

but when he will return to his place it is impossible to say.

DISTRIBUTION OF FRENCH VERSION OF PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENTS.

Before the Orders of the Day:

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I would like to call the attention of the House to the distribution of the French version of the Minutes of Proceedings, the Report of the Debates, and other documents. There are only twenty-five copies of these documents distributed to members of this Chamber, and, if my memory serves me, there are twenty-six members of this House to whom the French language is more familiar than the English language. I would like to have a few copies to spare.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: As I do not see the Chairman of the Debates Committee (Hon. Mr. Dennis) in his seat, I may inform my honourable friend that only to-day that committee reported in favour of four copies of the French version being distributed to each of the French members.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Why, the English members need the French version more than the French members do.

DECEASED SENATORS.

TRIBUTES TO SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL,
HON. MESSRS. SPROULE AND
GILLMOR.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, owing to the duties associated with my position in this House, it has been my melancholy duty for some years past to direct the attention of the members to those who have been removed from our membership by death. Since we last met we have paid probably a more than usual tribute to the grim messenger who summons the traveller to that bourne from which none return.

Last session and up to its very close we had with us the three of our most active members upon whom death has laid his hand. The first thus to leave us was Senator Sproule. Although Senator Sproule had been for forty years in public life and had occupied many distinguished positions, yet by the measure of age common to this Chamber he could not have been said to have died full of years. Almost uninterruptedly during this period he was an active member of the House of Commons, and recently a member of this Chamber. He had the confidence and esteem of his fellow-men. His ripe experience and knowledge of public affairs and parliamentary practice

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would have been a valuable asset to this Chamber had he lived.

The next death was that of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and, though the oldest man in the Senate probably no death surprised us more. We who had been associated with him for so many years— he having reached the ripe old age of ninety-four— were hopefully confident of being able to congratulate him upon reaching the century mark. The hand of death has intervened and has prevented this hope being realized. With one or two exceptions no Canadian so prominently identified with the public life of Canada had lived to such a ripe age as Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The late Senator Wark had reached the century mark; but his activities in the public life of Canada could scarcely be said to be upon the same plane as those of our late colleague. So long was Sir Mackenzie Bowell identified with the public life of the Dominion that there were few having had to do with public affairs who had not the opportunity and pleasure of meeting him from time to time. I doubt if any public man in Canada ever had the confidence of the public for uprightness, tolerance, and honourable dealing in the transaction of public and private business more than the late Sir Mackenzie Bowell. He enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all classes of the community irrespective of politics, race, or religion. No man in Canada was ever actuated by a higher sense of public duty than our late colleague. His interest and activity in the affairs of this Chamber, notwithstanding his advanced years, were unequalled by any of our members. During his many years of membership in the Senate it was an extremely rare thing to find him absent from his place or indifferent to the business of the House, no matter how unimportant it might be. His years of public activity spanned the entire life of this Dominion from Confederation down to his death. He saw Canada emerge from a small group of colonies to a national entity and become pre-eminently one of the greatest possessions of the Empire. Notwithstanding his 94 years his interest in public and social life and his activities in all the spheres in which he moved were practically as great as those exhibited by him a generation ago. He was a bulwark of strength to this Chamber. We were proud of his association with it; we were proud on both sides of the House to call him our friend; and in his death we can only say that a great Canadian has departed from amongst us.