

Cabinet of the old Province of Canada, the liberal element was strongest in Parliament.

Although there was a partial disruption in the Coalition Cabinet in December 1865 which prevented the cordial working of the two parties in the Session of 1866 on general subjects, the Confederate policy was supported as cordially as ever, and the arrangement concerning the Senate was carried out in this particular with reasonable fairness. The classification of some so called independents was objectionable doubtless, and, therefore, some nominations were made apparently in the liberal interest which that party could hardly recognize. Still the "bond" was professedly kept and the principle acknowledged.

The Senate met therefore in 1867 for the first time, so constituted, with a fair opportunity to vindicate the reputation of its Creators for political knowledge and foresight. I will not here discuss the question whether the new body justified the hopes held out, as we are not proposing a change in its constitution, although I hold very decided views on that point, but it is right we should consider whether the principle observed in its creation have [sic] been adhered to viz., an equitable distribution of its political power between the two parties.

Since 1867 thirty one (31) appointments have been made to the Senate. Of these nine were from the three new Provinces. In one only of these Provinces was there any attempt to consult the political divisions which had previously prevailed in the Province. viz. in Prince Edward Island where two were selected from each party. All the other Senators were selected from the ranks of the ministerial party, the net result being that twenty-nine (29) were chosen because they were allies of the governing party and two of their opponents by agreement with the

There was a partial disruption of the Coalition Cabinet during the period of political incubation which prevented the cordial working of the two parties in the Session of 1866 on general subjects, but the policy of confederation was sustained as cordially as ever, and the arrangement concerning the Senate was carried out in this respect with reasonable fairness. The classification of some members was objectionable and, therefore, some nominations were made apparently in the liberal interest which that party hardly recognized. Still the "bond" was professedly kept and the principle acknowledged.

The Senate met in 1867 for the first time so constituted with a fair opportunity to vindicate the reputation of its creators for political knowledge and foresight. A brief statement of facts will shew whether the principle adopted in its creation have [sic] been adhered to, viz., an equitable distribution of its political power between the two political parties. Since 1867, thirty-one appointments have been made. Of these nine (9) were made to give representation to the three new Provinces of Manitoba, Columbia and Prince Edward Island. In one only of these Provinces was there any attempt made to consult the political divisions which had previously prevailed, viz., in Prince Edward Island, where two were selected from each side.

All the others were selected from the ranks of the then ministerial party: the net result being that twenty-nine (29) of the new Senators were on one side and two (2) on the other. The result on the whole being that the Opposition to the present Administration controll the Senate by a very large majority.

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Another provision of the [illegible] in connection with the death of two of the members aggravates this disparity of numbers. Under the impression that P.E. Island would enter the Union in 1867 it was grouped with N Scotia and N Brunswick, the group to have twenty-four (24) Senators. The 147th Section provides that "after the admission of Prince Edward Island the representation of N Scotia and N Brunswick in the Senate shall, as vacancies occur, be reduced from twelve to ten members respectively. Within the last few weeks one Senator has died in each of these Provinces. viz. Senators Locke and Steves, both these members were supporters of the present Government.

Another provision of the British North American Act taken in connection with the death of two of the members aggravates this disparity of numbers.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were formed into a group, one of three, with a representation of twenty-four members in the Senate. Prince Edward Island not having come into the confederacy, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick received each two members more than their own allotment as portions of the group. The 147th Section of the British North American Act provides that "after the admission of Prince Edward Island . . . the representation of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the Senate shall be reduced as vacancies occur from twelve to ten members respectively. Senators Locke and Steves from these Provinces died very recently, both these members were supporters of the present Government but they cannot be replaced, and the result is that the Government is further weakened in the Senate.

I do not mean to lay down the doctrine that the Senate must be filled by the appointment of an exactly equal number from each political party. Such an arrangement would be scarcely possible; nor do I pretend to say that, even if possible, it would be advisable for each successive Administration to obtain a majority in the Senate. The body as it exists is the result of a system of compromise which it was hoped would be reasonably satisfactory to the country. It is, however, evident that much care and delicacy is necessary in making appointments to give the body the weight it should have in the country and prevent the impression