

tain extent, that there might be a Chamber formed on some of these lines; he proposed to take in the great admirals, generals and judges, and he would allow the lords to be represented by one in every ten of their number, and he proposed to form a council in that way which might make a second Chamber in place of the House of Lords. But that has never been attempted anywhere. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce suggested also, in the course of his observations, that the legislative initiative in regard to private Bills and some other matters might be left to the Senate. That would be a good arrangement if it could be carried out, but it is impossible to suppose that the House of Commons would yield to the Senate any right which it has now. The right to initiate legislation, the right to do as it chooses with regard to legislation would be held by the Commons, and I can conceive of no arrangement of that kind which the House of Commons would make. The hon. member from Richmond, in the course of his observations, said that this very question had been discussed before, and it was entirely out of the line of probability that it could be adopted. I observe that in the confederation of Switzerland there is an arrangement which might be carried out, I will not say in the parliament of Canada as at present constituted, but it is worth glancing at for a moment. In Switzerland there are two Houses. The people generally have representation in the Lower House and have two members each in the Upper House. Each canton provides its own mode of election. Some representatives are chosen by the Canton legislatures and some by a popular vote. As soon as the parliament assembles, a division of legislative powers is made between them by the federal council, so that one does not overlap the other, but it must be remembered also in Switzerland the referendum prevails, and when parliament has agreed upon any extraordinary or out of the way question it is left for the consideration of the people. In Germany there is an Upper House in which the monarchical states appoint their members and the free cities elect theirs, but, as I understand the Germanic system, that House only lasts for one year. Each session there is a new Up-

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per House. It has certain specified and defined powers, and is not exactly like the Senate of United States, the House of Lords or the Senate of Canada. In France each department elects a senator by an electoral college composed of the deputies, the members of the general council of the arrondissement and delegates chosen by the municipal councils of the communes or towns in proportion to population. There are three hundred senators in France, chosen for nine years in three divisions. There was a life system of senators in France, but it has almost disappeared; the number has been reduced by death, and the Senate is now elected by a representative body. The hon. senator from Richmond, in the course of his remarks, while he was very strongly of the opinion that a nominated House had failed, was very much against fancy franchises and proposed direct election by the people. With regard to the French Senate, I shall quote an observation made by M. d'Estournelles de Constant, a French politician, to Mr. Depew:

Believing the American method the only one by which a Conservative upper house could be had, they adopted the American scheme; this worked admirably, and in his judgment the existence of the Republic had been due to the Senate and the independence it had from the method of its election.

But as I have just mentioned, the senators in France are elected by one remove from the popular vote. I give the hon. member from Marshfield credit for having made a careful and pains-taking survey and consideration of the whole question. He went over the legislative action of the Senate and examined as to whether it had failed in its duties or had faithfully performed them, and he came to the conclusion that on the whole the Senate had performed its duties very well. Still he favoured a change so far as to give the minority representation in the Senate. Generally, I take it that the hon. gentleman agreed with the views of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. He agreed with regard to representation of minorities, as did my hon. friend beside me (Hon. Mr. Legris). My hon. friend would give the opposition the right to nominate two senators to three nominated by the government. I do not think I could go that far, if I adopted the idea at all. I question