

the people than now, but not very much nearer. Because, although a Liberal leader has been at the head of the Government of Ontario since 1871, the people of Ontario are not all Liberals by any means; and this system of allowing the local Premier of the day to make the appointments to the Senate would give us here a one-sided representation of the public sentiment of Ontario.

HON. MR. McINNIS, (B. C.)—But it would not be left to the executive of Ontario but to the whole legislative body.

HON. MR. POWER.—It would be in form, but it would come to this: that it would be practically an appointment by the Local Government of the day. This is the first objection to the system which the hon. gentleman has outlined. Then there is another objection, that seats in the Senate under that system would in some cases very probably be purchased by a large contribution to election funds.

Several HON. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear, and laughter.

HON. MR. POWER—I think it is very ungenerous of hon. gentlemen, when I am trying to be fair and reasonable with the House, not to be fair and reasonable with me. I may say now what I did not intend to say before, that it is stated that some hon. gentlemen owe their seats in this House to that same thing. In the United States, there is hardly a doubt but there are seats in the Senate purchased; and it has got to be so in that country that a seat in the Senate is rarely to be obtained except by a very wealthy man, and that the Local Legislatures are bought, whether the funds contributed by candidates for the Senate go for electioneering purposes or go directly into the pockets of the local legislators I do not know, but of the fact of purchase I have no doubt, for I have seen it stated in some of the most respectable newspapers published in the United States.

The third objection is that a Senate elected in that way would be just as partizan as the Senate of to-day is. The hon. gentleman from Shediac and the hon. gentleman from New Westminster have said that those gentlemen elected by the local legislatures would be above party, but it occurs to me that under the British system of govern-

ment—whether it be for good or ill—party runs right through from the top to the bottom of our political system.

HON. MR. McINNIS (B. C.). I did not say that, but I said that hon. gentlemen appointed in that way would come here perfectly untrammelled and not under the influence of either party here. They would come as the representatives of the Provinces.

HON. MR. POWER—We have not got quite as far as they have in the United States, where, down to the smallest municipal election, it is a question of Republican and Democrat, but we are Liberals and Conservatives, in some cases, even in the Municipal elections, and from that up to the highest point to which you can go, the gentlemen appointed to this House by Liberal Legislatures would be thorough Liberals, and those appointed by Conservative Legislatures would be thorough Conservatives, and I do not think we should gain anything in the way of absence of partizan spirit under that plan. There is no doubt that a Senate appointed in the way the hon. gentleman proposes would interest people at large more than it does as at present constituted, for people pay more heed to what goes on in the Local Legislatures than they do to what goes on here, and in the Local Legislature they would keep an eye on appointments to this House, and people would naturally take more interest in a Senate appointed in that way than in one appointed as the present House is. I think it is desirable that there should be a change, although I do not know that there is any very urgent necessity for it. However, a change is apparently desirable, and I am disposed on the whole to favor the plan suggested by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa. That plan was in operation in the old Province of Canada before Confederation, and, on the whole, gave pretty general satisfaction. There is one principle, about which, I think, there is no doubt, that, as a rule, the more you enlarge a constituency, the higher will be the character and standing of the men who will represent the constituency. The smaller you make a constituency, as a general thing, the nearer you get to ward politics; and there is no doubt that elections by larger constituencies, embracing each, say about three of the present constituencies for the