

he wished. This was a bill which ought to be considered carefully by the Senate and rejected as injurious to the public interests. It was for the Senate, which should be under the influence of cool and moderate counsels, to prevent any unjust measure which had passed the lower branch from becoming the law of the land. It was for Parliament to declare who shall sit in its own body; the local legislatures had the right to arrange its own representation; but he did not wish to see Parliament going beyond its functions and passing legislation, neither equitable in its operations nor constitutional in its provisions.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL replied that in approaching the discussion of the question every member of the Senate must be anxious to take no step which would touch the rights and privileges of the other branch of the Legislature. All remembered when a Bill affecting the Senate had been introduced elsewhere a large majority upheld the rights and privileges of that branch. The members of the Senate occupied a very different position from those in the other House. The Senators were appointed for life, if a disability attached to them it was for life. There was no reason whatever why a member occupying a seat for life should be debarred from all offices of honor under the Crown. He did not think any member should be cut off from such position; the non-member for Montreal (Hon. Mr. Ryan) had acted as Commissioner to the West Indies and no one surely could say that he was thereby disqualified from continuing in the upper branch. He was quite sure that gentlemen in the Senate would be equally reluctant to interfere in any way with the rights and privileges of the lower House. The present bill referred exclusively to the circumstances under which the House of Commons had decided members should sit in that body, and he for one was not disposed to interfere with legislation which it was the exclusive privilege of that branch to pass. If the suggestion of the hon. member for Grandville was adopted and the Senate should interfere with the rights and qualifications of the Commons then an invitation was extended to the latter to pursue the same course in relation to the Upper House. He did not consider the constitutional argument of the hon. gentleman as sound or tenable. That hon. gentleman had attacked the bill as unconstitutional and then went on to say that he would not object if it were made applicable to Quebec and the other Provinces, but he

seemed to forget that even were it so the constitutional difficulty would remain.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST explained that he contended that the Parliament of the Dominion had a right to declare who shall be elected to the House, by a general law, without interfering with the Local Legislatures.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL went on to say that Parliament was not governed by the rules which were laid down by the constitution of the United States—not by doctrines applicable to the relations between the Federal Government and the different States—but by the Constitutional Act of 1867, which said in direct English that Parliament had full power to legislate upon the subject. He did not understand why a man should not say distinctly before he became a candidate for Parliament, whether he had resigned his seat in the other legislature, especially when there was an act of that legislature preventing him from sitting in both. Why should the country be put to the expense and inconvenience of what might be a mere sham election? The hon. member had stated that the bill was aimed at two gentlemen in the other branch, and tried to connect the Government with its initiation. He ought not to make such an assertion after the statement positively made elsewhere, that the Bill was introduced without the knowledge, or consultation with the Government. The same gentleman (Mr. Costigan) had brought forward a similar bill last session. The hon. gentleman opposite forgot that the measure would not affect merely the seats of two, but of several gentlemen in the House of Commons. It was urged that extraordinary power was given to the Returning Officer, but it was now the law that the votes of a disqualified candidate could be struck off. The bill was only intended to apply to those Provinces which, by their own free will, had legislated on the question, and he could not see any reason why it should not be passed by the House.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT said that he had always been in favor of Dual Representation, and had not seen anything since 1867 to induce him to change his opinion. He was not in favor of changing the legislation of Ontario—it would be an improper interference with the Local Legislature.

Hon. Mr. CHRISTIE said that he failed to discover that the Postmaster General had answered the argument of the hon. member from Grandville who had declared that the bill was unconstitutional because it made the legislation of Parliament contingent on the action of the Local Legislature. The hon. gentlemen had said