

one particular party, as well as to prevent members outliving their usefulness, a time limit as to age, or, which would amount to the same thing, appointment for a certain number of years instead of for life, might be found beneficial. Much importance would be added to and value gained from the work of the Senate if more work was given it to do, and if its labours were not hindered and interfered with by the course taken in the Commons. Many private bills should be introduced in the Senate where there would be time, so often wanting in the Commons, to give them that careful consideration which is essential for good legislation. It is also one of the evils of our present practice that measures of importance which have been discussed ad nauseam in the Commons are sent to the Senate in the dying hours of the session, at a time when anything like fair consideration is impossible, and the Senate is condemned as a useless body by men whose verbosity is the real cause of the apparent neglect.

That in some cases the Senate may have made mistakes is but to say that it is human. That it has been influenced by partizan motives, which ought to have no power over the members of such a body, is freely charged, but the charge, if true, should properly be laid upon the shoulders of those who have departed from the original design, and lost sight of the proper qualifications which members of the Senate should possess. Careful and wise selection, having in view the real object to be attained, will remedy this evil in the future, and restore to the Senate that position of power and usefulness which the framers of the Constitution intended it should occupy. That it can occupy, no matter what political party may be in power, such a position without meeting sometimes hostile criticism is neither possible nor desirable. The independence which the Senate should possess will sometimes have to check the spirit of partizanship which often dominates the action of the popular Assembly and to insist upon further reflection before changes are effected. And this is necessarily the case, for the popular Assembly must always be under the control of a majority of one or other of the great parties which from time to time govern the country. But in such conflicts safety will be found, and in the end public opinion will sustain those who in the honest discharge of a public duty are not afraid to stem, when necessary, the current of popular feeling.

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