

side of Canada, where the upper House is nominated by the Crown.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—There is no Crown.

HON. MR. POIRIER—There is a President. I will now refer to France. In France the Senators are elected by special electors of the second degree. France, not being a confederacy as we are here to-day, had, as we had in 1856, to create an electorate, and the Senators are elected by the electors of the second degree, composed of communal and municipal delegates, of members of each council general, and of the deputies of each department. Here again you have the Senate of France not nominated by the President but elected. They had the nominative system, but they changed the mode of constitution as not being in keeping with modern ideas of representative government. Switzerland is a country pretty much like our own, divided into different provinces or cantons; and the upper Chamber in Switzerland is constituted pretty much in the same way as the upper Chamber in the United States. The Senate or Stande Rath is composed of 44 members or two Senators for each canton. Now, hon. gentlemen will see that in all these civilized countries outside of British colonies, the Upper Chamber is elective. In England the House of Lords has a historical *raison d'être*, but in modern times the tendency in England itself has been to have the upper Chamber elective. By the terms of the Union, it was decided that the peers of Scotland should be elective, and so they are—16 of them. And the constitution of Ireland also provides that the Irish peers, 28 in number, be elected or chosen independently of the Crown.

HON. MR. MURPHY—Whom are they elected by? Not by the people.

HON. MR. POIRIER—They are not elected by the common people.

HON. MR. McCALLUM—They were nominated by the executive and the executive were elected by the people.

HON. MR. POIRIER—It answers my contention that they are not nominated by the Crown. I agree that a second chamber should not be elected in the same way as the lower House. In England, the ten-

dency is to have the peers elected by a special electorate, which is composed of the peers, but not by the Crown. This is the electorate which now selects the peers of Scotland and Ireland. But I will come to another country—the United States.

HON. MR. DICKEY—Another republic.

HON. MR. POWER—That is the country that we do not want to have anything to do with.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—Do you say that they have responsible government in the United States?

HON. MR. POIRIER—We have to be eclectic. If there is anything good in the constitution of the United States, we should not hesitate to adopt it. The constitution of the United States was revised after an experience of ten years. It was drafted by men who are admitted to-day to have been exceedingly wise—Madison, Hamilton, Jay and others. The writers on political economy in the leading civilized countries of the world agree that those who framed the constitution of the United States were “long-headed men,” to use a vulgar expression. To-day the constitution of the United States is admitted, by writers of the highest standing, to be more in harmony with the tendency of modern times and in keeping with the liberties of the people than any other in existence.

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B. C.)—What do you call the form of government in the United States? Do you call it responsible or what?

HON. MR. POIRIER. Responsible by the President—responsible to the people, at all events. So jealous were the people of the United States of their Senate, that while the general constitution can be changed by a two-thirds vote of Congress confirmed by three-fourths of the Local Legislatures, no State may be deprived of its two Senators against its own consent. Even though the whole of the United States were in favor of such a change, the veto of the one individual State interested can prevent it. I said I would give some testimony of the estimation in which the American Senate is held in other countries. Lord Dunraven, in the *Nineteenth Century*, says: “The strongest, most efficient and most capable