

When Sir David Macpherson, in failing health, assumed the onerous duties of the Interior Department, he took upon himself a burden which only loyalty to his chief, and a sense of public duty could induce him to assume. Sir John Macdonald considered that integrity and firmness were indispensable qualifications in the incumbent of that responsible position, and that Sir David possessed those qualities in a remarkable degree was not a matter of doubt. That he applied himself faithfully and diligently to the work he had undertaken is beyond dispute, and that the guiding principles of his administration of North-west affairs deserved, if they did not achieve, success, cannot be fairly denied. He was not answerable for the causes of the subsequent troubles in the Territories, which were inherited from others, and beyond his control.

It is well known, especially in the old provinces of Canada, that Sir David Macpherson was one of the earliest pioneers in the industrial development of this country. The evidences of his energy and business capacity are numerous in the great province which was his adopted home. The public works, with whose construction he was connected, all contributed vastly to the amelioration of the condition of the people, and the general prosperity of the country. It is almost impossible to realize to-day how much of that prosperity is due to the foresight and enterprise of such men as the late Sir David Macpherson and his associates. But they have left their mark on this fair land, which time can only slowly efface, if indeed it can ever obliterate.

As I recall the great changes that have taken place in this Senate since the inauguration of confederation—how few of those remain who occupied seats in this chamber in the first Parliament of the Dominion—it is not strange, that the thoughts of other days, the reminiscences of by-gone years, the recollections of so many esteemed colleagues who have “gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns,” it is not strange, I repeat, that these thoughts should crowd thick and fast upon my memory. I do not yet feel exactly “like one who treads alone some banquet hall deserted,” but often as I pace the halls of this Senate, I cannot fail to remember the many ornaments of the public life of Canada who have filled these seats, and who, one after another, have dropped into the silence of the tomb. Our

lamented colleague, the late Sir David Macpherson, is the last to join the sad procession, but he was not the least conspicuous or respected, alike for his qualities of head and heart, among the distinguished men who gave weight and dignity to this body, and wisdom to its deliberations. The death of such a man can only be regarded as a national loss. That noble presence, that honest face, that fine, old manly form, will never again grace this chamber; but it will be long, indeed, before those of us who knew him and had learned to correctly appreciate him, will forget the warmth of his heart, or the truthfulness of his character; his fidelity to his friends and his unselfish devotion to the interests of his adopted country. He has left a heritage to his family far more precious than his worldly goods, and of which they may well feel proud.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—I almost hesitate, after what has been so well said by the leader of the House in reference to the late Sir David Macpherson and the very eloquent tribute which has been paid to his memory by my hon. friend opposite, to take up the time of this House by saying even a few words, but having enjoyed for so many long years the personal intimacy and, I may say, very strong friendship of Sir David, I feel as if I could not allow this occasion to pass without saying a few words in reference to him. One of the most marked features in Sir David's career, as a public man, was the entire absence in his case of any inducement to enter political life for mere personal gain or advantage, and I believe that no man ever did enter political life with higher motives or more sincere desire, not to further merely the interests of a party, but to serve the interests of his country. Throughout the whole of his career he showed that he was ever guided by a strong sense of public duty and the responsibilities of office. When he was Speaker of this House, I am sure few will forget the dignity and impartiality with which he presided, or, as has been alluded to already, the generous hospitality which he exercised; but I have always felt that when Sir David passed from the Chair of this House and afterwards became Minister of the Interior, to a certain extent he might then be said to have really sacrificed his life for his country. Whatever may have been the opinion with regard to the management of that department by Sir David Macpherson,