

It was no wonder that in every country then at war governments fell and leaders disappeared. In this Dominion alone, of all countries engaged in the conflict, the statesman who was Leader of the Government when the War began was Leader when it ended. I know something of the strenuous months and years which he passed through. Many a night I went with him to his home and saw him as he suffered distresses in the nature of a Gethsemane until one, two or three o'clock in the morning; but I never knew his courage to fail. And I never knew any selfish interest to intervene. In fact, I can say without reservation that never at any time in my contact with him did I observe that he had the slightest interest in any credit which might accrue to himself, or any criticism which he might have to endure. These things became to him a matter of utter indifference. He knew that he had one high duty to perform, and with all the intensity of his nature he set himself to its discharge.

Sir Robert Borden had a lawyer's analytical mind, but he had the wider grasp and outlook of the business man as well. He was a lawyer of the first rank, a public servant of unimpeachable integrity and devotion, always constructive, always creative. He was a big man, abundantly equipped. His talents were pre-eminently practical, but he possessed at the same time an ample and penetrating vision, and withal a tolerant mind and sympathetic heart. When he laid down the sceptre of office at the age of sixty-six he left behind him a record of intense toil and a volume of achievement rarely equalled among men. His place in history will loom larger as the decades pass.

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, when I was speaking of the loss of our own colleagues it did not occur to me to refer to the demise of the former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden. But I had the honour of being the acting Premier when he died, and on that occasion I expressed publicly my regrets at his departure. I then stated that Sir Robert, whose career I had followed from the day he entered Parliament, had shone as a very bright light at the Bar of Nova Scotia. He stood there without a peer. And I noticed when he was leader of the Conservative party in the Commons that all his speeches were prepared with great care and left very few openings for his opponents.

He had as his opponent Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and for a number of years met defeat, but at last, in 1911, he came to power. I had frequent occasion to meet him socially and found

him to be one of the most agreeable friends. I was Speaker of this Chamber from 1905 to 1910 and came into contact with him at functions where the leaders of both houses met under our roof. When he entered the House of Commons he was nearing the meridian of life, yet he studied assiduously to master the French language. I remember that often he would repair to the apartments of the Speaker of the Senate, where he found in the Speaker's wife a very good French teacher. When I lost my wife he told me in a long letter that he owed to her encouragement the persistence which he put into his study of French, for she had pointed out to him from time to time that half of his English vocabulary came from the French language. Thus our social relations were very close.

After his retirement from Parliament he became president of Barclay's Bank, and on his frequent visits to Montreal we would get together and dilate on past events. We would discuss, somewhat objectively, policies of his on which we had been sharply divided, and often we closed our discussions by agreeing still to disagree.

I noticed in his character a strong spirit of tolerance, a spirit which helped one to get on intimate terms with him. I mourn his loss, and I share with my right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) the desire he expressed that this House should bear testimony to the great qualities of the late Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Robert Borden.

Hon. JULES PREVOST (Translation): Honourable senators, I wish in my mother tongue, which was also his own, to pay a brief and last tribute of affection and mournful regret to our late colleague, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, one of the most distinguished men that the old province of Quebec ever gave to Canadian public life.

There is no higher praise to give Rodolphe Lemieux than an acknowledgment that his life, wholly devoted to study and to ever worthy public activities, may well be cited as an example to his fellow-citizens, especially to the younger men who hope some day to play a useful part, and wish to serve their country well.

Let our thoughts wander back to the past, and they will soon rise to the lofty sphere where Rodolphe Lemieux always stood. Born of plebeian stock, he was possessed of all their strong qualities. Through his own efforts, his personal merit, his solid character, his incessant labour, he came up to the top, and won in a brilliant fashion his titles of nobility, those which alone are worth while and