

revising chamber. He said that if there were no second chamber, half of the legislative assembly should sit on one side and half on the other, one to act as a revising body of the legislation passed by the other—not necessarily to throw out legislation, but to revise it. In common with other gentlemen interested in the public affairs of the country at that time, he felt that a second chamber was a necessary part of our legislative system. I submit that a second chamber is as necessary a part of our legislative system to-day as it was then. That being the case, we should have a legislative system as free as possible from political influence, representative of the people, a permanent organization having no fear of Government or Government control.

I have suggested that no qualification should be required of the person seeking election to the Senate. I do not see why qualification should be necessary in the Senate any more than it is in the House of Commons. No qualification is required of men seeking election to the House of Commons other than capability and honesty; nor should any qualifications other than these be required of senators. If a man is capable, honest, and trusted by the people, he is fit to represent the people, whether he is wealthy or poor.

It was said years ago that it would be difficult to get men to offer themselves as senators in large constituencies. But times have changed very much since that argument was advanced. At that time great difficulties were experienced in canvassing large constituencies, but in these days of good roads—with better roads coming—of railroads in every section of the country, of newspapers in every town, village and hamlet, of motor cars, what greater difficulty is experienced by the candidate in a large constituency than by the candidate in a small constituency? Moreover, a senatorial constituency composed of several counties would be so large that no man, whatever his wealth, would attempt to bribe the electors. The constituency would be so large that he could not go from house to house and conduct a personal canvass. His qualifications for the position would be the qualification that he could demonstrate to the electors on public platforms throughout the constituency; he would be known by his utterances rather than by his personal canvass.

I have suggested that there should be a remedy for any deadlock taking place as between the Senate and the House of Com-

mons. I submit that that single reform should be made even if nothing else be done, and in that I feel that I have the support of hon. gentlemen opposite. We heard, in 1912, and have heard since then, that the Senate should be put out of business because they practically rejected the Naval Aid Bill of the Government. If the Conservative Government had been invested with such power as is suggested in my resolution, there being a difference of view between the Upper and the Lower Chamber, the Government would have had the right to appeal to the people, and if the people had approved the proposed legislation and the Act had been again passed by the House in the same terms, it would have become law without going to the Senate. I wonder if this Government would have appealed to the people. I am free to say that, irrespective of political feelings one way or the other, I would like to have had an expression of opinion of the people with regard to the naval aid policy of this Government as against the naval service policy of the former Government. If such a proposal as I have suggested had been in operation at that time the Government would have had an opportunity of obtaining that expression of opinion had they seen fit to accept the responsibility of dissolving Parliament and going to the country. It is just possible that under an elective system the political complexion of the Upper Chamber, if there was any, would not be as speedily changed as it is at present; under existing conditions a change is brought about rather quickly. At any rate, I would have no fear of the political situation with an elective Senate, for the senators would not be tied down by party affiliations, party prejudices, or party alliances.

This resolution may require modification. If the Government or the House see fit to accept it the matter can easily be referred to a committee who could put it in shape to go before the Imperial Parliament. Some such resolution should be adopted; such a change as is suggested should be made in the system of constituting the Senate of Canada. When that change shall have been made it is my opinion, Sir, that we shall have reached the highest position which can be obtained in any democracy: that of a government of the people, for the people and by the people. I beg leave, therefore, to move the resolution which stands in my name.

Mr. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, there was one part of the remarks