

Tributes to Deceased Members

both in the business world and in parliament not only for his successful career but also for his unquestioned integrity and his fairness.

To Mrs. Hatfield and her family the sincere sympathy of all of the members of this house goes out in full measure.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, the death of Mr. Henri A. Gosselin has been a shock to his numerous friends who had believed him to be in fairly good health.

Mr. Gosselin was born in Lee, Massachusetts, in 1887. His parents were French-Canadian. A few years later, his family returned to Canada and he was educated in Sherbrooke.

In 1914 he joined the Canadian Pacific Railway. While working as a train dispatcher, in Farnham, he spent a great deal of time in agricultural pursuits.

For a great many years, Mr. Gosselin was an active participant in the political life of his community, of his province and of his country. From 1928 to 1938, he was mayor of Farnham; from 1939 to 1948, he sat for Missisquoi in the Quebec legislature; and in 1949, he was elected federal member for the constituency of Brome-Missisquoi.

On the floor of this house he spoke calmly and easily, with sobriety and sureness of judgment, in either of our two official languages.

During the relatively short time he sat here, Mr. Gosselin acquired our respect and friendship. I am therefore confident that you will join me in extending to his widow and to his family our most sincere sympathy.

(Text):

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) in expressing the regret which we all feel in the loss of two of the members of this house, Mr. Heber Hatfield and Mr. Henri Gosselin.

Mr. Hatfield, as every member will so well recall, was an example of the well-informed specialist in a subject close to his heart. He contributed greatly to the work of the house by being able to speak not only about the development of the potato industry and potato products but also about his own county and province in a way that helped that province and advanced the general interests of the country, as the Prime Minister has already said.

Mr. Hatfield was associated with many activities in addition to those about which we heard frequently in the house. In fact it seemed that he was associated with most of the worth-while activities in the town of

Hartland, and he had a privilege that most of us do not share. In addition to being in public life, he was also interested in a newspaper, and thus was able to express many of his thoughts through channels not available to most other members. He was an indefatigable worker on behalf of the constituents whom he served. I am sure the ministers of the crown can certify best of all that, regardless of the political views of those who came to him, he was a persistent representative in their departments and served his constituents well in seeking to have those things done which they believed could be done by the departments of the government.

As happens in so many cases, Mr. Hatfield had extended municipal experience, as warden of his county, as mayor of Hartland and through his association with the many voluntary organizations upon which our social life so largely depends. He showed great courage, more than the courage called for by the ordinary daily responsibilities. I think most hon. members are aware that for some considerable time it took courage of a very high order to appear in this chamber and carry on his work in the cheerful and friendly way that he did.

In extending to Mrs. Hatfield and the members of the family the sympathy which has been expressed by the Prime Minister on behalf of all members of the house, may I say that Mrs. Hatfield herself deserves that recognition to which so many of the wives of the members of parliament are entitled. She deserves our respect particularly for the way in which she sustained and cheered him during a considerable period when she knew much better than he that his days were numbered.

I therefore join with the Prime Minister, as I am sure every other member does, in extending sympathy to the members of the family and expressing the earnest hope that the knowledge that his associates in the House of Commons are thinking of them at this time may bring some measure of comfort at a time when doubtless their thoughts will be here in Ottawa and they will be recalling the occasions on which he and his family attended the opening of parliament.

I also wish to join with the Prime Minister in his words of sympathy to the family of Mr. Gosselin. He was a man who had won many friends here, and he will be greatly missed. He had served his community well, as Mr. Hatfield did, and this indicates the extent to which municipal experience frequently paves the way to representation of the wider field. He had served his own community well, not only as a councillor and as mayor, but also in the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]