

9. That the House of Commons be asked to occur in the proposed changes in the constitution of the Senate.

10. That the Senate and House of Commons adopt a joint address to His Gracious Majesty the King praying that the British North America Act, and the Acts under which British Columbia and Prince Edward Island entered the Union, be so amended as to conform to the foregoing resolutions.

In a few words, the principle is this, that two-thirds of this House should be elected. Of course hon. gentlemen are independent judges, because it does not propose that any hon. member's seat shall be forfeited. Each hon. gentleman is a free agent. My object is that the Senate shall be perpetuated in some form that will be reasonable. I fear it will not be unless the Senate itself will take action and recommend some system, some place in the government of this country, that will be acceptable to the popular sentiment. I may say that in discussing the basis of confederation the statesmen of that day conceived that there would be equality in the Senate, and those two clauses to which I have referred in the British North America Act, which I will read for the information of hon. gentlemen, would be sufficient to bring about political equality if it was thought necessary to preserve the functions the Senate is supposed to discharge. Section 25 of the British North America Act reads:

If at any time on the recommendation of the Governor General the Queen thinks fit to direct that three or six members be added to the Senate, the Governor General may by summons to three or six qualified persons as the case may be, representing equally the three divisions of Canada, add to the Senate accordingly.

Section 27 of the British North America Act reads:

In case of such addition being at any time made the Governor General shall not summon any person to the Senate except on a further like direction by the Queen on the like recommendation until each of the three divisions of Canada is represented by 24 Senators and no more.

The necessity for that was apparent, in fact it appeared that a time might arise when the governing power, the people, as represented by the House of Commons, might have their views thwarted by the majority in opposition in the upper Chamber. The Conservative party in this country have been extremely fortunate. When they were

in power they have always had a large following in this Chamber. The Liberals in two parliaments had not been supported in this Chamber. At a later stage I will probably make further allusion to the embarrassment to the government from 1873 to 1878 in consequence of the action of the Senate. At present I simply make that reference as showing that at the time of confederation it was distinctly assumed that the parties would be equal. The fathers of confederation were very careful to see that in the representation of the upper House both the Liberals and the Conservatives should be equally represented. The personality of the late Sir John Macdonald, no doubt, in the earlier years, caused a number of Liberal Senators to drift to his support, and that caused the first disturbance. The other events, to which I need not now allude, created a still further defection. I may mention as a fact that Mr. Aikins, with whom I sat in the old House of Assembly as a Liberal, was elected as a Liberal in the Legislative Council, and yet he transferred his allegiance at confederation. But before confederation cabinet changes took place very frequently. We had an election in 1854 and one in 1857, and one in 1861 and another in 1863; I am not quite sure whether it was in 1864 that Sanfield Macdonald came into power. I speak subject to correction. But in framing the Confederation Act the fathers of confederation had in mind that the changes in government would be sufficiently frequent to make up any deficiency in numbers in either political party. Hon. gentlemen will clearly recognize the principle that it would be far better if this Chamber were nearly equally divided. As it is now we can quite easily see it is drifting entirely in one direction. Since we sat here in 1896 eighteen gentlemen who represented the people of Ontario, Conservatives, have disappeared. The places of those have been taken by eighteen Liberals. There are today from that province, which now I may say we all know is represented by the Conservative party in the provincial House, and which province is largely represented by that party in the House of Commons, only five senators from Ontario in this Chamber. It is not pleasant to foreshadow events in the future that will involve