

enough to understand that it was not necessary to know him long to be able to recognize his great qualities of kindness, courtesy, chivalry and cheerfulness, even during the last few years when, as you all know, he was suffering from an incurable disease.

I often thought of Senator Blais as one who belonged to that class of fine and perhaps older gentlemen whose numbers, I am sorry to say, seem to be becoming fewer.

Senator Connolly has spoken of our late colleague's splendid war record. Those who served in the First World War knew of his commendable war service. Reference was also made to his civilian record, which I am also sure is well known to everyone in the Senate and almost everyone in Canada.

Senator Blais was always anxious to assist others. I recall a number of occasions on which he made representations to me for assistance for veterans, men who had served with him or who had applied to him for assistance in pension matters. He worked assiduously for them. I remember one particular occasion when he spoke about something that he thought was possibly his due, and he was shy and almost apologetic in asking for consideration for himself when, under our veterans' legislation and from every standpoint he was entitled to far more than he asked for or expected to receive.

Senator Connolly has also mentioned the fact that Senator Blais came from eastern Canada, from the Province of Quebec. He was one of thousands who went from eastern Canada, from Quebec and the Maritime provinces, to the west in former days and made a wonderful contribution to the development of that particular part of Canada. I join with Senator Connolly in saying that it does not matter whether a man comes from Quebec, the Maritime provinces, or anywhere else; if he has the qualifications and the right attitude he can go anywhere in this great country of ours and make a worthwhile contribution. To his great credit, this Senator Blais did. He exemplified the spirit of the many men who left eastern Canada and went to help build up that great part of Canada which we call the west today.

I wish to endorse everything the honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate has said, and extend to Senator Blais' family the sincere sympathy of us all in his passing.

He lived to a ripe old age; he accomplished all that could be expected in his life span; and I am sure that in his latter days he had no regrets, that he was well satisfied with the life he had lived and what he had accomplished.

Hon. F. W. Gershaw: Honourable senators, Senator Blais was a practitioner of medicine in the Province of Alberta, and I think it

appropriate that I should pay a brief tribute to his memory and express our sympathy to his wife and daughters.

The late senator practised medicine generously and kindly, and so endeared himself to his patients. He rose to fill a high place in the district in which he lived; he was honoured for the work he did in his military capacity during the First Great War, and he was most appreciated by those who knew him best. However, he suffered a serious accident in later years and was not able to participate to any great extent in the deliberations of this chamber, but the quotations that have been uttered today show where his heart was. His whole record illustrates the truth of that old poem which says:

The glories of our blood and state
Are shadows, not substantial things;
There is no armour against fate;
Death lays his icy hand on kings.

Hon. R. B. Horner: Honourable senators, coming as I do from western Canada I feel I should say a word or two about Senator Blais, but first I must congratulate the Leader of the Government on his most appropriate remarks.

Senator Blais was a remarkable man. Travelling about Edmonton, I do not know of a man who would not be delighted to say a good word about him. I remember at a sale in southern Alberta not long ago a lady asked me if I knew him. She told me what a wonderful man he was, about his driving in the earlier days in a horse and buggy out to St. Albert. Edmonton was not very large then. Everyone spoke highly of him as a man, a humanitarian and a gentleman. He has been in many ways my ideal, and he was a powerful exponent of the method by which the two races in this country can get along together. He was greatly missed when he gave up his immense practice in Edmonton.

I wish to express my sympathy to his widow and his two daughters.

Hon. Arthur L. Beaubien: Honourable senators, I think that no member of the Senate was more intimate with Senator Blais than I was, especially during the last few years when he was so ill.

Senator Blais and I were appointed on January 29, 1940. I had known him before and in time we became very, very fast friends. He was one of those medical men who kept himself up to date in matters concerning his profession. Every brochure or pamphlet printed concerning medicine or surgery was to be found either in his office or in his home, and he was continually reading such publications to keep himself up to date.

I was instrumental last June in inducing Senator Blais to move to Vancouver. There