

importing into the introduction of this motion the statement that the composition of the committees in the past had been made by the Striking Committee on the ground of political differences, or on the ground of party preference, is inaccurate to say the least of it.

Hon. Mr. TEMPLEMAN—How about the appointment of chairmen?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I will come to that in a moment. When the present government came into power in 1896, there were only eight members of the Liberal party in this chamber. The hon. gentleman must also take into consideration that the underlying principle of the representation of members upon the various committees has been governed by a fixed rule, namely, that a member should not be on more than four committees. Hon. gentlemen will therefore readily appreciate the fact with that rule, an unwritten law, yet observed with rigour, it was impossible that members of the Liberal party should have representation such as the Secretary of State thinks they should have had, notwithstanding the fact that the government of the day represented the Liberal party of the Dominion. My hon. friend the Secretary of State, I think, will be sufficiently candid to say that he cannot recall an instance while he was on the Striking Committee in which a suggestion was made to the committee to put a Liberal on any committee that was not acceded to by the committee. I have been on that Striking Committee almost ever since I became a member of this House, and I certainly cannot recall any instance in which the representation of the Liberal party on the Striking Committee ever made a motion that a vacancy should be filled by a Liberal member, but it was acceded to by the majority of the committee. Therefore, my hon. friend surely cannot say, in the face of that fact, and in face of that which I have already mentioned, that there being only eight Liberals in this House when the present government came into power, that it was possible to give his friends the representation that my hon. friend thinks they are entitled to. Can my hon. friend point to a committee in the House of Commons to-day where the Liberal party is in the ascendancy, where there is a Conservative chairman?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—My hon. friend himself recognizes the logical tendency of the ascendancy of parties in deliberative assemblies. It never was proposed that a Liberal of this House should be elected chairman of any particular committee. I also think my hon. friend will do us the justice to say that party spirit was never imported into those committees, and had my hon. friend at any time said there was a desire on the part of the Liberal party that there should be a Liberal occupying the position of chairman, I am satisfied that his request would have been acceded to, but you must take into consideration that the majority of the members on a committee will naturally elect one of themselves as chairman, and I am quite prepared to say that when the Liberals of this House have control of the committees, that those committees will be presided over by Liberal senators. If so, I am satisfied there will be no complaint made by the Conservative members of the various committees that the Liberal party is not doing justice to the Conservative minority. They will accept whatever is given them with the very best of philosophy and good grace. They will make no complaint that, owing to the ascendancy of the Liberal party, justice has not been done them. We only ask hon. gentlemen to accept the facts as they actually present themselves, and as they have governed the business of the committees from the time the Conservative party were in the ascendancy in this House down to the present time.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Before the motion is put, I should like to say a few words in answer to the remarks made by the hon. Secretary of State. He claimed a moment ago that in all the committees named last year, the Liberal party had not representation according to their strength.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The Secretary of State mentioned that on the Private Bills Committee the Liberals had fair representation.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I made that an exception. That was the only committee on which there was fair representation.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—You had a majority on that committee. Was that fair representation?