even more for the touching tributes which he has paid to the memory of our late friends, who were also friends of many in his own party.

Some lives there are which are lived so quietly, so unobtrusively, that it is not until they are taken from us that we begin to realize how considerable was the place they held in the communities from whence they came, and just what their presence meant to those who shared their accustomed environments. Such was the case with the lives of Mr. Buckley and Mr. Robitaille, each of which was brought to a close with such tragic suddenness.

Mr. Buckley was one of the youngest members of this house, having entered, as the Prime Minister has just said, at the beginning of this parliament. Having just completed his fortieth year, he was among the number of those who have still much of youth on their side. It is an evidence of the hazards and chances of life that, having been among the first to enlist in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and having served with his regiment throughout the war, Mr. Buckley should have survived the perils and vicissitudes of the great war, to meet instantaneous death within a short distance of his own home and in the constituency which some eighteen months before had honoured him with its representation in this parliament. The tragedy of his death is further emphasized by the fact, also mentioned by my right hon. friend, that his marriage had taken place only last year.