

hon. gentlemen who have left us since we met here last year, and to express my extreme sorrow and regret that they should have been removed by death, and that the country should have been deprived of the benefit of their valuable experience. Naturally, the Senate is composed of a class of men who more or less every year will find their ranks thinned; but notwithstanding that, the subject is one of regret that we cannot all help uniting in. I regret also the loss we have sustained in the resignation of our late hon. leader, Mr. Abbott, through declining health, who for so many years has sat at the head of this House and conducted its affairs as its leader in a manner that won the respect of this House. I regret myself that on the general policy of the Government I felt it my duty to disagree with him on very many points, but notwithstanding that, I have the warmest regard for him as a personal friend and as a Canadian. I can also unite with those who have referred to His Excellency and the probability of his departure from Canada before the next session of Parliament meets. I may say that it is an interesting fact to me that His Excellency and I commenced life together in 1858, in the School of Musketry at Hythe, when first we entered the British service in our respective regiments. Since I left the British service I have spent most of my time in the backwoods of Canada, or upon the broad prairies of the west, from whence I have been called to a seat in this honourable House to participate in and bring my practical experience to assist in its deliberations. His Excellency has been brought up in the great and wide arena of Imperial politics, and we have the privilege and benefit of his experience and ability gained in that greatest of all fields of constitutional legislation, the Imperial Parliament. We have the benefit of his experience and abilities as our constitutional head, which forms also the constitutional link between the mother country and the Canadian people and the link that guarantees our independence, that insures this young country its protection. I trust that that link may never be broken, and that we may always have a man of the ability and experience of His Excellency to form that constitutional link between the Crown and the Canadian people, and that he may carry with him the practical experience gained in our democratic field of politics for

the benefit of the British Empire at large. We have had added to our House seven new Senators, and I may say that I have great pleasure in congratulating the Government upon the selection of those gentlemen who have been appointed to sit in this House. They come from all parts of Canada from Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia; they are all gathered here to bring the benefit of their experience and assist the Government to carry on its work successfully with that mature experience which the years they have attained enable them to give.

I do not know that I can congratulate the Government upon its reconstruction. I feel that we are to be congratulated in so far as the Government has appointed two such distinguished Canadians as the hon. Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture to sit in the House and become part of the Senate. But I entertained the hope that when a new departure was taken in the reconstruction of the Government and that when appointments were made similar to that of the Under Secretaries in the British House of Commons, they might have felt that it was advisable to increase the number of the advisers of His Excellency from the Senate and that they might at least choose one gentleman from the Senate in the reconstruction of the Government. It is not a high compliment to this House to realize that there was apparently no one in it of sufficient weight and ability to become an adviser of His Excellency, and that the Senate has got to be satisfied with only two members of the Cabinet and with our old and valued friend who sits there free of cost to the country. The object, I believe, of appointing Under Secretaries in the British Parliament is that ministers of the Crown may sit in the Upper House, still leaving a representative of every department to speak for the Government in either House; and I had hoped that the departure on the lines they have taken was for the purpose of increasing that representation in this honourable House and thus raising its character before the country; for that reason I say that I cannot congratulate the Government upon its reconstruction.

Now, hon. gentlemen, we have been discussing the Address that has been read to us by His Excellency as a bill of fare to digest and pronounce upon the policy of the Government in the past and the prospects of