

selfish part of the affair is this, that the hon. gentleman is willing to have the future nominees of the Senate appointed by some other power than the central Government, but he wants the present members to remain in the Senate as long as they live. I think if there is to be any remodelling of the Senate there should be a clean sweep, and let every one come in on a fair basis, because it would be a most extraordinary doctrine, to my mind, that you should have men here representing different systems, either of election or nomination. They would come in conflict with each other, that would be certain. Therefore, I think the true way would be, if we think there is anything which requires remodelling, to make a sacrifice of ourselves on the altar of our country. If we show that disposition we will meet with public approval—we will retire and allow others to be returned by some other system. My confrère entered the Legislative Council under the old system. He knows what elections under that system were. The old elections were of a most expensive character. It was almost impossible to traverse the whole country, and I do not think that men would undertake it except under very different circumstances, and do you think there was any difference in the kind of men elected or the tactics employed? No. In some cases elections were carried on with great virulence and extreme measures were resorted to to secure the return of the candidates under the elective system. Therefore, there would be no change in that respect, and I do not think under all the circumstances, that you can improve matters unless you make a total change, and in that case we should leave our places here and allow our positions to be filled by gentlemen in whom the country has greater confidence. But until there is a general opinion expressed adverse to the Senate, we should stay where we are. It is true there are some articles published in the newspapers on the subject, but if the writers were to put their names to them you would not think they amounted to much. They appear anonymously and seem to represent the views of a party, whereas they represent only the views of the writers. I do not think that they reflect the popular opinion of the country, and they should not be taken into consideration at all. We should meet those dif-

iculties when they arise as men. Another argument that has been used is that there is not sufficient employment for the Senate. That is an argument without any force. Everyone admits that our work is done well—that every care is bestowed by the Senate in perfecting the legislation which comes before it. It is said, and I believe it will be the case, that the Government will give more work to the Senate very soon, so that there will not be so many adjournments. Another complaint that is made is that we have no Minister of the Crown in this House with a portfolio. I do not know that we have anything to complain of in that respect. The House has been well led and we can find no fault with the Government on that account. I have no doubt that the Government will make the change which is desired as soon as circumstances will permit but such changes cannot take place at once. We know the difficulties with which the Government have to contend, and we must give them time to reflect on these matters. I have no doubt they know just as well as we do that it would be desirable if two or three gentlemen holding portfolios could be in this House, giving them additional power in the Senate. I do not know, however, that we have much to complain of because of their absence. I have been but a short time in the Senate, but I am conscious of having done my duty to the extent of my power, acting conscientiously and without any interference from the Government. No member of the Cabinet and no one representing the Government has asked me to vote one way or another on any question. I have voted on my own responsibility and I intend so to do until the end of the chapter. If a Liberal Government came in, I should do precisely the same thing. I think it is right when we come here that we should throw aside any partizan spirit that we may have entertained and view public questions calmly and dispassionately. I never was elected a member of any legislative body before I was appointed here, as the hon. member from Montreal was. That was my misfortune and not my fault, but I am willing to be instructed by my elders in the Senate, and I have found great advantage by taking advice from various gentlemen here in many matters on which I had not sufficient information. I think if gentlemen would act that way and we