

fectly independent of each other, different in constitution and different, I may say, in many other respects which I will proceed to point out. I think also there is this further objection to the nomination of Senators by the Local Legislatures. Their nomination would be by the Premier of the Local Legislature. The Local Legislature does what the Local Government advises it to do, and there comes the objection raised by my hon. friend from Ottawa, who tells us that although Ontario has had a Liberal majority for many years, there are only three Liberal Senators from the Province. That is the logical sequence of such appointments and what we might look for if we devolved the appointment of Senators on the Local Legislatures or the Local Governments. I think we can still preserve the elective principle. I think we have this resource to fall back on. Let us by all means recognize the principle that the House of Commons represents numbers—is becoming year by year more thoroughly democratic, and that the qualifications of voters are almost unknown and probably in the course of a few years more will be quite unknown, and every man of mature age and with a certain residence will be entitled to vote for members in the House of Commons. But would it not be rather a cause of jealousy on the part of those who have stepped out of the laboring classes and by dint of their industry, economy and good management, have entered what we may call the property class to find their influence neutralized by their own employés? Take the case of a thriving farmer, who is an employer of three or four or half a dozen men, besides his own sons: when an election occurs his employees can go to the polls and, voting by ballot, practically, if they are so disposed, neutralize the votes of the man who employs them. I am not speaking rashly of this; it is something that actually occurs. I have spoken with men who have become propertied men by their industry and economy, and there is a natural feeling amongst these people, which I think every member of this House must recognize, that their votes ought not to be neutralized by those of men who might be their servants to-day and anybody else to-morrow, men who may be leaving the country, or doing a hundred things which completely destroys the connection between them and the locality in which they

are working, or the locality in which they had worked for two or three years. We may safely leave the wealthy merchant, the millionaire, the moneyed classes, to take care of themselves, but when you come down a step lower in the scale of society you have to consider the case of these men who, I venture to assert, are amongst the most valuable in the community. They are the backbone of every community and always have been. Any gentleman, who is familiar with the history of ancient Italy, can recall a number of instances in which the agricultural classes of Italy have been spoken of as the backbone of the State. The leading men in the Legislature, at important crises of the Republic's history, were men taken from the plough. Does not that indicate that the backbone of the community is to be found amongst classes who have been themselves once laborers, and who, by economy and good management, have become propertied men? I think it does, and I think the case of these men ought to be looked to in some way; as I say, millionaires and wealthy people are able to take care of themselves. But all classes of propertied men ought, in my opinion, to have representation in the Senate. This can be accomplished by filling in vacancies which may hereafter become vacant in this body, not by the Local Legislatures or by the Local Governments, but by propertied constituencies. They then in this House represent not numbers, but property. Of course, it is quite unnecessary to go into details as to how such a scheme should be worked out. It is enough to enunciate, in opposition to the hon. gentleman's view, the principle which I suggest, that the constituents of the Senate should be propertied men. How much should form their qualification as voters I do not think it is necessary on this occasion to decide, or for how long members should be elected or for what districts, whether one man to a district, or two men to a district as we have them now. But I think the principle is sound and good, and one which ought to commend itself, in any change that is contemplated, to members of the Government and members of this House. I do believe that there is a feeling in favor of alteration in this House, and circumstances might occur which would place a great majority here in opposition to a Government should a change occur