

work of his own hand to be rendered almost valueless, at all events put into such a condition that if a change is not made a revolution, or a great constitutional change of another kind will be necessary in order to govern the people of this country. (Applause.) Let me mention one case. I speak of the two branches of Parliament, the Lower House, as it is called, the House of the representatives of the people, and

THE SENATE.

My hon. friend, Mr. Mowat—(applause)—knows very well that in the Quebec Conference, when the question of the Constitution of the Senate was under discussion—when it was being determined what form it should take, whether it should be a nominated, or a representative body—there was great contention upon it in that conference. He will remember that I moved, on that occasion, and I believe he seconded the resolution, that the selection of the Senate should be by election. He will remember that motion was not carried, and that the principle of nomination by the Crown was adopted. And it was understood and agreed that when the nominations were to be made, the selection could be made from the two great political parties of the country; that is, that it should be no

ATTEMPT TO PACK THE SENATE.

with the members of either political party, but that it should be given to both political parties. And the consequence was—Mr. Brown having left the Government—when we went to London to obtain the Imperial Act, the nominations were made by Sir John Macdonald, representing the Conservative party, and by Mr. Howland and myself representing the Liberal party; and we made a Senate so far as that operation was concerned, which would not be a stumbling block to any political party. At all events, that principle was laid down. But what has been the result? Sir John has filled the vacancies in the Senate from his own political party exclusively, until now there are only fourteen Liberals in that body. Think for a moment how such a constitution as that would work if Mr. Blake should come into power with a majority in the Lower House. How would his measures be received in the Senate with an overwhelming majority opposed to him? The Senate would block, thwart and mortify his measures. It is a body having no authority in this country. It has ceased to be a place where any one interested in the debates of Parliament goes to hear a question discussed. Its proceedings are printed at great expense, but no one reads them. Why? Because it has no authority in the minds of the people. (Applause.)

NO ONE LOOKS TO THE SENATE

for the initiation of measures of interest to the people, for any honest amendments or improvements of the measures passed by the other House. And, therefore, from my point of view, as one responsible for the framing of this constitution—though my voice on this matter was on the other side—from that point of view Sir John and those of his colleagues who have brought about this state of things are no longer entitled to the confidence of the people of this country, who desire that the union of these Provinces from sea to sea—this half of a continent which is our inheritance—shall endure. I mention these circumstances for examination. Of course, there are many others, if time would permit me, which I could give as sufficient reasons why the people of this country should withdraw their confidence from the present Government at Ottawa, and follow the political party now led by the Hon. Mr. Blake. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)