

statement I made as to what he remarked a few moments ago. The objection which he made remains there. This speech which he has favored us with, in which he shows the chameleon character of his politics, has not altered the position he took, that the fact that an hon. gentleman was appointed by a particular Minister or particular party would so affect him with gratitude to the benefactor who placed him in the House, that it would be impossible for him, or next to impossible for him ever to vote against him afterwards. Now, we have proof, as I said—living, waking and speaking proof that that is not a valid objection. I think I may conclude that the mode of the election proposed would not cause party feeling in this House to disappear; and in my opinion it would not have the effect of giving to this House as good a selection otherwise as we now have from another body. I venture to dispute and doubt the assertion that the local Legislatures are better fitted to appoint members of the Canadian Senate than the Central or Federal Parliament, in which, as a matter of course, this House itself has a voice.

The appointments are made on the recommendation of the Government in power, and, generally speaking, although in the case of the present Government that rule has not been universal, the candidate shows the color in politics, which fairly describes the party appointing him. My hon. friend was one instance, but then he would have been an equally good instance on the other side if his appointment had been made by a Liberal Government, for he alternately fought and conquered first one and then the other party, but appointments here are naturally in accord generally with the party tendencies of the Government of the day. But my hon. friend from Ottawa thinks that is a bad mode of appointing Senators. He thinks it has not been successful. He says there are only three Liberal Senators from Ontario in the House, and he desires a larger representation of that party in this Chamber.

HON. MR. POWER—From Ontario?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Yes, from Ontario. My hon. friend has been asking for a change for some time, and his party in Ontario has been desiring a change. And if they had got the change they wanted there would soon be a change in the

Senators too. But supposing the Liberal party in Ontario had been in office all this time, in what position would a Conservative Government now be in; if a Liberal Government had had the opportunity of filling all the vacancies in the Senate for the last twenty-five or thirty years? There would then have been plenty of Liberal Senators in the House. So that the appointment of Senators accompanies the confidence of the people. But I maintain that the members who come to this House appointed for life, having a proper sense of the grave duties that appertain to them, drop party tendencies to a large extent, and in so far as those party tendencies bear towards faction they have disappeared from the members of this House altogether. My experience of the Senate proves that, whether its members be appointed by a Liberal or Conservative Government, they have shown since I remember this House—and I have observed it more nearly since I have been more intimately acquainted with it of late—a disposition to study the true interest of the country in disregard of party feeling and party discussion, that befits them in the high position they hold as Senators of this Dominion. The result, therefore, in the opinion of my hon. friend of the change he proposes to make, would be, that we would have better men, men of high standing in the country and men with less party feeling. In my opinion we would not have men of equal standing in the appointments which would be made by the local Legislatures; they would not probably be equal to the selections which are made by the Dominion Parliament from the whole Dominion of Canada. And, probably, they would be more likely to be animated by party feeling than those men who have had a large experience of the affairs of the Dominion itself, which is actually the case with three-fourths of the men sitting around me in this House. They would have a larger training on the great questions which are constantly arising; and would have a larger grasp of the measures which are fitted for the welfare and progress of their country. I think, therefore on all these grounds—on the ground of independence, on the ground of absence of party feeling, on the ground of experience and breadth of views, and on the ground of better training for the high position which they hold—a better selection would be made by the Parliament of