

Justice of this country, was, or could, by any possibility, be a party to the trafficking in seats in the Senate. That the House may be more fully put in possession of the point to which I refer, I will read one or two of the extracts which I find in a report in the *Daily Telegraph*, the organ of the Liberal party in New Brunswick. Mr. Blair, in referring to the position which he holds in the Cabinet and also to the fact that he had not a constituency, used this language :

What Mr. King has said to you is absolutely and entirely true. I was, and continued to be, decidedly averse to agreeing to any proposition that Mr. King should vacate his seat as the representative for these united counties, and that we should lose his valuable services as a representative in the Parliament of Canada. My own individual desire was, as he has stated, to have made a temporary arrangement for a seat in the Senate. A friend of mine was perfectly willing, there being no vacancy, to have loaned me, so to speak, his seat in the Upper Chamber for the short, and, as I think, the unimportant session now ensuing.

Now, is it possible that there is any senator in this House who is willing to traffic in that manner with the seat that he holds here, or is it possible that any government—because it could not be done without the consent of the Premier and of the government of which he forms a part—was willing to make an arrangement for the loaning of a seat in the Senate until a constituency could be obtained for one of its members. I have looked over the list of names of those who have seats in this chamber from the province of New Brunswick, and I cannot place my finger upon a single name among those gentlemen who, I believe would so far forget his own position and the respect due to this House and his own dignity, as to make a proposition, or to consent to any overture being made to him, to loan his seat for a short time in order to assist the party in its exigency. I freely say that I do not think for a moment that the hon. Minister of Justice was aware of any such agreement or any such proposition being made. I cannot conceive it possible that he would be a party to any proposition of that kind. If he were not a party to it, then Mr. Blair must have taken it upon himself to borrow a seat, expecting that his colleagues would be as ready as himself to carry out the arrangement. In the *Sun* I find in the report of another speech made on the 20th of the present month that Mr. Blair used this language :

It was held that he could not get a seat from the Conservative party and must of necessity turn to the Liberals. As a matter of fact he was not in such dilemma. There was no such staunch feeling of loyalty to the defunct party as they would try to make out. The reason he had not got a seat elsewhere was that he felt there was such a thing as getting too high a price. He felt that it behoved the Liberal party to see that the Senate was not filled up with men whose views did not agree with those of the Liberal party.

To the latter part of that statement I take no objection, nor do I suppose that the party in power would, in the selection of members to fill vacancies which may have occurred, select gentlemen holding views different from those which they entertain and advocate; but from this particular statement you can draw only one deduction—some member of the Conservative party, holding a seat in the Lower House, must have been approached. If he were not approached, then Mr. Blair could not have known what price he demanded. Whether that be correct or not, I pass no opinion. I am only drawing the deductions which must be drawn from the utterances of this minister of the Crown, that he could have obtained a seat had he been prepared to give sufficient for it. Whether that was a pecuniary reward or whether it was a seat in this House I do not venture to offer an opinion. The ministers, in their negotiations with these gentlemen, if such negotiations were ever conducted, must know what the inward workings were, and what the demand was, and whether they were able to pay the price or not. What I desire to impress upon the minds of the leader of this House and his colleagues, and also on the members in the House, is, that the trafficking in seats, in the manner in which Mr. Blair declares that he has been trafficking, is an insult to every member of the House and to the whole Dominion. I do not wish it to be understood, hon. gentlemen, that I cast that reflection upon any member of the Commons who, belonging to a successful party, resigns his seat to give an opportunity to the government of the day to elect one of its members. There is a party fealty which should always exist between the supporters of the party and the government, and I have a feeling of pride when I see a man who, like my hon. friend who sits before me, enter Parliament the same year that I did, and has been working steadily in the interests of his party for about twenty-nine