

cameral system. Thus we find Republican France, Imperial Germany, Switzerland, in fact, all the unitary States of Europe, Greece alone excepted, following the English model. The evolution of this two-chambered structure by the Mother of Parliaments some may urge was merely accidental, and we might as well have had one, three or four Houses. In one sense this evolution was accidental. But we must not forget that the choice of the modern world was not accidental. It was in most cases directed by bitter remembrances of experiments with the other forms.

We have the concurrence of Canada's highest constitutional authorities, not only when we say, "that the Senate cannot and must not be abolished," but also when we assert "that Senate reform is a constitutional necessity." Although all agree as to the necessity of a remedy for the defects of our Senate, still there is a great divergence of opinion as to just what that remedy should be. Some maintain that the Senate should be appointed by the Cabinet for a limited term, while others suggest that it should be appointed by the House of Commons in such a way as to secure something like proportional representation for the opposition. Honourable G. W. Ross thinks that it would be advisable to have our Second Chamber appointed partly by the Cabinet and partly by the electors. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has advocated the substitution of an Upper Chamber elected, according to the American method, by the legislatures of the constituent Provinces.

The adoption of the first mentioned proposal would render the Senate more dependent and responsible to the Cabinet, and consequently more useless. Again, if we grant the House of Commons the power of appointment as proposed, we would be practically abolishing the Bicameral system. For then, although sitting in separate Houses, the Upper Chamber would become but a special committee of the Lower one. Thirdly, a Senate appointed as Mr. Ross proposed, would be susceptible to all the faults of our present Second Chamber because those men appointed by the Cabinet would have a predominating influence over elected Senators. Furthermore, the acceptance of Mr. Ross' proposal would increase the possibilities of frequent deadlocks.

Of the above mentioned proposals, Sir Wilfrid's seems to have become the most popular. It has already received the endorsement of many of Canada's most prominent literary and political men. Men who believe "that a Senate, representative of the constituent Provinces would go far to win for our Upper House such a measure of political prestige and popular confidence as can