

and we must hope that the largeness of the constituencies will, to some extent, baffle wirepulling, and that petty local influences being swamped, the feeling which the people always have for eminent leaders will prevail. The substitution of a term of years for life-tenure is a matter of course: it is necessary, both to secure a rotation of elections, and as a practical ordinance of superannuation. If the present Senators are allowed to retain their seats, the change will be gentle, and all fear of revolution, if anybody is so nervous as to entertain it, will be removed.

A mixed mode of election, if different constituencies could be devised, might not be without its advantages. It would introduce emulation, as well as temper dominant influences, and prevent things from running in one bad groove. But to devise different constituencies is not easy, while the principle of representation might be enfeebled and obscured. The simple measure is probably the best, and certainly it is the one most likely to enlist the support of the people.

The Upper House in England is the Court of Impeachment, a function which it has always discharged as badly as possible when any political feeling was involved. Not many years ago a Colonial Governor, who was then in danger of impeachment for arbitrary and sanguinary misrule, was publicly assured, by a member of the House of Lords, that if he was brought before that House he would find in it a sympathizing tribunal. It seems doubtful whether the Canadian Senate shares the power. But either in the Senate, or in some more judicial body, a Court of Impeachment we ought to have. Political corruption, the bane and peril of these communities, is not less capable of legal definition than treason or sedition, and it will not be put down till it is treated as a crime. An investigation in the House of Commons is not a trial, but a faction fight, as we saw in the case of the Pacific Railway Scandal. Mr. Blake is the most eminent guardian of our political morality: the subject deserves his care.