

Rankin. It is a little more than two weeks since he was stricken within the walls of this Chamber, and from that time up to the hour of his death all his friends have been concerned as to whether he could recover.

It is a matter of surprise to most of us to learn that he had reached the age of 79 years. His comparatively young and vigorous appearance testified to the life he led. No one who, like myself, was raised in the district from which Dr. Rankin came could fail to be aware of the high regard in which he was held professionally, as well as personally, throughout a large area in Western Ontario. From early life Dr. Rankin devoted his energies chiefly to the medical profession, and even up to the time of his being stricken it continued to be his first concern and his main preoccupation. Throughout the county of Perth the name of Dr. Rankin was a household word. When released from his duties here he was constantly passing to and fro in the service of his fellows, and I know that, very largely without reward, he brought comfort and mercy to a multitude of people.

In 1908, after passing middle life, he entered the House of Commons, remaining there three years. He returned to the Commons in 1921. For the past nine years he has served among us. His quiet, unobstructive demeanour was such that he did not become at all prominent in the controversies of this House, but that same demeanour, associated with a natural intelligence, impartiality and fairness of view on all subjects, endeared him to us all.

I am sure I express the feeling of every honourable senator in saying that we lament sincerely and deeply Dr. Rankin's loss, and in asking that this expression of our sympathy be transmitted to his surviving daughters.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, we witness to-day the departure of one who represented ideal health and vigour. Dr. Rankin towered over us, and his splendid physique gave promise of his remaining with us a long time. Yet suddenly he has passed away. We are reminded that the Psalmist was not far astray when he placed the span of human life at three score years and ten. More and more do I realize that men who have passed the age of seventy are living days of grace.

We enjoyed the presence of Dr. Rankin because of his qualities of mind, his amiability and good fellowship. He had poise, judgment, a kind heart, and we could well understand why those among whom he lived and practised his profession sent him to Parliament.

I am glad that my right honourable friend has been able to testify as to the late sena-

tor's standing in the community from which the right honourable gentleman himself comes.

May I supplement this eulogy by a statement handed to me by Dr. Rankin's bereaved personal friend, Senator Lewis, who before he left for Stratford this afternoon asked me to present it to this Chamber. It is as follows:

"It would be unbecoming for me to dwell on the grief which has overtaken me in the loss of my roommate and intimate friend for nearly nine years; nor am I qualified to speak adequately of Dr. Rankin's chief claim to the esteem and affection of his fellow citizens, which lies outside the field of public affairs.

"It is true that his public career has been long and honourable. He was public spirited, a lover of his country, staunchly Canadian and staunchly British, Liberal in the broad sense, with a firm hold on Liberal principles, frank in his expression of them, a good fighter and a fair one. But to obtain a true idea of his life-work, one would require to hear the testimony of the people of Stratford and its vicinity, to whom he ministered for so many years as a skilled physician and a faithful and considerate friend. He was a type of the family physician of the old school. His work was not of a character to win publicity or fame or great pecuniary gains. He found his reward in the service itself, and in the comfort which he brought to thousands of homes. To those who have personal knowledge of his life-work, his death is in the truest and deepest sense a bereavement."

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS BILL

PRESS REPORT OF SENATE DEBATE

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I desire to call to the attention, perhaps not of this Chamber, but of the press representatives, the headlines in this morning's papers, stating that I shared in the emotion created by the declaration of the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian National Railways that several hundred miles of railway would have to be scrapped. The text of my remarks on the Bill before the House yesterday shows that I support absolutely the chairman and the Board of Trustees in whatever they may decide to be proper for the purpose of restoring equilibrium to the finances of the system.

DIVORCE BILLS

THIRD READINGS

On motion of Hon. Mr. McMeans, Chairman of the Committee on Divorce, the following Bills were read the third time, and passed: