

councils of this country with Sir David Macpherson for a number of years, and a more assiduous and honest administrator of the affairs that came under his consideration never sat at the Council Board. I can readily re-echo the sentiments of my hon. friend who leads the House, that he was a man of broad, comprehensive intellect; he was devoted to the interests of his country, so far as he knew, and in so far as he believed that he was right in the course he was pursuing. I can assure those who had not the same intimacy with him that I had, that at the Council Board it was very difficult to make him deviate from a point which he believed to be right. He will be missed by us all. He will be missed by his party, by whom his advice was always valued, and those with whom he acted will have cause to regret the loss which his death causes to the Senate, to his family and to his country. It is the lot of all of us, and as many of us in the Senate are tolerably well advanced in years our seats may be found vacant when another year rolls on. I can only hope that when we depart this life we may be as well prepared for it as our old friend Mr. Read was when he died.

Hon. Mr. MILLER.—As one of the oldest members of this House—one of the small band yet remaining of those who were here at the birth of the Dominion—the sad duty has frequently devolved on me of expressing regret at the loss of many esteemed colleagues in this Chamber; but never in all the years that have since elapsed, on any similar occasion, have I felt more sincere sorrow than the announcement of the death of Sir David Macpherson has caused me. It was my privilege to enjoy the valued friendship and confidence of the deceased Senator for very many years, so that my opportunities of fairly estimating his character were exceptional, and now that he is no more, it is not in the language of unmeaning eulogy I desire to bear my humble testimony to his public virtues and his private worth.

There never was a member of this House for whom I entertained a more sincere respect—founded on an intimate acquaintance, than I felt for our lamented colleague. Indeed the word respect very feebly and inadequately expresses the feelings I entertained, and had good reasons for entertaining, towards him.

A striking personality in every way—mentally as well as physically, the late Sir David Macpherson possessed many sterling qualities that attracted admiration and esteem. A thorough patriot according to his lights, and above all an honest man, his integrity as a statesman, or as a private citizen, requires no vindication from his friends. Beneath a reserved exterior, which was often attributed to a lack of feeling by those who did not know him well, he possessed a warm heart, and the most generous impulses, under the influence of which I have often seen him exhibit the sensibility of a child. Honourable and straightforward in all his actions, he scorned duplicity, and, a rare quality among politicians, he never pretended to be, either to friend or foe, what he was not. As a party man, and ever an intrepid champion of his party's cause, in whose behalf he did yeoman's work, he was always ready to acknowledge the services of others, while undervaluing his own; for unaffected modesty was a very distinct trait of his character. I am convinced no one could be animated by less selfish motives than was the late Sir David Macpherson throughout his whole public career. The high positions of public trust which he held from time to time came to him unsought, and I believe were only accepted in obedience to what he considered the dictates of duty.

In all the walks of life—socially, politically, and in relation to the industrial development of Canada, our late colleague occupied a high and prominent position among his fellow citizens. His clear head, his practical common sense, his unquestioned rectitude, and unflinching steadfastness of purpose, were crowned with the success they merited, and in a degree which few men achieve. A more efficient and impartial presiding officer never sat in the chair of the Senate, and his princely hospitality while he occupied that position—and indeed at all other times—will not soon be forgotten by those who shared it, and who yet live to bear in sad but kindly recollection the genial and generous host of many a festive scene. And in this connection, I think I may safely say, that no Senator of those days will fail to call to mind the estimable lady whose genuine kindness and unaffected amiability gave a charm to these occasions, and endeared her to all who came within the spell of their magical influence.