

exist. We are sailing along very quietly and very prosperously, and I do not think there is any very great trouble about nominations to this House being associated with feelings of gratitude to the Government that appoint us, for we have a great number of examples certainly, where gratitude did not last very long, to say the least of it. If it did exist, it was of short duration. I think it would be very questionable, indeed, if we would get as good a body of men in this House by election as we have now by appointment.

HON. MR. CLEMON—So far as this debate has proceeded it is manifest that a variety of opinions exist with respect to the matter under consideration. The hon. gentleman who introduced this measure considers that it would be an advantage to the Dominion that Senators should be elected by the Local Legislatures. In that case this House would represent the minority of the entire population where, as at present, they certainly ought to represent the entire population of the Dominion. You would remove from the larger body the power and transfer it to the lesser body. That is an advantage which is, in my opinion, very doubtful, and I do not think that the people of the country will assent to it. It is stated that there is considerable feeling in the country respecting the constitution of the Senate. Occasionally newspaper articles do appear at variance with those of the majority of the Senate express themselves in plausible terms, but I have yet to learn that the great mass of the people are not perfectly satisfied with the constitution of the Senate as it exists at the present time. We are referred to the constitution of the United States. Some hon. gentlemen seem to be always disposed to take the United States as an example. For my part I do not wish to imitate them in that or in any other respect. I find that prize fighters are nominated to the United States Senate, which, I think is not very creditable to the nation. Another gentleman proposes that the election should take place in a different way from the election to the Commons—that the property owners—the millionaires of this country should have an election of their own for the appointment of Senators. What would be the effect if that were the case? We would have a cry

all over the Dominion that the bloated millionaires wanted to control the country by having their own representatives in the Senate. I do not think that that would answer at all. I have had the honor of occupying a position in this House for several years, and I may say that I have never been approached by any member of any Government or by any gentleman connected with the Government with reference to the course I intended to pursue in this Senate. The course I pursue is to judge every measure on its intrinsic merits. I have given every measure on which I have voted the best attention I could, and have voted on it conscientiously and without bias or favor, and without any desire to serve one party or the other. My hon. friend from Ottawa wants to make a political point of everything. It is extraordinary that this gentleman who occupied a position in a Liberal Government, did not take this matter into consideration at that time, and endeavor to remodel the Senate. It would not do, however, to undertake it then, and I guarantee that if the Reform party came into power to-morrow, we would hear nothing more of the abolition of the Senate, or a change in the manner of appointing members to the Senate. It may be done with the very best motive. I am not going to impugn the motive of the hon. gentleman who introduced that resolution, but being a young member myself, I would have considered it great presumption if I were to take part in the discussion, if I were not a few days older than my hon. friend who introduced the subject, and that may be considered an excuse. If you can find no other cause of complaint than the one that we have heard to-day, it is rather in favor of the constitution of the Senate as it exists. The hon. gentleman from Halifax says that we are a revising body and that we should, whether right or wrong, send measures back to the other House. We have been told that during the Mackenzie administration a great many bills from the Lower House were rejected here. I do not know if that is so, but if it is the case, it only confirms in my mind the impression that the bills were not properly prepared by the Government, and the Senate was obliged to reject them. This matter has taken a considerable time and I have no doubt it will be discussed at greater length, but what seems the most