

no new ideals; it contents itself with its past record, and with criticism upon the petty quarrels of the Immigration Department, with consideration of the details of Arctic outfits, the supplies of navigation of the Marine Department within the Polar circles, and like matters. Its best work, which is perhaps not to be despised, is in probing the mismanagement which seems to attach to details of public administration; which mismanagement unhappily is too common in all governments of all countries. It is no wonder that under such conditions the party leader here, the member for Belleville, lays down his baton and retires from the front rank, or that the member for Richmond finds it necessary to form a new party for himself.

Yet there is work for a great party in opposition.

There are changes imminent. I appreciate—we must all appreciate—the thoughtful words in which the member for Mille Isle, introducing the resolution upon which this debate is founded, if you will, referred to the progress of socialistic ideas, and it is easy to see that here is a force which is to be counted with in moulding, in re-modelling our institutions. The old order changeth. Sympathy, a conservative sympathy, if you will, with any great movement which has its foundation in the heart of man, and which seeks to better the condition of life of the toiler, is wiser and safer than to sternly damn such a movement and to seek arbitrarily to arrest its advance. It may or may not be based upon a false philosophy, but its humanitarianism, its suggestiveness of comfort and ease, is commending it to men in all nations and I may say in all creeds. At the moment it seems to threaten the destruction of the cement which binds together the whole fabric of civil society; but wise counsels and good management may turn its forces along practical and beneficial lines.

In addition to this general movement of the mass of mankind into which we may be swept, there is proceeding in this country to-day another movement natural and peculiar to our special conditions, a movement which is rapidly leading us towards absolute national independence. The declaration which is often made that Canada is a nation is as yet but a prediction, a prophecy; but it is one whose day of fulfilment seems

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to be near at hand. It will involve, when it comes, changed relations with our mother country, and with our near neighbours, also our kinsmen, on this American continent. The times seem, therefore, to demand of us institutions in thorough harmony with the spirit of the age, a spirit which has little regard for governments that are not representative for permanent legislatures, or for privileges which exist under the pretense that they are of divine right.

With something of this feeling in my own mind, hon. gentlemen, I candidly confess that I favour the reconstitution of this Senate— if it be continued at all—upon some plan which will give the people of this Dominion thorough control over it; which will adapt it to the performance of the fullest measure of its work as a governing body in the state, by making it directly and amply responsible to the people, by whom it ought to be chosen; and I have no hesitation in saying that when, to give effect to such a reform, the seat which I have the honour to hold is needed, I will as readily and as cheerfully give it to the people of Canada as I will go to my home upon the prorogation of the present session of parliament. I base my political creed upon the belief that the government of an intelligent people should be by the people, and that the moment an institution ceases to respond to their needs or to carry out their wishes as expressed through their representatives, the time has arrived when it should be recast or remodelled. But I can see also that no method of choice of any legislative body can avail unless it is upheld by the intelligence, the vigilance, the conscience, of the individual voter.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—With the thermometer at the high degree at which it is at present I do not propose to occupy your time at much length. I have approached this subject in a truly non-political spirit. What the motives were which actuated the accomplished and learned gentleman in moving this resolution, I do not know. That they were of a nature to elicit from the Senate itself an opinion as to its relations and what it thought of itself was a very bright idea, but I think that as the great Scotch poet says we ought to 'see ourselves as others see us.' This debate was intended to show us as we see ourselves, and I confess I found a con-