

Your friends, presumably, have been studying this Section and these amendments. But they are doubtless unaware of a precedent, a one-and-only but strongly governing precedent that has arisen to restrict the application of these provisions.

This is clearly set forth in the attached certified copies of two dispatches of the year 1874 between the Earl of Dufferin, then Governor-General of Canada, and the Earl of Kimberley, then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Probably only once since 1874 has a Prime Minister of Canada seriously considered invoking these provisions. This was in 1898 when it became apparent the Senate was going to defeat the Yukon Railway Bill. The Kimberley precedent, brought forward before an application, at least a formal one, reached the Governor-General, caused the idea to be dropped.

You will observe the soundness of the reasons given by the Colonial Office for limiting the application of Section twenty-six preclude it from ever advising the Sovereign to approve appointment under this section of additional senators for the enlightenment and reform of the Upper House.

Does not the situation here set forth present a question of strategy worthy of your consideration? Should you immediately advise friends in the West of the precedent discovered and perhaps jolt for a moment a few 'C. C. Efers,' or await a favourable opportunity in the next general election campaign to bring it forward and save a large number of our better class of citizens from voting to confer authority upon the purveyors of this half-baked idea about the Senate?

Faithfully yours,

A. Wagar

To General, the Hon. W. A. Griesbach, K. C., C. M. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.