

than the majority are likely to take a course different from the course of their friends in that Chamber. It has been hinted during this debate that gentlemen who have been appointed to seats in this House by the present Government and who afterwards occasionally venture to think that the present Government are not infallible, manifest ingratitude. I think the hon. gentleman who took that view cannot have considered the matter very carefully. As a rule, a gentleman who is appointed to the Senate has rendered important services to his party; and when he is appointed to the Senate, it is merely a recognition of his claims on the party, and he and the party are about even when he comes here; and he ought to be in a position after that to vote and speak in the interests of the country and not in the interests of any party. As some hon. gentleman has said, the Government of the day have not treated this House as they should treat it; and I think the best way to get a reasonable number of portfoliod Ministers in this House and make the Senate respected would be to make ourselves felt by taking some decided action with respect to some important Government measure. I intimated at the beginning of my remarks that I was not prepared to deal with this subject as I ought to be; and I regret to say that there seems to be a disposition on the part of a good many members of the House not to treat this resolution very seriously.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I think the hon. gentleman who brought this motion before the House deserves a great deal of credit for the industry he has displayed and the information he has supplied us with on this particular question. But while I say that, I can scarcely agree with him in the conclusions which he has reached. It must be apparent to those who have watched public affairs in the Dominion of Canada that a very short period has elapsed in the nation's history since the formation of this great Confederation, and at that time the ablest and the wisest men had charge of the destinies of the different Provinces of the Dominion, who sat down, so to speak, filled with the largest amount of patriotism it is possible for this or any other House to command. They were gentlemen who had been leaders of their Governments—who had been advisers of

Her Majesty in the different councils of the Provinces—men of vast and wide experience—men who, although differing on party lines and party views, nevertheless, felt there was great necessity that they should come together and form one strong, compact body to govern this country according to the well defined principles of the British constitution. Some experience was had, but very little at that time, with regard to an elective legislative council. The first Province that had one was Prince Edward Island, although one of the smallest of the colonies in British North America. It arose from a state of affairs which could not possibly exist in the other Provinces of Canada, at that particular time. It arose from the fact that all our lands were held under lease somewhat like under the seigniorial titles in Lower Canada. We had our lands granted away in 20,000 acre townships in one day in the City of London, and they had gone from the original grantees into the hands of money dealers, and changed from their hands into the hands of others who had no direct interest in them other than to make what money they could out of the people of the country. The local Government felt the necessity of some settlement of this important question, and that some expression of opinion should be made. Coincident with the existence of responsible Government in the Province of Canada, responsible government became the government of Prince Edward Island. It was thought that as we had no freehold estate, that as all our lands were lease hold, and as the voting power of the people was controlled by the agents of the landlords, that a free vote could not be given, and, as a consequence, about 1848, the establishment of a franchise and a constitution, the foundation stones of which were a free school, a free franchise and a free vote. We were the first to adopt it, and in that way responsible government was ushered in, and the people elected to the lower branch of the legislature, what might be called non-property representatives. Then it was thought there should be some representation of property,—in other words, that with a free franchise, voters would swamp the property holders and chaos would take place, and it was considered necessary to have an Upper House. While members of the Lower House were required to have a property