

Lanark 31/1/1923

D. 10665

~~Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:~~

The late Hon. J. A. Stewart:

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to address the electors of Lanark in the present by-election campaign. That pleasure would be unqualified were it not for the regrettable circumstance to which the by-election owes its origin. In the death of the late Hon. J. A. Stewart, our Parliament has lost one of its ablest and most highly respected members, and our country one of its foremost citizens. Mr. Stewart was not for long a member of the House of Commons, but in this short period of his public career his fine public spirit and exceptional talents won for him a first place in the councils of the nation. I fear it is only too true that it is to the fidelity and zeal with which he sought to discharge his public duties we must attribute the shortness of his days.] [There are few who realize the physical and nervous strain which public life imposes upon those who seek to discharge its high responsibilities aright. In the heat of our political battles, we may well pause to ask ourselves if public men are not entitled to every consideration at the hands of those whose interests they seek to serve, and whether holding in memory the life record of the late member of this constituency, we do not dishonour the name he bore and the traditions he cherished, when we permit our controversies to descend in thought or word or deed to levels of discussion and

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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