

they are and few as they are, which they furnish to the public of the doings of this House, are improving our position in the eyes of the country. I am satisfied of that. I hear on all hands, and especially I hear from gentlemen in another place, of the benefit which we confer by the care which we take with the legislation, and I was asked this very day where the legislation of the country would be if the Senate were gone, by one of the very men who was engaged in creating that legislation in another Chamber. Instead of being, as is supposed by some, mere registrars of the will of the Government in another House, bound by gratitude, like the hon. gentleman from New Westminster, to vote exactly for what they desire us to do, we find that last year we passed through this House twenty-five Bills introduced in the House of Commons, of which thirteen were amended, many of them in a material degree, while the House was in session. We have already dealt this year with twenty-seven of these Bills of which sixteen have been amended, and every hon. gentleman knows that there are one or two important measures we have gone through with enormous care, which it is admitted on all hands we have benefited to a most important extent, but which are not included in this list, not having been finished in this House. In the past year, from the House of Commons, we took up and disposed of thirty-seven public Bills, of which fifteen were materially amended in this House, and we disposed of fifty-nine private Bills, of which twenty were materially amended in the Senate; making a total last year of 121 Bills considered by the Senate, of which forty-eight Bills were materially amended in the course of their passage through the House. This year the number is not so great, because they have not all come before the Senate, but we have already disposed of eighty-eight Bills, of which forty-two have been materially amended in this House. Now, of all the Bills that have thus been amended which had first passed through the crucible of the House of Commons, and were sent back to that House, with amendments made by us, we have never had any hesitation shown by the Lower House in concurring in the amendments that we made, except in one instance. Last year we received a message from the lower House informing us that they could

not concur in one of our amendments, for reasons which they gave. Our committee met and examined the message and the reasons, and they sent to the lower House an answer to those reasons, as being the reasons which had induced them to make the amendment. The House of Commons immediately accepted the reasons which were given to them in reply, and adopted the amendments without further discussion. So, in point of fact, of this immense number of Bills carefully gone through and amended in this House, every one has been accepted by the lower House without objection except one, and in that case, after consideration and hearing the reasons which had prompted this House to make the amendment that one was accepted also, without further objection. We performed another branch of our duties last year—it was not particularly agreeable to me, but on the whole I respected the Senate for doing what the majority considered to be its duty on that occasion, and I am bound to believe that the majority was right. A Government Bill passed by the House of Commons, which the majority of this House disapproved of, was brought before the Senate and was unceremoniously rejected. I did my best to carry it through: I thought it ought to pass; I thought we were pledged to it in many ways. I gave various reasons why it ought to have passed the House and I think, abstractly speaking, it ought to have passed the House, but the majority of the Senate were opposed to it, and notwithstanding their gratitude to the gentleman who appointed them they rejected the Bill after a comparatively short discussion.

HON. MR. DICKEY—The Bill has never come back.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—No. What, after all, does this discussion result in, now that we have got through with it? We have had offered to us various modes of electing this House, but we have not had suggested to us any reason whatever that I can see for changing our constitution. The only semblance of a reason offered—it was a good reason too, if it had been well founded—was that which the hon. gentleman from Acadie offered, that we were not doing what was expected of us, not properly carrying out the objects of our constitution. I think I have shown, and