

### THE LATE EUGENE LAFLEUR, K.C.

Before business was proceeded with in the Superior Court at Montreal on the day following the demise of the late Eugene Lafleur, K.C., the following tributes to his memory were made by Mr. George Montgomery, K.C., and Mr. George Campbell, K.C., on behalf of the Bar, and by Mr. Justice Surveyer, the presiding Judge for the day.

MR. MONTGOMERY said:

"My Lord: Since the adjournment last night death has removed from our midst one who has been sitting with us ever since the opening of this case—our revered confrère Mr. Lafleur. It is unnecessary to say anything as to Mr. Lafleur's high character and professional attainments. His fame was not merely national, it was international, and in legal circles the world over I think I can say that the prestige of our Bar was immeasurably enhanced by the fact that we included Mr. Lafleur among our members.

I think it was the privilege of your Lordship, as of all of us engaged in this case, to sit under Mr. Lafleur as a student; and throughout we have continued to regard Mr. Lafleur in the same way as we did when we were his students at McGill. We have looked up to him and have been his disciples.

I think that every one of us has suffered a distinct loss, and our Bar certainly has. In its history the fame of Mr. Lafleur will always stand out as the greatest and most distinguished among the names of other great men who have been members of the Bench and Bar of this Province.

At the conclusion of the sittings yesterday it was somewhat uncertain as to what our arrangements would be for the balance of the week. I think we ought at least to adjourn for the funeral on Friday."

MR. CAMPBELL spoke as follows:

"I beg to associate myself with the remarks of Mr. Montgomery in regard to the loss which the Bar of Canada, and particularly of this district, has suffered in the passing of Mr. Lafleur. He was a very great lawyer and a model for all lawyers of this generation. We have all looked upon him as the embodiment of what a lawyer ought to be. A man of the very highest principles, with a wonderful gift of clarity and conciseness of expression, which made him listened to in the courts of all jurisdictions with the greatest of attention.

Before the Privy Council I know that they listened to Mr. Lafleur with as great respect as any man who appeared before them. The last time I had the privilege of being there I was on a case with Mr. Lafleur. And nothing struck me more than the deference with which the Privy Council listened to Mr. Lafleur, who enjoyed a reputation which no man at the Bar of Canada has ever reached. We have lost in his passing, I think, the most distinguished member of the profession in this generation.

I agree with Mr. Montgomery that whatever other arrangements are made, I would like to adjourn on the day of his funeral. It very closely affects the conduct of this case. While Mr. Lafleur did not wish to take part in the hurly-burly of the trial, he has been our guide and we have tried to find our main positions under his directions. Now, we are deprived of his assistance. What that will involve, I cannot say now, as Mr. Holden is not with us to-day. Of course, the work of the world has got to carry on. And we all understand that. Whether it will involve our making further application to your Lordship I cannot say now.

In any case, I would like to associate myself with Mr. Montgomery in the expression of what the Bar of this Province and particularly this district feels, in the passing of Mr. Lafleur."

MR. JUSTICE SURVEYER added the following appreciation of the qualities of the deceased:

"It is only fitting that the Bench should add its tribute to that which has been so sincerely and so ably given by distinguished representatives of the Bar. No man at the Bar of any of the provinces of Canada has had a more varied experience, before more varied courts, than Mr. Lafleur. And yet no man was more uniformly courteous and respectful to the Bench and to his opponent, ready to give up a point when he was not absolutely sure of it, no matter whether he could have carried it through the weight of his authority. No man has been more diligent, and his loss is not only a provincial loss but a national loss. He is to be admired for many reasons, and one of these reasons is, that he was never deterred from advocacy, from court work, by the big advantages that other branches of legal business may bring. He was faithful to the court-house, faithful to his briefs until the end, and we have had the proof of it today. He only left this case on Tuesday to appear before the Supreme Court, and my last conversation with him was a request by him that we should not sit on Monday and Tuesday in order to enable him to dispose of Supreme Court cases which he considered very important. Unfortunately his sudden illness forced us to make other arrangements.

Mr. Lafleur will be remembered for other qualities than those which have been expressed so far.

Besides being a sound, erudite and able lawyer, he was a man of wide culture and of wide interests. Nobody who has followed him with the slightest attention can overlook the fact that for years, notwithstanding his occupations, notwithstanding the pressing engagements involved in the practice of his profession, he has been the most devoted member of the Library Committee of the Bar. It is thanks to him that our library has kept itself abreast of all new publications during the last ten years. He was an example to all the members of that committee.

There was no movement of an intellectual, of a patriotic nature which found him indifferent, and while so many men refuse to do public service on the ground that they are too busy to give any of their time to those things which do not bring in financial returns, Mr. Lafleur was always ready to lend a hand to whatever movement interested him, notwithstanding the fact that he was doing so at a financial loss. I think we cannot speak too highly of the great lawyer who has left us, and the court, after today's sitting in the Davis case, will be adjourned until after the funeral."

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