

stand for something in our country; I mean the nobility of work, of mind, and of character.

As a member of the legal profession, university professor, lecturer, public speaker, writer, member of Parliament, Minister of the Crown, Speaker of the House of Commons, senator, director of large financial institutions, envoy entrusted with diplomatic missions, he was never inferior, but always equal to the tasks which he had to fulfil.

I shall repeat here that Rodolphe Lemieux thought, spoke, and wrote with such clearness, logic and warmth that all his thoughts, his words and his writings made up a harmonious and well-ordered whole in which each part was in its right place. And it was so, not only because he was possessed of talent, but because he was sincere, well informed, well read, and highly cultured.

Within the limited scope of these few observations, I do not intend to outline even briefly the fruitful career of Senator Lemieux. I should like to recall, however, that he, a staunch Liberal, had been schooled by Laurier, who himself had derived his political faith from Lafontaine and the renowned old leaders of the British Liberal party. That explains the broadness and extent of Rodolphe Lemieux's liberalism.

Though possessed of a very thorough and refined French culture, he was, like Laurier, imbued with the Liberal principles of the English school. He had, moreover, a well recognized conception of the moderating influence of British institutions. And the reason why he became one of our foremost parliamentarians is that he was impregnated with these British principles upon which our representative government and the Canadian Constitution are founded.

I also wish to add that Senator Lemieux, French Canadian to the core, without fear and without reproach, true to his nationality and to the best traditions of his race, was first of all a Canadian. His political mentality was profoundly Canadian. He looked upon, and loved, the whole Canadian land; he beheld the past, the present, and the future of this nation; he knew how to detect and was prone to advocate the rights and duties devolving upon every component part of the Canadian people.

That eminent man is no more. He reached the end of his course in this transitory life, and in the great beyond he will continue to live through all that was best in him.

The generation which preceded mine, and which is for those of my years like a connecting link with that of our fathers, is fast disappearing. During the seven years that I

have been a member of this House, how many of our colleagues have passed away! The name of Rodolphe Lemieux is now added to the long list of those whom we had known in the early days of our public life, and who have passed on, one after the other, leaving many pleasant memories, but laying bare more and more the scenery of our youth, which is gradually fading away.

Honourable senators, let us bow respectfully before the grave wherein lies one of the last surviving men of a whole era, and of a long list of great Canadians.

When Laurier died, Rodolphe Lemieux uttered in the House of Commons these words, which I am applying to him to-day with a feeling that you will share with me:

His spirit passed gently, serenely, as though midst the darkening shadows of life's falling night the faith of his forefathers had already revealed the gleam of dawn, presage of eternal day.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I join feelingly in the words of praise for the life, and deep regret for the demise, of Sir Robert Borden and of our departed colleagues.

In the name of a very old friendship, I wish to mark my special sorrow at the loss of Senator Lemieux. For forty years I had been consistently among his political opponents and, I confess, among those not the least violent. Perhaps, by reason of the past, the words of the present may be all the more appropriate. True it is that our old friendship survived many an acrimonious encounter on the public platform. This was due largely to the fact that even in the ardour of the fray Rodolphe Lemieux always was dignified in demeanour and courteous in language. Rarely, and only under extreme provocation, did he resort to personal invective, but when aroused he was a formidable foe. For many years he was Laurier's choice as leader and the spearhead of his shock troops in Quebec.

This House knew him when circumstances had wrought in him a measure of political detachment and, through a long tenure of the speakership in the Commons, a rather judicial consideration of controversies. It was also at a time when declining health had not only weighted his step and greatly reduced his activities, but also had mellowed and rendered even more attractive his genial personality. Happily his physical disabilities still permitted—but, I regret to say, more rarely as time sped on,—his remarkable debating ability to be displayed in this House. He had an easy, fluent style and a rare faculty of detecting the political importance of a question.