

At a later period he decided to withdraw from the Government for the same personal reasons; and more than that, he had thought it in the interests of the party to which he belonged, that it was of the greatest importance that, in the absence of Sir George Cartier—whose illness every one deplored—a second member for Quebec should have a seat in the popular branch.

Hon. Mr. MILLER alluded to the fact that out of a Cabinet of thirteen Ministers, there were only two heads of departments in the Senate, and both represented Ontario, while five provinces were ignored altogether. Although it was certainly desirable that a large majority of Ministers should be in the Lower House, still a just representation should be continued in the Upper branch of the Parliament. All this shewed the lessening weight and influence of the Senate, but, after all, it was only a continuation of the treatment meted out to that body for the last four or five years. Gentlemen must have perceived that there is a desire on the part of the Government to dwarf the influence of this body, and increase the power of the other branch of the Legislature at the expense of the former. (Hear.) He considered this a most unfortunate state of affairs at the present juncture, when we are only developing or working out our constitution, which is of that delicate nature that it cannot unfairly be tampered with. That constitution was a system of checks and balances, and any injustice done to any one branch of Parliament must operate to the injury of all and weaken the whole system. But there was another aspect of the question to which he must refer, and that was in reference to the coalition character of the Government. All were aware that the Liberal element had been represented by Mr. Ferguson Blair, Mr. Howland and Mr. Macdougall. Changes subsequently took place, leaving out two members of the Reform party, and it was at this time a question whether the present Secretary of State (Hon. Mr. Aikins) could consistently with his duty to his party enter the Cabinet with only a single colleague belonging to that party. Now that same hon. gentleman was quite content to remain in the Government, although he stood alone, and the Finance Minister—whose acceptance of office had largely induced him, according to his own admission, to go into the Cabinet—was no longer in the Administration. Now he stood in the Cabinet like "the last rose of summer left blooming alone," and it might be appropriately added, with "his lovely

companions all faded and gone." (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said that the ground on which he objected to Ministers being removed from the Senate was because he considered that body the guardian of the interests of the Maritime Provinces, inasmuch as they are equally represented with Quebec or Ontario. He was not prepared to approve of any course that might dwarf the influence of a body where those smaller provinces possessed a representation which was intended to protect them in case of their interests being overlooked or trampled upon in the popular branch. He did not, under such circumstances, wish to see the Senate become a mere make weight—a mere echo of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL felt obliged from a sense of duty to join his remonstrance to that of other hon gentlemen, against any policy that might have the effect of lessening the influence and authority of the Senate. He hoped there was no conspiracy to bring about such a result, but if there was he must oppose it from whatever quarter it might come. The Government had just committed the *coup de grace* by eliminating two of the ablest members of the Senate. He regretted to see them pursuing a policy so detrimental to the public interests. The Senate must certainly meet for some other purpose than to be made a mere ornamental and useless appendage to the House of Commons. He objected entirely to having only two Cabinet Ministers in the Senate, however capable those gentlemen might be.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST said that he objected on true Liberal principles to the course pursued by the Government in reference to the Senate. The two political parties should be represented with justice, in the next place there should be a fair representation of the Cabinet. This, however, was a Conservative Government in every way. He could not in view of that fact expect it to pursue a policy in consonance with those Liberal principles which he believed are approved by the great majority of the people. He did not think the reasons given by the Receiver General for his resignation were the true ones; he believed that both that gentleman and the late Finance Minister left because they knew they did not possess the confidence of the people. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. AIKINS would only occupy the attention of the House for a single moment whilst he very briefly referred to some remarks which had fallen from gentlemen opposite with respect to his