

This is a difficult question to discuss, but I thought I would bring it up and have the views of my colleagues upon it, not as a reflection upon the Government or this House, but simply to deal with the fact which is undeniable that we are not holding our own. I repeat it is not the fault of the Government or of the members in this House that we are not holding our own. The people will have the Executive in the other House: it is the fault of the constitution. It is better for us to study the defect in our own constitution than to wait until it is too late, until the people have risen and spoken in a way that will be much less dignified for us than if we had dealt with the subject ourselves, just as a person who feels that he is suffering from some disease consults the doctor to ascertain the cause of his malady or looks at it himself. I repeat that the trouble with us is that we do not derive our authority from the proper source. We should be in touch with the people. We are like Anteus, deriving all his strength from mother earth. Separate us from the people and from the provinces and we become powerless. We have a natural electorate before us, that is the Local Legislatures of the Provinces. I have made the calculation that if since Confederation, Senators had been elected by the Local Legislatures parties would be about equally balanced in the Senate, and with the power of appointing six additional members, for which the Constitution provides now in case of a deadlock, the Government could throw in that balance. Until we have this Chamber elected by some body which has the power to delegate power to us here, we may lament but we cannot improve our condition. I say

"The Queen may make a belted Knight  
A Marquis, Duke and a' that,  
But a Senator's aboon her might  
Guid faith, she munna fa' that."

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—I thought the hon. gentleman was going to show this House that upper Chambers in other parts of the world, partly elected, had more power than this House possesses. He has failed to do that; he has shown only one case, the United States of America, where the upper House has more power than the Canadian Senate possesses. In Germany, France, Belgium and other European countries the upper

Chambers have not more power than this Senate possesses, and no parallel can fairly be drawn between a legislative body, in a colony which is part of an empire, and the upper House of a self-governing republic. The hon. gentleman has failed to establish his proposition, that we would have more power if we were elected by the Local Legislatures. I do not think we would, but I fully agree with him in this, that the Senate has not the power that it should possess, we ought to have on the floor of this House three or four Ministers with portfolios. More than that, it is unjust to cast on any one gentleman the work that the leader of the Senate is called upon to do. He has to carry through this House all the Bills from all the Departments of the Government, and it is imposing too heavy a burden upon him. When I first came into the Senate there were five Cabinet Ministers here, four of them with portfolios, and then they had as much as they could do to carry through the work of the Departments. If we have lost our power we can in a very short way restore it. If we were to-morrow to throw out a Supply Bill we would very soon bring on a crisis in this country, or we could do it by throwing out a Tariff Bill, and I should be one who would assist in a movement of the kind. The hon. gentleman has failed to establish his proposition that we would have more power than we now possess if we were elected by the Legislatures of the Provinces.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It is a hopeful sign of the re-construction of this Chamber when we find one of the younger members, who has been so recently nominated, taking up this question. No doubt it is one of the important questions of the day and a living political issue. The Senate, as at present constituted, is made up of a body of gentlemen who would grace any legislative body in the world. It is made up of men of large experience who have gathered very great political knowledge, yet I am constrained to say that the political position of this House is not such as its standing merits. I am not now going to allude to the criticisms outside, because every hon. gentleman is aware that the Senate does not enjoy that reputation with the public that its position and intelligence justify and warrant, and I think it is entirely owing to the fact that it is