

universal success; and the volume of service he rendered this Dominion by that success is hard for us at this time to measure. The resources of his mortal frame, strong and rugged though we know them to have been, could not longer endure the heavy chains of his exacting office; the pitiless demands of democracy in this trying time became more than human nature could sustain; he broke and fell under the load. Let us hope that in those last days of weakness and of parting he felt some warm breath of assurance that he had not lived in vain. Let us hope that in the silence of the receding world he listened in happy premonition to the first echoes of a gratitude which is too seldom heard in life.

To those who mourn these our colleagues I know it is the wish of every member of this House that you, Mr. Speaker, should convey, on behalf of the Senate of Canada, our humble tribute of esteem and regard for the loved and lost, and of deep and earnest sympathy for all whom they left bereaved.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable members of the Senate, before I reached the meridian of life I attached little importance to oft repeated statements from the pulpit that this life is but a journey, that we are constantly moving as in a procession towards our inevitable fate, often falling by the wayside before we reach the age of three score and ten years allotted by the Psalmist. But on many an occasion since I have reflected on those truisms. When I came into this Chamber the leader of the Government was the Honourable Mr. Scott, of pre-Confederation fame, who, when he had to speak of the passing of senators, used to remind us "what shadows we are; what shadows we pursue." Since I came to the Senate, about thirty-six years ago, some two hundred of our colleagues have left us.

At one time when I was on the other side of the House I had to speak of the passing of eight senators during the preceding recess; and we are now referring to seven who have gone from our midst. I recognized then, as I do now, that our various governments have very seldom erred in their appointments to this Chamber. It is easier to pass judgment upon the careers of our departed members when we are thinking of a group of them who have passed away in the same short period of time, and in such circumstances the wisdom of the cabinets that made the appointments is more clearly seen.

The right honourable gentleman has reminded us of the important rôles that our departed colleagues played in their local centres and in Parliament. They were leaders

and rendered very efficient and valuable service in the communities where Providence had placed them. They were public-spirited and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of their fellow-citizens. And of them all, of Senators Béique, Paradis and Tessier from Quebec, Fisher and Robertson from Ontario, and Poirier and Stanfield from the Maritimes, it can truly be said that they did honour to the people whom they represented in the Senate. The spheres in which they moved were not of equal magnitude or grandeur, but their work was of equal quality. The record of their lives reminds me of the parable of the master who distributed talents to his servants according to their respective abilities. Judging by our human standards, I think I can safely say that the talents with which our late colleagues were endowed were brought to full fruition.

I agree with all that my right honourable friend has said, and I desire to refer in some detail only to the former Minister of Labour and to Senator Béique, who was our eldest member. The right honourable gentleman has dealt at some length with Senator Robertson's career. His vigorous and well-balanced mind, his wide knowledge of all things relating to labour, his fairness in debate, and his devotion to the members of his craft and to the State justify us in joining in the right honourable gentleman's statement that he gave his life in the service of his country.

I was associated for half a century with Senator Béique, who was for almost all my life a near neighbour. He came to Montreal in 1865, when that city had a population of 75,000. He saw it grow past the million mark, and he participated in many of its activities. In finance, in industry, in tramways, in railways, in electrical development, and in education, from the primary schools to the university, Senator Béique was a leader in his city. He was well known in only a limited constituency and did not come into close contact with the people at large. His appearances on the public platform were rare, and he was not a fluent speaker. Comparatively few persons were privileged to witness his well-equipped mind at work. At any meeting or gathering called for the purpose of taking some definite action Senator Béique would be listening to the discussion and at the same time drafting the necessary documents to give expression to the will of those present. To his lot always fell the drudgery of preparing constitutions, by-laws, contracts and conventions. While other men basked in the limelight he always kept away from it. The buildings of the university of which he was president were