

out of touch with the people of the country. Say what you like, in all countries, whether on this side of the Atlantic, or on the other side, the tendency is always in the direction of giving more power to the people. Even in the country which we look upon as the model to follow in the adoption of many of our political views, the progress of democracy has been most marked during the last half century. On this continent, I believe, with the exception of the country named by the hon. gentleman who brought this subject to our notice, the second Chamber in all countries except Canada, is an elected body. I had not the opportunity of hearing all that the hon. gentleman said, but on enquiry I learn that he did not give all the examples that might be furnished to show that the tendency of the times is in the direction of making the upper Chamber an elective one, the countries that are situated most similarly to Canada are those that owe their origin to the same source—colonies of the Mother Country. The Australian Colonies are perhaps more in harmony with our political position than any other section of the world, and I find that in Victoria the Legislative Council is an elective one, the term being for nine years, one-third of the members retiring every three years; that four Ministers out of nine, under their constitution, must be members of the upper Chamber, showing the great importance attached to the upper House. As a rule, wherever those Chambers are elective they owe their source to a higher elective body. The electors are persons who require higher property qualifications than electors who return members to the Legislative Assembly. In Tasmania the Legislative Council is elective and for a period of six years: it also has a higher qualification for the upper Chamber. The Cape of Good Hope also has an elective Legislative Council. In South Australia there is an elective upper Chamber with twenty-four members who are elected for a term of nine years, one-third of them retiring every three years, with no power to dissolve. Those are sections of the Empire that are very similar in their Constitution to ourselves, and these legislative bodies work well. If anyone takes the trouble to enquire into the constitution of these particular countries that I have named he will find that the upper Chamber in every instance is a body having a very

much larger respect in the public estimation than this Chamber at the present enjoys.

We did try the elective principle in old Canada and I think it was provocative of good results. I say that the men who were elected to the Legislative Council of Canada were not inferior to any body of men elected to any other Chamber. We have some of those men in this Chamber to-day. I will run over the names of gentlemen who were elected by the people to serve in the upper Chamber of the old Province of Canada, and you will see that the choice of the people was not even second to the choice of the Crown. We owe our present Speaker to the elective principle; we had Sir Alexander Campbell by the elective principle, and Sir David Macpherson was elected by the people. Sir Narcisse Belleau was elected by the people. Hon. Letellier De St. Just, for a long time a respected member of this Chamber, and at one time a member of the Reform Government in this Chamber, owed his position to the elective principle. Hon. Mr. Aikens, who was afterwards Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, was elected by the people. Mr. Sanborn, who afterwards became a judge, and was one of the brightest ornaments to the bench or that ever spoke in the Senate, was elected. Ferguson Blair also a very superior man, a man largely respected and of very great influence in the country, was elected by the people. My hon. friend opposite owes his seat here to the choice of the people. If he were asked to-day "would you prefer having your seat here by a patent from the Crown or by patent from the people who know him best," I venture to say his answer would be very decided and clear. My hon. friend at the head of the room (Mr. Reesor) also owes his position here to the elective principle. My hon. friend opposite, Mr. Flint, also owes his position to the elective principle and Mr. Read, behind me, Mr. Guevremont, and Mr. Armand were also elected. So hon. gentlemen will see that where the choice was left to the people they did not make any serious error; they selected gentlemen who were in harmony with the political sentiment of the day, and that is where we are out of touch with the people. I will illustrate it by an example that I think cannot be contradicted or gainsaid. The Province of Ontario for nearly 20 years has been