

ed that proposition or not. It would seem to me that much the better way would be to dissolve the popular House and go directly to the people to ascertain what they want. It does not seem to me that the Senate would be in a position to hold the other House in check for two or three years, particularly when the Senate consisted of a body of men elected for a term of ten or twelve years, as the hon. gentleman suggested, or if it were a body appointed for life. If there was to be a system of popular election, the scheme I would prefer would be something like that which we find in Norway. I would make the life of a Senator equal to the life of these parliaments, dividing them into these divisions, and at each general election taking from the elected members by some plan to be worked out, or from Senators whose term has expired, a sufficient number to fill vacancies. All vacancies occurring between general elections to be filled by appointment by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of the province affected. I would fill the vacancies thus created in the commons by new elections. I would reduce the number of senators one-third at least. I would be perfectly willing, in view of all the conditions, to allow Prince Edward Island to have four senators, as at present, but I would cut off Nova Scotia and New Brunswick six each, and proportionately reduce the number coming from the other provinces. In that way the number to be re-elected on each occasion for the popular House would be so small that it would not be nearly as bad as the contested elections which upset so many gentlemen who have obtained majorities by the usual means; and you would then have a Senate that would be thoroughly representative of the people, and also a continuing senatorial body. They would sit for a sufficient length of time to intelligently discharge their duties and acquire experience which would entitle them to re-election if the people saw fit.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not apprehend exactly what the proposal of the hon. gentleman is. Is it that a certain number of gentlemen elected to the House of Commons shall be Senators?

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—Yes, that is the idea.

Hon. Mr. POWER—How is the hon. gentleman going to distinguish between those who are elected?

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—If I am in the government when that occurs I shall find a way. It will not be so difficult to arrange. The same system really exists in Norway. I should like to say that the idea of election by the people had made considerable progress in Canada up to the time of confederation. The old legislative council in Canada, the members or representatives of Upper Canada, or a considerable portion of them, were elected by the people; I do not know how many, but quite a number, and when hon. gentlemen quote in parliament the observations of Sir John Macdonald and George Brown in regard to the observations which they held for an appointed House, must be read in the light of the facts which existed at that time. When confederation was agreed upon, it was absolutely necessary that it should carry—it was the ordinary view taken that it would be carried. Therefore the men who were propounding and preparing the scheme of confederation provided that the senators should be appointed from the legislative councils then in existence. If that had not been done they would never have carried it through the legislative councils and the public men of that day naturally looked around for arguments to justify the departure which they made in making the Senate of Canada an appointed body; so then the argument quoted developed in their minds, and they condemned elective legislative councils. I think there is no mistake in that, and if hon. gentlemen will refer to the history of the time they will find that was the case.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Both Upper and Lower Canada were divided into large electoral districts before confederation, and all the legislative council were elected alternately for two, four and six years.

Hon. Mr. ELLIS—I was not exactly aware just what it was. I knew they were elected, and I knew that the popular mind was favourable to election. They were originally appointed by the Crown, and the idea of election was brought about because the people desired it. It could not have been done otherwise.