

my hon. friend from Halifax has shown what those objects really are. I think I have shown, and other members of the Senate have shown, that we have really performed our duty with regard to those objects. That we are daily performing them, and that every day, we are seeking to take to ourselves a larger amount of work. So far from shirking work and desiring to live in indolence and luxurious ease, drawing our pay for nothing, we are seeking for all the work we can legitimately do within the sphere of our duties. What we have had before us, we have done and done well. It is not disputed—no hon. gentleman who has spoken has disputed, that we have done the work well. Some hon. members suggested that we ought to throw out more Bills in order to show our independence. I do not agree with that idea at all. If anyone can point to a Bill which, in the opinion of the majority, ought to be thrown out, and we did not do it, I am ready to cry *peccavi*, and I would be ready to say that we were guilty, if such a circumstance occurred; but it has not been suggested by those who have proposed that we should throw out Bills to show our independence, that we have omitted to reject any Bills that in the opinion of the majority of the Senate ought have been rejected. We have rejected such Bills, whoever introduced them or brought them before us, as we thought should not pass; we have amended those that we thought should be amended; we have improved those that we thought needed improvement. We have not delayed in the performance of those duties or the exercise of our functions; we have been equal to the work before us—we have not allowed it to get into arrears. We have been here, ready to perform all the duties entrusted to us, and it is admitted on all hands that we do those duties well. What more can be required of us than that? If we do not happen to attract public attention much, what matters it? I say to hon. gentlemen let us do our work—let us guard the legislation of the country, let us revise it, let us correct it, let us amend it, let us reject it in the interest of the country as we are required to do. Let us take care that no temporary fit of prejudice or passion, injurious to our country or disadvantageous to our interests, is allowed to pass through this Parliament without giving to the people a further opportunity for

considering it. That is one of our most important functions, not to persist forever in resisting the will of the people—that I should never recommend you to do—but when you find ill-considered legislation, measures which you think have not received due consideration by the representatives of the people or by the public, it will be your duty to reject them for the moment, to give the people a further opportunity to consider them. If we continue to perform those duties with diligence if we continue to exercise with dignity and efficiency the functions which the constitution entrusts to us, we may safely leave our reputation, our services and our character to the appreciation of our country, which we love and admire, and from which we shall receive all the recognition we desire of our performance of the high functions of Senators of this Dominion.

HON. MR. POIRIER—I am very willing to accede to the demand of the leader; but I would crave the indulgence of the House to make a few remarks. If I understood the hon. gentleman properly he insinuated that there were parties in the country decrying the Senate and that those parties had found an echo in this House. I would like to have my position understood. My intention in bringing this question up was not to decry the Senate or to be an echo of those casting slurs upon it, but simply to have the Senate itself deal with its position before it was dealt with by the country. I profess to be a friend to the Senate. I am yet a young man, and if Providence spares me to live the term of my natural life, I will be here a good many years yet. I repeat I have a friendly feeling for the Senate, and it is that which prompted me to bring up this question to show the country that we are not afraid to look into our own case, and that we have the courage to apply any remedy which we may consider necessary.

These are the motives which prompted me. I will not follow the hon. gentlemen who have opposed my motion over the ground that they have covered, but I should like to answer some of the objections of the hon. leader of the House. What he said concerning the election of members of the United State Senate would apply to us here and his argument instead of going against my motion in my judgment favors it; because I say if the Local Legislatures