

vacation with his family, when informed of the late Premier's death to-day, said:—The country sustained a great loss when Mr. Mackenzie's health failed him. He was a man of high character and of great ability. I regarded him as the readiest debater in Parliament. And few could equal him in presenting a public question so as to make it intelligible to the majority of his countrymen. He had a wonderful faculty in exposing the weak points in his opponent's case. Mr. Mackenzie broke down in health by excessive work in the public service. It was his misfortune to have been at the head of the Government at a period of most severe industrial depression, and his opponents half persuaded the country that the Government of which Mr. Mackenzie was the head was responsible for the commercial failures, although Canada suffered far less than most other countries. When Mr. Mackenzie lost his health the country lost the service of one of the most upright and able men she ever had, and at a time when they were greatly needed. Mr. Mackenzie had a tender and generous heart, and those who knew him best will be most ready to concede to him these qualities. When the history of Canada is written hereafter by a competent man, Mr. Mackenzie will receive no subordinate place among the leaders of political opinion of this country.

The Advertiser in its issue of to-morrow morning will say editorially:—"The death of this revered statesman, though not unexpected, will be lamented by every admirer of honesty in the administration of public affairs. Since he was stricken down, some time since, by the malady to which he succumbed, eulogiums on his career as a man and as a popular leader have been printed in hundreds of papers, not only at home, but abroad. Every reference to his honored name has been accompanied by an expression of admiration of the sterling ability, determination and unflinching probity of this nature's nobleman. Such praises were never sought after by Mr. Mackenzie. He was a modest, unassuming, strongly conscientious, unselfish man, intent only on doing that which he believed to be right. That he sometimes erred is but to confess that he was human. But that the example which he set was one, on the main, worthy of emulation no one can deny. In his steadfast adherence to duty, whether as stonemason, contractor, editor, member of Parliament, Minister of the Crown or Premier, he may well be pointed to as an example to the rising generation of citizens. Too often have they been asked to believe that success was the one thing to be desired, no matter by what trickery, low cunning or rascality achieved. Never throughout his long and honored career did Mr. Mackenzie turn aside from the path which he believed to be right with the object of gaining personal or party advantage. His honesty, sometimes most unfairly questioned while he had the reins of office, has long since been acknowledged by even his most virulent opponents. And now that he has been called to his reward his record stands forth unsullied and unassailable.

His sturdy adherence to principle, in the midst of many temptations, may be regarded as of small moment by those who are ready to place success as the one thing to be desired. But it will ever redound to the fame of this stalwart Liberal leader that, when asked to sell class legislation in exchange for power and emolument, he spurned the proposed compact, preferring to fall in defence of the right rather than do that which he believed to be against the best interests of his adopted land. The experience of the past thirteen years has vindicated his judgment. The Advertiser has already reviewed the life of the dead statesman. It is only necessary now to say that by his removal from the arena of public affairs Canada loses one of her noblest sons. The place which he has occupied in the hearts of the people, in the counsels of the nation, will indeed be hard to fill. To his sorrowing family, to the partner of his joys and trials, who, with her husband, has so many warm friends in the west, wide sympathy will be extended. The bereavement is none the less severe because it has been foreshadowed for some time."

AT STRATFORD.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. BUCKINGHAM, WHO WAS MR. MACKENZIE'S PRIVATE SECRETARY—MR. TROW AND MR. BALLANTYNE SPEAK.

STRATFORD, April 17.—(Special.)—The sad intelligence of the death of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was received with profound regret by all classes of people. Conservatives joined with Liberals in lamenting the death of a man whose integrity and ability placed him in the foremost rank of Canadian statesmen. References to his death were made in a number of the city churches. Rev. M. L. Leitch, pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church, preached an eloquent sermon with reference to the deceased from the text, "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be as His." Having been acquainted with Mr. Mackenzie from his boyhood he was in a position to know how scrupulously he had avoided the very appearance of evil and how careful he had been to keep himself free from political scandal. Men such as he are needed in political as well as social life, and their example should be an inspiration to others. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie had always tried to live as a righteous man should live and had died as a righteous man should die.

Rev. W. H. Hincks, LL.B., of Waterloo Street Methodist Church, said:—Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, ex-Premier of Canada, a man recognised as clean by people of all shades of politics, has passed away. He was what might be called a prophet in politics, having the Hebrew conception of righteousness with executive ability of the highest order. What Canada needs at the present time is men of his type. The death of a noble man like him is not only a loss to the party to which he belongs but to the whole country. There is some consolation in the fact, however, that good men like