

shareholders overlooking, because the amount of suffering which has been caused by it no language can express. Some of those men have gone into our bank boards as the highwayman goes into the private residence. We find on bank boards men of fine character: we find that in one or two instances men occupying good positions, at the head of bible societies, at the head of our religious societies, at the head of religious institutions, playing that game with great success, with wonderful skill and science. They obtained from their high position, and from their religious character, the proxies of widows and orphans who naturally had entire confidence in men making such professions; they obtained the proxies until they secured control and swept the capital away, and suddenly we find widows and orphans, old ministers and elderly men, who had invested all their means in bank stocks, rendered penniless. It is a blot on the history of Canada. I was myself a bank director and I have had a large experience and I repeat it is a blot on the history of this country. If those bank directors to whom I refer could follow the people who have been rendered destitute, to the asylums, hospitals, and their impoverished homes, they would derive less pleasure and feel less pride in the money that has been obtained by such means. I knew an old gentleman of 63 who sustained such serious loss in this way, that knowing his children would be deprived of food and clothing and education, his heart was broken and he sank into his grave in six months, leaving his family penniless. A gentleman remarked to me to-day, really with a great deal of force, at the breakfast table in the Russell House, that he thought that this would not be stopped until we hang a bank director every year; that would be a warning to people, who, because they have high social positions, and drive out with their horses and carriages, think they can with impunity bring about those disasters. There was a public rumor some time ago—I saw it in one of the papers—that one individual had been the cause of half the capital of a bank being lost; that he went into a board and remained there twelve months, during which time half the capital of the bank was lost. It went into the pockets of his associates, and the bank failed.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER.

HON. MR. SMITH—Was that in this country?

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Yes in this country.

HON. MR. SMITH—I never heard of it before.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I desire to make a few remarks with regard to the Senate. I think it behoves us, as senators, to discuss the position of the Senate, to discuss its vocation and how it can be rendered what the people of this country would desire it to be. Most intelligent men hold that a second Chamber is indispensable, but a second Chamber to be satisfactory to the people of this country must not be a partisan body; it must be what it was intended by the framers of the Confederation Act to be—a high judicial body, like the Supreme Court of the country and the judges of the land. Whom do we represent? We represent nobody. We are the nominees of the first Minister of the Government of the day—we are the representatives of the two parties. Those hon. gentlemen who are nominated to-day, are the nominees of the present Government, but we may have another Government in power in a few years hence, which will appoint senators, and they will represent another Government. The way to raise the Senate is strictly to avoid all partizanship. We should act as a judicial body, and if bills which we do not approve of come from the present Government, no matter whether we are Conservatives or Reformers we should accept or reject those bills as enlightened gentlemen, and no men in Canada have more education and experience than the members of this hon. House. I am a Conservative, but no partizan, and I hope I never will be partizan. I regard a partizan Senator, who uses his position for his own selfish purposes, as a most ignominious member of the House. A member of the Senate who uses his position as a stepping-stone to his own advantage—that he may get office—reflects no credit on this body. Many of the hon. gentlemen who are here to-day never looked for office, and would not take any office the Government could give them. Three-fourths, or a larger number, would not take any office, and why should their reputations suffer by the selfishness of those who could use their positions for selfish purposes? I do not believe that any mem-