

very respectable, having one head; in the second place a monstrosity, having two; in the third place, a very hideous monster with three heads. The Government has one head and one only; it has not two and it has not three. But while one head is away, another, very humbly and in a very poor way, undertakes to do, as far as he can, what the real head would do if he were present. And under the circumstances of the present, when the sick man is absent searching for a return of the health which has been shattered by his devotion to the duties and responsibilities of office, the onerous responsibilities of the war, one of the members of his Cabinet undertakes to fill his place, however unworthily, by the good grace of his fellow-members and his supporters and of the House as well. My hon. friend would surely not object to that.

As to the proposition which he adds to that—and that rumour developed into a fact with which he clenched his argument that there was a one-man proposition somewhere and that in this whole business there was a concealed design, and not a healthful one—let me set my hon. friend's mind at rest. The right hon. leader of the Government is away, unfortunately, and with regret we say it, in search of a very much shattered health. On the conditions of two or three or four months free from the cares of office, as far as he can be free, depends entirely whether he shall ever lead this Government again or not. But there is nothing up the sleeve; the fact is absolutely that and nothing more. If a kind Providence permits and health is restored in reasonable time, we shall have the leader of the Government back again.

My hon. friend objects to having members of the Government in the Senate. Since when? Is his party behind him in that respect? Have a Senate and have no member of the Government in it? It has not been so in the past; it will not be so in the future. The more the Senate is useful, the more it will demand that responsible members of the Government shall be in the Senate to state their policy, and their policy will be carried out in that way. Since when did my hon. friend develop this strange theory that because a man was not successful in a constituency for the Commons he could not represent his province in the Senate? Such a theory does not stand on good ground. The Senate is not a body elected by the electors. A senator is a man appointed under the constitution from a certain province, who represents his province, and Mr. Blondin, a member of our Government, as surely re-

[Sir George Foster.]

presents his province as a senator as the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland) represents his province on the electoral basis in the House of Commons.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is too much.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: But the last argument that my hon. friend adduced to show that our hon. colleague did no longer represent Quebec, was that he had moved his family and was living in Ottawa. My hon. friend suffers from a lapse of memory. How long did my right hon. friend, now deceased, who led the party that my hon. friend now leads, have his family and his abode in Ottawa? Did he cease to represent his province because he lived in Ottawa? For a man who conducts a large department and who is not very close to his home, it is absolutely impossible to get along without having his family here if he intends to enjoy the amenities of family life and to have the help and aid that family life gives him when he is carrying on those responsible duties which devolve upon him. So it is no argument at all to say that because a man lives in Ottawa and not in his native province he therefore as a member of the Government does not represent his province.

My hon. friend finds fault with commissions. He says that there have been too many of them, that they are autocratic, irresponsible, and lead to situations which are not founded on legal and responsible grounds. Now, commissions have been plentifully appointed during the war in all countries that were engaged in the war. My hon. friend will not dispute that for a single moment. How many commissions were established and carried on in the United States, for instance, during the war?—most important commissions dealings with some of the greatest interests of peace or war in that country. The same holds true of Great Britain, of France, and all the other great warring countries. Our commissions are of two kinds. A commission is either administrative or advisory. If it is advisory, it is appointed by the Government and reports to it, and what is done is done on the responsibility of the Government. If it is administrative, it is established by Order in Council, which lays down the powers and duties placed in its hands by the Government, which duties it carries out, and beyond which powers it cannot go. So he must revise somewhat our opinions about commissions on these grounds. The Government is always responsible. In the case of an advisory com-