

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO SIR JAMES WHITNEY

## Premier Hearst and Mr. Rowell, Joined by Members on Both Sides of the Legislature, Unite in Remembering Late Government Leader

Although it is now some months since Sir James Whitney died, the members of the Legislature took advantage of the first business session of the House yesterday to do honor to his memory and pronounce eulogies upon his life and work. The shock of his death had been lessened by the lapse of time, but nevertheless feelings of profound sympathy were embodied in the tributes that were expressed. Hon. W. H. Hearst spoke with considerable emotion of his own sense of personal loss, revealing itself in well-chosen lines. Mr. Rowell, who seconded the motion to adjourn the House, was generous in his tribute, and emphasized the great zeal with which the late Premier conceived his sense of British citizenship. Hon. R. A. Pyne, Hon. W. H. Hoyle, Lieut.-Col. T. R. Atkinson, D. Racine and J. W. Johnson were other speakers.

There was no routine business.

### The Premier's Tribute.

The Premier in the course of his tribute said: "Since the last meeting of this Legislature for the despatch of business the Angel of Death has touched the man who for nearly a decade led this House. The voice that for so many years reverberated with such force and earnestness through this chamber has been stilled forever, and I feel sure the members on both sides will agree with me that this Legislature should pay its tribute of respect to the memory of the grand Canadian and son of Ontario who for so many years occupied such a large place in this House and in this country, but who has now passed to the great beyond."

### An Earnest and Diligent Servant.

Having sketched the career of the late Premier, his successor declared that the splendid legislation enacted and the work done by Sir James Whitney for the development of this Province and the comfort, benefit and happiness of the people would stand as monuments to his ability and energy. "He was not a politician in the ordinary sense of the term. He never sought to ingratiate himself with the public by the glad or honeyed word. He could not abate a principle nor cajole to win a friend, but his honesty, his integrity, his fearlessness, his high sense of duty and honor compelled a loyalty, a support and an admiration that have been given to few if any public men in this Province. His earnest desire to serve his Province to the utmost was one of his marked characteristics. He thought of his public work by day and dreamed about it by night. His Ministers might take holidays, others might come and others might go, but the Prime Minister, with a devotion and intensity that shortened his days, was always at his post. His deep Canadianism, his Imperialism and his patriotism were ever manifested in his words and works, and were in no small measure the source of the wonderful command he had over the great masses of the Province. He had a far-reaching vision and a clear insight into the future. He left an unblemished name, and a record illuminated by intense devotion to duty, and his career is one worthy of the emulation of every man whose desire is to serve his country aright. But, above all, it was his bluff, outspoken, courageous honesty and steadfastness of

purpose that formed the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, that attracted to him and held the tens of thousands whom he led as no man could have led by a mere party banner or by the methods of the ordinary politician. To die as he did, with his armor on, still planning for the betterment and advancement of the Province, was probably his wish and ambition."

### Emulate His Example.

Concluding his speech, the Premier said: "Standing to-day in the light of the career of one of the great men of Ontario, with hearts overflowing with sadness and grief, let not our grief be empty, barren grief, but let it be coupled with the determination on our part to emulate the splendid example of his life, to copy his steadfastness of purpose, his honor, his fearlessness, his integrity, his purity of life and action in public affairs, and to so play our part in the drama of life, whether that part be small or great, that when the summons comes it can truly be said of us as we can truly say of him: that our lives have illuminated the time in which we lived." Premier Hearst also made an appropriate reference to Lady Whitney and the family of the departed statesman.

### Mr. Rowell Pays Respect.

In a well-balanced speech, Mr. Rowell, leader of the Opposition, said he desired to associate himself with the Prime Minister on this occasion. Those who had the privilege of being members while Sir James was alive would recognize that he was the most dominant personality in the House, and the Legislature and the Government would not be the same without him. "I differed from him on many important questions of public policy," said Mr. Rowell, "but to-day we forget them all and join irrespective of party in paying a tribute to his memory."

### A Vigorous Fighter.

Sir James Whitney, continued Mr. Rowell, was a successful Prime Minister as well as a successful party leader if we judge him by the test of achievement at the polls or by the confidence and esteem with which he was held by the members of his party. Sir James Whitney was a believer in party government under the British constitutional system, and fought with tenacity and vigor for the principles which he and his party held to be dear and important. While he started out in his early years as a follower of the Liberal party under, John Stanfield Macdonald, he became a member of the Conservative party, and as such occupied a large and conspicuous place in its history.

### A Great Imperialist.

Two or three of Sir James Whitney's characteristics impressed him. One was the untiring energy that he brought to bear on his work. In his devotion to public duty, not only as leader of the Government but on the floor of the House, no question came up affecting any department that he did not deal with it as if it was his own affair. No doubt that fidelity to duty shortened the years of his life. He had as well a devotion to what he believed to be the public interest, and "we on this side of the House can rise above party ties and pay a tribute to his sincerity." Then there was his great attachment, not only to the Province in which he lived, but to the larger interests of the Empire. He conceived himself to be not only a citizen of Ontario and Canada, but a citizen of the British Empire, and in that devotion and attachment to the mother country he truly expressed the sentiment of the people of this Province, and when we meet under such conditions of stress and strain it is fitting that we recognize that characteristic.

### Words for Sir James' Family.

"For Lady Whitney we desire to express the deepest sympathy, in the earnest hope that she may be sup-