

*Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe*

one feature stands out prominently throughout his life and career, one that now redounds and will forever stand to his honour and credit—his intense love for his native land.

To my right hon. friend and to those associated with him I extend our sincere sympathy in the great loss which he personally and his party in this house and the country have sustained. One by one the oaks fall. Their passing is a challenge to all of us to hold high the standards which our predecessors have raised in this country.

To Madame Lapointe and to the immediate members of his family I extend also our sincere sympathy. I recall the pride with which he witnessed his son take his seat as a member of this house in 1940 and, at the first session of this parliament, rise in his place to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne. At that time I offered to Mr. Lapointe my personal congratulations in the words of a great imperial statesman on a similar occasion in the imperial parliament: "It was a speech which must have been dear and refreshing to a father's heart." And I recall with pleasure the note of thanks which he subsequently sent to me.

To these, his loved ones, we offer sincerely and respectfully these expressions of solace and sympathy.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the group with which I am associated I join in the expressions of sympathy for the family of the late Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe and of regret that he has been taken from us in the midst of this period of crisis and of tragedy. We may not always have agreed with him, but every member of the house, as has been already said, recognized his sincerity, his integrity, and his love for the Dominion of Canada.

We realize that in his passing Canada has lost one of her most outstanding sons, and we join with other members of the house in an expression of regret at his passing and of appreciation of the good work that he has done for all the people of this dominion. We express, too, our sympathy with the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King); for he has suffered, we know, a personal loss which is greater perhaps than we realize.

On behalf of our group, therefore, I join in the expressions of sympathy to his bereaved family and friends. We trust that Madame Lapointe especially may be sustained in the great loss which she has suffered.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, perhaps very few statesmen of [Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the British commonwealth of nations have had, on their passing, such beautiful things said about them as have been said to-day by the various speakers concerning the Right Hon. Mr. Lapointe. It is greatly to his credit that there is in all of these expressions no statement which appears to be an exaggeration.

Members of my group desire to join with those of other groups and parties in the house in sincere sympathy with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the loss he has sustained, in heartfelt condolence with the members of the late Mr. Lapointe's family in their bereavement, and in high appreciation of the great life of a very good man.

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Public Works) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to add a few words in French to the tributes which have just been registered in the political history of this country by the leaders of our various political parties. The unanimity of sentiment and of sorrow expressed by these political leaders clearly indicates the extent of the respect the late minister enjoyed in this house and of the prestige he exercised throughout Canada. The tributes justly paid to the great memory of the Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe will, I am sure, bring some consolation to the members of his family and some alleviation of their grief.

On this side of the house we have heard the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) express praise and regret on behalf of those who are saddened by the loss of a leader whom they loved, respected and supported. On the other side of the chamber political opponents have in all sincerity paid tribute to the memory of the great man who is no more and have, across all political barriers, acknowledged the merit and the worth of the man who had long been the recognized and respected leader of French Canada. From all sides the worth of the great man whom we mourn is admitted. Everywhere all hearts were saddened by the premature death of so important and respected a man as Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe. Today all of us, Liberals, Conservatives and members of the other political groups, are, so to speak, united around the grave of this great man, exchanging fraternal handshakes and consoling one another on the loss of a big brother.

Mr. Lapointe's career and his success in public life show what can be accomplished in a country governed and directed by the spirit of our democratic institutions for which we are now fighting.

Born of humble parents, educated in a college of his native province, Mr. Lapointe climbed all the rungs of the social and political ladder to become one of the most eminent men, not only of Canada, but of the world. It is the