

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

forms and faces have vanished. The Conservative party has lost two of its outstanding members, two gentlemen who for many years were among the foremost in the public life of our country. And the Social Credit group has experienced the first loss in its ranks. I hasten on behalf of hon. members on this side to express both to my Conservative friends and to my friends of the Social Credit party the sympathy which is felt by members of the government and its following in the losses which they have sustained.

Sir George Perley and Doctor Tolmie were, as I have just said, foremost for many years in the affairs of their party and prominent in the affairs of our country. Each of them had been in public life for a considerable time. Doctor Tolmie was returned five times to this house from the constituency of Victoria, British Columbia. Sir George Perley was returned seven times from the constituency of Argenteuil in Quebec. Doctor Tolmie served eleven years in this House of Commons, and Sir George Perley twenty-five years. Each of them had served in more than one administration as a minister of the crown and each had occupied, elsewhere, positions of high honour, trust and authority. While they were very different in many respects there were some distinct similarities in their characters as well as in their careers. Each of them had inherited an interest in public life and an aptitude for public service.

Doctor Tolmie's father, a physician, was one of the pioneer settlers of the Pacific coast, and was a member of the legislature of the colony of Vancouver island before the island became part of the province of British Columbia. Sir George Perley's father was one of the pioneer settlers of Upper Canada before the days of the Union. He too had seen service in public life. From 1887 to 1890 he was a member for Ottawa in this parliament. I might add that Doctor Tolmie's mother and Sir George Perley's mother in those early days each contributed much to the communities in which they lived. That service is still gratefully remembered.

Both Doctor Tolmie and Sir George Perley had natures which were kindly and generous. Each possessed a real capacity for making and holding friends. I doubt if either of them had personal enemies among their political opponents while each had many friends in all parties. Doctor Tolmie and Sir George Perley were alike in yet another respect, what I might term their modesty. Each despite the prominence of his position was anything but

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

self-assertive. I do not think that either of them cared particularly for publicity, at any rate an undue publicity. Both too possessed another quality, all too rare. They were ready when the demands of the government or of their party seemed to occasion it, to efface themselves in order that they might be of greater service to others. In the difficult, most necessary but often thankless task of the work of political organization each of them rendered great service to the party to which he belonged.

Doctor Tolmie was seventy at the time of his death.

Doctor Tolmie's life, both in and out of parliament, was identified most closely with agriculture. He was born on a farm in Victoria in 1867. To the close of his life, he retained his love of the soil, and his pride in his association with the farming community. In addition to being a farmer and a breeder of pure bred livestock, he was, by profession, a veterinary surgeon. Before entering parliament, he served as Chief Inspector of Health of Animals Branch in the provincial service, in British Columbia, and later as representative, for British Columbia, of the Dominion Live Stock Commission.

Doctor Tolmie entered political life in 1917, at which time he was elected federal member for Victoria. He was returned to three successive parliaments, and in all, was elected five times to represent the constituency of Victoria at Ottawa.

In 1919, Doctor Tolmie was appointed Minister of Agriculture in the government of Sir Robert Borden. He held the same post in Mr. Meighen's administrations, in 1920 and 1926. While still a member of this house, he became the leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia.

Prior to the provincial elections of 1928, Doctor Tolmie resigned from the House of Commons in order the more effectively to participate in the campaign, and to contest a provincial seat. His party was returned to power, and he became Premier of British Columbia, which office he held from 1928 until the defeat of his administration in 1933. This reverse meant a temporary abandonment of his political career, but in the by-election of 1936, he was returned for the fifth and last time as a member for Victoria in this house.

Public duties were thrust upon, rather than sought, by Doctor Tolmie. He was a man of robust personality, and a modest and faithful public servant; a man of unimpeachable integrity, and possessed of a strong, homely