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## Our Senate and Senate Reform

**R**ECALLING to mind that oft-repeated adage, "the newspaper is but the pulse of public opinion," what then must be popular sentiment towards our Senate? For, within the last few months, even Canada's most conservative newspapers have boldly criticized our Second Chamber, and have not hesitated to profess their dissatisfaction with it. Although our Upper House has never enjoyed that esteem or respect which has characterized the other parts of our governmental machinery, still, prior to this, only cautious opinions have been expressed about it, in private interviews or in tepid symposiums, by Canada's literary and political men.

This recent outburst of dissatisfaction can be traced to the Senate's refusal to give its sanction to the Conservative Naval Policy. Although, as might be expected, party prejudices flavor these criticisms, still we must not allow them to pass unnoticed. For, a momentary glance at them suffices not only to convince even the casual observer that there is justification for a goodly number of these criticisms, but also to impress upon the minds of all the necessity of Senatorial reform. That our Senate has failed to win the prestige destined for it by its sponsors is an undeniable fact. And it is not my intention to attempt to conceal any of its defects, but rather to consider them in their true light.

In the first place, to use the words of Marriott, "The Cana-