

tenant governor appointed by Your Majesty's said Governor General in Council for five years, and whose salaries are required to be fixed and provided by the parliament of the Dominion of Canada and such provincial legislatures are empowered exclusively to make laws in relation to a large number of matters and subjects of great importance, subject to disallowance by Your Majesty's said Governor General in Council within one year, but not in any way subject to consent also by the said Senate;

That in regard to all matters and subjects not within the said exclusive power of the said provincial legislatures it is provided by the said British North America Act, that all laws to be made by the said parliament of Canada must be consented to and passed by both the Senate and House of Commons, before being presented to Your Majesty's said Governor General for assent and the members constituting the said Senate are appointed for life and not subject to election or rejection by the people, and the members of the House of Commons are elected by the people every five years or at any less period at which Your Majesty's said Governor General may dissolve the parliament;

That during the forty years since the said British North America Act has been in force much dissatisfaction has been caused from time to time to Your Majesty's loyal subjects in Canada by the actions of the Senate in regard to matters dealt with by the House of Commons and the rejection of laws sought to be made by the people through their representatives in the House of Commons and passed by the House, and by reason of the heavy expense and burden of taxation placed upon the people to provide for the maintenance of that two-fold system of dealing with the making of laws by the Parliament of Canada;

That in view of the many other provisions heretofore referred to for guarding against and disallowing any ill-advised or improper legislation which might by any possibility pass the said House of Commons, and of the aforesaid dissatisfaction of the people and heavy burden of expense involved and of the great advance made in education by the whole people of Canada since the passing of the said British North America Act, this House is of the opinion that the Senate is no longer required or advisable for the properly carrying on of responsible government in Canada, or safeguarding of Your Majesty's full rights and prerogatives; and that the abolition of the said Senate would greatly conduce to the welfare of the Dominion of Canada and promote the interests of the British empire.

We therefore respectfully pray that the said British North America Act be so amended as to provide for the abolition of the said Senate.

He said: This motion is in exactly the same language as one which I had the temerity to move at the last session of this parliament. I believe, judging by what has transpired in the meantime, that there is a stronger desire on the part of the country now that such a motion should pass

Mr. LANCASTER.

than there was then. That is why I feel it my duty to renew the motion this session. As to the conduct of the motion at the last session of this House, I cannot say that it was satisfactory. An hon. member moved the adjournment of the debate at the hour of half past nine in the evening under circumstances which, I thought, did not call for adjournment at that time. But the House was light and the members who were present did not seem to care for the continuance of the discussion at that time, and I did not demur to the debate being adjourned. It was then early in the session, and I supposed that the discussion could be resumed at a later date and the motion disposed of in some way. However, early as it was when the adjournment of the debate took place, the motion was never called on the order paper again, so was not dealt with by the House. I hope that a different action will be taken by the House this session. It is idle to say that the country is now satisfied with the conduct of the affairs with which this motion deals. The petition here proposed is concrete, and if acted upon it means something. The object is to bring about a great change, and a change, I admit, in the constitution. But it is a change that, I believe, is favoured by the vast majority of the people.

At the outset, let me call the attention of the House to the fact that this is not by any means a new agitation. For a couple of decades, at least, the people of this country have been finding fault with the way in which affairs are carried on so far as the second Chamber of this country is concerned. So great was this feeling sixteen years ago that Senate reform was made a plank in the platform in one of the two great political parties just on the eve of a general election. Various and numerous suggestions have been made from time to time since then looking to a remedy, but no two advocates of change seem to agree on any particular plan. All agree that matters as they are, are not right and that the results are not well for the country. All agree that as things have been going on and are going on the actions of the second Chamber—or the first if you choose to call it so; the other Chamber—are not conducive to the welfare of this country. When, after two decades of agitation, all are agreed that the existing condition ought to be changed, but none agree as to what the change should be, what is the logical conclusion? The conclusion is that the obstruction, that part of the machine which none can make workable and which none can agree upon a plan for improving, should be removed. In 1896, as I pointed out last session, and as I now remind the House, the present Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir Richard Cartwright, upon the eve of a general election, speaking in Massey Hall, Toronto, used this language: