

can have a body of men who will in some degree fulfil the functions which make the real value of the House of Lords as a part of the governing body. Such was the idea of those who framed the Act of Confederation. They sought to bring together a body of men such as we have endeavored to describe—a body of men representing all political parties, yet dependent upon none—men of varied attainments—men of ripe experience not only in political life, but in all those elements of material and intellectual progress which make up the life of a nation—men removed from the din of party warfare, yet understanding the people—their wants and aspirations, their habits and modes of thought; competent therefore to judge as to the best means of promoting their interests and developing their resources. And, with these ends in view taking their legitimate part in the management and control of public affairs.

Is there any reason why this ideal should not be realized, and if, in the past it has not been realized, why has it not been so? Apart from all questions of partisanship it cannot be denied that there are in the Senate a number of men who do realize the idea above expressed, in whom the people of this country have well-deserved confidence, whose ability as servants of the public is beyond question, whose integrity both in public and private life is above suspicion. If this is so, and who can deny it, then the true idea of the Senate has not altogether failed, and in so far as it has failed, it has failed because the Minister of the day has not realized his responsibility, and has sacrificed to party what was due to the country. Instead of doing as it was intended that he should do, select the Senators from men of all parties, he has confined the selection to his own, and the same party having been in power for a long series of years a large majority of one party has been created, and, party interests having been preferred to any other, the true principle of selection has been departed from, with great resulting discredit to the Senate, and harm to the State. Evils of this kind may to some extent be guarded against, but the only true remedy will be found in a high sense of responsibility on the part of the Minister, sustained, as in all public matters he should be, by that keen regard for the public welfare which forms the true life of a political party.

Some reforms in the constitution of the Senate may be suggested. In order to cause a flow of fresh blood so as to keep it in touch with public opinion, and to avoid the preponderance of