

I believe in manhood suffrage, I think that every man who lives in the country and is a citizen is entitled to a vote, but while I believe in manhood suffrage, I doubt very much if manhood suffrage has attained all that those who fought for it desired. The issues upon which elections have been fought in this country are rarely so clear-cut and well-defined as to make the popularity and influence of the candidate a negligible factor. If you are going to elect your senators not from a population of 30,000 or 40,000 but from a couple of hundred thousand and if manhood suffrage is to prevail, as it should prevail, then it seems to me that there is not going to be any chance for the man of moderate means because influences will be brought to bear that should not be brought to bear and the Senate that the hon. member for Welland desires to be constituted will be a Senate that would represent the wealthy men of the party in each district in which that party's votes predominated.

I think there is a good deal to be said for the amendment of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean) that a committee of this House should be constituted to look into the whole question and see if some way can not be devised by which the personnel of the Senate will be strengthened and in order that it may not be managed merely as patronage to be distributed by the Government that may from time to time happen to be in power.

Mr. O. TURGEON (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I desire to say only a few words on the resolution of my hon. friend from Welland (Mr. German). I think it is well known in this House and in the country that I am one of the most sincere admirers of the constitution of Canada and of the Fathers of Confederation, who gave us that constitution. The reform of the Senate is a question upon which I have already expressed my mind, and no member of this House who has introduced suggestions for its reform has ever been able to convince me to change my opinion. I believe in the wisdom of the Fathers of Confederation, and I say that in the establishment of the two chambers the Fathers of Confederation proved their practical wisdom for the distant future, and more particularly for the near future, as we may describe the present day in relation to their time.

We must not conclude that the Senate does not fulfil its mission because it does not meet with the approval of everyone in

the country. The hon. member for Welland (Mr. German) has made that point explicitly, as he does every point upon which he treats, especially on questions legal or constitutional. I agree with him in the admiration he has expressed for the members of our Senate. It is, perhaps, only one more evidence of the wisdom of the appointive as opposed to the elective Senate. The appointment remains upon the responsibility of the Government of the day, who have every possible interest in appointing to the Senate outstanding men of the day, who have proven their quality by their past records and their careers.

Hon. members speak of securing better conditions in the Senate by means of elections. As the hon. member who preceded me (Mr. Nickle) said, I believe that we have now enough elections in this country to interest the electors, between municipal, provincial and federal, and that with that consideration in view the Fathers of Confederation decided to make the Senate appointive instead of elective. The result will be practically the same. For instance, in my province, in which we have ten senators, and after the next election will have only eleven members of the House of Commons, the divisions will be practically the same. My constituency, being a large one, will be the same for the Senate as for the House of Commons, and I believe that I would have more chance at the hands of my electors than at the hands of the present Government. However, I am against the elective system as applied to the Senate.

One of the main reasons why the Fathers of Confederation, in framing the constitution, made the Senate appointive, was to secure the protection of minorities. The Senate has been created more for the protection of minorities than from any other consideration, political, industrial or financial. I well remember, some years ago, one

of our regretted friends, Sir 5 p.m. Richard Cartwright, in discussing this question in the Senate saying that he favoured an appointive Senate just because in his province of Ontario, where the large majority are Protestant and the minority Catholic, even with the best will of the different organizations of both parties in Ontario and every effort to give due representation in the House of Commons to the minority in the province, it had always been found impossible in practice to secure such representation for them, and that by the placing of the onus of such responsibility on the Government, the Governments of Canada, both Liberal and Con-