

cal methods. That has occurred by pure accident, it was not due to any design, but simply to the fact of how large a number of senators have passed over to the great majority in recent years, and I hope are now enjoying the reward of their labours. During 1889 there were five vacancies, during 1890 six; 1891, seven; 1892, four; 1893, four; 1894, five; 1895, three; 1896, eight; 1897, four; 1898, three; 1899, seven; 1900, one; 1901, eight; 1902, seven. Then comes a dark letter year, a black year, 1903, when no less than thirteen senators were removed from this House; most of them, I think, died. In 1904 there were four vacancies; in 1905, three, and in 1906, one, a total of 93 since 1889. The effect of this has been to bring in a number of men fresh from the politics of the House of Commons, and then was introduced for the first time in this House, so far as I am aware, a party caucus or a party whip. I do not say it was done with any intention. These gentlemen simply had acquired the habits of the House of Commons and they came here imbued with the same feelings.

But the public are quick to take notice of that; the reporters are about and any of them who are disposed to condemn it, when they find political reason for doing so, act upon it. Now, there are other reasons, and one of them is the smallness of the quorum which we consider necessary. In taking up this measure I forgot to mention about the schemes of reform that have been introduced. The inventors of these schemes will pardon me for saying that I consider they are chimerical. I consider that we had better bear the evils we have than fly to those we know not of. I consider the systems proposed by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce and the hon. gentleman from Marshfield, of appointment to the Senate would not result beneficially, but would create partisan feeling, and if there is anything that will destroy the prestige and efficiency of this House it is partisan and political feeling. Therefore, it is your duty to the House and the country to avoid it as much as you can. The hon. gentleman from Marshfield had a very elaborate plan. I give him credit for the marvellous ingenuity, care and patience with which he worked it out, and it would do very well, but, mark you, it has the same failing as

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the other. It perpetuates political and party feeling and creates discontent so that party lines would be drawn here as closely as they are in the House of Commons. To simplify matters we might do it in this way; just give the leader of the government on one side twenty good men, painted red, and the leader of the opposition twenty men painted blue, and put them on the table, and when having a division simply count them. You would have just as good legislation by the other system. This House has hitherto been kept comparatively free from party feeling. I know there was a good deal more of this feeling four or five years ago than at the present time. I think it is gradually disappearing, because there is an atmosphere, and there are traditions in this House, and there is a feeling whereby a man is constrained to be respectable, honourable and clean—taught that he is not sent here to represent a party or a county. He is here on higher and nobler grounds. He represents the nation and it is as a representative of the nation that he acts in this Chamber. I am sorry to hear from the hon. gentleman who preceded me some remarks with reference to this matter, and I am sorry that he was giving an inferior status to senators. I think if a senator only appreciates the honour conferred upon him, and the high destiny to which he is called, this House would be the bulwark of the freedom and liberties of this country, and would be the guardian and protector of the rights of the lowest subject in Canada. You know it is the part of a good doctor to find out what is the matter with a patient. First he must get his patient and find out his disease. The skilled physician is known by the way in which he can get any intuitive or any natural idea of the illness of his patient. I have felt the pulse of the Senate, and I do not think it is as bad as some people imagine. I think it is only a little functional derangement. All it wants is a little more oil, a little tightening of the screws in a metaphorical way and a little better feeling, a little higher notion of our destiny, of our position than this debate might indicate. There are certain remedies which I would apply. It is easy to apply remedies when you know