

due, following the practice of the past, to refer to the gentlemen who have passed away. We must all feel regret at the death of a gentleman who has been a member of the House for so many years, I refer to the Hon. Theodore Robitaille. He occupied a very prominent position in the politics of this country, not only since confederation but before it. He was a descendant of one of the oldest French families in Lower Canada. He served in the parliament of Canada in 1869, and one of his ancestors served in the old parliament of Canada from 1809 to 1829. Mr. Robitaille himself was first elected to parliament in 1861, and remained in the parliament of Lower Canada until confederation, after which he occupied a seat in this House and also in the local legislature. He devoted his whole time afterwards to the service of his country, in the parliament of Canada. He was sworn in as Receiver General in 1873, and remained in that office until he was appointed governor of the province of Quebec, where his services were given to his country for four or five years. He afterwards became a member of the Senate which position he occupied until the time of his death. We all know that he was for years so sorely afflicted that he could not bring to the service of his country that vigorous intellect which he possessed, as he had done in years long past. It was my good fortune to be acquainted with Mr. Robitaille since confederation. He occupied a seat in the House of Commons in 1867 when I was first elected, and I think I can say for him, on behalf of all who knew him, that a more genial and kind hearted man, and a man of finer intellect—which of course was impaired by illness of late years—would be difficult to find, and we must all deeply regret his death, although it was long expected. Another colleague, with whom we, as senators, had been acquainted but a very short time, is no longer with us, I speak of the Hon. Mr. Arsenault. My short acquaintance with him led me to form a very high opinion of his character as a man of honest, straight forward integrity. He was, as I understand it, a typical Acadian. He served his country from 1867 to 1895 in his own province. He was in the Executive Council of that province, two or three times, and was representing his constituency when he was called to the Senate. Those who knew him best I have no doubt will be able to speak more at large upon his merits, but

I think every man in this House who had the honour and privilege of an acquaintance with Mr. Arsenault will come to the same conclusion that I have reached, and that is that he was a man of high character, and one whom everybody, whether agreeing with him politically or not, would hold in high esteem. I deeply regret, for myself, that both these gentlemen have gone from us, but it has been my painful duty in the four years that I have occupied a seat in this House, to call attention to senators who had been taken from us in the past.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend has inquired with regard to vacancies in the Senate; he wants to know how soon these vacancies will be filled. I can assure my hon. friend that I have no doubt whatever that they will be filled at an early date. These vacancies have not existed very long. I could not help noticing how much more vigorous my hon. friend is in this direction when he is on that side of the House than when he was on this side, and that while he is very anxious to have vacancies filled when we have the power of recommendation he was not perhaps quite so energetic when the appointment depended on his advice. Perhaps I do my hon. friend an injustice, because I remember when he was emancipated from some of his colleagues that he made a good many appointments in a very short time, and so perhaps it would be doing my hon. friend less than justice if I were to say that he was tardy in this regard. Personally, I am inclined to think that the tardiness was attributed rather to some of his colleagues than to the hon. gentleman himself. My hon. friend has alluded to the loss, by this Senate, of two distinguished members who were with us last session who are here no longer. One of these hon. gentlemen, it was my good fortune to know well as a colleague in the House of Commons, Senator Robitaille. He was a man of ability, who took a prominent part in the discussion of public affairs while a member of the House of Commons. He was entrusted by the Crown with the discharge of high and important duties as a citizen of Canada, and a subject of Her Majesty, and he was subsequently appointed by Her Majesty a member of this chamber. My hon. friend has also alluded to a gentleman who was a member of this House, but whom I had not the good fortune to be