

awaited him in the activities of Federal life, he became a member of the Dominion Parliament, and from his entry to that House down to the time of his death, he was regarded by his countrymen as peculiarly a man of destiny. His talents marked him for moving in and influencing all the great events of public activity in Canada. He was not only a student of Canadian history, but, in the exercise of his public duties, he drew upon his apparently illimitable reserve of historic knowledge of all countries for his information and public action. He was a student and a master of literature. Few men in Canada possessed his culture and his literary accomplishments. He was a political leader of which his party was proud to boast. No previous political leader in Canada proved so attractive to the Liberal party which he led and no political leader ever led it with so strong and inflexible an arm as that with which he guided. His was the hand of steel and the glove of velvet. His touch was that of a master, and his influence and charm and attractiveness were ever recognized and welcomed by his followers. He always had the respect and even the admiration of his political opponents, no matter to what extent they differed from him. His attitude to them was always that of courtesy and theirs to him one of marked respect. Knowledge, culture, courtesy, ability and generosity were all united in him. Canada was proud to boast of him as one of her most representative sons. He was a great Canadian, a striking public figure, a powerful political leader, and in his death we all unite in saying that a great man in the Empire has fallen.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, in the name of his intimate friends and of his followers, I express my gratitude to the leader of the House for the noble words he has uttered on this occasion on the demise of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

A career so long and so full can with difficulty be grasped and analysed in the compass of a sitting of this House. It was my privilege to enjoy Sir Wilfrid Laurier's intimacy for 35 years, and I had full opportunity to see and to appreciate him in the light of daily events of every nature. His days were not all brightened by sunshine. Power has its heavy and trying responsibilities. Leadership implies the discharge of duties which know neither friend nor foe. Decisions have to be taken which often seem harsh and even cruel. Ingratitude and defections have to be borne when they cut to

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

the quick. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's qualities of heart and mind were of such a high order that they enabled him to soar above the clouds which beset his path and to smile philosophically in the days of stress and anguish.

He was born splendidly gifted. Nature was in his favour prodigal. He was blessed with a big heart, a powerful intellect, a sound judgment, a memory unexcelled, a vivid imagination, a most kindly disposition, a refined sensibility, and a great sense of humour. He was indeed a lovable man. All these qualities were, as it behooved, properly enmeshed within an imposing form. His courtly presence commanded respect and admiration. His facility of phrase and his eloquence placed him among the foremost orators of his time. He was a scholar with a large fund of knowledge in English and French literature and history. He had never forsworn his Greek and Latin classics. One was always amazed at the time he could give to book reading. We had one day planned once again to go and delve, for a full month, into the old ruins of pagan Rome, which interested him deeply. He then expected to be shortly freed from the cares of office. I indicated to him a new history of imperial Rome. When I had to leave alone for Europe the following summer, I found to my surprise that his heavy ministerial duties had not prevented him from reading, during the preceding winter months, the six volumes of Ferrero, as well as the seven volumes of James Ford Rhodes' History of the United States which had just appeared. The parliamentary history of England had no secrets for him. He had there found his guiding lights which had led him to the shrine of liberalism. Our late and popular Governor General, Lord Grey, often remarked that he felt himself to be in the company of Gladstone when conversing with his chief adviser, because of a similar lofty outlook on things material and spiritual. Lord Grey had had the impression that he would be the restraining influence in his relations with an impulsive, emotional leader of French descent, but he smilingly admitted that he soon found the situation reversed, as the principal characteristic of his Prime Minister was a masterly equilibrium of mental faculties.

During his long administration many difficult questions arose upon which sharp divisions of opinion occurred. In nine cases out of ten the followers who had had to give way recognized, after the event,