

The late J. H. Harris

As president of W. Harris and Company Limited and vice-president of the Harris Coal Company Limited, he exercised leadership in the industrial and commercial development of east Toronto. He was also president of Dominion Glues Limited of Kitchener and of Canadian Organic Developments Limited of London, England.

Whether in this house or as a prominent industrialist, Mr. Harris was ever active in promoting the welfare of that part of Canada where he was born and spent his life. One of his most constructive achievements has its monument in the Toronto East General hospital which he helped to build and where he passed away. For the last twenty years he was chairman of the board of managers of that hospital, and we all know that he worked unstintingly for its progress. Only three years ago he played the foremost part in raising funds for a new addition which, I think quite fittingly, bears his name.

His country, his city, his constituents, his party and all of us here have suffered a real loss in the death of Joe Harris. His whole life was dedicated to the service of his fellows regardless of religion or politics. This likeable, sincere and kindly man will long be missed but he has left a legacy of good works which will keep his memory alive for many years to come. I am sure that I can speak for all in saying to Mrs. Harris and other members of the family that the sincere sympathy of all members of this house goes out to them in full measure.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is with a very deep feeling of personal loss that I join with the Prime Minister in expressing our regret at the death of a very dear friend of every member of this house and the hope that the members of his family will gain some measure of comfort from the knowledge that he lives in the thoughts of those who worked with him day by day in this sphere of activity for so many years.

As has already been said so well, Joe Harris, as we all knew him, was a lovable, earnest and kindly soul who served his constituency continuously over a long span of years during which time he sat in this house because of the personal attention and service that he gave to all people in that constituency regardless of their political affiliations. He was one to whom responsibility as an elected member immediately embraced all those who were citizens of the community he served.

Joe Harris displayed great courage in the past few years. To an extent that is well known to many members, he suffered very greatly, and it was only by immense effort

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

that he was able to attend the sessions as regularly and as faithfully as he did. There was hope that he might be cured of the disease which had afflicted him for some time but that hope proved to be unfulfilled, and as has been pointed out he died recently in the hospital which is so much indebted to him for the efforts that he put forth.

As everyone who has known Joe Harris for some years will attest, he was a man of very deep convictions and great faith in his own country. That was natural in a man who, by his own hard work, thrift and industry, had built for himself an important and successful place in the industrial community of Canada. He had made a great contribution to the development of the industry with which he was associated and in making that contribution had achieved very great personal success. At no time did that success in any way diminish his deep personal interest in the daily lives of every one of the people in the constituency which he had served since he was a young man.

He had deep loyalty. To him Canada was at all times his first interest and the first concern in his thoughts in the things that he did here. It was of the people of Canada that he was thinking when he presented his views on so many occasions. At the same time he was a man to whom the relationship of the Dominion of Canada, the crown and the commonwealth was a strongly living and abiding reality. He cherished those ancient loyalties which were the foundation of his great hopes of the future.

He had seen within his life tremendous developments take place in this country, and no one spoke with greater confidence of the years ahead and of the opportunities for youth in Canada in the coming years than did Joe Harris. He served his constituency well; he served his province well; and he served the Dominion of Canada well at all times in his public service.

The Toronto East General hospital stands as a permanent memorial and in a good many ways also stands as an example of the part that men and women can play in building this society of ours in Canada. There is no greater thing any man can do than ease the suffering and restore the health of those with whom he is closely associated. Throughout long years as chairman of the board of management of the Toronto East General hospital Joe Harris played a great role in extending the most effective possible service to those with whom he lived day by day. That hospital will be a memorial to Joe Harris' memory as long as it stands.