

appropriately and with such correct taste, moved the reply to the address on this occasion, and by the hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House who have led in this discussion, to the vacancies that we see around us since the last time we met in this Chamber. The first thought is directed, as we come here, to the fact that the hon. gentleman who led the Senate for the last three or four years has been removed to another sphere. Probably I had more tilts with the hon. gentleman while he was in the Chamber than I have had with any other gentleman in parliament, but I am free to admit that he was a very industrious man, and had a great grasp of constitutional questions; and I should be sorry to utter one word of criticism in regard to him in his new sphere. I hope he may live long to adorn the bench to which he has been elevated by the government. But there are other changes which have been appropriately and feelingly referred to. There has been the death of my late hon. friend from Toronto, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing since I came to this House, and whose advice I sought and endeavoured to act upon on very many occasions. No one regrets more than I do the loss which this House has sustained in the death of the Hon. Mr. Allan. Those who were co-operating with him daily know better than others that he was one of the wisest and best men one could meet, and a strong party man at the same time, but I never heard him utter a harsh word of any one in the House or anywhere else. We deeply regret the loss the House has sustained in the death of so able and influential a man as Hon. Mr. Allan. But there is another change which affects me more deeply than anything which has occurred since I was appointed to this House, or since I have entered political life, and that is the removal of the Hon. Mr. Prowse, the member from my own province, from Murray Harbour. It was my good fortune to be connected very closely personally and politically with the Hon. Mr. Prowse since Confederation, and I found him one of the most honest, fearless and kind-hearted gentlemen I ever met, notwithstanding his brusque manner. At the time of Confederation he had the courage of his convictions, when the opportunity required, and he stood up as an advocate of Confederation in Prince

Edward Island when very few men could be found to assume that position. He cast a vote in the provincial legislature in favour of the principle of Confederation, for which he lost his seat at the following election. From that time up to his death he was a fearless advocate of the public questions in which he firmly and honestly believed. In private and commercial life he was a man of remarkable ability. From very small beginnings he improved his position and achieved a good competence. I remember that when yet a very young man, just about the time he entered political life, he built two very fine ships for the British market. He loaded them with the products of the country, and he did what was a remarkable thing for so exact a man, sent them out without insuring them. Neither of his ships was ever heard of. He lost the ships and cargo. It did not disconcert him in the least, although it robbed him of the earnings of several years' labour at one swoop. But he went bravely forward in his business as a merchant and amassed a very much larger fortune in a few years and left his family in good circumstances. I have been associated with him in private life, and found him honest in his convictions, loyal to his friends, and frank and fair to everybody. I deeply deplore the loss which this House has sustained in the removal of my late colleague the Hon. Mr. Prowse.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I join with the hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island, who voiced the sentiments of the members of this House with respect to those hon. gentlemen who have departed from us. There are two of our late colleagues whom I have been intimately acquainted with, and whose departure I most deeply mourn. I had occasion, since I learned of the departure of the Hon. Mr. Mills from our Chamber, to write to him, and I told him that if he had asked the opinion of his fellow members in this House as to the advisability of his leaving us, we would have been unanimous in asking him to remain with us. With reference to the Hon. Mr. Allan, I consider that the departure of such a dignified figure as his from among us has reduced to a considerable extent the present value of this House, inasmuch as he was one of the few links that bound us to a past that we all honour and cherish.